



.....Issue 13 May 2017.....

Editor Geoff McGladdery geoffmac@globalnet.co.uk

Welcome to edition 13 of your section newsletter. This will be distributed electronically to those who have an email address and in printed form at Club events.

A BUMPER 4 PAGE ISSUE THIS MONTH.

With so much going on, we simply couldn't squeeze it all into 2 pages. We have had great contributions from section members and I hope this encourages more of you to contribute. We would love to see pics of the bikes you own or are restoring and hear about your rides. If you have a bike or useful parts for sale then let us know if we have space we will be happy to advertise free of charge. I hope to see more of you on the road now that the good weather has arrived. Section members have organised some excellent events – just for you, so don't be shy, dust off the bike and the kit and come and join us.

THE LONG RIDE HOME – SYDNEY TO LONDON

Nathan Millward captivated and inspired a sell-out crowd at Bromyard's Conquest theatre on March 16th. If you weren't there, you missed a fantastic event.



"Dorothy" his Honda "Postie" bike proved to be a great attraction too.



Sunday Match 19th – BREAKFAST RIDE A disappointing 4 bikes turned out for what was a great little 75 minute ride into the Forest of Dean, over the Wye and on to Monmouth via Symonds Yat East. Faster more open roads took us back to the Travellers Rest for a good breakfast. Managed to do all of that and still be back home before 12:00!

Sunday April 2nd BROMYARD SPEED FESTIVAL. If you thought 2016 was good, this year was even better.



No apologies for showing this pic of the fabulous "Beast of Turin" If you were there and you heard it then you'll know why!!!!!!



Wednesday April 13th – South Shropshire and the Long Mynd.

A small group, including John George and his dog in their 2CV engined Lomax, tackled this excellent run in "enthusiastic" style – particularly the ascent of the Long Mynd from Rattlinghope! It was good to see the Hodges on their lovely (and much used) 600cc Scott.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday April 20th – Club night - The Moon Mordiford - HR1 4LW. 7:30 p.m.

Have a beer, meet like-minded people and talk "motorbikelocks" – what more do you need? Might even be warm enough to come on your bike! Club nights are always 3rd Thursday in the month

Sunday April 23rd – Mid Wales Meander to the Dams at Rhayader.

Meet at the Texaco station Kington – HR5 3DZ at 09:30 for a 10:00 start. Coffee halt at the Elan Valley Hotel (LD6 5HN) then following some great roads around the Wye Valley to finish for a late lunch at the Granary café Hay-on-Wye. Approx 100 miles. This is a splendid ride – don't miss it. For more info call David Jackson on 07900 691910



Sunday April 30th 10:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.– ANCIENT TO MODERN MOTOR CYCLE SHOW – Withington Village Hall HR1 3PP

The 6th edition of this excellent local event, which raises money for local and national cancer charities. All types and ages of bikes are on show, with a special display of race bikes. If you would like to show a bike, call Dave on 07474 668342

Thursday May 11th – Midweek ride out – 'Roger's Roman Roamin' A different approach to club rides. Roger Bibbings has plotted out a route to take in some of the Roman Roads and important Roman sites that linked Hereford to the rest of Roman Britain. All kinds of machine welcome for this gentle meander. Don't worry – you won't be asked

questions at the end! Meet at the café at British Camp - WR13 6DW (Junction of A449 and B4232) at 10:00 for a 10:30 start.

Thursday May 18th – Club night - The Moon Mordiford - HR1 4LW. 7:30 p.m.

The usual *Noggin and Natter*, but If you fancy the first evening ride of the year – 1 hour around the local lanes, be there at 7:00 p.m. prompt

Sunday 21st May "In search of the Green man". A fascinating short ride for Flat tankers, girder forkers, mopeds and step-throughs and those who simply just like to potter - Maximum 50 gentle miles Starting and finishing for lunch at the Lion Leintwardine - SY7 0JZ 10:00 for 10:30 start. Organiser Steve Sumner nvasteve@yahoo.co.uk



Thursday 8th June - Mid-Wales and the Borders 80 - 100 miles and suitable for all types of bike and rider - Meet at Texaco Station Kington - HR5 3DZ. 09.30 for 10:00 start – Full details later, but the ride will finish for a late lunch at "bike friendly" JD's café at the junction of Station Rd and Broad Street in Knighton. For more info contact Geoff McGladdery on 07588 559698 or geoffmac@globalnet.co.uk

Thursday June 15th – Our very own Bike Show - The Moon Mordiford - HR1 4LW - 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. This event was a great success last year and we

hope to do even better this year. All types of bikes and riders are most welcome – lots of prizes. If you would like to eat at the Moon, make sure you book and make sure you mention the event. Contact Dave Brand on 07870 633064 for more details

Sunday June 25th sees the second running of our flagship event – Herefordshire on the Edge".

Entries are already well up on last year and we would love to see 100 bikes out in this year's event. If you want to test your riding and navigation skills and to visit the furthest corners of our beautiful County, **GET YOUR ENTRIES IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!**



For full details, contact Geoff McGladdery on 07588 559698 or by email geoffmac@globalnet.co.uk This tasty looking Ducati street scrambler has been entered by Arthur Metcalfe from Cambridge. Looks like the ideal tool for the job.



