



Cyclists getting ready for the challenge

Cyclists get on their bikes for charity

CYCLISTS of all ages put pedal power to the test by taking part in the annual On Yer Bike fundraiser on Sunday.

More than 450 got on their saddles for charity, which was more than twice the number at last year's event.

Last year only 200 took part in On Yer Bike, also known as the Castle Cycle Challenge, because of bad weather, despite more than £6,000 being raised for charity.

Cyclists started and finished at the RNLI lifeboat station and had the choice of pedalling a 25-mile route to Pevensey Castle and back, or tackle the longer 40-mile route which proceeded for the

castle to Herstmonceux Castle and return to Hastings.

Among those completing the ride were four penny farthings from Bexhill Classic Cycle Group and members of local activist cycle group, Hastings Urban Bikes (HUB). Classic Cycle Group events coordinator Ray Konyn said: "We all enjoyed the unhurried ride to Pevensey and back from a lofty slow perspective and were thankful for favourable weather conditions and helpful marshalling at junctions which allowed us to keep moving and avoid too many dismounts which are somewhat tricky from seats five foot off the ground."

Ray Howard, from the Rotary Club of St Leonards,

which organises the annual fundraiser, said: "Fortunately the weather was kind to us on Sunday so we had 453 ride in the challenge, with 242 undertaking the longer route. We don't know how much has been raised in total so far but everyone seemed in good spirits." On Yer Bike marked its 25th anniversary this year and to celebrate organisers set up a children's race along the seafront.

But Mr Howard said the response from young people was 'disappointing'. He added: "We only had 24 entrants for the children's race. We had circulated information about it in more than 20 schools in the area."



Paul Dudeney with daughter Sarah Brasier



Pennies from Heaven on the Prom, with Jon Slatter, Matthew Trott, Henry Brooks and Ray Konyn. Photo by Duncan Hacon