Merry Christmas one's and all
Firstly my apologies for the delay in getting this out to you, there are excuses but there is no point in giving them as they aren’t very interesting.
We have, as a club and individually, been very active since the last edition and hopefully those of you who have been able to make the various events will find something included within this newsletter that will bring back some good memories and possibly some nightmares.
I hope you all have an excellent Christmas and New Year and get everything you want in stockings or even in your stockings from Father Christmas. See you all in the New Year.

Dymchurch day out.
A Charity fun day was held at the Ship Inn in Dymchurch, attended by Grandad, Lyndon, Jennie, Lio and me. Monies raised were donated to the Benny fund and other local charities. No photo’s or other details as I can’t remember that far back and forgot to take any notes.

Pissed Indian. (it rained a bit)
Renegades annual rally held near Aylesford at its usual venue. Unfortunately there was a fair bit of precipitation this year which dampened things a little. We provided the fire cover for the event which included the usual round the back of the food stall inspections ensuring that none of the dogs that went missing over the weekend ended up in the fast-food pot. During the Friday it rained a bit which gave us the opportunity to watch a succession of people trying to get up the field and failing.

Hair washing was not compulsory but did assist with the afternoons entertainment value.

Did I mention it rained?
Our vantage point was right at the bottom of the hill over looking the Hessian carpet that had been specifically placed to assist people getting through the mud. It was therefore strange to watch everyone avoiding it as if they didn’t want to get it muddy.
Fat people on trikes didn’t have as many problems....

As thin people on springers.

Shiny wheels didn’t help with the mud.

T-shirts frozen in containers of water were given to competitors with a prize being given for the first person to put one of the shirts on.

The operation may help you sleep but has done nothing for the snoring.

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Some initiative was shown.
Then my camera battery went flat, so you can’t see the pictures of naked flesh and beer bellies that I couldn’t take. At the time of writing it is unsure whether the show will go ahead next year due to the change in circumstances of the Renegades which is a pity as I really enjoyed the event.

Bourges

We took a trip over to France to visit Fred and many of our European brothers. This report is taken from a mixture of sources and therefore must be true. Over 100 European members attended the European Rally in Bourges this year which was organised by Fred Fournet the French director. My hat is off to him and all the members who made such a good job of organising the food, entertainment, accommodation and club ride-outs. A group of 6 Bikes left Folkestone on the Shuttle through the Channel Tunnel to travel down together midweek. We had a stop over on the way where we found out that Eddie does not like veg.

We were accompanied by a stealth bike which unnervingly cast no reflection in mirrors and could not be photographed for security reasons. It was fitted with state of the art ‘tardis’ panniers which seemed capable of carrying far more equipment than is physically possible. This machine was also coated in a new substance which prevents anything sticking to the bike. More news on this when the patent is approved.

The next day we continued down to the final location for the rally which was a wonderful farm dating back to early 1900. There were several buildings where we were accommodated in comfort with hot and cold running water and proper beds (for those who were old enough, came with a female partner or managed to blag their way in) There was also ample camping for late bookings and late arrivals. September means autumn, which means the temperature can drop suddenly. This happened quite spectacularly on the Friday which meant that all the campers invaded the buildings and slept around fireplaces inside.
Wind & Fire UK

Chapter 12

The department of Cher gave a donation, as did the sponsors to lower the price of hosting all of us. Local markets provided us with food, wine and beer and we were well looked after for the entire stay.

Another unnerving situation was the ability of Dennis to pack away enough food in one day to feed an entire family for a week. I blame it on the tape worm.

On Friday a ride out was set up to explore the local wine region of Sancerre we visited Cave la Perriere and took part in wine tasting followed by an outstanding lunch. This did not contribute in any way to the slip and slide that occurred on the way out. Thankfully nothing more than pride and a footpeg were damaged during the accident.

Next stop was a Chateau under renovation. Even though it rained on the rest of the mere mortals in the group, I managed to get a photo of the building in clear sunshine. A hot shower back at the site does wonders, and a few beers later everyone seemed to have forgotten how wet they had been. Later in the evening a live concert was held in the main barn followed by some young ladies appearing who got a bit hot and took all their clothes off. What would their mothers have said?

Eddie ‘I don’t like veg’ got some ink done.

Saturday was the main day, we rode as one group to the exhibition area in Bourges, the sun was glorious and passage drew many admiring glances and stares. A special thanks needs to go to our French road captains who secured a safe and enjoyable ride to the site and home again. Our invited guests - ‘orphelins’ of fallen firefighters and their mothers (17 in total) were invited to attend our rally and were taken for a baptism ride. The original intention was for everyone to bring their firehelmets along and wear them on the ride. We were also asked to bring national flags to be flown from the back of our machines. Unfortunately there were some objections/

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issues raised that prevented some members from doing this. Firefighters UK members (being a little stubborn) rode for the entire run proudly wearing their firefighters helmets and flying national flags. Dennis even made it fully rigged.

