

The **ANDY TIERNAN** blog

Words by - The man from me
Photography by – Me & The Honest One

Holiday in Ireland
Thursday 20th to Saturday 30th August 2009
taking in
The 43rd Irish National Vintage Motorcycle Assembly
Monday 24th to Friday 29th August 2009.



Justin (L) & Brian (R) waiting on the quayside at Fishguard in Wales, ready to board the ferry for Rosslare, Ireland.



No Justin they are not for your dinner – they are some of your fellow passengers.



Andy finds a dancing partner with Curious George the Stena Line ferry mascot. Maybe they've taken a fancy to one another.



The first four days that Andy, Brian & Justin spent in Ireland were with other house guests, at this charming country house, belonging to friends.



Some great views of the armoury room in the house.



These magnificent specimens decorating some of the walls are prehistoric Elk skulls with antlers recovered from bogs in Ireland, & they were huge – maybe 6 to 7 feet across.



Wonderful fire fighting paraphernalia was found all over the house. This Antifire Pistole, complete with refills, dates from the 1950,s & the makers claimed it would not lose efficiency by lapse of time or extremes of heat, cold or moisture. Great news for the current owners.



The house also had its own chapel with this beautiful stained glass window.



A visit to Paddy's collection.. Andy admires a rather nice BSA G14 vee twin combination (to which Paddy had fitted an electric starter motor).



An attractive Indian & sidecar seems to have caught Justin's eye.



Paddy (L) & Justin (R).



(L to R) Brian, Justin & Andy behind Paddy's 680cc Brough Superior.



Another day out, a visit to Cobh (pronounced Cove), formally Queenstown.. Now why are those bells paying 'Waltzing Matilda' to organ accompaniment. Are it's Australia day in honour of a visiting cruise liner from the Antipodes.



The cruise ship in port, the Dawn Princess of Hamilton.



The Dawn Princess leaving Cobh, lets hope all the passengers are back on board.



Meanwhile, back at the 'ranch' Nick (L) & Brian (R) working on something. Well the river actually, & the corrugated iron is for a temporary dam.



Nick digging out the river, with Brian lurking in the bushes on the left.



And here are a couple more garden views.



The Creature from the Black Lagoon, no it's Andy in the undergrowth.



Brian (on the back) & Nick (driving), testing out the 'new' grey Fergie. Well it is new to the house.



The grey Fergie wasn't running to well so Brian decided the distributor needed attention. What's that – horror of horrors Brian using a hammer to fix the distributor, & him a retired engineer! Well it certainly improved things when refitted so something went right.



(L to R) Justin, Laura, George, Renee, Brian (behind Nick's hand), Nick (proudly holding up one 'repaired' distributor), Andy & David all round the kitchen table. The camera was put on a table & the self timer set; guess who did that & paid for it by getting only half of himself in the picture – Justin. Well let's face it, those of us who know him realise he's only ever been half in the picture anyway



Andy & friend, Beano the dog.



Andy interviewing perspective employees. Note the 'persuader' he is using.



(L to R) Sylvia, Rosie, Justin & Melissa.



Melissa on the bike with her sister Rosie looking on. The Bike is the 1960 Matchless G80CS with Steib sidecar that Andy & Justin had borrowed to use on the Rally.



A final picture taken at the house before Andy, Brian & Justin moved on to Kenmare for the rally. (L to R) Andy, Brian, Justin, Nick, Renee, Melissa & Rosie. With Brian's Harris Matchless G80 in front.



On the way to Kenmare a small detour was made to see John who runs the Kilgarvan Motor Museum.
(L to R) Justin, Andy, Brian & John, holding a Rudge.



Among the exhibits were these two rather lovely Rolls Royce cars on display in John's museum.



A few more of the motor museum exhibits.



This marine diesel sat outside the museum. Brian is wondering how far he would have to stretch a featherbed frame to get it in!



The arrival at the Kenmare Bay Hotel (in Kenmare, the rally base for the next five days). Brian & Dave (middle) discuss the finer points of Brian's Harris Matchless G80. With Justin looking on in the background.



Part of the hotel car park as more motor cyclists arrive. Two rallyists, on a post war Francis Barnett & a flat tank Douglas, giving just a hint of the diversity of machines that were there.

