

HEREFORDSHIRE SECTION NEWSLETTER



.....Issue 19 January 2018.....

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Welcome to issue 19 – the 1st edition of your section newsletter for 2018. This will be distributed electronically to those who have an email address and in printed form at Club events. If you do not wish to receive further copies of the newsletter, please email me and I will remove you from the list.

PAST EVENTS

Tuesday 26th December 2017 BOXING DAY – Brass Monkey run – at the Moon, Mordiford HR1 4LW

14 bikes earned their Brass Monkey stickers and were waved off in style by Annie Bibbings, whose husband Roger was still recovering from an epic dose of flu and was unable to ride. A similar fate befell Steve Sumner and “Chuffa”.



The 24 mile route took riders through Haugh Woods and on to Marcle Ridge, then descending south to join the B4224 at Crossway. Onwards on to the A449 then turning right towards Hole in the Wall just before the Travelers Rest. A right turn after a mile brought

riders on to the sublime single track road that follows the Wye back to Fownhope followed by the short blast North on the B4224 and back to the Moon. Nothing stopped David Brand from enjoying a gallop on his neatly turned out 1957 BSA A10 Flash.



John and Julie Roach came all the way from Coventry for the ride – it was great to see their Nimbus, a rare bike and very easy on the eye. You may remember the bike being ridden by previous owner Andrew Shortridge, to “Gold” in the 2016 *Herefordshire on the Edge*.



John Macklin brought his very tidy, low mileage, 1983 Honda GL650 Silver Wing Interstate. They were not sold in the UK, but a few have found their way here. Not to everyone's taste, but If you're looking for a capable mile eating load carrier with

character, then this is right up there. Delivering 45 mpg with a 200-mile range, these 673 cc V twins comfortably top 100 mph and will run all day at European motorway speeds. Open your minds – embrace them!





LOTS OF FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 18th January 2018 - 7.00 pm at the Moon, Mordiford HR1 4LW – club night – a chance to meet and chat over a pint. **You will be able to buy tickets for the Trans-America-Trail talk (see below)**

Sunday 28th January New Year's Ride – meet at the **Market Square in Bromyard HR7 4BP at 10:00 for a 10:30 start.** An interesting short ride in and around the Malverns then meeting up with the Worcestershire Section for lunch at the newly refurbished and refreshed Fox and Hounds at Lulsley WR6 5QT.

Saturday and Sunday, Feb 3rd & 4th The Bristol Classic Motorcycle Show The Royal Bath & West showground, Shepton Mallett, BA4 6QN

This excellent but unhelpfully named show is actually at Shepton Mallet as much as an hour's drive South from Bristol city centre. Always well supported by clubs, there are lots of interesting bikes to see. Its well worth the effort.

Thursday 15th Feb 2018. The Conquest Theatre Bromyard HR7 4LL starting at 7:30 p.m.

THE TRANS AMERICA TRAIL – Geoff McGladdery and John Roach will give an illustrated talk on their journey along the legendary Trans-America-Trail – 30 days and 4500 miles on the dirt roads of America from Atlanta in the East to San Francisco in the West, including crossing the mighty Rocky Mountains.

The
Trans America Trail
*An illustrated talk,
30 days and 4500 miles
over the dirt roads of forgotten America.*

*Geoff McGladdery
&
John Roach*

Admission £5
Thursday 15th Feb 7:30 p.m.
The conquest Theatre Bromyard,HR7 4LL
Tel Box Office 01885 488575 or on line
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/conquesttheatre/events>

You can hear about the challenges, not just of preparing and keeping their classic bikes going, but riding the terrain, and surviving the American diet. There will be daring tales of deserts and mountain passes, of dealing with American officialdom and

bureaucracy in the land of Trump. What exactly are **"Biscuits and Gravy"**? Why were they stopped 3 times by the police?