'Slick' (more of this later) holding out the Club colours.

Another of the flags that turned many heads ‘Y Ddraig Goch’ or for those who don’t speak Welsh the Red Dragon.

Plus one with some of the ‘Orphelines’ (Orphaned children of French firefighters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty).

Many other people came along to have a baptise ride on a Harley giving them for their first ever Harley-Davidson experience (aged 5 to 95). This was done to collect a little more money to raise money for charitable causes.

At the site our first Portugese member subscribed, which means one more country on our records. Good to see how we are growing steadily in Europe as well.

The rally coincided with the 112th annual assembly of French firefighters which in itself was an eye opener. We got to see the latest in minimalist fire engines.

Looks like something out of a Batman movie.

Fred and Eddie preparing for one of the many rides out

[Image: Image of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle with the Club colours]

[Image: Image of the Y Ddraig Goch flag]

[Image: Image of a group of Orphelines and their parents]

[Image: Image of Fred and Eddie preparing for a ride]
Some of the women were hideous with hairier chests than most bikers.

Thanks for the company.

Now that’s what I call a serious snail trail. As luck would have it this happened in Paris whilst taking a long cut due to the great god Satnav being displeased, right outside the house of a guy who was rebuilding his Harley in the basement. Which meant that someone in the group was fully paid up with the ‘Murphy’s Law Club’. Fortunately we had enough of the right liquid to put this right on this occasion.
'Olive' got her dragging jeans ruined when 'Slick's' remedial fix let go at 90mph. How many bottles of Chardonnay did it take to get over this episode?

Dennis has even been converted to European riding and partying.

‘Greetings Gentlemen. To all at the EU rally thanks for your company, assistance regarding accommodation, travel etc. It was a great success and am looking forward to the next time. I have never had a good word to say regarding the country or the personal but am now a committed lover of both. Am even thinking of going to night school to learn a little of the language, I am smitten..........

Best regards  Dennis’

Just goes to show, old dogs can learn new tricks.
**Grandad meets Anne**

Grandad got a personal invite to meet HRH Princess Anne at East Grinstead burns Unit Earlier this year. This was in recognition for all the hard work and fundraising that he and the club have been doing over the last few years. There is no pictorial evidence unfortunately as he attended on his own as everyone else was working for a living. Well done Steve and everyone in general.

**Christmas meal**

For those of you who are unaware, Bill has organised our Christmas meal for 28/01/06 details below.

Hi all

I have arranged a Dinner at the Manor House Hotel, Newlands Corner, Guildford Surrey on Saturday 28th January 2006 web site www.manorhouse-hotel.com/

I have made a provisional booking for 16, but this can be increased, I was hoping for a dinner and dance but they don't have any organised at this time.

The cost per person is £25 with a 10% discount

Rooms Twin without breakfast £29.00 p.p with breakfast £34 p.p this is with two sharing, book direct with the hotel

I have been requested for a £10 deposit per person ASAP please

**Fenlanders Rally**

The venue has not been decided as of yet

The rally is nominally held the last weekend in July

To you all, have a Happy Christmas and a great New Year. Ride safe keep and the chrome clean

Bill Morris

**European Tour 2006**

The itinerary has been set as follows, info is from Eddy Styven and Steve Whitmores.

**Sunday 25th June** Portsmouth to Moreton-in-Marsh

135 miles

**Monday 26th June** Visit Stratford on Avon, Warwick Castle, Sulgrave Manor, Return to Moreton-in-Marsh

130 miles

**Tuesday 27th June** Ride to London, ACE Café, Blessing Ceremony at Fire Fighter Memorial at St.Paul's Cathedral, Folkestone Eurotunnel for 17.00

Train to Calais. 165 miles

So far there are 29 persons coming from the USA. Together with some riders from Europe I think the pack won’t be too big. Only rooms for our American members booked plus Grandad. Members wanting to participate in whatever part of the ride, are free to contact hotels in the local area. It is also currently planned to have a goodbye – farewell party in Ostend on June 28th. This maybe in the Motorcycle Lofthotel.

**Hythe update.**

Hi All, Just come off the phone to Mo, Merlin’s partner, she has kicked him out again, but she has all the money that was raised at the do down at Hythe last month. What she is going to do is convert the cash into a cheque made payable to us and give it to Eddy/ Merlin, he in turn is to then hand it over to us, the amount is £600 plus, so I said if they want the press there then we would make an effort also, big cheque jobby, thingy, whatsis, do-da.

