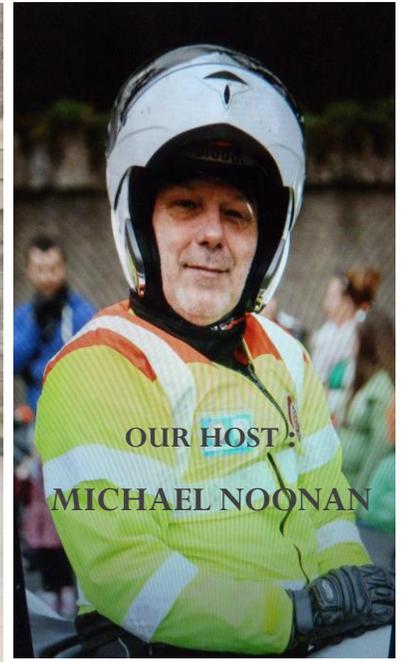




SERV SUSSEX.
CULTURAL TRIP TO DUBLIN
15th to 18th MARCH 2015



As a result of my accident in October last year, I was invited over by Michael Noonan of Blood Bikes East, who I had been corresponding with, through a Social Media site. It was during one of the north riders get together (at a local pub, of course), we decided to take Michael up on his offer. Michael was given the good news, but was now probably regretting sending out the invite. However he did suggest that if we could arrange our visit to coincide with St. Patrick's Day (March 17th), we could participate in either the Dublin

City parade, or a small one in Lucan, which is a suburb just west of Dublin. The idea was put to Simon Morley, who very kindly suggested that we attend with a couple of Fleet motorcycles. A general invite was given out at the January meeting, but in the end just me, Ray Collins, Mark Bailey and Colin Bush confirmed that we would go and represent SERV in Ireland. So with ferries and Hotel booked, we set off for Holyhead very early on Sunday 15th March. Ray and Mark took their own Pan Europeans,

whilst Colin and I rode Pans 54 & 57 respectively. My SatNav said it was 300+ miles and would take just over 5 hours. The calculations were almost spot on and we arrived in relatively good weather, cold, but dry. We had elected to go on the Irish Ferry's Fast Ferry service to Dublin.

Continued on Page 2 below :



O'Donoghues, Merrion Row. Settle into a snug or take a bench in the back bar and be prepared to join in an impromptu sing song – be sure to know the lyrics of at least one good “sing-song-song” to take part. Great outdoors area which even has a roof. Bono is rumoured to have the odd pint here, not sure if that's a pro or a con, your call! <http://www.odonoghues.ie/>





The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.



The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.



Blood Bikes Meet Garda Bikes



We parked our machines at the Garda Traffic Police office at Dublin Castle. Michael was astonished that we still locked them up.

Continued from above :

We had a good crossing with a nice calm sea, but the day caught up with some of us.



We were met By Michael & Patrick on our arrival and escorted to our hotel on the outskirts of Dublin. It had been a long first day, but it didn't stop us enjoying a couple of pints of Guinness.

We all had a good nights sleep and got up for a hearty breakfast. Today was to be the 'Cultural' section of our visit, with Michael meeting us at the hotel at 0930. Michael was accompanied by Ben, another BBE volunteer. At least the weather was dry, with a promise of sunshine later. The first part of the day was to be a motorcycle tour of the

city with a walking tour in the afternoon. Michael set off, like he was on a delivery, forgetting that he had five bikes behind him! At least he knew where he was going. Only joking Michael, it was fun following you.

After passing through the city, our first stop was at The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, which was a hospital 'to maintain the aged and maimed soldiers'. It was similar to the UK's Chelsea Pensioners but the building is now home of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. We then rode to the War Memorial Gardens. It lies about three kilometres from the centre of Dublin, on grounds which gradually slope upwards towards [Kilmainham Hill](#). It includes a central Sunken Rose Garden and has various [terraces](#), [pergolas](#), lawns and avenues lined with impressive parkland trees, and two pairs of Bookrooms in granite,

representing the four provinces of Ireland, and containing illuminated volumes recording the names of all the dead. We then rode to Phoenix Park, which is 2 – 4km west of the city and at 1,750 acres, is the largest walled city parks in Europe. It includes large areas of grassland and tree lined avenues. Since the 17th century, has been home to a herd of wild fallow deer. Dublin zoo and the Presidents Official Residence is also located within the park. Our wheeled tour concluded at Dublin Castle where we

parked our bikes at the Garda Traffic Department offices. After a good walk around the city, and a spot of lunch (thanks Michael) it was back to the hotel and an evening visit to O'Donoghues pub where quantities of Guinness were consumed. The following day we had a ride along the coast toward Bray, taking in Dublin Bay & Dun Laoghaire. In the afternoon we took part in the parade at Lucan and all of a sudden, our visit was over. It was back to the hotel to pack the bikes and an early start to travel back to Sussex.



