

the “Best of British” Rally at Cassington held on Saturday 25th May.

“This years “Best of British” theme was Ariel.[writes Andy Bean] The weather looked good for Saturday and this proved to be the case. I met up with my old mate John Cooper at the lay-by on the A423 Oxford Road / Southam by-pass at 09.00. John was on his faithful 1960 Velocette 500 Venom and I on my 1960 BSA Gold Flash. The traffic was light and there were no hold ups in Banbury. We were one of the first to arrive and got a good parking spot, ordered a cuppa and settled down to watch the bikes arrive. It was not long before a chap turned up with a beautiful 500 Ariel Red Hunter and four immaculate off road Ariel singles. As the day went on various Norton’s, Triumphs, BSA’s and Royal Enfields came and went but no Arrows or Leaders. Not even a square four! When you think the Golden Arrow was voted Bike of the Year back in the late 50’s early 60’s by readers of Motorcycle News one would have thought one or two would have made an appearance. Not even an Ariel 3 – but there again I can understand that! We had a wonderful day with good food and drink and plenty of interesting bikes to admire”



Scarborough Rally

We, Malcolm and Janet Smith, have just returned from attending the VMCC Scarborough Rally held at the Arosa Camp site, Seamer. After seeing Tony Cowley's advert in the magazine, I telephoned Sharon and booked ourselves in one of their six berth caravans and spent a week up in windy Scarborough.

There were about 60 bikes taking part and we met up with friends from Cornwall, Worcester and Taverners. We also made friends from Somerset, Scotland and Yorkshire.

Instead of having set runs for each day we were given eight runs in a pack which ensured that each venue was not oversubscribed. We could select the ones that suited us. Runs were:

The Wolds run. 99miles to Seaways Cafe

The Forest Run. 48 miles to Dalby Forest

The Ultimate Hill Climb. 101 miles. Feversham Arms lunch

East Coast Run 66 miles. Ravenscar cafe.

Whitby Run 84 miles. Whistle Stop cafe.

Thornton le dale and Forest Run. 85 miles.

Helmsley Run. 96 miles.

Elvington Air Museum. 98 miles

The Lighthouse Run 66 miles. Flamborough Head cafe.

There was a good mixture of bikes ranging from Vincent Comets to 250 two strokes, several Norton Commando's, Moto Guzzis, '60s Triumphs and a model H. I took the ES2 but used the Nighthawk as the ES2 trip meter wouldn't reset.

It's a pity it wasn't held the following week with Sunshine and better temperatures.



Final? Update On Barry's Tiger 90.

After carefully examining all the components of the gear change and judicious fettling the reluctance of the selector move smoothly still existed when the two castings were tightened together.

So some lateral thinking was called for. I inserted a thin washer on each of the 3 studs. When tightened down the selector moved as it should. The assembly, when fitted loosely to the gearbox, selected the gears perfectly but did stiffen when fully tightened but not enough to warrant further work. I figured that it would loosen up with use. After a trial run round the block, and subsequent 25 mile ride this proved to be more or less the case. As a back up Martin Ellis sold me a complete fully working assembly.

How about this as a spiritual location to watch the sunset on the Solstice?
My 'Rickman Special' surveys the Warwickshire countryside from the wonderful vantage point afforded by the Dassett Hills.

The build is a Triumph all-alloy pre-unit engine, driving through a BSA gearbox housed in the same manufacturer's A7 frame. A Hornet fuel tank contains the petrol, a central alloy tank for the oil and a Spitfire Scrambler seat for the pilot. Norton Road Holder forks and hubs and a few other special bits complete the recipe. Voilà!. A true Metisse?

Clive Rickman



What we have done recently

May 26 Sunday: Breakfast ride to Malt Kiln Farm. This was missed off the last news letter due to 'a technical issue'. (honest!). Around 15 members arrived on a damp morning. We sat under the canopy and enjoyed food and drinks from the cafe.



June 2 Sunday: Kenilworth Run. Report and pics. in last months news letter.

June 12 Wed: Club night at K.R.C. Fish and Chips + bike night.

Over 20 bikes attended on a warm sunny evening. The food was good. Some of the bikes even better. Judith, once again, arranged the fish and chips (and the mushy peas).