BIKES AND EQUIPMENT

Their bikes - a 1971 Cheney Triumph ISDT Replica and a 1983 350cc Moto-Morini Kanguro Special will be on display along with all their maps, equipment and riding gear. There will be a Question and Answer session at the end of the evening.

Admission is just £5 and tickets are available from the Conquest Theatre Box Office. Tel 01885 488575 or on-line at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/conquesttheatre/events>

HELP US TO PROMOTE THE EVENT

We held a similar event at the Conquest last year featuring Nathan Millward's **Long Ride Home** story. We filled the theatre on that occasion and made a considerable contribution to section funds. It would be great if we could do that again. You can do your bit by attending yourself, encouraging friends to attend and by advertising the event on any forums, Facebook pages, twitter pages you use.

A little bird tells me that we will be the front cover of the Feb VMCC Journal! That should help ticket sales.

Saturday and Sunday 17th and 18th Feb – the Telford Classic Dirt Bike Show. St Quentin Gate, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH. Opens on Saturday at 10:00 am - 5pm (Early entry auto jumble open at 9am) and on Sunday from 10:00 a.m.to 4:00 p.m. If Classis Off-Road is your thing, then this is the best show there is. Great exhibits, Club stands galore, enough trade stands to keep you occupied all day and a brilliant specialist auto jumble. Much as it pains me to say it, if you're looking for a bike to buy, you should pay the extra to get into the auto jumble early. The real rarities and bargains are snapped up early.

Sunday 25th Feb - meet once again at the Market Square in Bromyard HR7 4BP, this time at 9:30 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. start. The John Langford run - guests of Worcestershire section. This is a "social" run into mid-Wales, with stops for morning coffee and lunch. Usually very well supported.

Sunday March 4th VMCC AGM – The British Motor Museum, Banbury Road, Gaydon, CV35 0BJ – 11:00

There are a lot of important decisions to be made, not least will be the decision to re-locate the HQ from its current site in Burton-on-Trent. If you want to make your club better, if you have an interest in the club's future and the people who are elected to run it, then make an effort to attend.

Sunday March 4th H&H motorcycle auction – The National Motorcycle Museum - Coventry Road, Bickenhill, Solihull B92 0EJ starting 1:00 p.m.

One of the better auctions of the year and close enough to home for a good day out. Viewing is usually on the morning of the sale, but check their website for details <https://www.handh.co.uk/>

Wednesday 7th March 2018 – Brightwells Easters Court, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0DE 12:00 noon

Viewing on the morning of the sale and the previous afternoon and early evening – check their website for details. <https://www.brightwells.com> . Only 1 bike is listed amongst the cars at the moment, but what a rare and beautiful bike it is. This 1925, 350 3hp unit construction Rover with its 4 speed gearbox was said to be capable of 60mph. A striking performance in its day. Recently restored by the National Motorcycle museum, and used in last year's VMCC Banbury run, this rare machine looks good value even at its upper estimate of £16,000



Thursday March 8th – The first midweek ride-out of the year. No details as yet, but Alan Reed has offered to put together an interesting route. More information in next month's newsletter. Make a date in your diary.

Thursday March 15th - 7.00 pm at the Moon, Mordiford HR1 4LW – club night. A chance to meet up and chew the fat.

Sunday March 18th – Traveller's Rest HR9 7QJ, on the outskirts of Ross-on-Wye, 1 hour Breakfast ride.

Meet at 08:15 for a prompt start at 08:30. Returning to the Travellers for breakfast. Should be home by 11:00. This was a popular ride last year. Let's hope for early season sunshine!

Saturday 31st March – South Midlands Autojumble – Ross-on-Wye Cattle Market, HR9 7QQ - 9:00 a.m.

