



.....Issue 27 - Sep 2018.....

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Welcome to issue 27 – This will be distributed electronically to those who have an email address and will be available in printed form at Club events. **If you do not wish to be receive further copies of this newsletter please let me know and I will remove you from our mailing list immediately.**

PAST EVENTS

The Festival of 1000 bikes at Mallory Park 6th 7th & 8th July

This looks like a whole lot of fun! Nothing coming the other way, no speed cameras, smooth, grippy tarmac and run-off areas – what is there not to like? It is likely that the event will run again in 2019 along similar lines. If it does, we will be organising a section camping weekend, so start preparing your bike(s) and girding your loins now – you know you want to.



Thursday August 9th - Midweek ride - High above Hay. A thoroughly enjoyable ride with interesting bikes and good company. The gnarly old Chestnuts overlooking the river at Brobury Scar make a great backdrop for the bikes.



Some gnarly old men looking at the scenery from Arthur's Stone – picture courtesy of Roger Bibbings.



"High above Hay" was noteworthy not just for the great scenery, but for 3 broken cables. John Munday suffered a broken clutch cable on his Kawasaki Z200, as did Richard Williams on his 1959

Velocette Venom. I limped home with a broken and occasionally jamming throttle cable on the Triumph Trophy. John made it home with some astute junction planning and without too much drama, but I have not heard from Richard since. Perhaps he is still roaming the wild lanes around Hay.



Saturday 18th Aug. - HJ Pugh Ledbury Salerooms

A sale of some (all?) of the stock from Bob Galliers motorcycles of Hereford, which has closed down. A cluster of electric bicycles went for low prices, but many of them were without keys or chargers, so they might not be the bargains buyers were hoping for. A 1971 Bantam made just £900 (inc. commission), but it was without documents, which could well involve the new owner in some cost and more than a little frustration. Best of the VMCC eligible bikes was probably the tidy looking 1994 Yamaha 600cc version which made a lowly £320. It was allegedly a "runner" with just 23,460 miles on the clock and the V5 was present - could be an absolute steal!

Sunday August 19th – A ride across the roof of Mid-Wales.

6 people and a dog set out from the OK Diner in Leominster on 11 wheelsWork it out for yourselves! Main roads took us to a coffee stop at Rhayader, acquiring John Munday and his two wheels along the way. Sadly, Tony and Gaynor Skyrme took the decision to return home when their

Honda appeared not to be charging and had to be bumped off. John George's dog was bored and insisted that John returned home too, leaving our 8 wheels to complete the journey. The road from Rhayader to Cwmystwyth was sublime despite low cloud and drizzle, but the jewel in the crown is the road from Pontyrwyd to Tal-y-bont, that snakes around Nant y Moch reservoir.



A pleasant lunch at Machynlleth, then on to Staylitttle and Llyn Clywedog, Llanidloes, Llanbister and Presteigne, before returning to Leominster. At 155 miles, it was a full day's ride – almost 200 miles including home to and from the start/finish, but one of the best of the year.

FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday Sep 8th · SOUTH MIDLANDS AUTOJUMBLE – ROSS-ON-WYE CATTLE MARKET – HR9 7QQ. Now in their 24th year, these “proper” old fashioned jumbles are something of a local institution. A good mix of traders and genuine garage-clearers, there are always bargains to be had and if you're lucky, that elusive spare-part that you've been searching for. If you would like to try selling, contact John Harding for details - 01989 750731

Sunday Sep 9th – BORDERS CLASSIC BIKE SHOW & AUTOJUMBLE - LACON CHILDE SCHOOL, CLEOBURY

MORTIMER DY14 8PE – 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Borders Classic Bike Show

An excellent friendly event. Proceeds from the show go to the school and to Midlands Air Ambulance. Entry is just £5 on the door and if you wish you can have a stand at their Autojumble or show your own “Pride and Joy”. For full details, take a look at their website <https://www.bordersbikeshow.com/>

Thursday Sep 13th – The lanes of NE Herefordshire. Meet at Bringsty Vintage Café alongside the A44 at Bringsty, (near Bromyard) WR6 5UJ - 09:30 for a 10:00 a.m. start

A gentle 2-hour meander around the lanes of NE Herefordshire, starting from the Bringsty Vintage Cafe and returning there for lunch. Suitable for all types of bike and those who simply like to potter.

