

VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 46

Sept. 2023

August was not as hot and sunny as last year. Some would say that was better than sweltering in excessive heat and having parched vegetation. You can't please every one. So it was basically pot luck as to whether events were showery or dry. Having said that we had reasonable turnouts for events we were involved in. Summaries of these and upcoming events are within these pages. Plus one or two more interesting articles and some for sale and wanted items.

Chairman's Chat

The Ricardo's first major outing..

This year's Coventry Parade was as ever, a very enjoyable event, and more so for me, as this was my 1927 Triumph Ricardo's first major event since its refurbishment. Some light rain at the start of the event did little to dampen our spirits, especially as we had a brand new short route to enjoy!

Half way around, we deviated off plan slightly for a coffee stop and a group photo opportunity. While enjoying the fun it was mentioned to me by an expert that my machine was carrying a Warwickshire registration....how exciting, a local machine..! A few days later, while consulting my 'operation and care of Triumph motor cycles' manual it lists two possible service agents for Warwickshire.

The options are as follows....

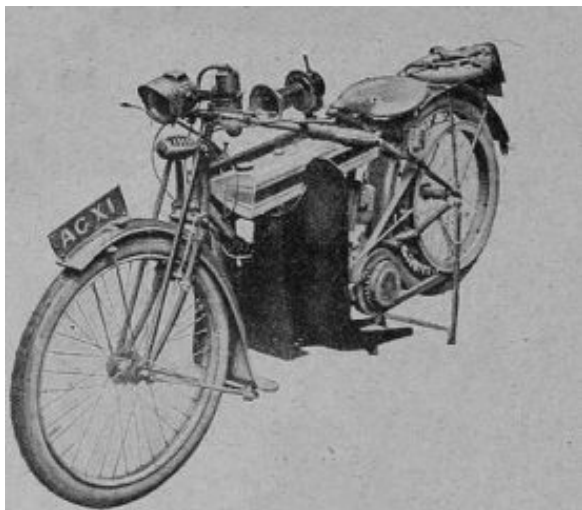
Forfield Motors of Leamington Spa, a business started by Henry James Stretton Ward, an ex employee of the Premier Motor Cycle Company of Coventry and ex Triumph tester.

W Brandish and Sons Coliseum Building, Whitefriars Street, Coventry.

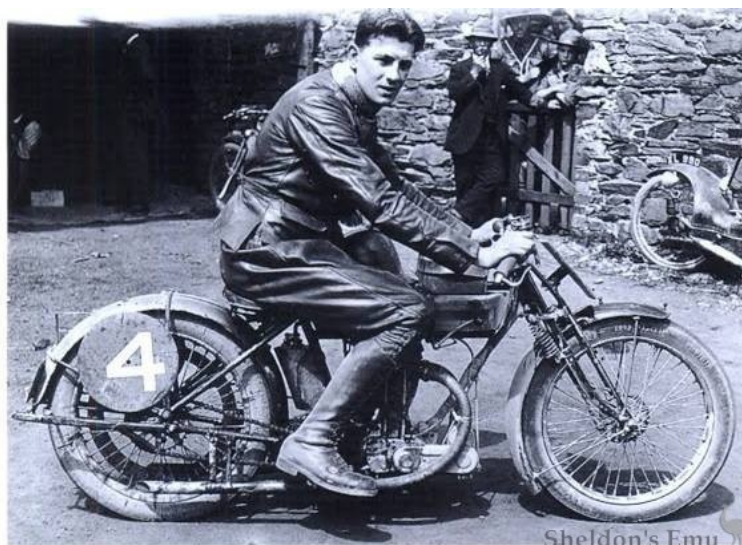
Mr Walter Brandish came second in the 1922 500cc TT race aboard a Triumph Ricardo.... In fact Walter Brandish was the first rider to have a bend on the TT course named after him (formerly known as Telegraph hill) after crashing on that bend while practising for the 1923 TT. I have included some images for your scrutiny, including a Vintage Triumph with Mr Wards wet weather accessories attached, a period photograph of Walter Brandish astride his racing

Triumph Ricardo. And also on show is a program from a football game, with a full page advertisement for W Brandish and Sons...and not forgetting the promotion of Mitchell and Butlers ales....With the slogan 'good honest beer'.

Ride safe..David Kendall



Forfield combined front guard & footboard



Triumph 1922 Ricardo and Walter Brandish

Our Selected Big 5
Cars for 1932.
VAUXHALL - ROVER
STANDARD
AUSTIN - MORRIS



Your present Car or Motor Cycle
taken in part exchange.
Easy payments spread over one,
two or three years.