Munster Vintage Motor Cycle & Car Club
National Rally 2009
TUESDAY 25th AUGUST MORNING ROUTE
FOLLOW HEAVY BLACK LINE. STOPPING TO AT ALL JUNCTIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. SIGNPOSTS ARE FOR JUNCTION IDENTIFICATION ONLY. NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTIONS.

MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN	MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN
0	KENMARE BAY HOTEL	KENMARE	32.0	BANTRY 36km
0.1	TOWN CENTRE N71	KENMARE	32.3	KILLARNEY 36km
0.6	GLENGARIFFE N71	KENMARE	32.4	
0.7	ALL ROUTES	KENMARE	41.5	TRALEE N22 KILLARNEY 18 km
0.8	BRIMMERGREEN N71	KENMARE	51.2	TRALEE N22 PARK ROAD ROUNDABOUT
1.3	RIVERDALE HOUSE HOTEL		51.8	TRALEE N22
6.5	FEAGHNA BURIAL GROUND 3km	BOFANE	52.9	KILLORDLN N72
6.8	HERITAGE PARK		53.2	KILLORDLN N72 BALLYDOONEY ROUNDABOUT
6.9	FEAGHNA BURIAL GROUND 2km		54.0	CASTLEROSSE HOTEL
7.0	PREST'S LEAP 5km		54.1	CASTLEROSSE HOTEL CAST PARK
8.5	PREST'S LEAP 4.5km			
14.0	PREST'S LEAP			
14.9	KILGARVAN 15			
30.7	MACAURA'S GRAVE			

TUESDAY 25th AUGUST AFTERNOON ROUTE

0	CASTLEROSSE HOTEL	KILLARNEY	25.8	HARD PARK	CAMP
1.4	DINGLE N85	POBIA	28.8	BOGHLB 6km	
4.2	POBIA 5km (CAUTION AT THE JUNCTION)		32.2	CASTLEMANE 11km	
8.1	KILLARNEY 19km		39.3	KILLORDLN N70	CORTLEIGH
6.2	ROCKFIELD STUD FARM		39.7	KILLORDLN N70	
8.2	ROCKFIELD STUD FARM		41.3	KILLARNEY N72	MILLTOWN
9.0	FARRANFORS 5km		49.6	KILLARNEY 5km	
9.2	BALLYFINNANE 4km		51.8	TOWN CENTRE BALLYDOONEY ROUNDABOUT	KILLARNEY
11.8	TRALEE	BALLYFINNANE	52.6	KENMARE N71	KILLARNEY
12.5	BALLYFINNANE 4km		53.1	ALL ROUTES	KILLARNEY
14.0	FARMERS BRIDGE BALLYFINNANE 4km		53.2	KENMARE N71	KILLARNEY
16.6	CANLEHEEN		62.7	KENMARE N71	
18.8	CUL DE SAC		67.2	KENMARE N71	HOLLS GAP
18.7	COURTYARD SELF CATERING		73.0	CAHERSVEEN N70	KENMARE
19.2	CLAHANE		73.1	KENMARE BAY HOTEL	KENMARE
26.0	DINGLE N85				
26.5	R. FINOLAS				



The first day's riding. Tuesday's rally route card & map.



Tuesday morning & the oil trailer is open for business. With the repair area under the tent & Paddy's tool trailer to the right, fully equipped for every eventuality.



