

Mag — Netto
Newsletter of the
Mid Sussex British Motorcycle Club

December 2013

Issue 182



**Ooops!! Glad to say Keith
escaped minor injuries**



Happy Christmas and a
Very Happy New Year to All

Safe Biking for 2014

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Hi everyone, I am sorry that this edition of the Magneto is late but I have been rather busy, not least of all celebrating my 40th Wedding anniversary at the end of September. At the beginning of the year I offered Lynne the choice of an exotic holiday for two, somewhere warm and sunny or a family holiday in England. She chose the family holiday and despite me paying for it all, she still made me go as well! That meant the whole weekend with our three girls, their other half's, one beautiful granddaughter and their two dogs! The weather wasn't perfect and the weekend was somewhat chaotic but we enjoyed it none the less. I don't know what we did for entertainment before our granddaughter arrived for she keeps us laughing all the time.

Since I last updated 'Chairman's Chat', Lynne and I have spent a week out in France with ex-chairman Graham York and his wife Wendy. Some months ago they bought a large property near La Rochelle, which they have recently started substantial renovation work on. Graham wanted me to get his 6 bikes, which he had in storage at the new house, running and roadworthy. An offer I could not refuse.

Before we left I had to do some work on Graham's 1965 Split screen VW Camper to get it ready for the long journey to La Rochelle. Graham had owned it for many years but it hasn't done many miles during that time, so its reliability was going to be thoroughly tested. Graham and Wendy were also going to be driving their left hand drive Mini Cooper down to the new house. Again the reliability of the vehicle was unknown as they had only recently acquired it. Lynne and I were going to follow behind them in our VW camper to make sure that they got there!

The journey to La Rochelle was going to be a long one, 490 miles from Calais to be precise, so Graham and Wendy had opted for some company on route, namely Wendy's brother and daughter. We had ourselves a convoy! The camper in the front with the two gents, the mini in the middle with the ladies taking turns to drive and Lynne and I at the rear.

The journey took two days, which was fine as I love driving in France. The roads were superb and we barely touched a motorway. On the second day, Graham and his camper swapped places with Lynne & I because his sat nav would no longer work and Lynne was the only one with a map! So we led Graham and Wendy to their own house! Amazingly, the only problem we had with either of Graham's vehicles was that every time we stopped the camper we had to jumpstart it! Clearly the battery I had thought was only flat through lack of use was actually useless!

We spent a lovely few days with them, me fixing the bikes and the rest doing jobs around their large garden. Every day we all enjoyed our meals together in the garden. It was wonderful and relaxing. Graham has some lovely bikes including a Black Prince with original trailer. I got it running and then suggested he took it for a spin, which he declined as he had never ridden it before, so he rode pillion behind me! Lynne and I took it out for an hour or so one evening with the trailer on the back. It was brilliant, you couldn't feel the trailer behind as it leaned when you did! All was going well until Lynne asked how much it was worth (about £50,000) and then she wanted to take it back and put it in the barn before anything happened to it!

We spent two days travelling back to Calais, stopping off at the Palace of Versailles just outside Paris for a spot of sight seeing. Lynne has wanted to visit the Palace for many years and she was not disappointed. The Palace was stunning and the gardens were enormous. We walked miles, a great antidote for having to sit for hours in a vehicle! That's probably unfair to our VW Camper as it is very comfortable to travel in. It also managed the 1200 mile journey on just two tanks of diesel. Graham had to fill up both of his vehicles three times just for the journey down!

Lynne and I had a great time and can't wait to visit Graham and Wendy again to see the progress on the house.

We have also spent virtually a week at Goodwood for the Revival. The camping field was a little cramped this year, but all the usual suspects turned up for a terrific weekend. The weather wasn't brilliant, but we never got wet! However the rain did turn the camping field into a bit of a quagmire which was pretty treacherous on the bikes as Ginger found to his cost. Luckily both he and the bike survived unscathed if a trifle muddy! It was a shame for Clive Etherington that he missed the final day of the Revival as he was taken ill on the Saturday evening. Luckily his friends persuaded him to go to hospital because he was suffering with blood poisoning, which could have been fatal if untreated! As it was they kept him in hospital for about a week, but I am glad to say he has completely recovered now.

A week after Goodwood we took part in the Littlehampton club's Charity Bulldog Run. It was a beautiful biking day and a very enjoyable run supporting a very worthy cause. Sunday 6th October was a bright sunny day and several members including Keith West, Bob Ayling & partner, Bob & Diane Jenkins, Richard Deller and Lynne & I met at Destination Triumph with a view to visiting the Tangmere Aviation Museum for a spot of breakfast. Unfortunately Alan Dax hadn't read the runs list correctly and was waiting for us all at Haywards Heath! Luckily he managed to meet up with us at Tangmere. We had a very enjoyable ride down, but when we arrived we were in for very big disappointment. Lynne had checked that the café was open but what she didn't know was that they didn't serve cooked breakfast! Shock horror! So we had a cup of coffee and then rode on down to the Goodwood Circuit as they were holding one of their breakfast club meetings. It was really busy with all vehicles Italian. There must have been several thousand people there just admiring all the vehicles on show. Very informal and best of all – free! Finally we managed to get some breakfast but it was only a burger. Lynne will have to try harder next time! We were able to enjoy a brilliant ride back through Duncton & Fittleworth ending up at my workshop for a warming cup of coffee. It was nice to see so many of you out on a run.

