



.....Issue 28 – Oct 2018.....

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Welcome to issue 28 – 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

Thursday Sep 13th – The lanes of NE Herefordshire. This 2-hour gentle meander promised sunshine and dragons. The sun shone and there were dragons, but they didn't frighten Martin Lyall.



Turnout was excellent, even including a couple of riders who joined us for lunch after the ride was over! Some interesting bikes too. John Roach, who has bought a house in the area came all the way from Coventry on his wonderful 1947 750cc Nimbus and Simon Durant, poisoned the air and deafened the locals with his very original 1979 IT250 – seriously, the VMCC is a broad church and it warmly welcomes all riders of eligible bikes. Diversity is everything.



Saturday 15th Sept - HJ Pugh, Ledbury.

This tidy 1955 200cc Ariel Colt - described as a runner with a V5 - sold for £1680 (inc. commission) a sensible price for a sensible little motorcycle. An ideal, no nonsense easy to ride bike, perfect for Section runs.



Always got a soft spot for these first generation Hinckley Triumphs with their Herefordshire

connections - all the exterior plastics were moulded, painted and assembled at Polytec Holden in Bromyard. This yellow 900cc low mileage Daytona with current MOT went for a mere £2000. A real bargain for a lot of bike which is VMCC eligible from next year.



Another Triumph to catch the eye was this 1964 TRW outfit. It didn't make its reserve on the day, but has since found its way into Yeomans' advert in this month's *Old Bike Mart* for £6250. Registered and with a V5, it has mysteriously become 2 years older.



Wed Sep 26th Brightwells, Easter's Mart, Leominster

A gaggle of beautiful small Italian bikes from the Andrew Bremner collection were offered for sale here, with the star of the show being the matching numbers 160cc 1954 Maserati 160 T4, which went for a nut-numbing £9350. I guess it's all down to the power of the tank badge.



Bewilderingly this 1979 500cc Benelli Quattro, a runner with current MOT and Moto-Giro history only made £660.



The eye catching 1980 350cc Ducati Forza and the splendid 1933 1100cc Jap engined Morgan we featured in last month's issue made £3,850 and £24,200 respectively. This 1931 1200cc Harley, which came complete with a chair, fetched £12,100.



A sad footnote was the sight of section member Robins James' beloved 1920, model H, V twin Matchless coming across the block. Anyone who ever saw this bike was struck by the stunning quality of the work that Robin had undertaken. He rode it with great pride and pleasure. I hope it has gone to a good home and that it gets to grace the roads again.



You can find the full auction results on Brightwells website

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

Based, as usual, in the 4-star Hotel Santemar on the western edge of Santander, this was another great Moto Piston Rally.



Seen here with Frank Mirapeix, Secretary of Moto

Club Piston, a demented looking section Chairman Geoff McGladdery was delighted to finish the famous 5000 curves day on his 1929 side-valve Ariel model "B" in 13 hours. The curves is "The big day" of the event and this year, the route covered 319.9 miles and almost 4 vertical miles of ascent (and of course descent).....doddle! The Ariel's cause was not helped by 10 or more hot seizures, which involved a 5 minute cool down before its stately progress could be resumed.



The moto Piston rally is not all massive mileages, most runs are between 120 and 150 miles per day, depending on the terrain and there are 2 or 3 leisurely refreshment stops on the way. The roads and scenery in this part of Spain are very special.



About 400 people take part in the event, with approximately 50% being Brits. 50's and 60's British bikes dominate, but there is always a fantastic spread of machines and riders.



Club Moto Piston have a stand at Stafford show this weekend – go and visit it, have a glass of red wine and see what they do.



FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 11th October – The Black Mountain ride – meet at the Café, Pontrilas Builders Merchants, Old Brickyard, Pontrilas, Hereford HR2 0BE at 10:00 for a 10:30 start

A slight change to plan, the ride won't go over Gospel pass and will be around 65 miles not the advertised 50. David Jackson has planned a great route around an area he knows well. There will be a coffee stop at The Bear pub in Crickhowell High Street, NP8 1BW. We will finish at The Granary Cafe, 20-21 Broad St, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford, HR3 5DB

Saturday October 13th, Fforest Inn, Llanfihangel-nant-Melan, LD8 2TN 12:30.

You'll all have ridden past this pub at some time. It is on the A44 a couple miles west of New Radnor. Section member Robin Woodford is hoping this will become a regular meet up and chat for old bike fans in the Mid-Wales area. The plan is to meet every second Saturday of the month from 12:30. A great chance to meet new friends and find out what is happening. All are welcome, so please give it your support.

MID WALES MOTORCYCLE MEET



Vintage and Classic Motorcycles at

**The Fforest Inn
Llanfihangel-nant-Melan
LD8 2TN**

**Saturday 13th October
12:30 onwards**

(future meetings on every 2nd Saturday in the month)

Further details: mwbm18@outlook.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. Pay a visit to the VMCC stand, say hello and don't forget to buy a raffle ticket.

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

Thursday 18th October – - 7.30 pm at the Moon, Mordiford, HR1 4LW – Club night. Meet at 7:30 for a chat and a beer.

