



### **'Road Runs Group'**

#### **Around the Merrick Road Run report.**

The first Road Run 'In Support Of poppy Scotland' was on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Our first 2021 Road Run in support of Poppy Scotland was from the Bert Dykes memorial garden at Wallaceston. The memorial garden is in memory of Fraser Dykes's dad Bert served with the Royal Scots Fusiliers in Malaya and was a keen supporter of the British Legion. Fraser's mother Cathy also a keen supporter of the British Legion collected for the Poppy Appeal over many years.



We were well supported on the day with a good turnout of 27 riders including two notable celebrities John G Fergusson and Ian Simpson and we also had IAM observer Jim Hunter riding with us.

John Fergusson, is the author of the book 'The Motorcyclists Guide to Scotland' which was Stuart Gray's inspiration for the routes we are riding in this series of 9 Poppy Scotland fund raising rides.

Ian Simpson is a motorcycle racer from Dalbeattie, he is five times British Champion, has also won three TT events and five at the North West 200 in Northern Ireland. He is the only person ever to win the BSB and 600 Super-sport Championships in the same year.

Signing on was from 8.45 at the Bert Dykes Memorial at Wallace-ton just north of Dunscore village where we set up our stand for registration. The entry fee was a donation of at least £5 per bike to Poppy Scotland. We had tea and coffee available for a £1 donation in the Poppy Scotland tin.



After registration and our pre-run briefing by Derek Porter we drew the raffle. The raffle prize was the book *The Motorcyclists Guide To Scotland* researched and written by John Fergusson which he kindly donated and it was won by Ian Simpson.



Ian receives his prize.



Ian is ready to go.

The run covered some 200 miles through St Johns Town of Dalry, Minigaff, Barrhill, Girvan, Straiton, Cumnock, Sanquhar, Abington and Thornhill and back to Wallaceaton.



Our intrepid riders at the War Memorial Girvan.

Recorded mileage 202, the riding time 5 hours with an average speed of 40mph. The roads were on the whole good, one not so, the weather was mainly good with some light showers 2 of them heavy, one between Pinwherry and Girvan and another between Straiton and Dalmellington.

**The total raised from the 1<sup>st</sup> run with donations, entry fee and 1 emptied Poppy can is £346 plus the Just Giving donations of £304 making a total so far of £650. Well done everyone, let's keep this going.**

All in all, it was a grand day out on our bikes and we are all looking forward to the next run **Riding the Marches** starting from the **Gretna Gateway South car park DG16 5JD.**

Photographs taken on the day will be available from the Galloway Motorcycle Club Ltd website, Facebook page and also a link from the Facebook Road Runs Group.