Saturday 15th Sept 10:00 a.m. - HJ Pugh Ledbury Salerooms HR8 2AQ - Auction of Motor-cycles, old bikes parts and Automobilia.

A typical Pugh's Auction – if you've never been to one then you've missed out. Always a good mix of bikes and parts and always some “gems” to be found amongst the junk. Entry is free and viewing is usually on the Friday afternoon and the morning of the sale from 09:00. A catalogue will be on line a week or so prior to the auction.

<http://www.hjpugh.com/new.html>

Saturday Sep 15th – VMCC Training day – Curborough Sprint course, Netherstowe, Lichfield WS13 8EJ

Sorry this event is fully booked, but I am sure no-one would object if you went along to have a look. The next one will be in Spring 2019.

Thursday September 20th - 7.00 pm at the Moon, Mordiford HR1 4LW – Club night and last evening ride of the year. An hour around the lanes to Hole in the Wall and then back alongside the river to the Moon. Meet at 7:00 p.m. for the ride and 8:00 p.m if you just fancy a chat and a beer.

MOTO PISTON 2018 Sep 23rd – 30th – Santander, North Eastern Spain and Los Picos

Based, as usual, in the 4-star Hotel Santemar in Santander, this is probably the most fun you can have with your clothes on. Claimed to be the most important Classic motorcycle meet in Southern Europe, it is a chance to ride some superb empty roads set in stunning scenery. More than 500 people, from all corners of Europe take part in this event. The organisers are welcoming, laid-back and incredibly helpful.

There are still 2 places available in our group, including van space, ferry and room. If you are interested, call Geoff McGladdery on 07588 559698.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A SECTION OR A VMCC EVENT

Wed Sep 26th Brightwells – Leominster Classic & Vintage Auction - Easter's Mart, Leominster HR6 0DE.

12:00 noon. Fundamentally a Classic Car auction, but this one does include the remainder of the Andrew Bremner Collection of Italian machines. This beautiful 1980 350cc Ducati Forza definitely catches the eye and the 1954 Maserati (yes they did make some motorcycles) will grace anyone's garage.



This splendid 1933 1100cc Jap engined Morgan (below) may prove to be the bargain of the auction – it is offered without reserve!



Viewing is on the morning of the sale. You can find the full auction catalogue on their website <https://www.brightwells.com/>

Saturday Oct 7th – Mid Wales Classic bike show and autojumble, Pant-y-dwr Community Hall, LD6 5LL – from 10:30 a.m

An excellent local bike show which deserves your support. Admission is £4. If you want to show a bike or take a stand, contact Roger on 01597 870242 or 07968 849748 or email him at rogermason@msn.com

Sat & Sun Oct 13th & 14th – The 25th Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics show. County Showground, Weston Road Stafford, ST18 0BD.

The biggest and the best Classic show in the UK – an honour it shares with its spring sister show. Meet friends, stock up on heavy to post consumables and pick up some bargains. If you can't find the rare parts you're looking for here then you'll probably never find them. Many one-make clubs are represented and they usually bring an array of tasty classics.

Sunday Oct 14th – Malvern Classic Motorcycle show Three Counties Showground Malvern WR13 6NW 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sadly, these once great shows have been on the decline for a number of years, but they are still well worth the effort. The usual autojumble is combined

with a classic bike show and there is always something to catch the eye. Entry £10. If you want to take a trade stand, call 01484 667776 or email info@classicshows.org

THE CHARGING BULLET

An update on Fred Spaven's Electric Enfield project

The end is nigh! The bike is all painted and plated and is now in the final assembly phase.



If it all looks straightforward until you take a look inside at the complex electrics – Fred says they're simple!



There are some interesting comparisons with the 1961 donor bike – it puts out an almost identical 20 BHP and weighs just a few kilos less than the original at 173Kg.