The following weekend, nine of our French friends from Therouldeville came for a visit. They arrived on the Saturday and were shown around the local sights including a visit to Verrell's at Hand Cross. Many thanks to Ian for making them so welcome. A meal was organised at the Plough at Plumpton Green for them and several of our regular French Trip members on the Saturday evening. Unfortunately Lynne and I were unable to attend as we had a prior engagement, namely Dot & Mervyn's 40th Wedding Anniversary Party. We had a brilliant evening and so apparently did the French! Thanks to Pete Hide and Roger Dillon for organising the day for them.

The next morning the weather was so foul, Lynne and I decided to go to Ardingly Classic Bike Show in the car (as did many others!). Unfortunately the French did not have that option and they got absolutely soaked, but it did not appear to dampen their spirits. The show's organiser had kindly given them free entry tickets to the show and they were very impressed with it despite it being a smaller show than normal because of the weather. At the end of the afternoon I drove Joel (who had been riding pillion) back to their hotel in Newhaven and the rest of the French guys followed me. I lost them for a bit in Lewes but we managed to get back together again and they all made it back safe and sound if incredibly wet. We look forward to seeing them all next year when we visit the Normandy Beaches. Many thanks to Pete Hide, Roger Dillon and any other members who helped look after the French during their stay. It was much appreciated by them.

The Remembrance Day run also took place on a bright and sunny day. There was a very good turnout of bikes at the Castle Inn, Bramber with several of our members in attendance. Last year's memorial managed to raise more than £1100 for the Help for Heroes Charity and I don't see why this year's shouldn't raise a similar amount.



I hope you are all aware of the annual Toy Run taking place on Sunday 1st December leaving Bolney Motorcycle Workshop at 11am. Please attend if you can bringing with you either UNWRAPPED toys or a cash donation for the Lion's Charity Christmas Party for disadvantaged children in the area. I hope you can support this worthwhile cause.

This is the last reminder about this year's Christmas Dinner which takes place on Saturday 21st December. The cost is £12 for members and one guest. The menu is on this web site and you will need to book by Thursday 5th December at the latest. You will need to supply your menu choice and payment to John Lewis ASAP. I look forward to seeing as many as possible at the do, let's see if we can have more than the fifty people we had last year. If you are able to donate a raffle prize that would be amazing – bring it along on the night.

I am afraid my last Chairman's Chat duty of 2013 is to inform members of the sad passing of a former member Richard Upham. He passed away a few days ago in New Zealand. You may recall almost four years ago now that his long term partner Pip very sadly died of a brain tumour. Shortly after her funeral he went back to New Zealand with Pip's daughter and he never returned. The trauma of her death appears to have induced a brain disease which has been untreatable. He has been struggling with the condition for quite some time, finding it difficult to stay in touch with people because even a very short text would take him over an hour to achieve.

Richard was a member in the early days and was often out on club runs on his beautiful red Norton Commando. He went on several of the early French Trips, he also joined us in Yorkshire a couple of times. I also enjoyed time with him and Pip on the Bayerne and Barronies tours in the Pyrennes and Alps respectively. We had some great times together before he and Pip went abroad to work. Lynne and I looked forward to catching up on all their news when they returned to England every summer. I shall miss their friendship enormously. Richard has never quite been able to get over Pip's death and I suppose that at least now they are together.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year. Please take extra care when you are out on the bikes this winter. Best wishes Dave



Thought this be of interest to Dave ...Re building a trailer for his BSA A7. This Gentleman built this trailer 10 years ago, he decided he was fed with camping and decided a few creature comforts were in order. He was 65 and fed up with crawling in and out of tents.
He has called it "the shed"

The Leading forks were originally on a BMW which he modified to fit. He also built some 15in wheels so that he could run car tyres, from a Citroen 2CV with the middles machined out then drilled and dimpled. Fitted with shortened spokes – being car rims – they had the perfect profile for modern 15in radials.



“The Shed”

An email sent to Roger from Jean Bernard re suggested events for 2013

Dear Roger ;

I hope you and your family are well. We've a club meeting this evening to plan 2014 events. We'll talk about Normandy beaches' tour and the 4 hours of Valmont.

First, we planned to visit Normandy beaches during the last week-end of may, from Friday the 29th to Sunday june the 1st.

Second, which date is the best or easiest for you : Sunday August the 31st or September the 7th ?

I'll give you more details as soon as possible.

All the best.

J.B.

The Club Christmas Dinner to be held as usual at the Hassocks Hotel from 7pm on 21st December. For those who have booked we look forward to seeing you there. If it is like last year it will be a most enjoyable event. Look forward to seeing you all.

Mr MOT

We Don't Do Repairs – We Don't Sell Spares

CALL US TO BOOK
AN MOT TODAY
01444 254000

01444 254000



NOW ONLY
£47.00
FOR A CAR MOT
OR
£29.20
FOR A MOTOR BIKE MOT



Mr MOT prides itself in only offering MOT tests – we don't do repairs, we don't sell spares, which means that you can be safe in the knowledge that we won't try and sell you any other services. This means that we provide you with a completely unbiased MOT test. Established in Burgess Hill for the past 10 years, Mr MOT is a family run business that offers a friendly and efficient service at all times. Mr MOT not only caters for your everyday cars, motor bikes and light commercial vehicles, but also specialises in classic and vintage cars and/or motor bikes.



Remember, if you're after a totally unbiased MOT test without the worry of having to pay through the roof for problems that don't exist, then Mr MOT is the company for you! We don't do repairs and We don't sell spares.



Victoria road
Burgess Hill

www.mrmot.co.uk

Victoria road
Burgess Hill