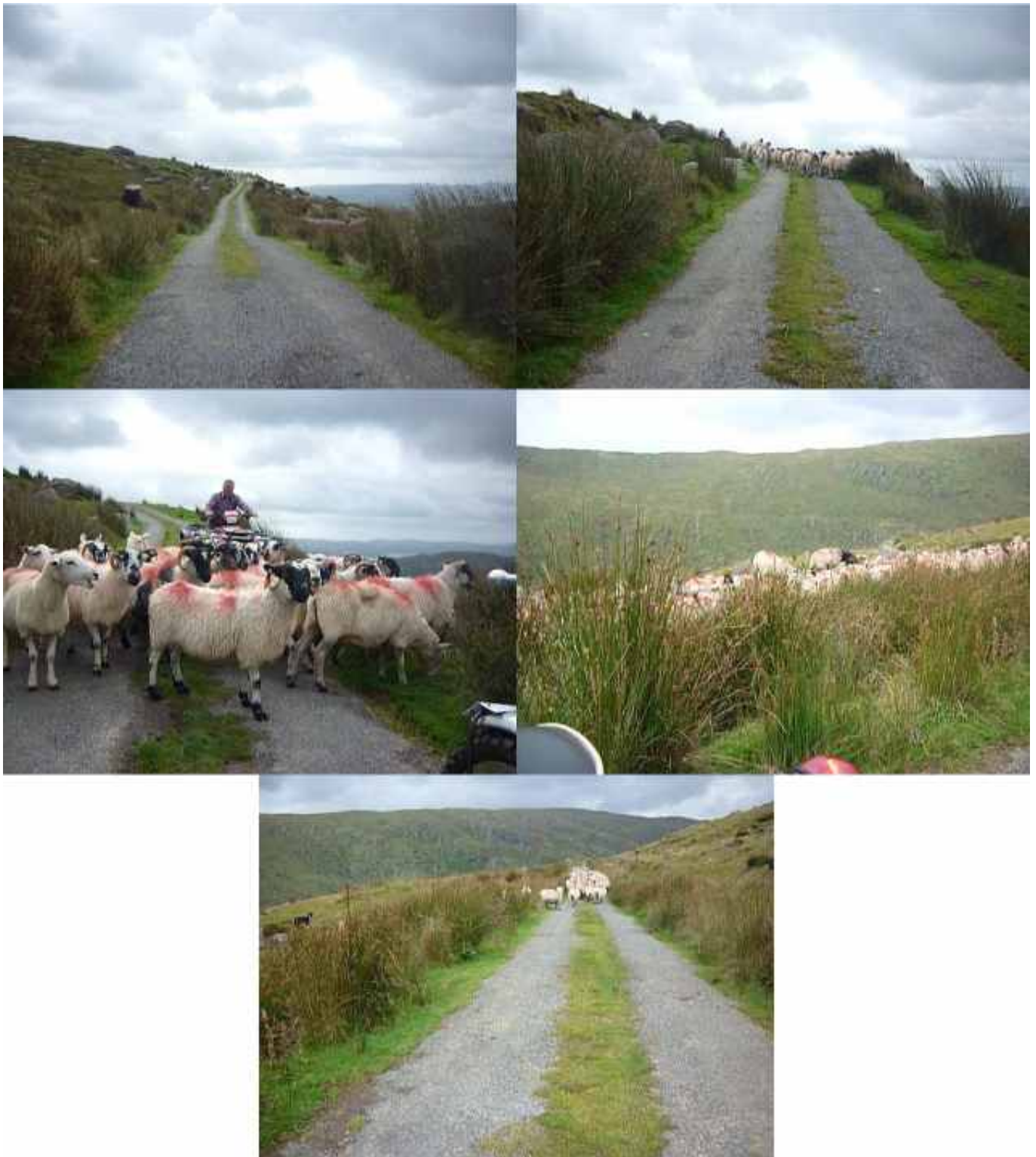
Paddy checking over his lovely 680cc Brough Superior.



Brian who came along was not actually on the rally but was there to do some touring. Checking his machine over before he left for a days riding.



Tuesday morning's route went over Priest's leap & an introduction to the type of roads that would be ridden over the next few days.



What's that in the distance, it is just one of the more common obstacles that riders would encounter. These sheep were cleverly moved off the road, past us & back on again by the farmer & his very able sheep dog.



Arriving at the Castlerosse Hotel for lunch, Justin (riding) & Andy (sidecar) are met by Dave enquiring how they got on with his outfit after the first mornings riding.



Some of the entrants' machines in the Castlerosse Hotel car park.



A quick petrol stop. (L to R standing) Dave & Jeff. (L to R sidecars) Justin & Irene.



Having taken a slight detour off route to find a petrol station for Jeff, the local garage owner recommended a visit to the beach just up the road at Maharabeg.
(L to R) Dave, Jeff & Andy take in the sea air.

