

VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 42

May 2023

We have one or two events to look forward to in the coming weeks. Details will be found in this news letter. Plus reports from recent club activities. Towards the last page there is an up to date diary of the years forthcoming events.

The next part of Tony Harris's T80 project, plus other articles and a couple of bikes for sale. What's not to like? So read on.

Late news in: Founders Relay Rally and Coventry To Brighton Run

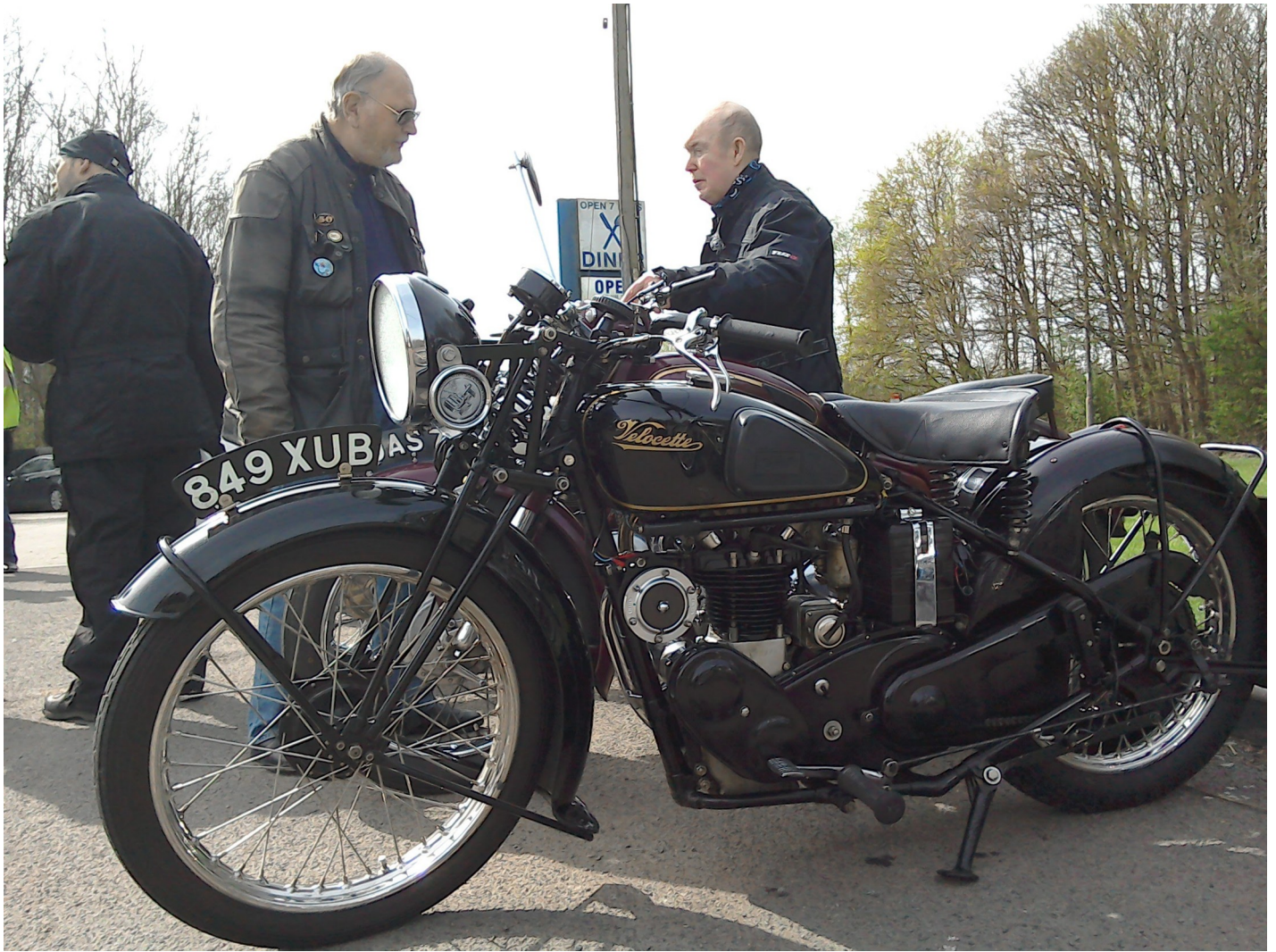
Chairman's Chat

Sad news blows across the sea...