At a mere £4 for admission, these jumbles are always worth a trip if you're looking for those elusive parts. If you want to take a stall to clear out your shed, then call John Harding on 01989 750731

Sunday April 7th – The Bringsty Grand Prix

Bromyard Speed Festival are to run the Bringsty GP on April 7 as part of their programme of 2018 events. Classes are for pre 60/65/68/74/78 and twinshock. Entries are via www.goracemx.com Bringsty Grand Prix. The meeting will revive the original races run in 1946 and 47 reflecting the optimism felt after the privations of the Second World War, including petrol rationing, 70 plus years on.



A small pilot event was held last year to test the format but this year sees a full scale motocross

meeting for vintage and classic motorbikes recalling the fantastic motoring heritage of this area.



Julian Garness landowner and Clerk of the Course added "This year's Grand Prix will be run on practically the same course as the 1947 event. We are extremely lucky to have several local residents that attended the original meeting as children and can remember where it went. A full entry is expected of machines from the golden era of British motorcycling and, hopefully, some bikes as old as the original Bringsty GP. We are hoping for local riders to come along and ride in the special exhibition class to showcase their classic bikes without competing, guaranteeing a great day out for all the family. The sights, sounds and smells of the bikes will evoke happy memories of a bygone era." If you would like more information, please go to <http://www.bromyardfestivals.co.uk>

Regulations and entry forms for 2018



Regulations and entry forms will be out in the next week or so for our flagship event, **Herefordshire on the Edge 2018**, which will be held on Sunday June 24th. If you've never taken part, you've missed one of the best classic rides of the year. Almost 70 riders (and drivers) took part last year, coming from far and wide. One entrant came all the way from Vietnam!! We are hoping to attract 100 entrants, so in addition to the usual start/finish at the Traveller's rest, a second start/finish at The Lion hotel at Leintwardine has been added. Situated at the most northerly point of the ride. The Lion, which has been a compulsory stop and favourite lunch halt in previous events has put together a discounted accommodation package for entrants wanting to make a weekend of it. If you don't think you or your machine is up to it then you could help your section by promoting the event to your friends. If you would like a copy of the Regulations and an entry form, email herefordvmcc@outlook.com

ELECTRIC ENFIELD

Section member Fred Spaven – he of the **Bantam Italia** adventure, featured in earlier newsletters - has a new and exciting project under development. He's converting his half-restored 1961 Bullet to all electric power and plans to ride it from Land's End to John O'Groats this coming September. This is not some late-night alcohol fuelled fantasy. Fred, a graduate engineer with motor sport experience is about half way through the project already!



Never short of ambition, Fred has teamed up with an independent film maker from **"up North"** who's going to film the build and the journey (complete with visits en-route to interesting motorcycle, eco-power and EV companies).

Do you have a bike Fred can borrow?

In order to produce their **"Times-they-are-changing"** half-hour documentary, Fred and the film crew could do with borrowing a standard 350 cc Bullet from time to time to use to compare it to the emerging electric bike, a sort of 'before and after' Do you have an original petrol Enfield or even an early Indian bike? Do you and your bike want to be film stars? If you do and you can get to their workshop at Edwyn Ralph, then contact Fred **URGENTLY** by phone on 07817 490223 or email on fred.spaven@gmail.com If you want to see the progress made so far take a look on their website <http://charging-bullet.co.uk> We will be following the project in the newsletter.

OBITUARY

Sad to have to report that Phil Moss passed away on December 21st at the age of 86. Phil was a legend in the Ledbury area, as an engineer and a racer in almost every discipline. Phil helped out so many people over the years with ingenious (and often left field) solutions, he will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace Phil. The funeral will be at Ledbury church on Tuesday 30th January at 11:00 a.m.



Find us on  Updates and other stuff can be found on our Facebook page – VMCC Herefordshire section. Feel free to post to it. We have seen a huge increase in traffic to the page since Christmas and we will continue to publish parts of the newsletter on the page.

On New Year's Day, we posted pictures of a headlamp shell belonging to Tony Page and asked for help in identifying it. Within half an hour, 3 section members had accurately identified it and to date 160 people have visited the page – the power of social media!!