Manster Vintage Motor Cycle & Car Club
National Rally 2009
 WEDNESDAY 26th AUGUST MORNING ROUTE

KENMARE BAY HOTEL Tel: 064 8641382 WEST CORN HOTEL Tel: 064 811217

FOLLOW HEAVY BLACK LINE STRAIGHT ON AT ALL JUNCTIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED
 SIGNPOSTS ARE FOR JUNCTION INDICATION ONLY, NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTION

MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN	MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN
0	KENMARE BAY HOTEL	KENMARE	0	WRROR	
0.1	TOWN CENTRE	KENMARE		CROOKHAVEN R581	DURRUS
0.8	OLENGARRIFFE N71	KENMARE	41.7	JO-AL B&B ROOMS EN SUITE	
0.8	ALL ROUTES N71	KENMARE		OLENLOUGH BALLYMONE EAST	
0.8	OLENGARRIFFE 27km	KENMARE	47.3	SKIBBEREEN 23km	
1.3	RIVERSDALE HOUSE HOTEL		48.0		
1	BANTRY 18km	OLENGARRIFFE	50.8		
24.5	SKIBBEREEN N71				
	SKIBBEREEN N71	BANTRY			
	GOAT'S PATH KILCHROHANE 21km			SKIBBEREEN 48m	
36.0	ANAKISTA ALTERNATIVE ROUTE			TOWN CENTRE	SKIBBEREEN
	DURRUS 7km		57.8	WEST CORN HOTEL 238 PARK ROAD HOTEL	SKIBBEREEN
	SHEEP'S HEAD WAY GLANLOUGH				

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National Rally 2009
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0.0	WEST CORN HOTEL (NEW CAT SYSTEM)	SKIBBEREEN		KILCHROHANE LANE	DURRUS
0.1	N71 KILLARNEY	SKIBBEREEN			
1.1	SCHULL 8km	BALLYDEHOB		BANTRY 33km GOAT'S PATH	OLENGARRIFFE
	POST OFFICE	BALLYDEHOB		KILLARNEY N71	BANTRY
	GOLEEN R502	SCHULL	58.3	KILLARNEY N71	BANTRY
	GOLEEN 16km	SCHULL		KILLARNEY N71	
	BANTRY R581	TOOMORE		KENMARE 29km BLUE LANE	OLENGARRIFFE
20.3	NEXT RIGHT TURN		65.8	KILLARNEY N71	
			66.2	KILLARNEY N71	KENMARE
22.3			66.3	KERRY CO AIRPORT	KENMARE
22.6			66.8	SNEEM 26km	KENMARE
	GABRIEL'S RETURN		66.9	KENMARE BAY HOTEL	KENMARE
	FUCSHA HEDGE				
27.8	DURRUS 8km				
	DURRUS 2km N581				



Wednesday's rally route card & map.



Of the four riding days, the second day (Wednesday) & third day (Thursday) were the National Rally competitive days. So those who wanted to try their luck could compete by stopping at the timed check points along the way. To this end preparation was important & Wednesday morning the oil trailer was open early for business as was the repair tent & Paddy's tool trailer. Paddy standing to the right (in green tee shirt) waiting for the call to tools!



It rained on Tues night so in the morning the sidecars had water features. Both Jeff (L) & Justin (R) are inspecting for fish.



Neither Andy nor Justin knew they were going to be Shanghaied by Dave & Jeff into a competitive team, but they were soon enrolled in the '9 Wheeled Munster Team', & what a great time was had by all. The complete team (L to R) Jeff, Sylvia, Dave, Andy, Chris, Irene' Justin & (at the front) James the team mascot.



The team logo which Chris had so kindly put onto shirts for us all to wear.



Brian had decided not to go camping because of the weather, but base himself in Andy's van & ride out from there. Emerging from his first nights sleep in Hotel Volkswagen.



Wednesday morning preparations. (L) Dave making slight adjustments with a screwdriver & adjustable spanner, while (R) Justin waters the Matchless to make it grow & Brian checks out the handlebars; what a professional lot they are! Actually the watering can is for topping up the oil tank.



A morning pub stop for much needed refreshments.



A pair of German WWII machines sit next to an Indian.



Now here's one of the VMCCs great characters, Dave (no. 2) with his superb McCandless Rudge. The McCandless part refers to the swinging arm rear end conversion, which is probably a wise move considering the state of some of the roads.



How is this for period riding gear .



A BSA C15 undergoing running repairs by the roadside.



There may be trouble ahead.....



A rider arriving at the West Cork Hotel in Skibbereen for Wednesday's lunch stop.



The West Cork Hotel car park filling up.



Those riders who were doing the timed checkpoints, were started off after lunch from the West Cork Hotel by this very attractive young lady.



On their way again after lunch, leaving the West Cork Hotel.



What's this, another pub stop so soon. Well this is half the fun, & such glorious weather too.



Just lounging around in the sunshine.



More people needing refreshment.



The Dave no. 2 providing entertainment on his squeeze box.



