

VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 52

May. 2024

When one has a new laptop then some things on it are slightly different to the previous one. So this is my second attempt at this introduction! Hopefully from now it will all fall into place.

So welcome to the club if you have just joined us. You will find in these pages some interesting features plus events just passed and those upcoming, plus a full list of our diary events.

A road safety innovation report by Peter Henshaw

We've all been there, even on modern bikes with relatively good lights – a dark, wet road at night with oncoming headlights can be a nightmare of poor vision. But now an Australian engineering firm reckons it may have the answer – glow in the dark white lines. Tarmac Linemarking of Victoria has developed photoluminescent paint which absorbs UV light during the day, enabling it to emit light after dark. There's nothing new about the idea, which has been used for watch hands and children's toys for years, but this is thought to be the first time it has been applied to road markings. Special phosphors in the paint absorb invisible UV light during the day, which cause it to glow, which becomes visible after dark.

The luminescent markings are currently being trialled on roads in Victoria. Tarmac Linemarking's John Emanuelli told News.com.au: "There's been a lot of interest since the trial run, it's a great product... This treatment will make it easier for drivers to see the line markings or signage and provide stronger definition coming up to intersections and curves, giving drivers more time to react and preventing them from veering from their lane." BMF Chair [Jim Freeman](#) welcomed the development, which could greatly improve motorcycle safety at night: "If this works as advertised it could be the biggest safety improvement in night riding since the invention of cat's eyes. Now we "

only need to get rid of stupidly powerful LED and Laser headlights on SUVs and the like, which are horrifically dangerous for riders in bad weather conditions.

a military bike weekend

Section members Sarah & Peter recently joined a group of fellow war-time bike enthusiasts for a weekend of pottering around the Worcestershire countryside. Organised by members of the VMCC Worcester section.

Friday afternoon was a gentle 45 miles of rural lanes including a pub stop but Saturday saw a group of 14 vintage bikes tackling many of the original Levis Cup road trial hills (one of the oldest motorcycle road trials and still running today thanks to the VMCC North Birmingham section). Technically challenging, it tested both bikes and riders and the group were pleased to eventually arrive at Ludlow Brewery for a breather and sit down.

Sunday brought another gentle 45 mile run to the Classic & Custom Bike Show at Malvern where the vintage machines were much commented upon. The 1941 Matchless G3L didn't miss a beat all weekend and was a joy for Peter to ride, but unfortunately the 1939 Matchless G3WO suffered mechanical failure on Saturday morning so Sarah rode a spare 1944 BSA M20.



The two Matchless bikes, plus an internet image of a BSA B20 from 1944.



What we have done recently

April 7. Spring Run

Dave [Beeza] Barnes was on the run:

A bright but chilly Sunday morning saw a dozen or more bikes gather at the Willoughby Café for our first designated run of the year to the Denbigh Arms at Monks Kirby. A couple of riders hit technical difficulties making it to the start in which we delayed for their possible arrival but to no avail.

We set off on a shortened run through the lanes of Warwickshire passing through Grandborough, Birdingbury, Lawford and Easenhall leading on to the Denbigh Arms who had laid on servings of chips and batches for us. While all this was happening, Simon managed to temporary repair and return home on the Ajay, quickly prepared his '72 Bonnie and made his way directly to the Denbigh Arms to join us. Our chairman made the run on his '39 Cotton girder fork motorcycle for our combined run so all in all a very good and enjoyable start to our runs for the year.

P.S.

I (Barry) was told that Ian Brodie, who I had been talking to before the run, had ignition trouble and had to leave the run part of the way round. I later asked him what the problem was. He replied thus:

Thank you for your note, I had to return home from the run as I had an intermittent ignition failure. I nearly made it with some involuntary stops but eventually had to send for wife, car and trailer! I had rewired the bike as a 12v negative earth one and had not fitted a Zener and with 18 or so volts something seemed to give. I have bought a 12v twin coil and a rectifier regulator and intend to fit it during the week in the hopes of the problem then being solved. *However the fitting was delayed, see Girder Fork Run write up.*



April 10. Club Night talk on the Falklands Conflict by David Bardell.

A reasonable number of members attended Kenilworth Rugby Club were treated to an interesting presentation covering all aspects of the 74 day encounter back in 1982. A mixture of talking, photos and news videos. 2 speakers took it in turns to go along the timeline from the build up to our eventual recovery of the islands which have been under our sovereignty for over 200 years.