W. Brandish & Sons,
Showrooms :
Whitefriars Street and
625 Foleshill Road

COVENTRY CITY
FOOTBALL
CLUB LTD
CLUB GROUND HIGHFIELD RD



OFFICIAL ORGAN

MITCHELLS
"Good Honest Beer"
AND
BUTLERS



Coventry City - Bristol Rovers, 31 October 1931

What we did in August

Bill Lacey Run

This turned out to be a bit of a damp squib because of the unpredictable weather. In preparation for this event the route had been checked and amended because of



HS2. However come Sunday morning the forecast of rain restricted the number of riders assembled in the lay by on the Oxford road to 3 hardy souls.

At 10.30 they rode off south but within minutes they were caught in a deluge! So the planned route was abandoned and they headed straight to Evenley by which time the weather had improved a little. The numbers were down but one or two more of our members had made their own way there.

Club night - Bring a bike

In good weather, over 2 dozen bikes arrived at Kenilworth Rugby Club. All era's were represented. A couple of 'new' faces were warmly welcomed. Barry, who owns a Bridgestone 100cc single 2 stroke got to try out a 'top-of-the-range' 350cc GTO twin. Thanks to Nigel Morris who bought it at Founders Day.



Coventry Parade

This report is from the hard working organisers of this event:

The 68th Coventry Parade, Sunday 13th August 2023.

Once again, the section premier event was held at scenic Coombe Country Park; the day dawned fine and Rob and I were at the event field by 06:45 to begin the set-up regime. All was going smoothly until we went to erect the gazebo to form the organisers control point and we discovered that there were no legs; they were still in Rob's workshop having an upgrade!

An early morning wake-up call to chairman Dave ensued and the club pop-up gazebo was secured as an alternative, which duly arrived along with Dave's mighty fine 1927 Priory Street Triumph Ricardo, still sporting its original factory finish. And a timely arrival it was, too – literally as we were on gazebo “pop up” duties, light rain started to fall and we just got the control point table covered in time!

One of the early morning highlights is listening out for the first ridden machines coming in on the main road and this year, one of the first was the distinctive note of Roland Robinson's rather lovely 1930's cammy square-four, an example of a young Edward Turner's engine design.

Further machines arrived in a steady stream and by 9am, we had a fine array; albeit not in the numbers that we enjoyed pre-Covid but strong enough numbers to make an impression on our “minimum of one-acre hire” event field. Our guest of honour was, Lady O'Brien, a distant relative of Seigfried Bettmann, who duly commenced flagging riders off at 11am on their choice of long or short routes, provided by the efforts of Phil Nutt, the former taking riders through the scenic Leicestershire countryside, the latter, aimed primarily at the older, lower powered machines, forming a simple loop through Brinklow, Pailton, Harborough Magna, Easenhall; commentary for the riders at the flag being provided by myself.

Thankfully, the precipitation had passed and all riders enjoyed a dry ride, many coming back in several hours later full of praise for our new route.

Riders signed off and finisher awards collected, all enjoyed a few hours relaxing amongst like-minded people in the park whilst preparations were made for the prize presentation, which duly followed as a streamlined affair, reflecting the levels of support that we now get for the event.

We, of course, welcome riders on all eligible machines but it was particularly pleasing to see the vintage and post-vintage classes so well supported; however, on a sad note, this is the first year that I can remember (and I remember since the mid 1970's) that Dave MacMahon has not been present at the event; this was reflected on this during the day and send positive waves sent his way.

Thank you to all who supported the event, particularly Phil Nutt for doing the route and Ken Bromley for organising the rider finisher award.

Geoff Booth and Robert Thomas





Motorcycle Clothing – Buyers Guide

There is no law that requires you to wear protective clothing whilst riding your motorcycle, but compliant protective gear is strongly recommended - it could save your life and prevent serious injury!



Is your motorbike clothing going to protect you if you have an impact with and slide along the road surface?

Did you know that all motorcycle clothing, gloves, footwear and impact protection components are classed as PPE?

Whether your gear is for track day racing, riding to work or for leisure rides, all of your motorcycle clothing that contains or can accommodate impact protectors (so everything apart from simple waterproofs) needs to comply with the relevant safety Regulations, have gone through the specified testing regime and be labelled correctly.

Motorcycle clothing in its entirety (so not just the impact protectors), is now covered by the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations (otherwise known as PPE) and must be marked with a conformity safety mark (CE, new UKCA or UKNI marks), ratings for the level of protection and user information and warnings.

The Regulations require protective clothing to undergo safety assessment and independent testing to ensure the product is compliant to the safety requirements and will provide

suitable and sufficient protection against the risks they are intended to safeguard against, such as a fall from the bike and against injury from impact or abrasion.