Animated discussion. Justin (L) waffling away about who knows what, with Dave (R) & Andy (behind) listening.



Afternoon timed checkpoint stop.



Just one of the many fine views seen during the rally.

Munster Vintage Motor Cycle & Car Club
National Rally 2009
 THURSDAY 27th AUGUST MORNING ROUTE
 KENMARE DAY HOTEL TEL: 064 6641201 BUTLER ARMS HOTEL TEL: 069 847 016
 FOLLOW HEAVY BLACK LINE STRAIGHT ON AT ALL JUNCTIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED
 SIGNPOSTS ARE FOR DIRECTION INDICATION ONLY, NOT NECESSARILY CORRECT

MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN	MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN
0	↑ KENMARE DAY HOTEL		0	→ GLENCAR	
7.4	↘ DERESMARRUGH		10	↘ CAHERSVEEN	
8	↘ BALLAGHEAMA		10	↑ TOWERS HOTEL	GLENCARIGH
10.7	↘ BALLAGHEAMA 2km		10	↑	CAHREAVEN
10.9	↑ GLENCAR 18km		10	↑ WATERVILLE LINKS	
11	↑ BALLAGHEAMA GLENCAR		63.4	↑ BUTLER ARMS HOTEL	
11	↑ BRIDA VALLEY			→ CAR PARK	WATERVILLE
11	↑ BALLAGHEAMA GAP 8km				
11	↑ CLIMBERY'S INN				
23.8	↑ GLENCAR HOUSE HOTEL				
24.9	↑ CUMBERBURN GROUND				
27.9	↑ KERRY WAY				
32.1	↑				
52.8	↑ GLENCAR HOTEL 1%				

Munster Vintage Motor Cycle & Car Club
National Rally 2009
 THURSDAY 27th AUGUST AFTERNOON ROUTE
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MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN	MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN
0	↑ BUTLER ARMS HOTEL		0	↑ WATERVILLE	
1.7	↘ CAHERSVEEN N75		29.6	↑ GLENCAR 29km	CAHREAVEN
2.8	↑ SKELLOG RING BALLINSKELLOGS 8km		11	↑ GLENCAR 26km	
4	↑ BALE AN SCELOG RISE		11	↑ GLENCAR 13km	
8.7	↑ SKELLOG RING PORTMAGEE	BALLINSKELLOGS	11	↑ CAUTION NARROW BRIDGE	
9	↑ SKELLOG RING		11	↑ KENMARE	
13	↑ SKELLOG RING		48.7	↑ BRIDA VALLEY	
13	↑ PORTMAGEE 8km		11	↑ BALLAGHEAMA GLENCAR	
13	↑ PORTMAGEE 8km		11	↑ MOLL'S GAP 11km	
14	↑ SKELLOG RING	PORTMAGEE	11	↑ KENMARE 16km	
14	↑ PORTMAGEE HEIGHTS SWR	PORTMAGEE	80.9	↑ RING OF KERRY	
16	↑ CAHRSVEEN N75	PORTMAGEE	68.3	↑ KENMARE DAY HOTEL	KENMARE
18.3	↑ CAHRSVEEN 13km				
18	↑ CAHRSVEEN N75				



Thursday's rally route card & map.



Thursday morning & Andy's all ready for the wet weather.



Two happy faces as Justin is at work with the water can again & Brian keeps his hands warm. Due to the oil leak out of the magneto drive cover, nearly two watering cans of oil were needed.



Some more of the great views experienced whilst riding.



Arriving wet at the Butler Arms Hotel in Waterville for Thursday's lunch.



After lunch a still damp Justin gets into waterproofs for the afternoon.



This sign was seen near the hotel. Caravan & wigwams beware!



Following a hearty lunch, everyone gets ready to depart for the afternoon route, with a few last minute checks & wet weather gear on.



Dave asks 'What happened to the top of my kickstart'. Justin & Andy had to admit it had fallen off over the bumpy roads. For the remaining days of the rally the outfit would have to be bump started.



Jeff & Chris getting ready to leave the car park.



The attractive young lady was back on start control again, this time sporting pink wellies & with an equally pretty assistant.



The long road ahead.....



Another timed checkpoint.



Following Dave & Sylvia.



Refreshment time - another pub stop.



Back at the Kenmare Bay Hotel on Thursday evening, people are already carrying out maintenance & repairs ready for Friday.



