



# VIKING CHALLENGE



## Charity Off-Road Cycle Event

The Viking Challenge is the **UK's largest off road amateur bike challenge** across 30k and 55k and this year has a special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary 65 route. The route changes each year but is **based on the Viking Way, an ancient track-way originally linking Newark and Stamford**. It always starts from Redmile CofE Primary School

### Some facts about the Viking Challenge

- The first Viking Challenge event was held in 1995 and had 100 riders
- We now average 1,250 riders on the day
- 50% of our riders return to another event
- Over the last 24 years the Viking Challenge has given away £500,000. This goes to Redmile School and a chosen charity for that year. We have given to 20 different charities both local to the area and nationwide over the years (see below)
- Nearly 5,000 cakes, bananas, chocolate and pork pies are served to cyclists across the route
- Over 150 volunteers help out on the day and another 30 beforehand setting up
- The c.85 pupils of Redmile CofE Primary School participate in a Junior Viking Challenge around the school playing field the Wednesday before the main event weekend.

### How can you help?

We have a wide range of roles that we need help with, both before, on the day and after the day.

#### On the day help

Role	Description
<b>Morning site set up</b>	We try and set up as much in the days running up to the event, but there are some things that have to wait until the day. Morning set up involves putting out banners, event signs bins etc... and also making sure that companies coming on site set up where they are meant to and have everything they need.
<b>Rider registration</b>	Part of a team on the registration desk from 8-10am to register c1000-1400 riders. It involves checking their details and handing across their registration numbers to attach onto their bike
<b>Start line</b>	We need people to both release the rider waves but also to create an atmosphere on the start line.
<b>Finish line – gate</b>	One of our most important jobs! We need people to welcome the riders back in after their ride and cheer and support them. It doesn't sound like a lot but really makes a difference. The team on the gate are also responsible for ensuring the safety of the riders across the road
<b>Finish line – time recording</b>	We don't have chip timing as we like this to be a local event. So when the riders come back in we need a team of people to record their finish times. You can imagine what happens if we get it wrong!
<b>Car Park</b>	We have two shifts for the car park. One to ensure that we get the hundreds of cars into the field and the second to get them back out again. On muddy years this might mean calling in the tractor for help!
<b>Recovery</b>	Some of our riders need help on the route where they have an issue with their bike. We need people with cars / van's big enough to go out and recover the cyclists and bring them (and their bike) back to the site.
<b>Marshal</b>	We need over 70 marshals to ensure our route is safe for the cyclists. They are responsible for making sure the cyclists are going the right way and keeping them safe.
<b>Catering</b>	We provide hot and cold savoury food and tons of cakes and flapjacks. As well as preparing the food, we need people to help serve it in the tent.
<b>Sweepers</b>	We need to make sure all our riders have made it around the course safely and so we have a team of sweepers that ride each of the routes and ensure everyone has made it round.
<b>Route take down</b>	We have to take down all our signage on the event day once our sweepers have been through and ensured the route is clear. This is both the signage on the route itself and then the surrounding roads that we have in place. It then needs to be cleaned down and packed into bundles ready for the next year.
<b>Site take down</b>	A bit like our route we have to take everything down on site. From gazebos to bunting and banners there is a fair bit that needs to be taken down and packed away. We also have our catering tent that we need to clear down and ensure everything is washed up and put away.

**Charity list**

We have given over £235,000 away to Charities in the last 24 years. The charity supports the event through the provision of Marshals for the route.

Below is the list of previous charities we have supported – with some having been our chosen charity for more than one year. The 2019 charity is The MS Society

<b>The Kinder Trust</b>	<b>Mencap</b>
<b>The Parents' Association for Seriously Ill Children</b>	<b>Leukaemia</b>
<b>Imperial Cancer</b>	<b>Wish Upon a Star</b>
<b>Meningitis</b>	<b>Dove Cottage Hospice</b>
<b>Cystic Fibrosis</b>	<b>The Ear Foundation</b>
<b>Help the Hospices</b>	<b>Hearing Dogs for Deaf People</b>
<b>NSPCC</b>	<b>Kinder</b>
<b>Macmillan</b>	<b>PASIC</b>
<b>The Stroke Association</b>	<b>The Air Ambulance</b>
<b>The Wildlife Trust</b>	<b>Reach</b>