Sincere Regards

Andy Hill

**Diamond Chapter Belgium**

Hello dear fellows over the sea, Here is the date of the next "3 Belgian Coast run", it’s on Saturday the 2 September 2006. We the members of the Belgian coast and all the other members of the Belgian Diamond chapter invite you next year on that sunny day. Please put that day on your calendar. I will send you in the month of April the whole information. We wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Linda & Filip Andrea & yvan Linda & Eddy

**Geoff writes from Australia.**

Hi H

Eventually got sorted and settled, well nearly, have just looked up on the web your news letter, “great stuff” nice to see you can get along without me. “Ho Ho”

I have managed to get a 98 Electra Glide, and covered a few K’s since being here, the roads outside the metro area are OK but the speed limits are a little low, on average around 60 kilometres an hour (37 mph) on dual carriageways, a little hard to judge the speed when no one goes above 60ks, you seem to wait for ages for them to pass when pulling out from a side street.

Will keep in touch.

Stay in the Wind

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CHARITY REPORT 2005

2005 has been a busy one for Fire-fighters UK. We have supported a number of events that have resulted in a donation to our group’s funds or have assisted a host club to donate a larger sum to their chosen charity. Once again it is mainly the same people turning out to honour the commitment they made on joining Wind and Fire MC which I would remind you all includes the engagement in charitable activities. The lack of fresh faces is all the more surprising given the number of new members joining this year.

Dec 04  Peanut Ward Christmas Party Crackers, games etc £30
Feb 05  Children’s Fire and Burns Trust Peanut Ward New Year Party £100
Mar 05  Cherished Memories First Aid support with 100 plus bikes to escort 12 stretched limos to a West End Show for terminally ill children and their families Easter eggs (individually donated)
Apr 05  Folkestone Custom Bike Show Organised by Fire-fighters UK and resulted in a collection of £1,340 divided between Peanut Ward and the Fire Service Benevolent Fund £650 each

Jul 05  Fire-fighters France Our Director travelled to France to support the French chapter in collecting for their charity “Orphelins from fallen fire-fighters”
Jul 05  Fenlanders Rally Once again Fire-fighters UK provided first aid cover for this rally thus allowing all monies collected by the host club to go to their chosen charities Fire-fighters UK Chapter held their AGM at this event
Jul 05  Peanut Ward 50th Birthday Bash Fire-fighters UK were invited to this anniversary garden party to celebrate 50 years of the Peanut Ward
Jul 05  Kent Pow-wow (Representatives of Kent motorcycle clubs organised a Poker Run with all proceeds donated to the Battle of Britain Appeal; Fire-fighters UK attended and some £1,500 was raised
Aug 05  Burns Camp Due to a friend of Fire-fighters UK celebrating her 40th birthday by collecting donations instead of presents, we managed to sponsor 2 children from Peanut Ward to attend Burns Camp £700
Aug 05  Birthday Ride This was for a YOUNG lady

who wanted to celebrate her 50th birthday with a ride on a Harley. We arranged for this to happen and the family donated £205 to our funds.

Aug 05  Pissed Indian Rally We again provided fire cover for this event free of any charges and approximately £2,500 was collected by the host club for their own charity. Pulled a few out of the crap.

Sep 05  Anniversary Presentation W&F MC, through Fire-fighters UK, I was honoured in September by receiving an invitation to attend a presentation to the Princess Royal (Princess Anne) as a result of our donations and work with the Ward. The Princess Royal wished to meet various people who had made a contribution to the welfare of the children, along with the medical staff. I was there to represent our club and was presented to her. She showed great interest in W&F MC, requiring explanations of who we are and what we do

Oct 05  European Rally We assisted Fire-fighters France in the ride out day for the “Orphelins of fallen fire-fighters”

Geoff can still be contacted on geoff@my-harley.co.uk.

Robert Howatson-Jones
Press Officer.
We also contributed a donation for the following:
Oak Men, Father Ted £25
Peanut Ward CD player £127.44

During 2005, we received a number of donations to our funds:
Dover Fire Station "Silly Committee" £540
Club member, Dennis, donated T-shirts given to him in his travels and these were sold off to raise money for our funds £50
Club member, Andy, raised money by selling off scrapped vehicles from work (with his bosses blessing) £125
Club member, Dickie, organised a joint party with the American Motor Cycle Owners Club and a collection was made £200

There are also a number of outstanding commitments made this year and yet to be fulfilled.
- Rides on a Harley x 2 (next Summer)
- Various items for Peanut Ward and these will be reported on next year.

2006 looks like it will be even busier. It is my hope that we can encourage more of the membership to "step up to the plate" and take on the responsibility of their commitment when joining Wind and Fire MC as it is sad for them that they miss out on so much fulfilling fun.

I am looking forward to the tour of Europe in 2006 and meeting up with many of you who I have corresponded with in the past. I am still negotiating with ISUZU for a sponsored wrecker/support vehicle. I hope to see you all in June. Stay safe.

Steve "Grandad" Drawater
Charity Officer, Fire-fighters UK, Chapter 12

Well that’s it for now. It's 21.15 on Christmas Eve as I finish this. How’s that for dedication, the real reason is I’m on call at the moment and can’t drink. Hopefully next year will as a minimum be as good as this year. Take care and hopefully we will all meet up again soon.

'H'