



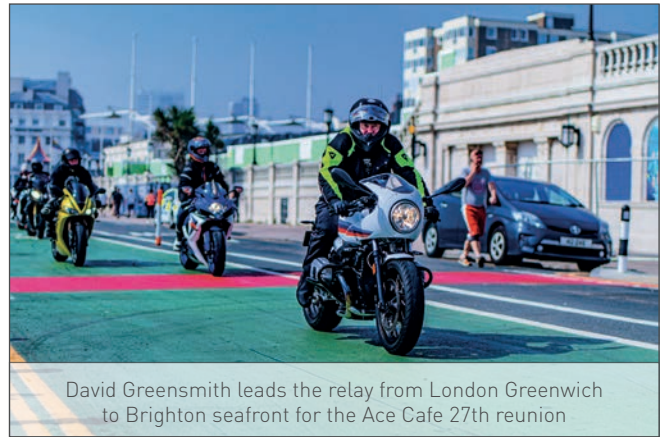
Frank O'Fearna and his R9t - Austria

*British motorcycle **Enthusiast** Is Founder Of
World's First Ever Global Motorbike Ride In
Memory Of Those Lost To The Pandemic*

*An ambitious global memorial motorbike ride, the first of its kind in the world, took place on Sunday 5th September 2021. David Greensmith, founder of Ride Global tells **Glen King** how bikers came together from 99 countries for the ride of their life, starting in New Zealand and ending in Alaska to remember and honour those who have died as a result of the Coronavirus.*

Ride Global is the brainchild of David Greensmith, who lives and works in Exeter, Devon, and came about following the loss of a loved one to Coronavirus. *David Greensmith - Founder Ride Global said:* "We sadly lost Alan Lewis, a dear family member who died suddenly in January, a victim of this devastating disease. I wanted to pay tribute to him so reached out to motorbike enthusiasts to hold a ride in his memory, and for all the loved ones we've lost across the world. It quickly gained momentum, growing from a ride across the UK to going global!" *He adds:* "It was such an exciting day with motorcyclists hitting the road at 10am their local time for a two-hour relay, collectively following the sun around the planet within 24 hours. The support was outstanding with riders from as far afield as Hong Kong, Pakistan; Germany; Italy; France; North and South America; Malaysia; Guatemala; Finland and even China! It was so successful, exceeding all expectations."

A keen motorcyclist and true altruistic, it was Mr. Greensmith's mission to bring together bikers from around the globe to raise funds to help fight COVID-19, with in excess of \$20,000 donated to The World Health Organisation COVAX, co-led by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. *He said:* "It was outstanding to know that so many supported our cause by generously donating funds for COVAX in memory of the people who have



David Greensmith leads the relay from London Greenwich to Brighton seafront for the Ace Cafe 27th reunion

died as a result of the Coronavirus, helping safeguard the living by making the vaccine available to more people in impoverished countries."

Mr. Greensmith was delighted to receive a letter of support for Ride Global from 10 Downing Street. "I was over the moon that the Prime Minister took the time to write saying it was an incredible idea and a way for people across the world to come together to remember those who have been lost to COVID-19. He said our mission to fundraise whilst doing the ride for COVAX was extremely inspiring."

The 'Ride Global' team made up of a small group of volunteers, share a passion for motorcycles and supporting those less fortunate than themselves. Key members include Faisal Malik (co-founder of Ride Global) based in Pakistan, and Mark Wilshire of the iconic Ace Cafe in London. Ocean BMW is also a staunch supporter of the worthy cause, opening their dealerships across the South West in Torquay, Falmouth, and Plymouth alongside its UK's flagship store in London's Mayfair BMW Motorrad Park Lane, to offer refreshments to the riders.

Chris Learmonth, Managing Director of BMW Motorrad Park Lane said: "It has been such an incredibly tough time for so many, so it is great that as a business, we were able to provide support to David and his team as well as fellow riders, who were an inspiration as they started out on their journey raising funds for The World Health Organisation COVAX. We were delighted David reached out to us and it was lovely to welcome riders to our dealerships on the 5th of September."

