

REVVING UP FOR THE MOHILL HONDA 50 RUN

Linda Flynn

MY HUSBAND Peadar Flynn was seriously ill for the second time around in 2009 and we were very worried. I promised Peadar, if he would stay strong and get through it, I would buy him a Honda 50. In the past he owned a Honda 50 and loved it. He did get through the illness and as promised I bought him a blue and white Honda 50 that same year. Peadar then heard about the Honda Runs and started off going to one in Roosky. He found the bikers so welcoming that he started going whenever he could. This led him to the idea of organizing a Honda Run for Mohill.

Going to Honda Runs has brought Peadar around this beautiful country to visit many different places. It's a great hobby with wonderful camaraderie between the bikers.

Peadar organized the first Honda 50 Run in Mohill in August 2010 and it was a great success. Now an annual event it helps fundraise for local groups, charities, and other worthy causes. From March to October community groups and individuals organise Honda 50 Runs all over Ireland, which Peadar supports. In turn Honda 50 Clubs and Bikers support his run in Mohill. Such support to the Mohill Honda 50 Runs over the years has been a great boost to the local charities.

In 2011 we went as a family to a Honda 50 Run on Arranmore Island in County Donegal and we stayed there for a few days. Our children still talk about the fantastic time we had there during our visit.

Over the years there has been in excess of €20,000 raised for local charities

namely: Mohill Tidy Towns, The Centenary Celebrations of the Canon Donohoe Hall, The Senior Citizens Christmas Party, Mohill Family Support Centre, Mohill Ladies GAA, Mohill Resources, Eivers Lane Childcare, Shout (Sligo Hospital Oncology Unit Trust), and Arus Carolan Patient Comfort Fund. The Mohill Honda 50 Run is also a great boost to businesses in the town of Mohill as well as to the towns and villages where the run passes through.

The bikers' registration Fee is €20 and all bikers get a sticker upon registration. The Distance of the Run is around 50 to 60 miles around Leitrim with some years taking in parts of surrounding counties for variation.

During every Mohill Honda 50 Run there are refreshments for the bikers before and after the run in the Canon Donohoe Hall. Myself and a group of local volunteers look after the catering side of things. There are biker's prizes and a biker's raffle on the day. We have found that many bikers do pay a return visit to Leitrim after taking part in the run.

We would like to thank each and every biker for coming out to support us on an annual basis. Thank you very much to Mohill's very reliable group of volunteers who can always be depended on for help and support. We wish to thank all businesses and individuals for their sponsorship of the Mohill Honda 50 Run. In particular we want to express our gratitude to the People of Mohill for always coming out to give the bikers a great Céad Míle Fáilte and see them off on the Run.



■ Peadar Flynn in 2010 on his blue and white Honda 50



■ Linda Flynn with a biker in 2010, at the first Mohill Honda 50 Run



■ Bikers gather at St Patrick's Church in 2014, Mohill, getting ready for the Run



■ Linda Flynn, Shannon Flynn, Peadar Flynn and Chris Cronin busy at the 2017 Run.