Fred hopes to be undertaking shakedown rides this week and is still on target to start his Lands' End to John O'Groats epic on Oct 8th, you can get details by following the build on twitter @chargingbullet or keep an eye on the build blog at:

www.charging-bullet.co.uk

If it goes horribly wrong, Fred can always rely on his trusty Bantam for his 30 mile daily commute! Now that's what we call a bike!



NEW BIKE

Section member Tony Page has recently acquired this gorgeous 1973 Triumph Trophy Trail



It has been re-imported from the USA and faithfully restored to original spec and condition by Mick Dollittle. Surely, this was one of the best looking bikes Triumph ever produced. They go as well as they look.

DEEPER INVOLVEMENT IN THE VMCC

ROGER BIBBINGS

Section secretary Roger Bibbings has accepted an invitation to become an active member of the new "Regulatory Advisory Group" of the club.

It is clear that Vintage and Classic motorcycling faces a number of actual and potential regulatory and related threats and that these threats need to be faced and challenged.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

One of the findings of the recent VMCC membership survey was that our members want the VMCC to represent their interests on issues such as legislation and on all aspects of historic motor cycling in the wider historic vehicle movement. They expressed a considerable degree of anxiety surrounding the development of a negative view of motor cycles and combustion engines in society as a whole, and they expect a club of our stature and reputation to represent the positive sides of their hobby. The "Regulatory Advisory Group" has been

formed specifically to address these membership concerns and has already begun its work, by entering correspondence with the Department of transport on the upcoming E10 legislation (increase in the maximum ethanol content of fuel to 10%). The "Regulatory Advisory Group" is also considering our position on the ULEZ legislation and the possibility of it being extended to more of our major cities. There is a strong feeling within the motorcycling community that levying the same charge on motorcycles as vans and cars is disproportionate.

WHAT IS ULEZ?

The following explanation is copied from the Transport for London website – "To help improve air quality, an Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be in place in central London from 8 April 2019. Most vehicles including motorcycles, cars and vans will need to meet new, tighter exhaust emission standards (ULEZ standards) or pay a daily charge (£12.50) to travel within the area of the ULEZ. From 25 October 2021 the area will be expanded to the inner London area bounded by the North and South Circular roads."

OTHER ISSUES

Other issues loom on the horizon, such as the European trend towards mandatory retrospective fitting of modern safety and environmental features to Vintage and Classic machinery and the continuing attempts by Local Authorities to restrict access to or even close unsurfaced roads. It will take a huge effort on the Group's behalf to understand and to develop our positions. We wish Roger and his colleagues every success in this important work. If you feel you have the skills and the interest to assist in this vitally important work please feel free to email Roger. rabbibings@tiscali.co.uk

GEOFF McGLADDERY

Section Chairman Geoff has been co-opted as a director of the VMCC and was formally appointed in August. We thought we would ask Geoff why he had volunteered for this thankless task – here is his response.

WHY ON EARTH DID YOU VOLUNTEER?

"Good question! It was clear that there was widespread dissatisfaction with the management of the club and its affairs. I attended the shambolic AGM and the frustration of the ordinary members was all too clear. Rob Reaney and Brian Southam were not re-elected and only one new director was elected – Justin Harvey-James and he has now resigned. A series of conversations with incoming President Alistair Alexander, convinced me that given my wide business background and experience at Board level, I might have something to offer. As a life-long motorcyclist with a passion for owning and riding older machines, I felt I should try to give something back to the hobby that has given me so much pleasure".

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

"I would like to assist in bringing some cohesion and consensus to the club's affairs. We are a "Members" club and the duty of the directors is to reflect the views of its membership. Clearly the directors will be expected to provide guidance, leadership and to provoke debate, but this brief seems to have been exceeded in the past".

STRATEGY

"Fortunately, the recent membership survey has given the Directors clear guidance about the kind of future members would like to see. A strategy document, incorporating much of this is in preparation and will be presented to the management committee in October in the form of a medium term business plan. The plan will also address issues of financial control and corporate governance which have dogged the club for some time".

THE FUTURE

"If an appropriate business plan can be agreed, it is my intention to stand for election as a Director at the next AGM, with the intention of seeing that the plan is delivered".

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