We were away last week on a much deserved week's holiday. We visited for the first time Northumberland, a very beautiful area of the country, especially in and around the coastal delights of Holy Island and Bamburgh Castle. On the last day, we had popped into the small seaside town of Seahouses, parked up against the harbour wall, and my mission was to find fish and chips. However, I got a phone call from a friend informing me of the passing of one of our fellow Warwickshire members Rikki Richardson. He had been a VMCC member for many years, and a familiar friendly face at all of Warwickshire events including the Coventry Parade. One of Rikki's ambitions was to still be able to take part in the Coventry Parade when he turned 80 years of age. Consulting my collection of Coventry Parade programmes, I find No 38 Mr Rikki Richardson was aboard his 500cc Triumph TRW...in fact, the caption reads 'This bike was built at the Meriden factory for the Royal Signals White Helmets display team'

We are looking for some VMCC riders to accompany Rikki on his last ride to Canley Crematorium on May 10th, so please get in touch if you would like to help. On this somewhat sombre note, you will be pleased to know that we did indeed manage to consume some delicious fish and chips on the harbour side at Seahouses.

Stay safe...David Kendall



Rikki Richardson (left) with long-time club member Bill Wise.

Frank Parker remembers Rikki.

I rode on many runs with him and he was always a very pleasant and helpful person. I also bought his Triumph Thunderbird off him and a very good bike it was. Once when on a run he stopped to help Bill Wise repair the battery leads on his bike, Rikki was in his car with his wife that day and just happened to have a set of crimp on terminals which did the job so we could carry on. This is the sort of fellow Rikki was. He will be missed by the members who knew him.

Farmers Fayre Pop-up, Stoneleigh.

A chilly ride to the pop-up with the sun showing its face later on did not deter 20 plus members turning out to the Farmers Fayre in the N.A.C. Stoneleigh which on this Sunday, we shared car park space with the Lotus sports car club with some very fine two and four wheel vehicles showing in the sunny spells and instigating interest from both sides. All in all a very enjoyable Easter Sunday morning with food and refreshments and a good old catch up, after what seems a long winter, with members old and new.

Dave Barnes

Steve enjoys his coffee



Sunday 2 April. The 3 Counties Spring Run

When I arrived at the Willoughby cafe on the A45 at around 10.30am there was already a motley group of our members assembled in the roadside cafe. So by the start time of 11.00 there were about 15 of us on a various array of bikes. 'Beeza' Dave Barnes led us on a scenic run from Warwickshire into Northamptonshire and Leicestershire along country lanes and through picturesque villages.

Wednesday 12 April. Club Night

Around 2 dozen members enjoyed a talk by expert caver Keith Edwards. It transpired that there are no caves in Warwickshire as they are only found in Limestone areas.

South Wales and the Peak District being popular areas with lots of cave systems to explore. Tales and photographs of overweight people squeezing through narrow tunnels led to murmurings amongst the audience of 'no way!'

He mentioned the major cave rescue of children in Thailand a few years ago masterminded by British experts. We may in future have a talk about this rescue.

Triumph T80ish project Pt 2

Last time I went through the basic engine mods. This time the cycle parts (mostly).

The engine plates I already had so fitting the engine and gearbox was simple, I also had all the hardware to do this. I had to find and make mudguard stays but this was not a major problem. I fitted a small rear carrier found at last years Founders day to help pull the bike onto the rear stand.

The rear stand came from India as I didn't have one. It didn't fit and was twisted. I had to dismantle it and do a lot of alterations and welding to get it fit for purpose.

The side stand is from a Honda or some other Japanese bike off E bay. These are readily available complete and ready to bolt on for under £20 second hand, I have already fitted these on lots of bikes.

If anybody has a set of early lightweight Triumph Girders or lightweight Web forks I may be interested.

In the meantime I've fitted some Enfield forks along with the front Brake.

The head races I purchased off E bay for £13 inc post. I thought they would be made of chocolate but to my surprise they appear properly hardened with the balls etc. I had to make adaptors to fit these into the head stock but they have turned out well.