There are various levels of protection offered and the labels can be quite confusing. Remember, motorcycle clothing design involves separating the garment into 3 zones (areas of the garment which offer various levels of protection from identified risks: highest risk of impact and abrasion, such as shoulders, hips and knees, intermediate risk of abrasion and lowest risk of abrasion, such as the front of the body and back of the knees) and into classes of protection. You will see anything from Class AAA to B.



Hertfordshire

There are some simple checks you can carry out when you are next buying your new gear. By following our buyers guide below you can take steps to ensure it is suitable for your needs and meets the legal safety testing requirements.

There are many counterfeit and poor-quality, cheap motorcycle clothing products available online, which can give a rider a false sense of protection and will reduce the actual level of protection provided (if any at all). Fakes can also be difficult to identify.

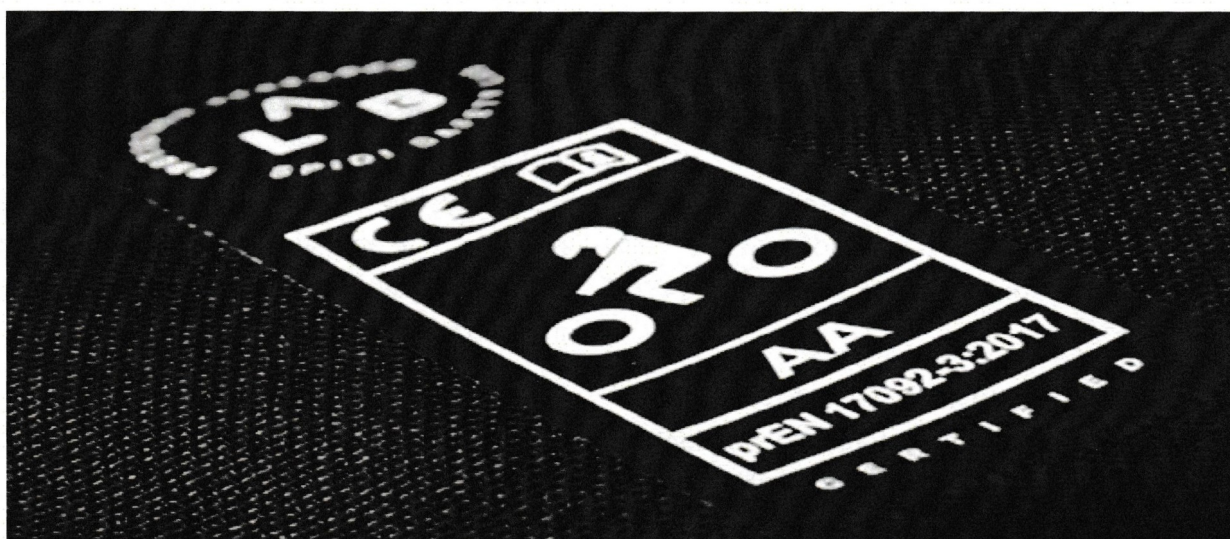
Buyers Beware

Follow this Buyers guide to arm yourself with the knowledge of what you buy is suitable and will offer the level of protection required

No protective garment can offer complete protection against all injuries!

Buyers Guide – what to look for

- Clothing, gloves and boots all need to have been independently tested to the applicable safety standards
- The standard numbers you should see include:
 - Jackets, trousers, one-piece suits and two-piece suits should be certified and labelled to the safety Standard BS EN 17092, it may even be labelled as prEN 17092 or FprEN 17092, which were earlier draft versions of the standard, but which are almost identical to the final published version where the main tests are concerned
 - Boots to EN13634
 - Gloves to EN13594
- Motorcycle gear should be marked and labelled with specific information including the rating level which will tell you the level of protection it will provide and its intended use
- Labelling Checks:
 - the product should contain an attached label with the motorcyclist symbol and the i-booklet sign indicating the purchaser to read the Instructions for Use.



- Examine the labels and product for: -
- the standard number and year
 - the rating level (AAA, AA, A, B etc.)
 - the conformity mark CE, UKCA or UKNI
 - Impact protectors should be marked up individually or on the label
 - Manufacturers Name and Address
 - Importers Name and Address
- If any of the above information or pictograms are missing, then start asking more questions
 - Instructions for use: clothing should be provided with attached Instructions for Use and should include information and warnings such as: -
 - The intended and appropriate use
 - Advice on using the PPE clothing in combination with others such as helmets, boots, gloves and hi-visibility accessories
 - A warning: "No PPE or combination of PPE can offer full protection against injury"
 - Where impact protectors are removable a warning not to wear without protectors
 - All PPE must be supplied with a Declaration of Conformity (confirming the product meets the PPE legal requirements) or a web address where this can be obtained
 - If you find branded gear on an unknown website at a far lower cost than the manufacturers, then this should trigger alarm bells – do some more research into the seller and any published negative reviews

And finally,....if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

Further reading and information can be found:-

bennetts.co.uk/bikesocial/news-and-views/features/product/safest-motorcycle-gear-ce-ratings

Next month I shall include a similar guide to buying a helmet. I hope you find the information in these guides helpful..... Christmas is coming.