June 16 Sunday Banbury Run, British Motor Museum, Gaydon.

We had a number of our members in this years run. The ones I have spoken to said it was as enjoyable as ever. The weather stayed fine and the crowd enjoyed the sight of so many old and increasingly rare bikes being put to use and not just as museum exhibits.

Simon reports on how the run went for a group of our members:

I'd like to have reported that we sailed merrily round. Didn't get lost. All got gold awards. No breakdowns or problems. However...

this is nothing like the reality unfortunately. A bolt from the gear linkage fell out of the AJS before we even got to Gaydon. A replacement was sourced from the auto jumble. We intended to ride together. David Payne on his Triumph, David Kendall on his Ricardo, David Barnes on my AJS and me on a Rudge. But the powers that be scuppered those plans. So me having the sole route roller I skipped the start line, waiting ahead. They passed and I set off in pursuit. But I got caught in traffic in Wellesbourne. And so took a few miles to catch David K. When I did I asked about David B. He said, "oh he's ahead, going like Stanley Woods". Things settled into a rhythm of following the route sheet.

We climbed Sunrising Hill and onwards in pursuit of David B. On the A361 I hit a sunken manhole. The girders bottomed out with a clang. I stopped a little further on to turn right. A following motorist stopped alongside and said "something has fallen off your machine. I looked down to see the battery case was resting between my boot and the gearbox!! I put the detached parts into my pannier and walked back to find a few pieces of smashed battery cover. I checked my mobile and noticed missed calls from David B. He answered "The AJS has ground to a halt". Turns out he was behind us. After a tiny hitch with the Ricardo we abandoned the route to rescue David B. We found him enjoying a flask of tea and catching some rays. Then I noticed the AJS pannier missing. In it was oil, fuel and spanners. David K said he saw someone stop near it.

We got the AJS going and headed for lunch at the Merrie Lion at Fenny Compton and then back to the Motor museum. It was an enjoyable day despite the problems. But with a debut rider and two debut machine's with few miles since recommissioning, to expect a faultless performance was ambitious. Many thanks to the organisers and next year things may go better for us.



June 24 Monday. Cassington Bike Night

Although this not a VMCC event a fair number of our members make an annual ride to this charming Oxfordshire village along with literally several thousand other bikers. The event is lightly marshalled by the local volunteer organisers to ensure safety and to direct bikes to suggested parking areas. The village green is generally populated by classic bikes of all shapes and sizes from a Raleigh Wisp to big Harleys.

As I did not take many photos this year I have 'borrowed' a couple from Facebook, the rest I took myself.



Pailton Steam Event Sunday June 30

The third of these annual events promised to be the best yet. Although the weather was a little unsettled we had a good turnout with a variety of machines from girder forked 'Banbury' bikes to a Japanese sports bike. The steam boat rides proved popular as did rides on the 4 trains, two of which were steam powered. I believe that a decent amount of money was collected for the Air Ambulance. Barry led in several Triumph Owners Club members through a 'road closed' section, which didn't stop 'trusty' Triumphs.

