

THE PELICAN PELOTON



On Sunday 22nd May 2022, (Saint Elen's Day) a number of cyclists took on the open challenge laid down by the "Pelican Peloton" and rode the ten 20 mile Stages of the ancient Celtic/Roman roads, known as the "Sarn Helen". The event was organised and supported by Sarn Helen Chapter No 926, Aberaeron, Dyfed District Rose Croix.

The three objectives of the challenge were:

- To celebrate this unique Welsh heritage on the significant saint's day who gave her name to the roads,
- To celebrate the unity between the three Welsh Districts of the Masonic Rose Croix Order, whose emblem is the Pelican (in its piety),
- To raise funds to support the Wales Air Ambulance Charity, (a wonderful service that we all hope we will never need.)

At 06:00hrs at Conwy Castle, the Inspector General of the North Wales District, Very Illustrious Brother John Norbury 33°, accompanied by District Recorder Steve Cooper, presented W.Bro. Wyn Edwards of Aeron Lodge 7208, with a significant token of unity to convey to Aberaeron, thus starting the Northern Stage of the event. Wyn was accompanied by his son Richard, W.Bro. Rob Gray, Aberystwyth, and Deputy PGM of North Wales, Bro. Wynford Owen Davies, as they set off on the first Stage and others joined along the route.

Simultaneously at 06:00hrs at Parc y Scarlets, MWS Adrian Hallett, accompanied by Recorder Robert Thomas, both from Llanelli Chapter No 845, Dyfed District, presented Mrs. Elen Page with a significant token of unity to convey to Aberaeron, via the Gower, Neath Abbey and Seven Sisters in the District of South Wales and Monmouthshire. Elen rode solo courageously for over 120 miles of all five Southern stages, whilst others rode along the route ahead of her from Cynghordy and Ffarmers to Aberaeron.

At the completion of all ten stages at Aberaeron Lodge, over 240 miles had been covered of the North and South Sarn Helen routes. The riders were greeted by Very Illustrious Brother John Everett 33°, Inspector General of Dyfed District & Very Illustrious Paul Kelvin-Smith 33°, Inspector General for South Wales and Monmouthshire District, and MWS elect Rev. Aled Lewis of Sarn Helen Chapter, Aberaeron, who blessed all those assembled with prayers for weary travellers, which he had especially composed in reverence of the Welsh Saint Elen. A BBQ and refreshments were enjoyed by riders and supporters. The last rider (Elen) finished at 18:30hours after a heroic twelve-hour ride, earning everyone's respect as the only rider to complete five stages. Safety for the event was achieved by deploying 16 volunteer Marshals (and Deputies) at 11 checkpoints and 3 support vehicles shadowing riders for the entire challenging route.

Collectively, with generous support from Chapters and Lodges across Wales, registered riders and other supporters, the event has already raised over £3,600 for the Wales Air Ambulance Charity – a total which will surely grow. At £1,800 per mission, the current total will help to fund two missions, WAA needing £8 million per year to maintain its fleet of four helicopters, to continue to provide this essential service to rural Wales.

Nick Sawyer

Treasurer, Sarn Helen Chapter, Aberaeron

District of Dyfed Rose Croix, Masonic Province of West Wales



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in pictures



North Start – Dep. PGM Wynford Owen Davies, Wyn Edwards WM Aeron Lodge, IG North Wales John Norbury, Stephen Cooper District Recorder



South Start - Adrian Hallett MWS Llanelli, Mrs. Elen Page, Robert Thomas Recorder



The Finish Line
L – R: Nick Sawyer, MWS Adrian Thomas, Graeme Moran, IG Dyfed John Everett, Rev Aled Lewis, IG South Wales & Mon Paul Kelvin-Smith, Ivan Bell, John Evans, Wyn Edwards WM Aeron Lodge, Richard Edwards

The End
Mrs. Elen Page, with IG Dyfed John Everett