Hi Barry,

Thanks for mentioning the Anglo-Dutch Rally, I would like to add that Section members Sarah Brook-Taylor, Judith Coote and Geoff Booth also helped during the week as well as Ian and yourself. Many thanks to you all.

Total mileage for the four days was just under 300 miles showing that veteran machines can be used on events designed for them.

Kind regards,

Mike (Wills)

Events to look forward to in September

Sunday September 3rd.

Our annual Tiddler Run is aimed at members to give their smaller, lower powered bikes a run out (although everyone is welcome but the speeds may be a little more relaxed than usual) We start from the venue of our Chairman's Social i.e. The Blue Lias, between Long Itchington and Stockton.

About 20 miles later we will arrive at the Barn Restaurant and cafe. This place, which started as just a small brewery, is on the lane between Wolvey Heath and the Magna Park roundabout on the A5. It is now a very nice venue with lots of parking space.

Meet from 10.30 to leave at 11.00 am prompt.

Wed. September 13th

Club night at Kenilworth. We have a talk by David Bardell on the 'Falklands conflict' meeting starts at 8.00 pm.

Sunday September 17th

An afternoon tea (and cake) run. Through the Warwickshire countryside to a good location. We start from the layby near the Hatton Arms on the A4177 Birmingham Road.

Meet from 2.00pm to leave at 2.30pm.

Thurs. September 21st

Meet for coffee. A new event. Ride in to the Buck and Bell, Long Itchington. A fine old pub near the pond in a very pleasant village. From 10.00am.

Where in warwickshire will you find this gravestone ...and should we visit to pay homage? Bearing in mind the speed average this is probably one of the most remarkable motorcycle feats of the last century.



The inscription reads: IVAN B. HART-DAVIES 1877 - 1917

“Renowned veteran motorcyclist and holder of the final Lands End to John O’Groats record for solo motorcycles. In June 1911, riding his 31/2 hp single speed Triumph, he covered the 886 miles in 29 hrs. 12 mins.

As his average speed exceeded the then maximum of 20 mph further official record attempts were banned by the ACU.”

This question was submitted by Arthur Farrow. Answer next month.

For sale....and wanted

Ariel 350NH Oct 1959

One of the last 4 strokes to come out of the factory. Very few owners, owned 44 years. Original Guarantee in original envelope. All matching engine / frame numbers and all original tin wear including FECC. Used regularly throughout the summers. Easy starter.

New Fork seals, Front brake shoes, primary and rear chains, Craven carrier and Krauser pannier frames, new piston rings in excellent std bore, new valve guides, very easy starter. BTH electronic magneto 12v dynamo, wipers etc

New toy coming so one of the bikes has to go sadly. If your looking for an original well looked after Ariel this is the one.

£4100.ono Tony 01455 457 382 mob: 07504 901 937 mail: nortones41000@gmail.com

Also I am still looking for a 650 Triumph crank if anybody has one.



WANTED -

6 Volt Exide Black vintage battery case or replica please for my Douglas MK 5, or any other spares?

Richard Woodcock
Mob 07880786505

rich.woodcock@gmail.com



Tom has this very nice 1985 Honda XBR 500 **for Sale**. It is his own bike but it is not getting used. Offers around £1800. Contact him for more details.

Tom O'Connor
Movex U.K. , Ireland and Scandinavia
0044 7720678442



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>

Sept. 03	Sun	Genteel Run	Run mainly for smaller, older bikes. <u>starting</u> from The Blue Lias pub car park and <u>finishing</u> at the Barn restaurant, Coal pit Lane CV23 0SL near Willey and the A5. Meet 10.30 for 11.00. (D.K.)
Sept 10	Sun	Atherstone Motor show	Great town centre free event. Lots of cars/ bikes.
Sept 13	Wed.	Club night	T.B.A.
Sept 17	Sun	Afternoon Tea and cake run	Meet at Hatton lay-by. 2.00 for 2.30 (S.D.)
Sept 21	Thurs.	Morning coffee	Ride in to the Buck and Bell, Long Itchington, 10.00am
Oct. 08	Sun	‘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 11.15 (S.D.)
Oct 28/29	s/s	Nat. M/c Museum	Open Day. Free entry + trade stands + celebrity guests.
Nov. 08	Wed.	Club Night	T.B.A.
Nov. 29	Wed.	Xmas lunch	T.B.A.
Dec. 13	~Wed.	Club Night	T.B.A.

*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.*