

W.Bro Colin North, set off on an epic challenge to go from Lands End to John O’Groats on a Lawnmower to raise much needed funds for three different Charities.

Not only did he take on this epic journey, he wanted to do it a Guinness book of records world best time.



Prior to the trip, Colin purchased a support vehicle and kitted it out and looked to cover any potential needs that may arise, mechanical breakdowns being one concern, as well as providing a bed so that he could catch some much needed sleep on the journey, and have some much needed hot food.

The current Guinness World record for this challenge was just over 5 days, so a very tough target to reach, especially with the conditions that were set to make the record, the Mower had to be a standard ‘ride on’ Mower that was capable of cutting grass. He had to have proof of his journey so a form of GPS tracking had to be undertaken, Bro Jason Kemp assisted with this. The picture to the right is a picture of the actual mower used, being shown at the Provincial garden Party in July.



Colin and his team managed to cope with the journey, bearing in mind that with a relief driver they kept going 24 hours per day, sometimes with lots of traffic around and sometimes with very little traffic around as the picture shows. One interesting story was that near the beginning of the journey, Colin was actually stopped by the Devonshire Police who asked him to try to stop the traffic moving, even if it meant re-routing themselves, another challenge taken in their stride.

So, how did they do? After 4 days and 6 hours of constantly travelling through the weather, the light and darkness, Colin eventually arrived at the John O’Groats landmark having smashed the previous record. How did the team perform? As well as could be expected with such a gruelling challenge and finally, how did the Mower perform, exceptionally well came the answer all in all a great experience had by all. So how much did the challenge raise,? At first count it appears that over £15,000 was raised to be split equally between Colin’s three nominated Charities, Motor Neurone Disease, The Kenward Trust and the Masonic Charitable Foundation will all benefit from the efforts of Colin and his team. The picture to the right is a still from a video of the actual moment of arrival at John O’Groats.



A further surprise awaited Colin which had been arranged by one of the Septem Lodge Freemasons, the local Lodge closest to John O’Groats Lodge St Fergus No:466 had been contacted and to welcome Colin and his team to Scotland were the Worshipful Master and some of the brethren of the local Lodge to greet him and the rest of his team, they were given a real Scottish Welcome. The picture on the left shows Colin being greeted by the local Worshipful Master.

Colin and his team were then treated to an invitation by the Local Lodge to visit their Temple where they were met by more of the Brethren, given some tea and coffee and treated to a tour of the Masonic Hall local to John O’Groats. Colin remarked what a wonderful Temple was contained within the building and the photograph on the right shows the entrance to the building whilst the one below on the left shows a picture of the Temple with some of the brethren standing behind the Worshipful Masters Pedestal.



Asked whether he had enjoyed the experience Colin replied “I’ll answer that when I have had some much needed sleep” but he added “it was a worthwhile experience, the three charities who will benefit are very close to my heart for various reasons, and that is the reason for doing this, I must thank the manufacturers< Iseki for all of their support and for the Mower which had been fantastic, also all of my support team, we could not have achieved it without your support and help, also thank you to everyone who had donated and made the experience a whole lot better, finally thank you to the Lodge St Fergus No:466 who have made us feel welcome.