



news letter No.24

July, 2021

## VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

The longest day is past! The nights are drawing in! Lets make the most of the long, warm, days and get out there. I am surprised by the number of members who have not been out on their bikes this year or longer. You can get out of the habit but please try. We have events coming up to showcase your prized machines:

July 11 we continue our series of Sunday morning 'pop ups' with a meet at the ever popular Long Itch Diner. Its on the Oxford Road (A423) just south of Long Itchington. We arrive from about 9.30 am. The cafe will be open serving drinks and a breakfast menu.

July 14 Wednesday evening. Our annual Chairman's Social. The venue is Blue Lias pub. A great canal side location Not far from Long Itchington and near Stockton. Very popular. Last time, in 2019 over 30 bikes were lined up on the grass. A buffet of chips, sandwiches etc will be available at £5 a head. Always a good selection to accompany 'a shandy'.

July 18 Sunday. Founders Day. An annual event held at Stanford Hall LE17 6DH near the junction of the M6 and M1.

It is, for many classic bike owners, one of the very best events of the year. If you have never been then it is well worth a visit. Dozens of clubs displaying members bikes. An arena with displays, parades and silly games all day. The auto jumble is huge! Plus the usual sellers of food and drinks. (note that this year, because of restrictions, there will **not** be a beer tent),. We will have our gazebo set up and room for many bikes so please bring one (or two).

July 24/25 Coventry Motofest Bike weekend. We plan on having an area for our club gazebo and space for as many bikes as we can get! Details are still not be released by the organisers so please watch out for details. We need bikes on show for one day or both if you can. Please support our section.

## Chairman's Chat

### Clearing out the clutter..

Over the last few months, life has been a busy time with helping Jacqueline with a house move. In the process, there have been many trips to local charity shops (I should get a loyalty card) along with exciting and numerous journeys to our local recycling centre..pre booked of course! All that remains now is a collection of unclaimed and unclassified curios still languishing in the back of the estate car or cluttering up my own clutter in the back of my garage.

Items of note include..

- . A collection of newspaper clippings and photos of Freddie Mercury
- . A 1987 Beezer annual
- . A Revitive foot massager minus the charger

Looking on the bright side, I can now look forward to enjoying more VMCC activities. One important event is, of course, Founders Day at Stanford Hall - the Taverner's Section who run Founders Day have already allocated the Warwickshire section stand space for this year's event on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Please come and display a bike on the Warwickshire stand if you want to, or just say hello. It will be lovely to see familiar faces again. Due to Covid restrictions, there will be no Beer Tent this year, and also some catering outlets may be affected. My advice is to bring your own packed lunch and drinks - my particular favourite being Cheese and Tomato sandwiches!

This year, we hope to have a raffle to help raise Section funds, and we hope to have a selection of interesting prizes..including

- . A collection of newspaper clippings and photos of Freddie Mercury
- . A 1987 Beezer annual
- . And a Revitive foot massager minus the charger.....!

Stay Safe..      David Kendall

### Andy Bean tells of a recent ride...with a problem

Approximately a month ago I decided to go for a ride to see an old friend who I used to work with at Warwickshire County Council and who now lives in Bodicote, Banbury. I decided to take my trusty 1967 BSA WD B40 which I have owned for 2/3 years and is ideal for A & B roads. I set off, leaving my home in Napton on the Hill and took the A425 to Southam where I joined the A423 Coventry to Banbury road. As a result of the present Covid restrictions we sat in his rear garden drinking tea and enjoying the odd cake or two. Before I left we had a quick look at David's two Moto

Guzzi's – a touring California and a 1960's Police version of the Falcone. At the end of the afternoon we said our farewells and I got on my way home, down through Banbury, past the Cross and out along the Southam Road past the site of what had been Eddie Dow's Shop on Southam Road. For those not in the know Eddie Dow's was the place to go for Gold Star parts in the late 50's and early 60's. My ride home took me back along the A423 to Fenny Compton Wharf where I turned right and headed for Wormleighton. Past Wormleighton I turned left towards Priors Hardwick where HS2 is to pass through. Now the road to Priors Hardwick is rather bumpy and rough and seems to get worse between Hardwick and what is known locally as Doles Hill. Halfway along this stretch of road the bike just died and stopped. I checked for fuel and electrics but had no luck in re-starting. There seemed to be no spark so what does one do? I had my mobile but as I live alone there was little point in ringing home. Also I had no tools. So as I was on the level and not far from the top of Doles Hill decided to push and see if the bike would re-start down the hill, if not I could free wheel down and then walk back home as I was only approx.. 2 miles from base.