SUUS QUID NOS FACER

(It's What We Do)

We wanted to present a token of our thanks and wanted that to be linked to our Charity, so I came up with a plaque design that incorporated some of the ingredients of what Serv is about.

The traditional badges of East & West Sussex are on a blue background, which represents the sea as both areas are coastal.

The silhouette of the motorcycle, on a Blood Red background, is shown with a Blood Box on the carrier and the Serv logo is on a white background, which represents the NHS Trusts that we exist for. I wanted to somehow, incorporate the work of the Controllers but space was an issue so with apologies, it was left off.

The central seashell emblem, links the East and West quadrants, whilst the Sun & Moon shows that we operate day (Milk & Bank Holiday Blood) and night duties.

The latin quote translates to "It's What We Do".



Lucan's St. Patricks Day Parade.

Serv Sussex were given the option to take part in either Dublin City's Parade or that of Lucan's parade, a suburb just west of Dublin City. In consultation with Michael Noonan, we opted for the Lucan Parade. Whilst it may have been nice to be in the city on Tuesday, we thought that the smaller parade in Lucan would be kinder to the motorcycles. Previously, our Lucan Parade Hosts, The Goldwing Owners Club had participated in the City one, but due to it's length and slow pace, they had suffered mechanical issues such as clutch failure and overheating. As it was the Lucan Parade was a superb afternoon whilst Lucan donned the national colours for this St Patrick's Day for its 25th annual parade with over 8,000 onlookers and 1,700 participants. This year 33 local groups marched from Tesco Lucan up to Lucan Village where local performers, clubs and community groups showcased the town of Lucan. Parade chairperson Peter Brady told the Gazette that the day was a "phenomenal success". "Everyone who came out for the parade seemed to really love the festivities and the performances that took place on the day. Everything was really top notch and the local concert bands were unbelievable." The spectators had been briefed by the tannoy system because as we passed, there were comments like "Look, there's those British Blood Bikes" and of course the children loved operating the siren whenever the parade came to a halt. It's a big Thank You to the GWOC, the Lucan Parade Organisers and of course, the Lucan residents and public who gave us such a great welcome. We'll see you next year!

Started by Pat McCabe in Dublin, Blood Bike East was officially formed in September 2012. By approaching Blood Bike West and using our paperwork and documents other groups have been able to get up and running in super quick time! Blood Bike East now have three bikes. This is all Thanks to a generous donation from Donedeal.ie Serving the Greater Dublin and Leinster regions. Launch date 2nd April 2013.



