

HEREFORDSHIRE SECTION NEWSLETTER



.....Issue 20 February 2018.....

Editor Geoff McGladdery herefordvmcc@outlook.com

Welcome to issue 20 – 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

Sunday 28th January New Year's Ride – Market Square in Bromyard to the Fox & Hounds at Lulsley

A challenging 37 mile ride on damp and dirty roads, but in good weather, had a good turnout boosted by welcome visitors from the Hospice Angels and by visiting members from North Birmingham and Worcestershire sections.



This rather fine Pembleton crewed by Rich and Jude Caddick added some splendid variety to the event.



The route took riders from Bromyard to British Camp for a tea stop and then back via West Malvern and Crews Hill to the Fox and Hounds at Lulsley for lunch.



If you wanted to be cool, then you needed to be on a Honda. There were 4 in all.



Bike of the day was Alan Reeds neat 650cc TRIBSA.

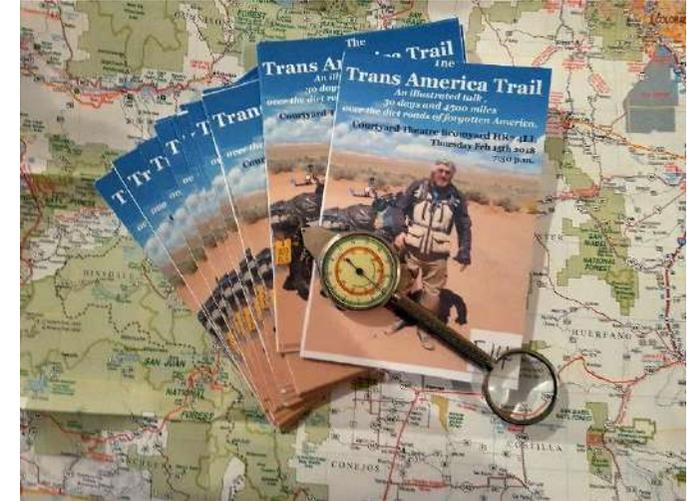


FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

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

THE TRANS AMERICA TRAIL – Tickets for the Trans America Trail evening have sold well and only a handful remain. Admission is just £5 and tickets are available from the Conquest Theatre Box Office on Wednesday only. Tel 01885 488575 or at any time on-line at:

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



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.

Saturday 17th Feb HJ Pugh, Ledbury Salerooms, Market street Ledbury HR8 2AQ - Auction of Motorcycles, old bikes parts and Automobilia.

Bidding starts at 10:00 and viewing is on the Friday afternoon 2:00 p.m – 5:00 p.m. and from 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the sale. Bidding starts at 10:00 a.m. and the bikes will come up around 1:00 p.m. Hidden amongst the mountains of autojumble, there are a number of BSA frames, a Kawasaki KH 250 "project" and 2 boxes of Sunbeam S7 and S8 engine parts. The star of the motor cycle section has to be the

Handsome 1955 Ariel square 4 1000 with Steib chair



This 1978 KH 250 complete with V5 takes the eye.



Hidden away at the end of the auction is a Myford lathe – every garage needs one!

Log onto their website for full details and catalogue <http://www.hjpugh.com/cyclesales/170218catalogue.pdf>

Saturday and Sunday 17th & 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 – Ride-out. Meet once again at the Market Square in Bromyard HR7 4BP, this time at 9:30 a.m. for a 10:00 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 widespread concerns about the current chairman's management style and his support for a more commercial approach. Whilst most people agree that the current Burton HQ is not ideal, there are strong opinions about a new location and in particular how a decision on a new location is to be made. 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. I hold the proxy votes for a number of members who are unable to attend, I am happy to hold yours too.

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. There are some intriguing entries already in the catalogue, like John Lennon's Honda Z50A,



or this fearsome Ducati 888SPS engined Bimota Tesi 1D Folgore Bianca. Made in 1992. It is therefore VMCC

eligible and would be absolutely ideal for the muddy lanes of Herefordshire. For full details of the catalogue, log on to their website <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> . Just 4 bikes are listed – we featured the very rare 1925 350cc Rover in our last issue and just had to show you this splendidly eccentric 1934 100cc 2-stroke Terrot. **"Vive la Difference!"**



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 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 bikes 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>



Sunday June 24th - HEREFORDSHIRE ON THE EDGE



Regulations and entry forms have been published for our flagship event, **Herefordshire on the Edge 2018**, to be held on Sunday June 24th. If you've never taken part, you've missed one of the best classic rides of the year. 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. Entries are flowing in nicely with some great bikes – including

this 175cc Ducati Silverstone Super, belonging to Hereford's Mick White. Looks to be the ideal bit of kit for the event.