The rear chain guard is another Enfield product which was under £15 delivered from India painted with fittings. I've also used these on other bikes.

Most of the black parts are just hand painted, but the guards and fuel tank were painted locally at a car spray shop. My friend, who makes vinyl stickers and signs,

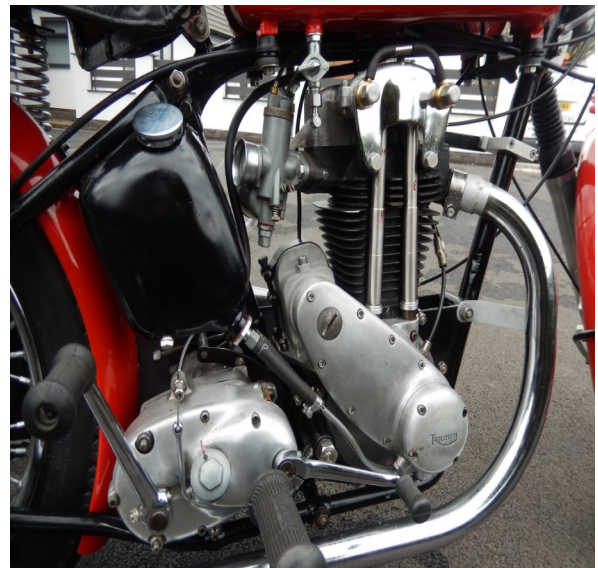
made up the tank and guard lining plus the little Tiger on the tank. These were then lacquered with 2 pack as is the paint. I chose red because I don't have a red bike and it does stand out well. I would have liked a full length rear guard but it had been cut shorter years ago for one of my racers. A shame, I do not understand folks and manufacturers fitting silly short guards. Having ridden daily going to work for over 40 years, they must have never ridden through an English winter. Bikes are just toys now, including mine.

The saddle I already had in stock and fits well with the rigid frame.

Back to the motor, The oil drained originally from the rocker boxes into the nearside barrel studs. I've altered these to drain onto the camshafts. The bike is very light, I will have to watch the pot holes with a rigid frame but I am looking forwards to some happy miles.

I think that's about it. let the riding commence.

Tony





Elliot Bromley with his trophies from the 2022 Banbury Run. Elliot won the Bill Moore Trophy, the Len Cobbing Trophy and a Gold Award. Pictured here on his 1930 BSA S30.

Elliot is one of the sons of Ken Bromley. A long time member of the club and owner of Spon End Motorcycles, Coventry, where he M.O.T. tests all sorts of bikes.

Watch your speed!

I realise that most of us are conscientious drivers and riders but this piece from British Motorcyclists Federation (B.M.F.) informs of Police tactics. They are even using drones now to catch speeders:

Britain's police are turning to new methods of spotting misbehaviour on the roads, with alternatives to the traditional police cars and motorcycles. The use of unmarked HGVs by the police has been trialled before, and Derbyshire police are making active use of plain white trucks, recording nearly 700 offences during a week of targeted action on the M1. The most common offence was not wearing a seatbelt, with 239 drivers caught, while another 181 drivers were spotted using a mobile phone while driving. "Using an HGV cab is a really useful tactic to help spot drivers who are putting other road users at risk," said PC Dave Shaw of Derbyshire Police Roads Policing Unit. Most of the motorists caught were stopped and given advice, with just 14 given a court summons and five arrested.

Meanwhile, in Devon and Cornwall, the police are now trialling the use of drones to keep tabs on drivers and riders, according to the RAC. The drones can not only track a vehicle's speed but also reportedly check its insurance, MOT and road tax status as well as track stolen vehicles and film any incident in real time. Astonishingly, the drones can record a car or bike from up to four miles away.