Other Blood Bike Groups in Ireland

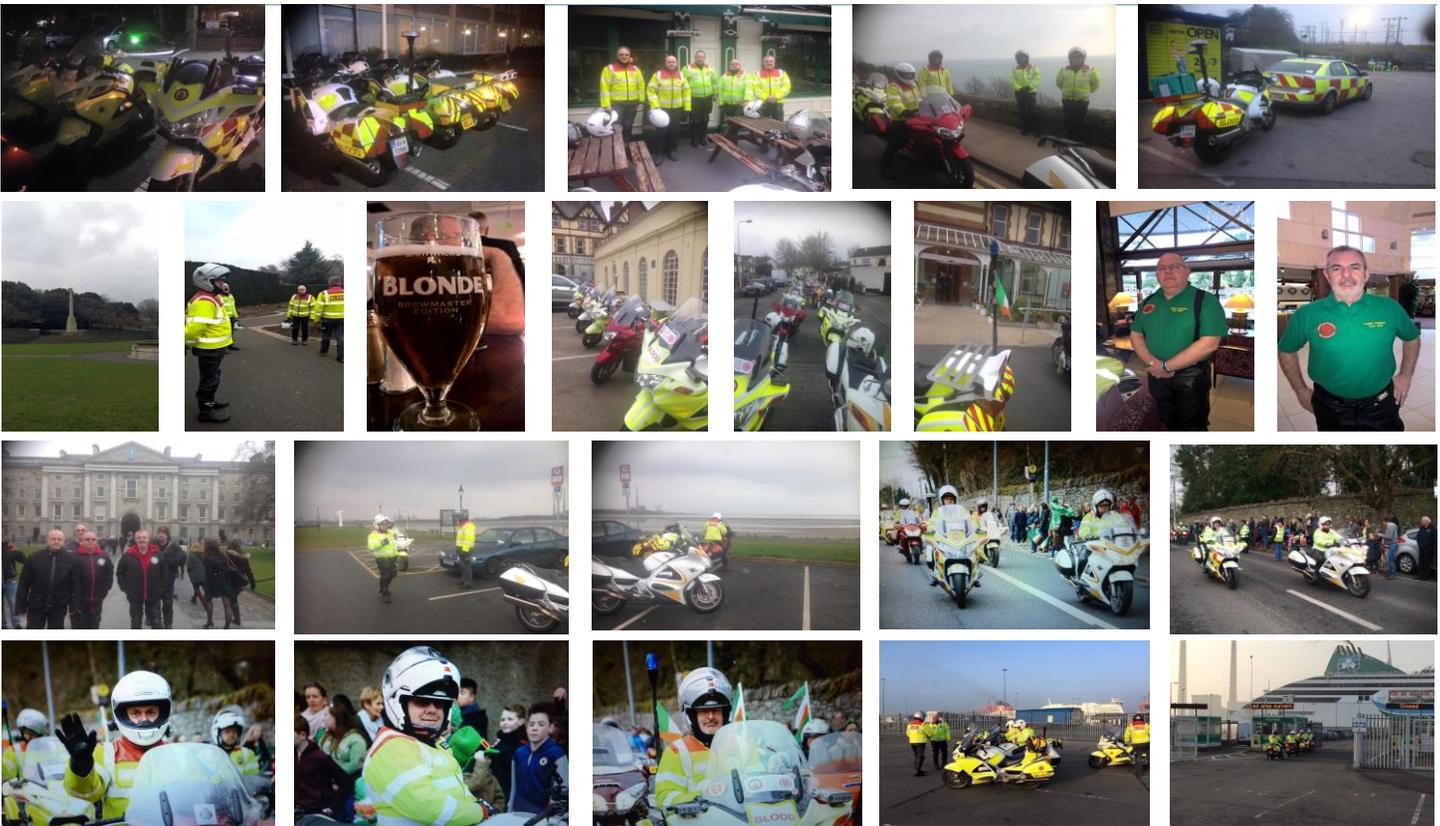
Blood Bike West was officially formed in March 2012 and we cannot wait until every hospital in the country has access to a Blood Bike. We have already started working with the HSE in the West and now the East with Blood Bike East. As there is lots of rules and regulations to operating a blood bike, we decided to compile this website (www.bloodbike.ie) to show all the groups of Blood Bikes now operating.

Since then there been 11



SERV Sussex presenting the plaque (see above) to Michael Noonan of Blood Bikes East (Dublin & Leinster)

Here are a few pictures of what we got up to, during the two days that we were in Dublin. Although we were away from home for four days, two of those were taken up by travelling there and back. This trip was funded by ourselves and drew no money from the Charity, including all fuel, ferry and hotel costs paid by us.



Top Row from left : 1 & 2 - Serv & BBE Honda's parked at the Balls Bridge Hotel. 3 -The 'Motley Crew' & Ben (BBE) o/s hotel. 4 - Parked up at Dun Laoghaire. 5 - BBE vehicles. **2nd Row** 1 & 2 - The Memorial Gardens. 3 - We didn't just drink Guinness (well Ray didn't). 4 - Pre Lucan Parade briefing. 5 - Lined Up. 6- 57 with Eire flag. 7&8 - Tour Polo shirts, beautifully modeled here by Ray & Roy. **3rd Row** 1 - Trinity College in the City. 2&3 - Dublin Bay. 4&5 - Lucan St. Patricks Day Parade. **4th Row** 1,2&3, Mark, Ray & Roy during the parade. 4 - Saying our Goodbyes. 5 - Heading for the ferry home.