

VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 49

Late Winter 2024

It has been a year now since we had a bit of a reshuffle of the section's committee members 'jobs'. The transition seems to have gone smoothly and should continue to give good service to the members. We do things on your behalf so if you have any ideas or suggestions which you think will benefit the section then please don't hesitate to contact any of us. Details are on the website under "contact the committee" or speak to one of us at one of our events.

Chairman's chat:

The Last resting place of Coventry's transport pioneer's...and more!

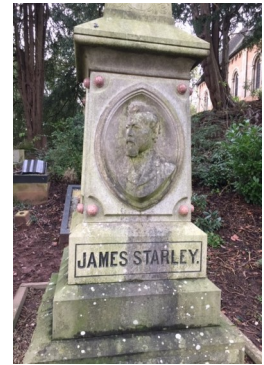
After the Xmas festivities I found myself enjoying some exercise and fresh air at the London Road cemetery in Coventry. My eldest child works for Historic England so a walk around any historic site is like a bus man's holiday. And it really is quite a pleasant place for a stroll, not just grave stones and monuments, but also some rare and very ancient specimens of trees...most with horticultural information. The site has received some Heritage funding of late, with useful and informative plaques dotted around the grounds I came across some war graves of pilots of the Royal Flying Core and the Royal Australian Flying Core killed in action in France in the first world War. The graves and monuments of Coventry's forefathers include George Singer involved in early Bicycle and Motorcycle production, who's name was given to various motor cars during the post war years. Walter Brandish runner up in the 1922 500cc TT aboard a Triumph.



James Starley described as the father of the British bicycle, and inventor of the differential gear....amongst other things.



John Kemp Starley (nephew) developed a safer bicycle than that of the high mounted 'penny farthing' type, with 16" wheels and a diamond frame....Still a recognisable design and became known as the Rover safety bicycle.



Other memorials that caught my eye was for an unfortunate man who was trampled by an Elephant, and another for a woman who managed to get mauled by a Tiger....and not one built at Meriden.

Coventry must have been a very dangerous place back then without Hi vis's and risk assessment. Luckily all you will need for a visit these days are good walking shoes and a flask of coffee. **David Kendall**

Bargain carb.?.....*Tony Harris explains*

But the end of last Autumn I needed a carburettor for my rigid T80/T100 project. The carb I had on was a very worn Monoblock. These are now about £300 new. The alternative was a new Concentric but these are over £200 now. You can also get Wassell ones which are a bit cheaper.

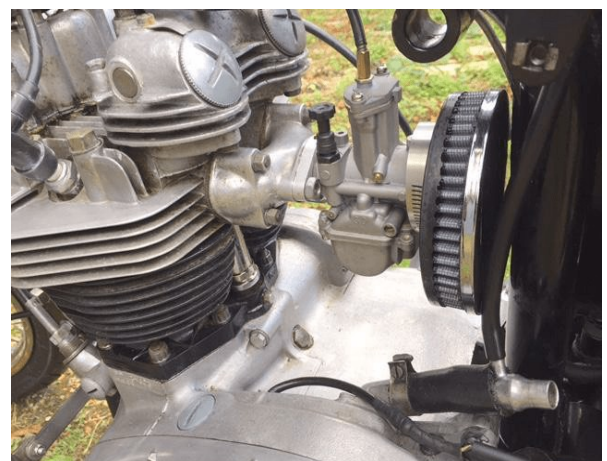
Trawling Ebay I have seen copies of the Keihin power jet flat sided carburettor. I suspect these are made in the east but they can be picked up new between £18 and £30. Yes you have read correctly.

I contacted one of the advertisers and asked about jetting for a Triumph 500 twin and he replied back not just with settings but a link to lots of bikes and their settings. He says these have been used on these bikes and pictures were enclosed. They are quite a bit smaller than the Monoblock.

For that price I thought give it a go. I wanted a 1" (26mm) for the Triumph and he sent just that with quite a few main and pilot jets just in case I needed to tweak the settings. Check this set up link out. <https://www.jrcengineering.com/technical-support/jrc-pwk-carb-instructions/>

It came quite quickly and I could not believe what good quality these are. Really nicely made. I have fitted the carb and ordered a 30mm one for my 650 Triumph special. See them under Keihin PWK. I will report back when the weather gets warmer (about April/May) and let you know how I get on. At that price it's worth a try.

Tony.



A tale from an ex-dispatch rider

Before I retired I cycled to work most of the time (*writes Neil Ives*). The ride to my last place was a ten miler. I thought cycling was keeping me fit and I'm sure it did my cardiovascular system a lot of good but now I'm suffering from arthritis in my knees and ankles!