Inspector Colin Harper of the drones team acknowledged that bikers in particular were a key focus, in response to sixteen motorcycle fatalities on the counties' roads in 2022, plus 187 serious injuries. "At present, our focus is on motorcyclists," he said, "who are at highest risk according to our data, particularly at this time of year when more riders will be venturing out again after the winter." **Jim Freeman**, Chair of the BMF, said: "Orwellian. If policing by consent is still a 'thing', the police need to be careful. Drones might be very useful in the Ukraine, but applying the tech in a civilian environment, I'm not in favour at all. Anyone speeding in the Devon and Cornwall area, might well want to be very law abiding on nice sunny days, reserving risky behaviour for foul weather. That makes a lot of sense, doesn't it Inspector? The message from the Ukraine appears to be that drones don't work so well in wet and windy weather, as the cameras can't see too well. Harder to fly as well. Oh yeah, since when did not wearing a seatbelt affect other road users?"

Written by **Peter Henshaw**

A MAN has been caught speeding near London and has been fined. Andre Moses, of Falcon Rise, High Wycombe, was caught on September 14 last year exceeding the 30mph speed limit on the A40. The 44-year-old was caught by an automatic speed camera on the A40 north Terrick Street to the A40 Westbourne Bridge Slip. Moses' recorded speed was 35mph. He was found guilty and fined £84.

His licence was also endorsed with three points. Moses was also ordered to pay £90 in court costs and a £33 victim surcharge. The total fine of £207 is due to be paid by the start of next month.

VMCC Relay Rally 2023

This is an annual event in which all sections of the club are invited to nominate a 'rally point' in their area. These are then collated into a list made available to all the sections. The members are encouraged to visit other section rally points on the designated day. The rally points being manned by local members who will welcome visitors to their area before they move on to the next one.

The object of the rally is to encourage members to ride enjoyably into other areas, possibly new to them and meet up with fellow members who they may not otherwise get to chat to.

Previously we had used the Kenilworth Rugby Club as our rally point but this year we chose the well known Long Itch Diner on the Southam (Oxford) Road. David Kendall drove there for 10.15am. He was soon joined by riders. This continued throughout the day.

Judith writes: The Warwickshire Section checkpoint at the Long Itch Diner proved to be a popular venue with almost 50 riders signing on throughout the day. Many friends old and new came along to enjoy a chat over a coffee and a breakfast bap. It was a great venue and our thanks to the owners of the Long Itch Diner for allowing us to use their premises for this event for the first time. We'll be back!



Coventry to Brighton Run 2023

Here is Bob Badlands short report on this years run which was held in April:

The 56th C2B started out from the National Motorcycle Museum on Saturday 22nd April this year. Ken Meeson, Worshipful Mayor of Solihull flagged over 40 Riders away at 07:45. Earlier than our normal start time as the Mayor had another meeting to attend at 09:00.

A very cold morning with a lingering Scotch Mist fogging up visors and slowly invading gloves.

After 43 miles everyone was relieved to reach Deddington for Coffee and Cake, 18 Riders and guests even taking a full breakfast before heading off to Twyford for Lunch some 53 miles away but with the sun coming out it became a very pleasurable ride via Bletchington; Islip; Stanton St John; Worminghall; Ickford; Postcombe; Christmas Common; Nettlebed; Sonning Common (to by-pass Henley on Thames) Dunsden Green and Sonning eventually crossing the Thames just 2 miles from our lunch stop. The late morning sun raised the temperature and Riders and 4 Pillions were much happier. We had stuck to our traditional tortuous route arriving at the Waggon and Horses in Twyford where we were greeted most warmly by Richard who puts on a special menu for us each year. Many sat outside enjoying their lunch before heading for our next stop 30 miles away that was always known as Newlands Corner but has had 2 or 3 name changes in the last few years. As usual Dickie Dale (talented Grand Prix Racer of yesteryear) was there to welcome us. The next leg of the journey to the Hove seafront is about 40 miles through picturesque villages and tight winding lanes including Shere; Ewhurst and Rowhook then Cowfold, Henfield, Shermanbury and Saddlecombe leading to the magnificent Devils Dyke before meeting the Mayor of Brighton and Hove at the seafront at 17:00.

After an enjoyable hour with the Mayor we head off to our secluded 4 star hotel for a relaxing bath before our celebratory dinner and fun presentations. Breakfast next morning was from 08:00 before making our own way home on whatever route you preferred. Another great weekend and thankfully this year free of accident (someone fell off last year and broke a leg!).* Next year the 57th Running is booked for Saturday 27th April 2024 – come and join in the fun.

