



## 2026 Soup Run – A Chilly Start, A Warm Welcome

Words by Alison Bailey

Photos and Videos by Lesley Smith, Paul Bassett & Alison Bailey

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Eighteen bikes gathered at Rake Garden Centre, near Petersfield, ready for a prompt 11am departure for this year’s ever-popular Soup Run. With such a fantastic turnout, we split into two groups to keep things running smoothly.

The first group, led by John Martin with Roger Jackaman as tailender, set off right on time. Around ten minutes later, the second group followed, led by James Seller with Mike Smith bringing up the rear.



The weather at the start was overcast and decidedly chilly, but that didn’t dampen spirits as we headed out on a long, winding ride through the Surrey Hills and The South Downs National Park.



The route treated us to some stunning scenery, with plenty of quintessential English cottages and picture-perfect villages along the way — including one with the wonderfully memorable name of Balls Cross, which raised a few smiles.



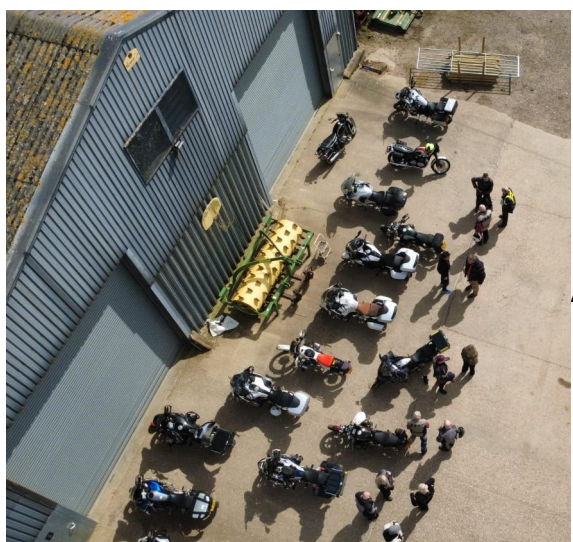
We eventually turned south, passing by Goodwood Racecourse, and by this point the weather had brightened considerably. The sun made a welcome appearance, bringing with it beautiful conditions — although there was still a definite chill in the air.



All riders arrived safely at James and Helen's farm in Arundel, where we were joined by additional members who couldn't make the ride itself. In total, over 30 people gathered for the main event — the soup!

Helen and Anne had clearly been hard at work, providing a delicious spread of homemade soups accompanied by plenty of fresh bread. It was exactly what was needed after the ride and went down extremely well with everyone.

We rounded things off in the traditional way with a cuppa and a selection of cakes. With the weather now on our side, many of us headed out into the garden to enjoy the sunshine and capture a group photo to mark another thoroughly enjoyable day.



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A very big thank you goes to James for putting together such an excellent route, and to our ride leaders, James and John, along with back markers Mike and Roger, for keeping everything running smoothly. Special thanks also to Helen and Anne for the exceptional spread and all their hard work in making everyone so welcome.

Thank you to Lesley, Paul and Alison for the photographs and video, and to Chris for capturing some fantastic drone shots of the day. Finally, thank you to everyone who made a donation to our usual charity, the Air Ambulance — we raised £45.



Another fantastic Soup Run, and a great example of what makes the Southern Section such a brilliant group to be part of.