April 14. Girder fork Run By Simon Dudfield

It started with Pete Brown's report on the Autumn Run 2023 that I led . He made some good points. I agree, riding girder fork machines is fun!!. Perhaps we should encourage more people to bring out their girder fork machines, with a run tailored for them. A chance contact with Andrew Walsh from the Midlands section gave me the opportunity to ask him if we could have a combined Warks / Midlands section girder fork run. He came to our club night and suggested we went to Gilks's cafe at Kington. Sounded good to me.

The Midland section riders met at Meriden and rode to meet up with us, the Warwickshire section, at Chesterton Windmill. I had also invited the Banbury Section, who also met us at Chesterton on a sunny Sunday morning. David Barnes, who I'm mentoring for the Banbury Run, came to collect the AJS . We pootled over to Chesterton. Ten or so machines were there already. And the numbers grew and grew!. When the Midlands contingent arrived the sign on total was twenty five !! We made our way through scenic Warwickshire countryside to a very busy Gilks's cafe. The eleven girder fork motorcycles attracted much attention. They consisted of seldom seen marques, such as Cotton, James, Griffen, Scott, Panther and Rudge as well as the more well-known Ariel, BSA and Triumph. The success of the event can be judged by the consensus of opinion that we should do this again That can be arranged!!. If you haven't tried a girder fork motorcycle yet, you should. You won't regret it.



Pete Brown, Simon Dudfield, Ken Bromley.



P.S.

When Ian Brodie arrived at the windmill he lost his footing and fell over. Ian reports: "I completed the run to the garage cafe, by the time I reached home I had to get help getting off the bike. The upshot being that I have cracked a rib which has rendered me almost immovable, after a week things are better but riding (or driving) is out of the question. The fitting of new parts is having to wait. I doubt that I will make the Rugby ride in - pity. I have yet to examine my crash helmet which took a lot of the fall. So I am watching the grass grow with some impatience but at least it is not raining."



April 28. VMCC Relay Rally

Many VMCC sections participate by having a checkpoint where riders from other sections can head for and meet members from other sections and enjoy the ride. Some visit several sections, quite a long day.

Our checkpoint was the Long Itch Diner, a well known cafe on the site of a former petrol station. "Despite the horrible weather

Today,(says *Dave Kendall*) we actually had 20 visitors sign on today. The last sign on just as I was loading up the van! All things considered...we did our bit.."

Simon added:

well done for manning the checkpoint . Looking at the VMCC FB profile , some areas of the country had better weather and consequently higher visitor numbers



Upcoming events

May 8 Club night at Kenilworth Rugby Club. Speaker: Patrick Fitzgerald.
Subject: In praise of the turbo prop.



ALL vehicles are welcome, to make an event to rival Atherstone or Hinckley.

May 19 Rugby Bikefest. Due to circumstances this year we have no section involvement. So make your own way there and park in the town centre with the other several hundred bikes.

May 19 Norton Owners Club Rally, Wharf Inn, Welford.

The Leicestershire and Northampton Branch of the Norton Owners Club present;

‘Norton 100’ at The Wharf Inn, Welford, Leicestershire, Sunday 19th May 2024, from around 11am.

Building on our very successful Open Day in May 2023 in which 66 Nortons were on display, we aim to bring 100 Nortons to the event in 2024. We have called it Norton 100 for two reasons. Firstly, it is the 100th anniversary of The Year Of Firsts, whereby for the first time in the company’s history Norton machines won a huge number races both nationally and international with their newly designed bike, the Model 18 [the first Norton with overhead valves] and with the engine designed by James Lansdowne Norton. Secondly, the event celebrates the last whole year of James’ life, 1924, and hopefully brings together all the elements that have made the company so successful over the last 125 years.

We hope to have;

Flat-tank machines and 1920s machines

1930s overhead camshaft machines and hopefully a rare 596cc International

1940s side-valve machines including, possibly, a War Department 16H in military trim

1950s Dominators and one of the last of the Featherbed International machines

1960s Dominators including at least one Mercury, hopefully an Atlas and also some Lightweight machines

1970s Commandos, including a unique Hi-Rider and one of the best JPS models in England

1990s Rotary machines including Mark Lepkowski's unique Royale model

2010-onwards 961 models

We will have a very special guest, our own 'Norton Royalty', in the form of James' granddaughter, Judith Morris, in attendance.

We also hope to have our Club President, Mike Jackson, in attendance.