Andy relaxes in his hotel room by taking a picture of his socks, complete with feet in them. Is this his artistic side coming out – we all hope not!

Manster Vintage Motor Cycle & Car Club
National Rally 2009
 FRIDAY 28th AUGUST MORNING ROUTE
KENMARE BAY HOTEL TEL: 064-4641309 ECCLES HOTEL TEL: 027-43823
FOLLOW HEAVY BLACK LINE. STOP/START ON AT ALL JUNCTIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. DIRECTIONS ARE FOR JUNCTION IDENTIFICATION ONLY, NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTIONS.

MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN	MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN
0	KENMARE BAY HOTEL	KENMARE	33.8		
0.1	TOWN CENTRE N71	KENMARE	35.4	GENTRY STn	BALLINAGHY
0.6	N71 GLENGARRIFFE	KENMARE	50.3	KILLARNEY N71 GLENGARRIFFE 12km	
0.8	R509 KILGARVAN 11km	KENMARE	57.1	ECCLES HOTEL	BALLINAGHY
7.3		KILGARVAN			
10.1	COOLEA 14km				
15.4	AN GAELTRIGHT				
16.8					
20.8	REAL AITH AN GHADRAIGH 9km				
22.7	INCHIGEELA 9km	BALLINAGHY			
29.3	CREEDON'S HOTEL	WOBESLAH			
29.8	SOUTH LAKE ROAD				
30.6	SOUTH LAKE ROAD				
33.5	CYCLE ROUTE TO BEARA				

Manster Vintage Motor Cycle & Car Club
National Rally 2009
 FRIDAY 28th AUGUST AFTERNOON ROUTE
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FOLLOW HEAVY BLACK LINE. STOP/START ON AT ALL JUNCTIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. DIRECTIONS ARE FOR JUNCTION IDENTIFICATION ONLY, NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTIONS.

MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN	MILES	DIRECTION & SIGN	TOWN
0	ECCLES HOTEL	BALLINAGHY	41.3	KENMARE 14km	
0.8	CASTLETOWNBERE R570	GLENGARRIFFE	41.8	KILLARNEY N71	KENMARE
4.8	DARRISH WEST L4323		42.0	KILLARNEY N71	KENMARE
8.6	300 YARDS AFTER TARMAC QUARRY		42.4	SNEEM 18km	KENMARE
8.6			42.5	KENMARE BAY HOTEL	KENMARE
10.2					
10.7	STONE WALL ON LEFT				
14.2	REALLY PASS LAURASH R574				
22.1	TOURIST I.D. KENMARE				
22.2	KENMARE 13km N71				
24.8	NEXT CROSS ROADS				
28.1	CONCRETE BRIDGE				
27.0	TEDDY O'SULLIVAN'S PUB				
22.0	KENMARE 18km N71				



Friday's rally route card & map.



Friday morning & the water feature is back.



Brian making his breakfast in Hotel Volkswagen.



Jeff kicks the BSA Gold Star into life as Irene fastens her helmet ready to leave.



Andy on Friday morning duty with the watering can.



People getting ready for the off on Friday morning.



Andy all ready to leave. While Justin is going to be left behind if he doesn't get his crash helmet on & hop into the sidecar.



The views continued to be breathtaking as Andy & Justin follow Jeff & Irene, with Dave & Sylvia in front.



A morning pub stop & Andy has found an old motorcycle shop – with second hand spark plugs for sale as well as faded products in the window from the 1970's, but they were closed!



Dave no. 2 on his squeeze box with vocal accompaniment from the pub landlord.



Irene & publican enjoy a dance as Dave no. 2 gives them a tune.



Friday lunch stop was the Eccles Hotel in Glengarriffe



Justin tucking in to his second plate of dessert, with Dave wondering how on earth he manages to stuff it all in. Well Justin has been stuffing it all in for years!



Andy & Justin following Jeff & Irene with Dave & Sylvia behind. Sunshine & blue skies – glorious.



A short stop at the bottom before the climb up to Healy Pass.