If you would like a copy of the Regulations and an entry form, you can copy and print them from our Facebook page or you can, email a request to..... herefordvmcc@outlook.com

THE WELSH ROAD RACES scheduled for 3rd-5th August 2018 has had to be POSTPONED. Derek Smith, Managing Director of the event said "We are working closely with the ACU, Crown Properties and Powys County Council to organise the Welsh Road Race, and under the new changes in legislation, the new deadlines that have been imposed, will make it very difficult to carry out a safe and successful event." All very mysterious! We heard rumours that all was not well with the MOD back in December 2017, but it seems that the ACU Road race committee had concerns about the event too. The organisers are not deterred and are working on the 2019 event

ELECTRIC ENFIELD – THE CHARGING BULLET

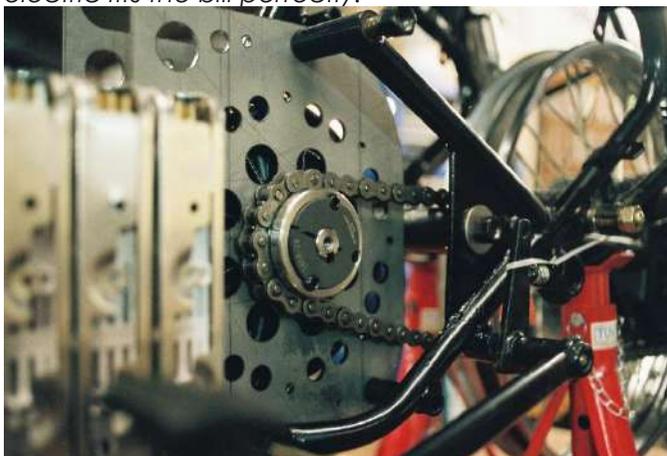
Following on from the last newsletter Fred Spaven has updated us on the project....." I thought I should explain what I'm up to with this Electric Enfield project: **The Charging Bullet.**

The donor bike is a 1961 350cc Royal Enfield Bullet; the export model that was shipped out to serve in India before the factory was moved wholesale to Chennai a couple of years later. Having served in the Indian army, the bike's abuse continued in civilian hands until she was repatriated to the UK and bought by me in 2013 where the smooth English roads must have come as quite a shock!

Although I got a year's use out of the old Bullet she was always, to put it mildly, idiosyncratic and had a number of unhelpful tendencies, for example regularly jumping out of, or occasionally INTO, gear. A full strip down revealed more problems than components; literally nothing was fit to put back into use. It eventually struck me that although I had taken apart a British Bullet, I was building an Indian one.



So, with originality well and truly out the window and the feel of the bike a distant memory, I decided to do something a little more interesting. After researching a few options (such as the ubiquitous diesel conversion), I hit on the idea of a battery bike. I wanted a trouble free commuter machine and electric fits the bill perfectly.



This is where my old pal and independent film maker

Finn Varney comes in. While I was looking for a mechanical project he was searching for documentary subject and so the Charging Bullet was born – a project to design and build an electric Bullet before riding it from Land's End to John O'Groats to explore the exciting new world of electric vehicles.

To keep an eye on what we're up to, have a look at our website www.Charging-Bullet.co.uk and if you do happen to have a working petrol Bullet (English or Indian) in the Bromyard area, and could spare a day or two for filming, let me know at Fred@Spaven-Engineering.co.uk “

We will continue to keep you updated on Fred's progress with “The Charging Bullet”

WANTED

Robin Parker is the proud owner of an ex-Dave Bickers “Works” Greeves engine and is looking for a rolling chassis to put it into. Robin would obviously prefer a Greeves but he would “happily insert it into just about any British Two Stroke bike: James, F Barnett, DOT Norman, even a B*nt*m!” (his asterisks not mine!) Robin also suggests that if he found an “empty” Greeves, he could always use it for a year or two –and then maybe agree to pass it back - he is 75 remember! If you might be able to help you can contact Robin on robinthedogwheel@gmail.com

OBITUARY Les Thick passed away on Monday, 22nd January 2018. Les had a love of motorbikes from a very young age, inspired by his father who was a motorcycle enthusiast and a regular spectator at local motorcycling events, he went on to purchase his first bike, a James Captain 200cc at 16 years of age. Over the years he went through numerous motorbikes from road-going Hondas and Suzukis to Ossa and Bultaco trials bikes. He openly admitted he was a lousy trials rider, but never-the-less had great fun taking part in local trials. Les also enjoyed collecting and restoring vintage motorbikes and was particularly fond of his Cotton 2T Twin road bike which he had ridden some 750 miles on. He found it reliable and a treat to ride in local VMCC rides. He also had a 1952 James Captain kept in barn find

condition which gave him much enjoyment. A proud husband, father and grandfather, Les will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.



Phil Moss

Phil's funeral took place at St Michaels Church Ledbury on Jan 29th. The well-attended service paid tribute to Phil's role as a family man, to his work and to his lifelong passions – not least of which was motor-cycling. The coffin was carried in to music from “The World's Fastest Indian” and carried out to Fleetwood Mac's “The Chain” better known as the intro music to BBC's F1 coverage. Rest in Peace Phil.



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.