We will run a concours competition for machines that have been ridden to the event and also an award for the Best Norton.

We will make an award for the best branch turnout.

We will provide free tea or coffee on arrival for anyone arriving on a Norton. The pub serves a wide range of excellent meals and ales. Drinks and snacks, such as bacon baps [or cobs, or butties etc.] will be served in the garden area so you don't have to spend time queuing at the bar for service.

RGM Motors and Andover Norton have kindly agreed to donate prizes for the concours competition and we are also seeking some input from the current owners, TVS, and from the National Motorcycle Museum.

We will also have a completely unique feature called 'The Direct Link', a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for anyone who holds Norton motorcycles and their founder in the highest esteem; more details later, but you can't buy it, you can't stream it, you can't download it, you simply have to be there!

The venue is approximately 2 miles north of Junction 1 of the A14, virtually in the centre of England, and can be easily reached from all directions, being relatively near to the M6 and M1 motorways. The 2023 event was featured extensively in Old Bike Mart and drew Norton enthusiasts from as far away as Portsmouth, Bristol, Kent and County Durham. We will also be inviting staff from Old Bike Mart, The Classic Motorcycle, Classic Bike, Motorcycle News, Classic Bike Guide and Real Classic.



Phil Wilson's 1924 Model 2 Norton, this machine will be at Norton 100.

May 26 Breakfast Meet at Malt Kiln Farm

This has been a regular annual event which used to be 'hosted' by our former chairman, Harry Wiles. Unfortunately he is now unable to continue doing so. So it is now being hosted by me [Barry]. The location is good with an excellent cafe and equally good farm shop. I do hope that you will support this event.

June 2 Kenilworth Run.

This is another of our annual fixtures. A great run from the Hatton layby, led by Malcolm Griffin, around the lanes for 30 odd miles to a very nice refreshment stop.



Riders and machines wanted for the COVENTRY PARADE
The Warwickshire Section Premier Event

Sunday 11th August 2024

- All classes of machines welcome
- Discounted rates for riders of girder rigid machines
- Coventry's most historic motoring event
- Coombe Abbey Country Park Venue
- Segregated field area with safe parking
- Toilets and Café
- Guest of honour to flag machines away
- Live commentary throughout the day
- 50-mile ride through quiet Warwickshire/Leicestershire roads
- Short route for low powered machines
- Highly experienced long-term club member organising team

More details available from Robert Thomas
TEL: 07739 583763
EMAIL: robert@partsmade.co.uk

Items For Sale

Triumph Speed Twin 2020.

new lower price!

This is my Fathers Speed Twin who is hanging up his leathers, only 3178 miles from new with full service history. MOT until June 2024 but can be extended if required also comes with Triumph heated grips, front fender extender and throttle spacers fitted, **£7,750.00 ono.** Please contact Steve on **07860 629650 for more info.**



Pre unit spares.

3 off 650 barrels one 9 stud $+0.060$ " two 8 stud both $+0.020$ " good bores £35 each. I may have some pistons to fit as well.

650 Iron head modified inlets for twin carb stub fitting gas flowed big valve. Very good quick head £140. Two 500 pre unit cases with cranks one with good cams as well. Both matching numbers big bearing £140 (fitted new mains), small bearing £90.

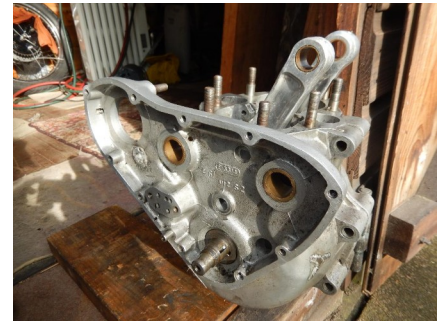
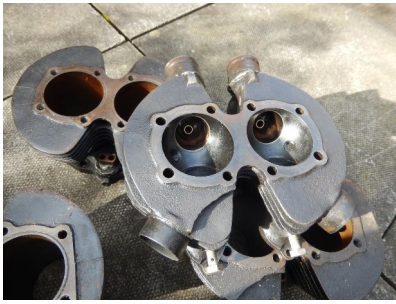
Big bearing TR6 cases with Commando crank and Nourish rods. Very low miles £380.

Total £855 or accept £780 for job lot. Very heavy so buyer collects please.