The bike would not start! so I managed to free wheel as far as what is known locally as "Tin City" a group of old agricultural barns constructed of old galvanised and rusty tin! I pulled into a gateway and decided to have one more look at the engine as it has always been very reliable and most unusual for it to break down. Checking the plug cap I noticed that the lead was free of the coil. Problem solved. One kick and we were off. The HT lead must have broken loose while coming along the rough stretch of road between Priors Hardwick and the top of Doles Hill.

Recently we held our annual 'Kenilworth Run'. Here is run leader, Judith's report:

### **THE KENILWORTH RUN – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Seven motorcycles set off from the Hatton Lay-by on the 2021 Kenilworth Run, the first Warwickshire section run of the year. The bikes were a 1938 Brough Superior SS80, three BSA's (1948 B31, 1955 A10 and 1957 C12), a 1948 Norton ES2, a 1955 AJS and 1961 Matchless.

We rode through the country lanes to Kenilworth, past the castle then out to Burton Green, Balsall Common and across towards Lapworth, Rowington, Lowsonford and Wootton Wawen before ending at the Tipperary Inn, a route of just under 50 miles. Five bikes managed to finish the route and we all stayed to have some refreshments at the Tipperary. The Sunday roast was excellent!

On Tuesday 29 July We held another run this time led by Simon. This is my report of the 'Pre-Banbury Run. So called because it was intended to be run on the day prior to **the** Banbury Run. An annual event for pre 1930 machines.

7 of us assembled in the driveway to the Gaydon 'British Motor Museum. We rode 'modern machines' 2 Bsa's, 2 Royal Enfields, one of which was a Constellation combination, 1 AJS, 1 Ariel, and my Triumph, all from the 50's and 60's. We followed



Simon along Typical Warwickshire lanes of varying widths and surfaces for around 20 miles until we reached ' The Norman Knight' public house in Whichford.

Unfortunately we were too early and it was closed. We decided to wait until it opened. As it was near lunchtime by then we decided to have lunch. And very nice it was. We were then joined by fellow member Clive Rickman, who lives nearby and was test riding a Royal Enfield. We then continued our run back to Gaydon after agreeing to do this run again, but starting out slightly later in the day!



**Wanted!**

New member, Paul Bowen is looking for a Triumph 3HW or similar. Can you help him locate one?



# VMCC WARWICKSHIRE SECTION 2021 COVENTRY PARADE SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

**Start at Coventry War Memorial Park and  
"Ride your Iron Horse to Banbury Cross".**

**The section's premier event is back and it is all  
about the ride!**

**Easy open road route with a strong emphasis  
on getting into top gear and enjoying riding  
your machine.**

**Finish at the Long Itch Diner  
for food and drinks!**



**FIRST PROPER RIDE AFTER  
COVID**



Another new member Terry Hayton sent in these images of one of his bikes.  
ex Metropolitan Police bike with matching numbers.



*Thank you for the photos. What is the 4th photo of. Surely not the same bike?*

Yes Barry that's the same bike. I rode it last year and then on a whim decided on a few changes.

So did top end rebuild new pistons, rebore and new valves and seats.

Then had tank powder coated white and side panels painted.

Took me awhile to get hold of crash bars and single seat and rear rack but all needed re chroming.

Got there eventually and it's on the road, just need time off to get out.

Amazingly no oil leaks yet.

Secretaries Shorts

I get asked how my 'work in progress' projects are progressing:

**Triumph T90.** Running well. Since my Wales trip I have not had to do anything other than change the stop/tail bulb. I bought fork seals and gaiters from the Stafford Show. These will be fitted quite soon.

**Bridgestone 100 TMX** has once again been consigned to the shed in disgrace. I changed over to the other rear chain sprocket. It is fitted with 2, one is for off roading. I wanted a quicker getaway. A longer chain was fitted. With the rear wheel raised I ran through all 4 gears without a problem. I ride 100 yards up the road and the transmission jams for no apparent reason! I will try to get it to Stanford Hall.

**Triumph Tina** is sort of progressing. I am having new wiring fitted and like to have a brake light and indicators, neither of which Triumph bothered to fit! The direct magneto would not power these very well so a 6v battery has been fitted by me this afternoon. On the downside the cylinder was down on compression. I happened to have a spare oversized barrel and piston. Easy fit! But whilst gently holding the piston and sliding in the gudgeon (wrist) pin a piston ring fell in half! I was not amused!! Now trying to source one.

The spare ticket I had for the Stafford Bike Show was, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, bought by a section member and took advantage of a lift there and back with 5 other enthusiasts.

The show itself was a bit of a disappointment as a lot of the traders and bike clubs decided to stay away. The good point was the hall was not crowded as entry was carefully monitored. The outside stalls seemed to be unaffected.

**SEE YOU ALL AT THE UPCOMING EVENTS**