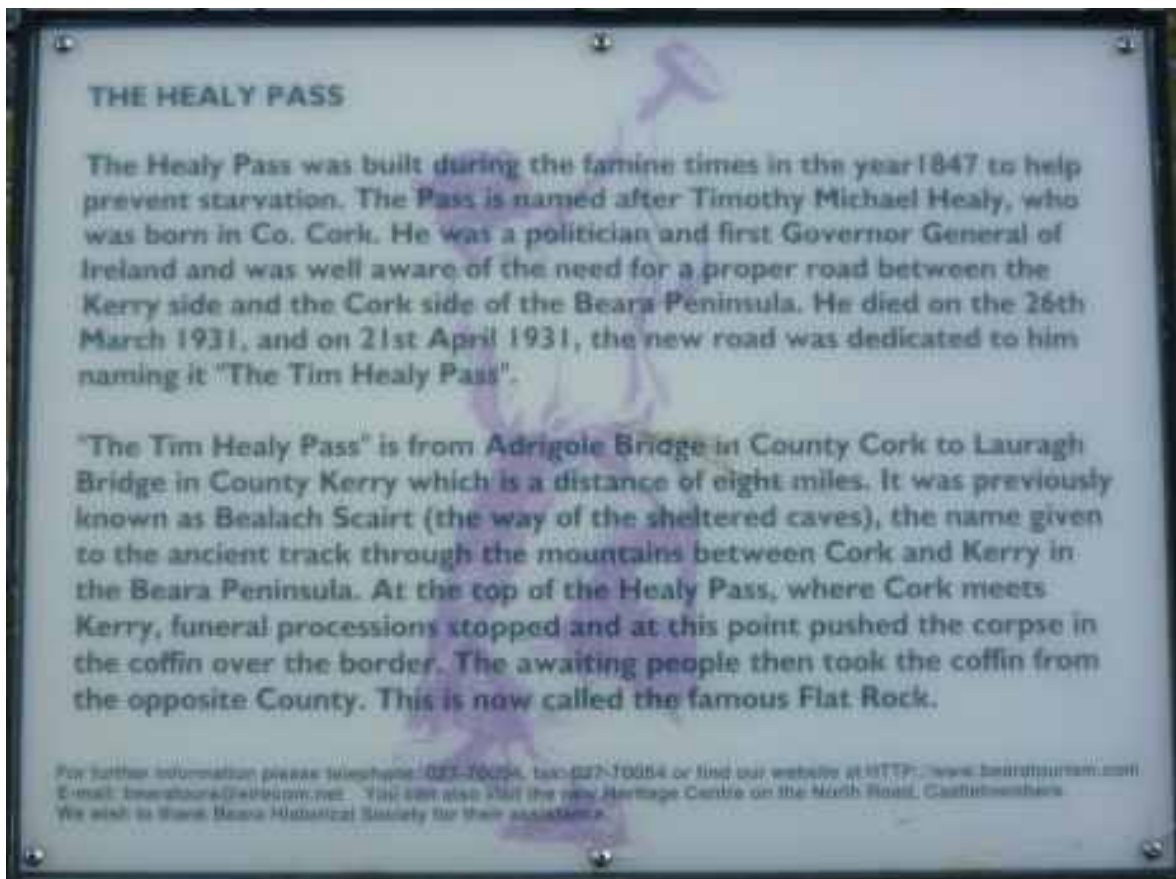
Some of the local residents totally disinterested as the riders passed by.



At the summit of Healy Pass.



Looking down from Healy Pass at the long & winding road that everyone had just ridden up.



The history of Healy Pass.



Another local resident happily going about business as usual, all be it on the side of a rather steep cliff face.



Another amazing view.



And back down the other side.



Avoiding woolly obstacles along the way.



Yes, another pub stop.



The chance to have a rest & a natter over a drink.



Friday night saw the final dinner together with prize giving. Some very fine Cork Crystal was awarded to the prize winners.



What's this, Andy had won a prize – a Cork Crystal tankard.



In fact all three key team members had won prizes. (L to R) Jeff, Dave & Andy with three lovely ladies from the organising Munster Vintage Motorcycle and Car Club.



Saturday morning meant a 3.00am start from Kenmare to Rosslare to catch the morning ferry. So Brian had a rude awakening in from his kip in Hotel Volkswagen.



Lunch stop on the way home. (L to R) Justin, Andy & Brian outside The Fishers Arms, Spring Gardens, Whitland, in Wales; where the food was excellent & the locals were very welcoming.

With grateful thanks to the organisers of

*The 43rd Irish National
Vintage Motorcycle
Assembly
24th – 29th August 2009*

*The Munster Vintage
Motorcycle & Car
Club*

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