Also available late alternator M50 350 engine will need checking over. Bought for spares but too good to break up £380.

its all a bit heavy, so buyer collect only

Tony 01455 457 382 Mob 07504 901 937 mail nortones41000@gmail.com



Vaughan Miles: I am acting on behalf of the owner who is not a club member

For sale,

1952 Francis Barnett, 197cc

Built by an ex works rider into his interpretation of a trials bike of the time.

New 21 and 18" rims clad with new trials tyres

Alloy guards and handlebars,

Engine has been checked by Villiers services and a new carburettor is fitted

The bike is running but it has stood for some years so fettling can be expected.

It is not road registered,

Priced to sell at £1500 ono

Colin Dean 02476 740 400





For Sale Sun Cyclone 225cc



The bike is a 1955 Sun Cyclone 225cc these are now rare bikes. The bike is up and running having been rebuilt and everything that needed doing was done and cost quite a lot of money. In the old bike mart last September there was a photo of a Sun Cyclone and under owner said that only 2 still existed and the one in the photo had got the basic painted tank not the chrome plated one with the gold plated and enamel badges. asking very close to £4000 for it.

1969 B175 Bantam which has covered about 100 miles since rebuild I did spend quite a lot on it as everything was done to it to bring it back to a nice bike just the wheels and tyres cost about £800-00. I would like to see about £3000 for it or near offer. Its been changed to 12v and it fitted with winkers also a top box, there is also a few spares. At the moment it needs a new battery. I am open to reasonable offers. It's been stood now for approx 3 years

For both these bikes ring Frank Parker on 01926-429310 and will be put through as they have had trouble with scammers. answer phone always on.

Barry's Tiger 90 engine issues

It recently developed a tapping noise so we brought forward the engine strip we had planned for November. A week ago Steve Bradwick came to my house and supervised the removal of the engine. No problem was found with the top end. We ended up with the basic crankcase assembly which Steve took back home to work on. After separating the two halves he discovered that the only main bearing was sticking and rotating in the crankcase. Fortunately no damage had resulted. The big ends were fine. So the sludge trap cleared -very little found. New plug, bearing and seals fitted. Other items were refitted ready for reinstalling in the bike and the rest of the parts. We hope to have most, if not all of the rebuild completed on Thursday

More next month.

VMCC Warwickshire Section Events diary 2024 *(see notes at the bottom)*

May	8	Wed.	Club night – Guest speaker Patrick Fitzgerald – “In praise of the turbo prop”
	11	Sat.	<i>Daventry Motor Festival. See “upcoming events” for more details.</i>
	19	Sun.	<i>Rugby Bikefest – No section involvement this year so make your own way.</i>
	19	Sun.	<i>Norton Owners Club meet at Welford, Northants (Non Section meeting)</i>
	26	Sun.	Breakfast Ride in to the Malt Kiln Farm (BH)
June	2	Sun.	The Kenilworth Run (MG)
	12	Wed.	Club night – On Yer Bike night Fish & Chip supper
	16	Sun.	VMCC: The Banbury Run, Gaydon, Warwickshire.
	24	Mon.	Cassington Bike Night (Non Section meeting)
	30	Sun.	Steam Event at Pailton. The 3 rd year of this super event.
July	3	Wed.	Chairman’s Social Meet at The Blue Lias Inn
	10	Wed.	Club night – Bring a bike
	21	Sun.	Founders Day, Stanford Hall
Aug.	4	Sun.	The Bill Lacey Run, Princethorpe to Evenley, Northants.
	11	Sun.	Coventry Parade (Provisional date – TBC)
	14	Wed.	Club night – Bring a bike
Sept.	8	Sun.	Genteel Run (DK)
	11	Wed.	Club night – Guest speaker Mike Wills presenting End to End
	29	Sun.	Afternoon Tea & Cake Run (SD)
Oct.	9	Wed.	Club night – Bring & buy
	13	Sun.	Autumn Leaves Run (SD)
	26	Sat.	Open Day at National Motorcycle Museum.
	27	Sun.	Ride in to the Antelope Inn, Lighthorne
Nov.	13	Wed.	Club night – Guest speaker Steve Allen
	27	Wed.	Christmas Lunch (Provisional date – TBC)
Dec.	11	Wed.	Club night Christmas Quiz

* all events and dates are subject to change. Please check before travelling.

* events will be added (or deleted) as we go through the year.

* if you know of an event you think members may be interested in then please contact one of the committee

* *events in italics are NOT VMCC events but may be of interest to members*