Mind you, it's possible that my time as a motor-cycle dispatch rider when I was younger may have something to do with those joints suffering now. I was employed during a winter period to ride a Honda 500 Four, (supplied by the employer) between Norfolk and various offices around London to collect newspaper and magazine 'copy' which was to be printed at my employers press. I was sometimes doing over a thousand miles a week. After sitting on that motorbike in freezing conditions, (rain, hail, snow & sleet) for say three hours I sometimes could hardly get off the thing!

I have a memory from that job of a time late one Friday evening: Friday was a particularly busy day with something like 20 pickups around London. I had stopped at the last street lights on the north of London to adjust my clothing, clean my helmet visor and make sure the bikes luggage boxes were properly locked.

Writing that reminds me of the incident when they were not properly locked!. In the winter the air in a big city is noticeably warmer than the countryside: looking behind me I could see the comforting yellow tunnel of light leading back into the warm city; ahead was freezing darkness! The roads were deserted, a cold northerly wind was blowing sleet at me and I was tired. I had a lonely two hour ride ahead of me. I felt so sorry for myself I had to hold back tears and really force myself to go on.

“Boxing Day Trial”

Most years I (*Andy Bean*) and friends try to attend the Boxing Day trial held usually at Ufton near Southam, however this year it was held at the Leamington Victory Club's land off the B4100 near Oakley Wood just south of Bishops Tachbrook, Leamington Spa. The club used to own a building in Bishops Tachbrook which they used as a club house, this was sold a number of years ago and they subsequently purchased a field off the B4100 just south of Oakley Wood to use as a venue for grass track meetings and the occasional trials practise day.

The weather was sunny and not raining for a change. Richard picked me up at about 09.30 for a 10.00 start. When we got there riders were unloading their bikes and starting them up – or trying to start them. Most bikes were modern and all were solos, no chairs! We only spotted two classics, a Francis Barnett and a Royal Enfield. In the past there had been numerous Tiger Cubs, BSA C15's, Greeves and the like but this

year only the Fanny B and Enfield. Possibly the riders did not want to get their classics dirty!!!”

There was quite a mixture of riders from young to old with a sprinkling of young ladies and teenage girls all having a go. After chatting with one or two of the riders and inspecting the sections we made our way back to the car and warm, by this time our feet were getting rather cold. Regards Andy.



Rigid and girder diaries

Peter Brown tells - with the computer keyboard assistance of Elliot Bromley - of his (and the 'Bromleys') day out on the Autumn Run, 2023.

Well it's Sunday morning, sun's shining, dog walked, breakfast eaten, and it's the Warwickshire section Autumn Run. When I saw this event at the start of the year, it was very much penciled in on my calendar... TBC, weather dependent.

Off down the workshop (garage) and get my 1937 Ariel Red Hunter out. Check tyres and oil levels etc. Today is going to be its second run since a total winter rebuild. Get my gear on, push her out onto the road, turn fuel on, give her a good tickle (the bike), and a good swinging kick, and she fires up first time, down to a nice steady tick over. Got to be a good omen for today's ride. Off down to Spon End to meet up with Ken and his lads: Ken will be on his 1928 BSA 500 Sloper (for a change), Elliot on his 1932 BSA Blue star, and Jordan on his 1930 BSA 500 Sloper. Arrive at the shop, everyone's ready to go. We set out onto the ring road with Ken in the lead (as usual) and onto the Banbury Road. These girder fork bikes do sound and look the part, but also hop along at a good pace too! We soon arrive at the Long Itch diner which is the start point for the club run.



Nice to see a good selection of bikes, alongside our own vintage bikes, fascinating the local power rangers on their modern sports/tourers. However, a cautionary note – many of these newer machines have telescopic front forks, and what I believe is called plunger (?) or swinging arm (!) rear suspension. Be warned – these are only passing crazes (like coil ignition, and even electric start – god forbid!). The only way forward is backwards (rigid and girder) - so if you own one, start using it, and if you don't then get one and see what you've been missing out on!

After a short natter and a quick brew, everyone is ready to take off, us on the older bikes bringing up the rear. A route had been drafted taking us roughly 40 miles along Warwickshire's finest roads, which in the perfect riding weather, was absolutely fantastic. Most were utilising the drop off system, we 4 didn't but managed to stick together as a group, creating a great sight, sound, and smell for all to enjoy. Time flew by, and we soon arrived at The Fox and Hen in Bascott and into a nice large car park and seating area. We parked the bikes up and met some more members who had made their own way there. It was difficult to believe it was Autumn – aside from the chat of heating allowances and plans for Christmas, you'd never have guessed! After a couple of hours sitting outside and having a good chat in perfect weather it was time to head back to Coventry.