Sunday Oct 21st - Section Ride - Breedon Hill and the Cotswolds. Meet at Market Hall, Ledbury Town Centre. HR8 1BN 10:00 for a 10:30 start. The route circumnavigates Breedon Hill, stopping at the Corner Cupboard Inn, Winchcombe for lunch - GL54 5LX. The ride back to Ledbury takes us past Prescott Hill climb. 68 miles in total.

Friday 9th November - H&H Classic Motorcycle auction – National Motorcycle Museum Coventry Road, Bickenhill, Solihull B92 0EJ.

Viewing from 9:00 a.m. Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. H&H are still calling for entries. These auctions always attract a good crowd with deep pockets – not a bad place to sell a bike, but don't forget the 10% seller's commission (minimum £50), and the entry Fee of £50 for a Standard Catalogue entry

Thursday 15th November – CLUB AGM 7.30 pm at the Moon, Mordiford, HR1 4LW – Your chance to make the Herefordshire motorcycling scene even better in 2019!

Make sure you've put the date in your diary. Chairman Geoff McGladdery will do a quick

overview of the last twelve months. We've had some really cracking events, including: Geoff's talk on his Trans America Trail Trip with John Roach; the June 'Bike Night' organised by Dave Brand; and of course, the third running of 'Herefordshire on the Edge'. And we've had some really great runs, particularly into Wales and Shropshire. Come and hear how the Club is moving forward at National level and be prepared to put forward your suggestions about what we could be organising in the coming year.

Runs, weekends away, speakers, visits to VMCC events - even a Section trial maybe - there's lots we could do. Why not come with an idea and see if there are other members who'd help you to make it happen? Together we can have so much more motorcycling fun. It's your Club. Getting the best out of it here in Herefordshire is up to you.

There are vacancies for committee members and with both Roger and Geoff becoming more involved in National issues, the Section needs new people to carry it forward. If you would like to serve on the committee, or become Chair or Secretary, why not call Roger Bibbings on 01684 540249 to find out how you can help.

Sunday 18th November - Section ride - Ludlow and the Teme Valley - for Heroes only! Meet at Palmer's Meadow car park (swimming pool), Tenbury Wells WR15 8SF 10:00 for 10:30 start

Out to Brampton Bryan and then returning through the lanes to Ludlow and finishing for lunch at the Bell at Pensax, Worcester WR6 6AE. About 55 miles. Hopefully, and the sun will shine and heroes won't be required! (.....dream on farm boy)

Saturday 24th November 10:00 a.m. - HJ Pugh Ledbury Salerooms HR8 2AQ - Auction of Motorcycles, old bikes parts and Automobilia. Now's the time to enter your surplus bits and pieces or finally part with that restoration project you never got round to starting! Call Pugh's on 01531 631122. Commission rates for vendors are 10%, plus VAT with a minimum Commission of £3.00 per lot entered and an overall minimum charge of £5.00 per Vendor

THE CHARGING BULLET – THE LATEST NEWS



October 8th

It's been busy in the run up to our departure but now, with the Charging Bullet loaded up amongst the camera and camping gear, we can start the long drive down to Land's End and our adventure's real beginning.

Ups and downs

We've had our fair share of last minute ups and downs; despite several attempts at repair, our slow charger (that should be permanently mounted in the bike frame) is still not working, although the fast charger is doing its thing and was always meant to be the main option for touring. On the other hand the 'Type 2' adapter that allows us to plug into public charge points worked perfectly on its first test. We had a hair t-in-mouth moment yesterday when the bike inexplicably refused to start, but it turned out just to be a software fault mis-reading the motor temperature (11 degrees C is NOT overheating....). And to top it all off our sponsors Holden Vintage and Classic generously donated a Belstaff wax jacket to keep me warm for the trip – I suspect they may have seen the long-term forecast....

We've now done over 100 miles of test and shakedown runs around the local lanes and the bike has behaved faultlessly. It's a real joy to ride, proving quite nippy and performing at its best in the 30-40mph range we'll need for our back road marathon; delivering almost 60 miles of range as well. We've tweaked it as we've gone along, of

course, fine tuning things like tyre pressures and control response to produce a pleasant, well balanced classic bike feel.

Back in Herefordshire

This morning we packed up all the tools and spares that the bike might need, all Finn's camera equipment and of course camping gear for three (Fred, Finn and our a selection of filming assistants for the busy bits) before loading up and strapping down the Bullet itself, fully charged ready to set off first thing on Tuesday morning. By Wednesday we'll be crossing Dartmoor, on Thursday we're filming our first big contributor; Ariel in Crewkerne and Friday evening should see us back in Hereford where we can pick up anything we forgot to pack! Then we wind our way up through the Midlands, home of the British bike industry, through the North East and on into the Scottish Highlands to John o'Groat's.

FOLLOW FRED ON FACEBOOK

With the trip now underway we'll be updating this blog much more regularly (hopefully most days) so keep an eye on it to see what we're up to. We'll also put odd bits and bobs on our Twitter and Instagram (@chargingbullet) and Facebook (Charging Bullet) as we go along so 'follow' us if you don't already. Let's get this show on the road!



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