



The BMW Club
United Kingdom & Ireland



The BMW Club Southern Section

Rideout & BBQ 2026

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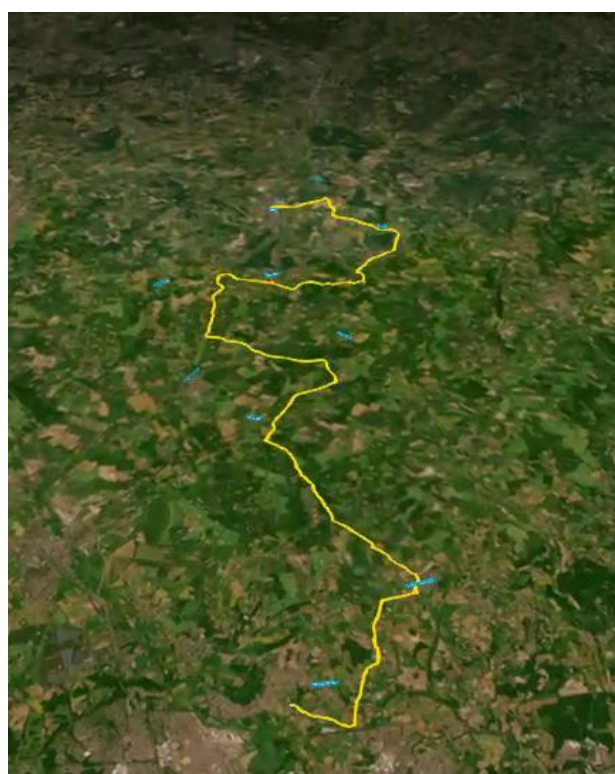
What a difference a year makes!

Unlike previous Southern Section BBQs, where waterproofs have often been as important as the burgers, this year we were treated to glorious sunshine from start to finish. With not a cloud in the sky and no rain anywhere in the forecast, it was shaping up to be the perfect summer's day.

Fifteen bikes gathered at Alton Station, where riders enjoyed catching up before setting off at around 10:35am for a leisurely ride through the Hampshire countryside. Chris and Alison led the way, with Mike and Lesley bringing up the rear as our tailenders.



Our route took us past the beautiful lavender fields at Selborne, before winding through Medstead, Four Marks, skirting around New Alresford, passing through Cheriton, then leaving the A272 for the quieter roads through Beauworth, Bishop's Waltham and Durley, eventually arriving back at Chris and Alison's home in Southampton.



The route offered a great mix of flowing A roads and picturesque country lanes, giving everyone plenty to enjoy. Some of the lanes were a little narrower than others, with the occasional strip of grass and gravel down the middle to keep us on our toes—but thankfully there weren't too many of those!



With temperatures climbing, it didn't take long before motorcycle jackets and boots were exchanged for shorts, T-shirts and much cooler attire. It was definitely a day to swap riding gear for BBQ gear!

Chris soon had the barbecue fired up, serving a steady stream of burgers and sausages with all the trimmings, while Marion and Paul kept everyone supplied with much-needed cold drinks and refreshments throughout the afternoon.



As the BBQ got underway, more members arrived who hadn't been able to join the morning ride, bringing the total attendance to 31 people. We were also delighted to welcome two impeccably behaved four-legged guests, Splodge and Pebbles, who quickly became honorary Southern Section members for the afternoon and were more than happy to supervise proceedings—particularly when food was involved!



John kindly took over BBQ duties for a while to give Chris a well-earned break, and before long everyone had enjoyed more than enough to eat. Just when we thought we couldn't manage another bite, out came the puddings... or rather, a selection of choc ices and ice lollies, which were exactly what was needed to cool everyone down in the summer heat. With two gazebos, several parasols and plenty of shade, everyone was able to relax, chat and enjoy a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in good company. As always, the conversation ranged from the latest rides and future plans to the important questions in life... like which bike to buy next!



A huge thank you goes to Mike and Lesley for once again being fantastic tailenders and for helping with just about everything throughout the day and beforehand. Thanks also to Paul and Marion Matchett for keeping everyone refreshed, and to John Willing for lending a hand on the barbecue. Events like this only happen because people are willing to muck in, and your help was very much appreciated.

Finally, thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised £65 for the Air Ambulance, a fantastic result for such a worthwhile cause.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us, whether for the ride, the BBQ or both. Days like these remind us why the Southern Section is such a great group to be part of—good roads, good food, great company and plenty of laughter.

Now... keep your fingers crossed for sunshine next year?