Instead of returning along the Banbury Road, we went along the lanes, over Hunningham Hill across the Fosse, down to Baginton Village, onto the Leamington

Road, and back into Spon End. All our bikes ran well – a perfect day out with the Warwickshire Section.



For sale and wanted

Erde PM310 single motorcycle trailer

- in excellent condition, Made in France. Dry stored.
- heavy duty ramp
- excellent tyres
- benefits from two new wheel bearings

The trailer has additional items:

- spare wheel
- jockey wheel
- rear stand
- removable seven pin double ended socket
- LED side marker lights for ease of towing
- LED rear lighting
- Spring loaded number plate clips

Its compact size makes it easy to store on end when not in use.

£425

Sarah 07889 108947

Sunbeam model 9

first registered in 1932.
500cc single twin port.
3 speed Sturmey Archer hand change.
excellent condition.
Kept in brick garage/workshop.
owned for several years.
starts fairly easily and runs ok.
Comes with a pair of crank cases
and a pair of bar end levers. £9,795 o.n.o.



Honda VTX

1800 cc
registered 2007
low mileage
recent m.o.t.
Runs very well.
Vance and Hines pipes
Held saddlebags £6,995 o.n.o.
For more information on both bikes
please contact John Pearson on
07946 731702
or email jdpearson75@gmail.com



Your advertisement could be here!

At no cost you could advertise to sell, give away or try to locate an item you have been searching for. Potentially over 200 like minded members will see your advert. Just contact Barry with the details. Always room for more adverts. Email b4heath@yahoo.co.uk

Smith's Law of Autojumbles

Section A: Punters

1. A desired item purchased at one stall will be found cheaper at the next but one stall.
2. A desired item not purchased initially will not be found elsewhere and on return will have been sold.
3. Items purchased on the stall holder's verification will later prove to be the wrong size, model or year.
4. The slicker the stall display, the higher the prices.
5. Useful objects are usually found at the bottom of old cardboard boxes.
6. Most worthwhile items will have been traded among stall holders themselves, before opening time.
7. Items purchased will represent 17% of any original shopping list and exceed budget by 222%.
8. Change for a ten pound note for items costing less than 25p will be given in 5 and 10p coins.
9. Stalls are always unattended or minded by a wife when a vital purchase is at hand who says "No, I do not know the price – he went viewing an hour ago".
10. Objects transported home for friends will be filthy, rusty, or leak oil.

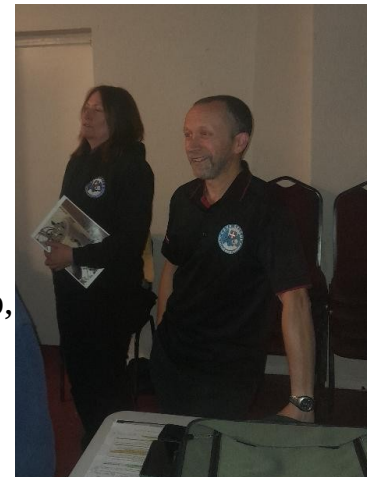
Section B: Stall Holders

1. Objects displayed will always be cheaper on adjacent stalls.
2. Objects repeatedly requested at one event will, if stocked, be ignored at the next.
3. Objects sold early will reappear on other stalls at a higher price.
4. Objects scrutinised by punters will display defects hitherto unknown by the stallholder.
5. The cash value realised for any surplus objects will never exceed their original purchase price.
6. Punters show little interest in items neatly displayed, but pay well for junk in old cardboard boxes.
7. No four consecutive punters will have less than a £10 note for 25p items.
8. The potentially lucrative customer will call briefly, when you have nipped off.
9. Helpers disappear twenty minutes after the stall is open and re-appear at lunch time and after pack-up.
10. Stock will be items that are rusty, dirty and will leak oil on the return journey.
11. Books and magazines will be treated as a free read on the stall, in a lending library manner, by non-purchasers, clients, friends and visitors.

What we have done since the last news letter

Club night in November at K.R.C. - Cave rescue.

We were treated to a very interesting talk by 2 leading members of the British Cave Rescue group who playing an important part in rescuing a youth football squad from a deep, water filled cave in Tham Luang, Vietnam.



Warwickshire Section Christmas lunch at Leamington Golf Club

For the second time over 30 members and guests enjoyed a lovely festive meal in great surroundings. Following the meal an award was given to Alan Bayley for his long service and dedication in various roles within the committee. The raffle was won by ex- chairman Harry Wiles. Here are a selection of the photos from the event:



Club Night, December at K.R.C.- Quiz Night.