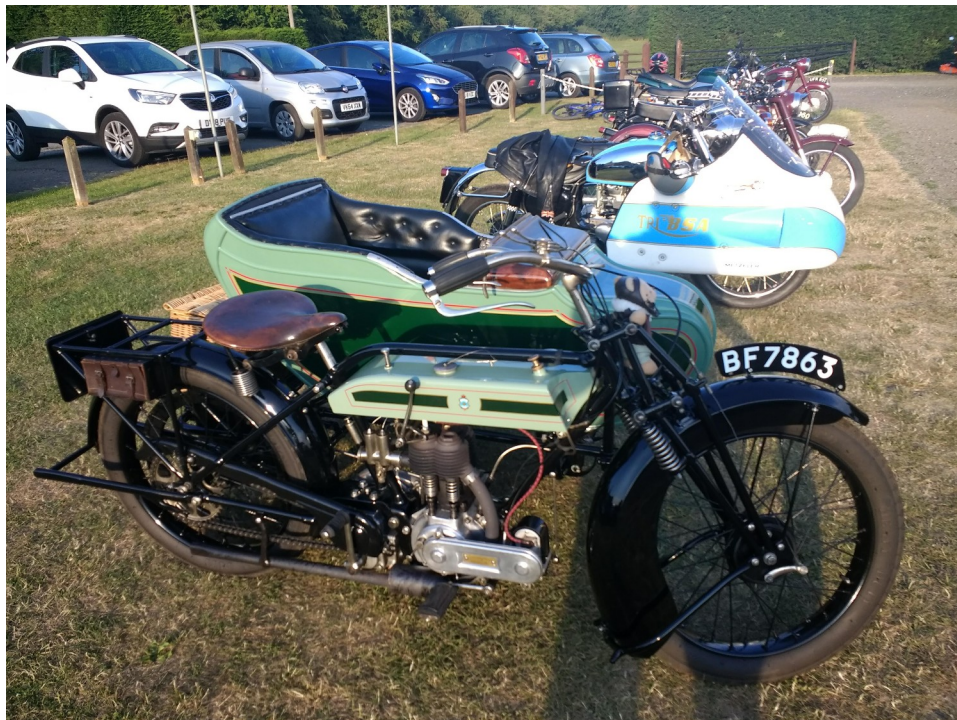


Events that are on the horizon

July 3 Chairman's Social @ the Blue Lias. Between Long Itchington and Stockton.

Our annual outing to the rural, canal side setting of this lovely pub. We generally get around 30 bikes lined up on the grass in the pub grounds. We also lay on a good buffet at a reasonable cost. Please support this popular and long standing event. Arrival from 18.00 pm, buffet to be served from app.1900-19.30pm, cost is £5.00 each payable on the evening to Dave Kendall.

The Blue Lias Inn is situated on the Stockton Road, Stockton, CV47 8LD in a beautiful setting with ample parking and right alongside the Grand Union Canal.



July 10 Wed. Club Night: Bring a bike night at Kenilworth Rugby Club.

We hold these evenings in the Summer so that members can ride there and back in daylight! Always popular so please support your club and 'Bring a bike'. From around 7.00pm.

July 21 Sunday. Founders Day @ Stanford Hall.

This has to be one of our favourite events. A VMCC event organised annually by the Taverner's Section from Leicester.

It is held in the grounds of Stanford Hall-*Stanford Rd, Lutterworth LE17 6DH*

This is a great event. Lots of bike clubs have stands there, there is an events ring for parading bikes and other events. The auto jumble is huge and well worth an hour.

Our section will have our gazebo with seating and – if you bring yours – a good range of bikes owned by section members. Please ask us if you need more information.



THE TAVERNERS



PRESENT

FOUNDERS DAY

SUNDAY 21st July 2024

www.thetaverners.co.uk

THIS YEAR'S THEME **50 years of the RD200 and Japanese two strokes**



For autojumble stalls please download the form from our website in late February

MASSIVE MOTORCYCLE AUTOJUMBLE

STANFORD HALL

NEAR LUTTERWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE LE17 6DH

Arena Events • Motorcycle Displays • Beer Tent

ADMISSION: 9.00am • Children U16 Free

August 11 Sunday. Coventry Parade @ Coombe Abbey.

This will be the 69th annual running of this event. Entry forms plus regulations are on our website and may be available from committee members. PLEASE GET YOUR ENTRY IN IN PLENTY OF TIME TO HELP WITH PLANNING THE EVENT AND ORGANISING THE PRINTED SOUVENIR EVENT PROGRAMME.



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

For Sale

Triumph Bonneville S.E.

£3500 or nearest.

I am selling my 'Bonnie' as I have bought a new Triumph Speed 400 and do not have room for both. Tel./text 07786718867. Barry.

2011 reg. 32K miles. New M.O.T. Numerous extras fitted. Owned 6 yrs.

Kept in dry workshop. Reliable – toured Yorkshire last year. 800 miles across Wales and England this year. No problems. Fair condition, a couple of small dents in the fuel tank.



VMCC Warwickshire Section Events diary 2024

(see notes at the bottom)

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. <i>Put this event in your diary and book your place soon!</i>
	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
	15	Sun.	Hinckley Motor show in the town centre. An excellent event for all forms of transport including bikes. The area is always full of interesting vehicles. Well worth a visit.
	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. Free parking for bikes.
	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.*