BANTAM ITALIA

Inspired by Nathan Millward,, section member Fred Spaven dusted off the memories of his Italian trip and kindly agreed to let us publish them – there are 3 parts



Bantam Italia – Part 1

It started, as all the best ideas do, in a pub. My oldest pal, PB, and I had just secured last place in our local's Wednesday night quiz, up in Yorkshire one chill December evening, and talk turned to plans for the summer months. We were both fresh out of university and straight into poorly paid part time jobs. We'd both travelled a bit and I was working on classic cars so we formed the idea of a road trip through Europe by means of old machinery. Being short of cash, meant bikes would be the only way to go. Our poor grasp of geography led us to settle on "The toe of Italy" as our arbitrary destination and, as the hangovers faded the following morning, surprisingly our enthusiasm didn't.

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

Over the following six months or so we stood by our inebriated decision, not letting ourselves be put off by the fact that neither of us had ever owned a classic machine before, nor worked on a

motorcycle. In actual fact, neither of us had even ridden a motorcycle before. In January, eBay yielded a pair of BSA Bantam D7s and by February we started taking our first freezing cold riding lessons. Restoration of both bikes was underway; PB's bike just needed a freshen up but mine was so bad that when I first removed the front wheel, one of the fork legs dropped off!

BIKE TESTS

By summer we were getting on well and we took our bike tests on the same day, buzzing around Scarborough with unaccustomed luxuries like indicators and disc brakes to contend with. I passed my test (just) but PB failed his and a badly timed family holiday to Barbados, (so who can blame him?) put off a retest until just a week before our planned departure date. In the meantime we had sorted the Bantams, MOT'd them and started organising how we were going to fit enough kit for a six week tour onto two 7hp motorcycles. Finally, the moment came and we stood outside the test centre as our instructor came out with the news; looking glum he glanced between us before explaining just how close PB had come to a major fault – but he passed! We were on.



DEPARTURE AT LAST

After more than six months of toil, tests, trials and tribulations the day of departure came. In spite of

our best efforts at an early start we ended up packing and repacking the bikes, forgetting things and having to do it again. It was after lunch when we set off along the mighty A64. By this time we were in an annoyingly low mood and anxious to get underway. A mere four miles into the trip, I noticed PB's rear tyre looked very low under the weight of all his gear so I flagged him down and we decided he would go back up the road to the local petrol station for some air and I'd wait where I was. The time alone would hopefully improve our moods and then we'd be able to actually enjoy setting off.

BREAKDOWNS

I waited, and waited, and eventually gave up and rode back to the petrol station to find PB balancing his bike with one hand and trying to pump up the tyre with the other. His stand had sheared a bolt and our spares were in my luggage! After we popped in a new bolt he fired his bike up and I, wellcouldn't. It wouldn't go. I suspected a carb problem, so set about a roadside rebuild and clean which seemed to do the trick, although it still didn't run quite right even then. We debated heading back home: it was half past three in the afternoon, we'd spent an hour riding about seven miles and were now only a mile away from where we'd started. We were supposed to be riding across Europe but we'd have done better walking...Part 2 follows in the next edition. If you want to read the whole story and see the great pictures take a look at Fred's blog <http://bantamitalia.tumblr.com>

WHAT ARE YOU RESTORING?

We would love to hear about your restoration projects no matter how humble or no matter how far from being finished. Please send us some pictures and a few words, so that we can keep this as a regular feature.

Section member Shaun Gay has been restoring a 1931 Harley Davidson VL 1200 to original spec. It's so lovely you could lick it off the page – and I don't even like Harleys!



He's having a bit of trouble setting up the Linkert carb and wondered if anyone in the club has experience with Harley Davidsons. Shaun can transport the bike to any location if there is a member who is interested in helping.



Shaun writes "I have had her out a couple of times, but pushing 1/4 ton back home is a bit of an experience to say the least" If you are able to assist, contact him on shaun.gay@splitlath.com

Steve Sumner is restoring this 1926 BSA S26 500cc in time for **Herefordshire on the Edge** – yes that is only a few weeks away! Steve tells our intrepid reporter that the BSA, "Has no history that I know of, it was just a very basic collection of parts that I

optimistically think I can refurbish/remake and reassemble in time to give me an enjoyable day out." Steve is being assisted in his efforts by "the best support crew in the world" who keeps sending him to the shed and supplying endless cups of tea to ensure he stays there.



Section member Tony Page has been keeping in touch from his ride in New Zealand.



Tony reports that "The Armstrong does well; a mere 500cc single keeping up with the Hinckley Tiger, a 900 triple. Once over in the South Island we are going to ride the Rainbow Track which is 120km of gravel. The Armstrong will be in its element, at least

for 120km." Tony is back from NZ at the end of the month and is looking forward to doing some club runs

SUPPORT OUR VERY OWN RACER



Committee member David Jackson races his Norton Commando in the VMCC's British Historic Racing section events. The Racing Section has developed to encourage the use of predominantly British machinery. The broad spectrum for which BHR caters showcases the ultimate development of British machinery, pitting them against the best that Europe and America can offer! The huge variety of racing machinery that can be seen in action echos the VMCC's mission **to ensure that "Vintage" machines are best kept out of Museums and are ridden-hard!**

You can support David and have a great day out at this year's planned events -1/2 July - Cadwell Park, 22/3 July - Anglesey, 4/5 August - Donnington 23/4 September – Cadwell Park

Find us on 

Updates and other stuff can be found on our Facebook page – VMCC Herefordshire section. Feel free to post to it.