Geoff Booth both set and asked the questions to an excellent quiz. It was treated by the members in a slightly light hearted way but with a serious will to do well.

It was well received and was a good way to finish the years activities.

We thought Geoff did a fine job and thanked him for his efforts.

Club night January 2024 at K.R.C.- Warwickshire Section A.G.M.

Plus a briefing by VMCC director and President elect, Neil Lewis

Over 30 members attended a fairly brief A.G.M. all of the current committee were re elected unanimously, as was the income and expenditure summary.

Annual awards were then presented by Neil:

- The Ladies award went to Sarah Brooke-Taylor who has attended many events, on her 1942 Matchless, and club nights when work allows. This evening she was working.
- The Chairman's award went to Simon Dudfield who has completed a year as the section secretary.
- The award for the best bike, as chosen by the Chairman, went to Peter Brown for his 1937 Ariel Red Hunter.
- The Clubman of the year award as voted for by the members was awarded to Barry Heath who would like to thank all those who voted for him.
- Elliot Bromley (who was not present) won the award for the rider of a girder forked bike who attended the most events on it.
- The award for the Rider of the Year, for the most attendances at events, went to Brian Clark. He has only been a member for a year or two. Well done!



Upcoming events run by us or just of interest.

Club night Wednesday 14th February. Talk by Frank Melling.

Please note that K.R.C. will NOT now accept cash over the bar.

If you do not use a card then please ask us for assistance

An Evening With Frank Melling

55 Years as a Motojournalist

"Give us a go. I can ride that – I can really, go on, give us a go..."

VMCC Warwickshire Section - Wednesday 14 February – 7.30pm

This is not a talk about the importance of inlet valve angles on the 1938 Spragforth Flyer but a hilarious trip through a manic lifetime of working and playing with motorcycles.

Frank was BSA's last works rider and was there the day the BSA factory closed.

He later went on to ride many factory machines and raced all over Europe, and America, with distinction.

His work has appeared in magazines, and films, throughout the world.

And, best of all, he is just as enthusiastic as when he rode a 0.6hp 32cc Cyclemaster, aged ten - and has been in love with motorcycles ever since.

You can meet Frank at:

VMCC Warwickshire Section

Wednesday 14 February – 7.30pm

Kenilworth Rugby Club, Glasshouse Lane, Kenilworth,

CV8 2AJ

Free Admission but buy plenty of raffle tickets!



Club night at K.R.C. March 13 - bring and buy auction sale.

The last one we held raised a record amount for the section so can we do it again?
Get sorting and bring along decent items to sell plus your wallet!

A reminder that our expanding "Pailton Steam Event" is now being held on Sunday 30 June. A family picnic by the lake.

Jun 7th	Spring Run (DB)
Weds 10th	Club night – Guest speaker David Bardell on The Falklands Conflict
Sun 28th	VMCC Relay Rally – Warwickshire Section checkpoint at the Long Itch Diner
	MAY
Weds 8th	Club night – Guest speaker Patrick Fitzgerald – “ In praise of the turbo prop”.
Sun 19th	Norton Owners Club meet at Welford, Northants (Non Section meeting)
Sun 26th	Breakfast Ride in to the Malt Kiln Farm (BH)
	JUNE
Sun 2nd	The Kenilworth Run (MG)
Weds 12th	Club night – On Yer Bike night Fish & Chip supper
Sun 16th	VMCC The Banbury Run
Mon 24th	Cassington Bike Night (Non Section meeting)
Sun 30th	Steam Event at Pailton
	JULY
Weds 3rd	Chairman’s Social Meet at The Blue Lias Inn
Weds 10th	Club night – Bring a bike
Sun 21st	Founders Day, Stanford Hall
	AUGUST

Sun 11th	Coventry Parade (Provisional date – TBC)
Weds 14th	Club night – Bring a bike
TBC	The Bill Lacey Run
	SEPTEMBER
Sun 8th	Genteel Run (DK)
Weds 11th	Club night – Guest speaker Mike Wills presenting End to End
Sun 29th	Afternoon Tea & Cake Run (SD)
	OCTOBER
Weds 9th	Club night – Bring & buy
Sun 13th	Autumn Leaves Run (SD)
Sun 27th	Ride in to the Antelope Inn, Lighthorne
	NOVEMBER
Weds 13th	Club night – Guest speaker Steve Allen
Weds 27th	Christmas Lunch (Provisional date – TBC)
	DECEMBER
Weds 11th	Club night & Christmas Quiz

The next edition of the news letter will be Number 50! please help make it a bumper edition by sending in a contribution preferably by email, but by any means you can.