On the day bikers from the Exeter Classic Motorcycle Club, of which David is a member, rocked up to Exeter's historic Guildhall for a welcome address by The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor before heading off to St. Thomas the Apostle Church, for a blessing by Rev. Terry Litherland (Ret). Councillor Philip Bialyk, leader of Exeter City Council was also in attendance to offer his support. The bikers headed up by Adrian Evans then did a Rideout to iconic locations across the city including The Custom House, built on Exeter Quay in 1680 to support the increasing trade, particularly of the woollen cloth industry and the first in England built for that purpose.

TRAVEL



Bikers stop for fuel at iconic petrol station in Dorset



Members of the Exeter Classic Motorcycle Club outside Exeter Cathedral
(Photo by John Rose)

The riders completed their charity bike journey at Exeter Cathedral, one of the great Cathedrals of England, founded in 1050 by Edward the Confessor (who went on to found Westminster Abbey, London).

David Greensmith rides BMW R nineT racer (R9t), a classic roadster which embodies the passion and innovation of over 90 years of motorcycle design, boasting high-quality materials and careful workmanship to the smallest detail. He and his beloved bike joined the London contingency from Greenwich, home to the Meridian Line at the Royal Observatory before riding on to Brighton to the Ace Cafe.

The Ace Cafe, independently acclaimed as the 'World's Coolest Motorcycle Event', was fully behind Ride Global. The iconic cafe held its 27th reunion at their London premises and in Brighton from the 3rd - 5th September 2021, choosing COVAX as their event charity with the Lord Mayor of Brighton introducing Mr. Greensmith to the 20,000 strong throng of visitors.

Mark Wilsmore, Managing Director of Ace Cafe London said: "It's 25 years since the first Ace Cafe Reunion was held on the ever-popular Brighton seafront. The Brighton Burn Up - Ride with the Rockers left on the Sunday morning with thousands of motorcyclists gathered at the Ace premises to celebrate the history and heritage of what is now regarded by many, as an icon. It was a perfect opportunity to get involved with the Ride Global team to help them make this inaugural ride a roaring success."

Riders from around the planet took part in Ride Global including American Frank O'Fearna who works for the US Airforce and studied at the Institute of Technology as well as aerospace engineering at Stuttgart University. He shared his journey around Europe incorporating Ride Global. "It seems most consider the R9t not suitable for travel, especially two-up. Well, I just returned from a 30-day trip through south-eastern Europe using stock seats, suspension, and muffler. Initially we planned on camping, but the daily schedule, the heat, and the absence of campgrounds had us find

rooms every day. We ended up mailing home all the camping gear, which was quite a lot of weight. That was probably the reason I needed new tyres earlier in the trip than I expected. The Redverz Atacama tent claims to be the premier motorcycle tent for riders, and it is great, but no lightweight, and I don't recommend it if one travels two-up and changes camp sites every day."

Co-founder of Ride Global Faisal is a senior banker in Pakistan. Due to lockdown in Pakistan on the date of the memorial ride, Faisal did a solo ride through his home city of Karachi. *He said:* "I rode through the old part of Karachi, starting from the BMW Motorrad outlet. After all the hard work and commitment put in by the Ride Global Team, it was imperative for me to take part to help raise awareness of our important cause."

Mark Lewis who sadly lost his father Alan through COVID-19 was one of the participants in Ride Global on the Greenwich leg, together with members of the Greensmith family. He explains what the launch of Ride Global in memory of his Dad meant to him and his family. "Losing my father to the Coronavirus was devastating for all of us, not least his grandchildren. I want to express our heartfelt appreciation for the amazing Ride Global memorial team for their hard work, passion, and dedication. I was honoured to be part of the London ride; it helped me to feel closer

to my Dad and to know his untimely death was not in vain as the money raised would help save thousands of lives."

Jo Lewis is Mark's wife and David Greensmith's niece - *she concludes:* "I'm so proud of my Uncle David for his vision and drive to make the global memorial ride happen. It was heart-warming to see so many, including friends and family, take part, and it's helped us come to terms with our grief, knowing that Alan's death wasn't in vain. The Lewis family want to thank the Ride Global Team for this amazing tribute to my late father-in-law, raising awareness and a substantial amount of money for COVAX - a fitting tribute to a great man who is much missed and won't be forgotten."

Ride Global the first of its kind in the world, took place on Sunday 5th September 2021.

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