Regards

Bob Badland, Midland Section Secretary

* It was, in fact, Bob himself who, whilst riding into Brighton on Sunday morning, slipped on gravel and spent a few days in a local hospital!

Upcoming events for May

Wednesday 10th Club night at Kenilworth Rugby Club

Usually twice a year we hold a 'Bring and Buy' evening. Members bring along decent items they no longer need and donate them to the club. They are then auctioned off and the monies raised goes into the section funds. It is quite a fun evening and it helps to redistribute useful items.

Sunday 21st Rugby Bikefest

A good annual event. Our section has booked an area opposite the 'Squirrel' very near the town centre where we park and display our bikes. We meet in the centre of Dunchurch from 9.00am to leave at 9.30. I (Barry) will lead us into town and into our parking area in time to watch the main ride in. The 'Square cafe' in Dunchurch should be open from 9.00am.

The town centre will have bands playing, food stalls, etc as well as hundreds of bikes!



Some images from a previous Rugby Bikefest

VMCC Warwickshire Diary of events for 2023

This is a provisional diary which may change. More events will be added nearer the dates

Watch out for emails or visit our website <http://vmccwarwickshire.co.uk>

May 10	Wed	Club night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. Bring and buy. 7.30pm
May 21	Sun	Rugby Bikefest	Ride in from The Square, Dunchurch
June 04	Sun	Kenilworth Run	Meet Hatton lay-by 10.00 for 10.30 am start. (M.G.)
June 10	Sat	Daventry Bike Day	Similar to Rugby Bikefest. A good event
June 11	Sun	Breakfast Ride in	Malt Kiln Farm, Stretton u. Fosse. 10.00am. (H.W.)
June 14	Wed	Club night	Fish & Chips + bring a bike. 7.30pm. Tickets £6.50
June 18	Sun	Banbury Run	National Motor Museum, Gaydon.
June 26	Mon	Cassington Bike night	Cassington Village, OX29 4DN
July 05	Wed	Chairperson's Social	Blue Lias, bikes and buffet. from 6.30pm
July 09	Sun	Pailton Steam & Bikes+	Fairfield lake and Smite Brook Steam Railway
July 12	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. Bike night. 7.30pm
July 23	Sun	Founders Day Rally	Stanford Hall. From 9.00am. Display bikes wanted.
Aug. 06	Sun	Bill Lacey Run	Evenly, Northants. (more details TBA).
Aug 09	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. bike night
Aug 13	Sun	The Coventry Parade	Coombe Abbey. More details later.
Sept. 03	Sun	Genteel Run	Run mainly for smaller, older bikes. (details TBA). (D.K.)
Sept 10	Sun	Atherstone Motorshow	Great town centre free event. Lots of cars/ bikes.
Sept 13	Wed.	Club night	T.B.A.
Sept 17	Su	Afternoon Tea and cake run	Meet at Hatton lay-by. 2.00 for 2.30 (S.D.)
Oct. 08	Su	'Autumn Leaves' run	Meet at Long Itch Diner. 10.00 for 10.30 (S.D.)
Oct 11	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. 8.00pm
Oct. 22	Sun	Antelope Ride In	Meet at Antelope Inn, Lighthorne, 12.00 or ride in from Chesterton Windmill. At 11.30 am (S.D.)
Oct 28/29	s/s	Nat. M/c Museum	Open Day. Free entry + trade stands + guests.

Attendance at most of our section events will count towards the 'Rider of the year award'

(D.K.) etc. indicates run leader. Events in purple are section events, others may be of interest.

Bikes for sale

One of our members is reducing his collection and so is offering for sale two very diverse machines both of which he has owned for several years. Both have been well looked after.

Sunbeam model 9

first registered in 1932
500cc single twin port
3 speed Sturmey Archer hand change
excellent condition
starts very easily and runs ok.
Comes with a pair of crank cases
and a pair of bar end levers.

£10,250 o.n.o.



Honda VTX

1800 cc
registered 2007
low mileage
very recent m.o.t.
Runs very well.
Vance and Hines pipes
Held saddlebags

£7,250



For more information please contact John Pearson on [07946 731702](tel:07946731702)
or email jdpearson75@gmail.com