

# Midland Section News 2003

[www.bmwclub.org.uk/midland](http://www.bmwclub.org.uk/midland)

## January 2003

The Midlands AGM was held at the Greetham Community Centre on Sunday 13th with a reasonable attendance. If you require a copy of the minutes then please contact the Secretary. The main points are that there have been some changes to the Committee. Alan Edgar has stood down as the Secretary and has been replaced by Phil Johnson. Gilbert Thomas has stood down as the Social Secretary and been replaced by Rob Harvey - ME. I'm sure you would all like to thank both Alan and Gilbert for the work they have put in on your behalf - APPLAUSE. Also of note, the Air Ambulance is the nominated charity for the forthcoming year. Last year you raised a total of £938.82p and it is hoped to have a number of members present when the cheque is presented.

On the riding scene, a number of members went to the FIM Motocamp in Rome. There are some interesting tales to be told concerning Toll stops and bus rides but perhaps they are best left to those who actually went - just approach Bill Rodgers the next time you see him and he'll keep you entertained for hours.

The last major ride-out was held on the 20th when Bill organised a ride to the North Yorks moors and Heartbeat country. 15 riders set off, some with pillion passengers, one guest accompanied us on a rather large cruiser, en-route someone took there own route, not to be seen again! Who was that man? Will he be seen again? If you've never been to the place where Heartbeat is filmed, it is well worth a visit if only for the spectacular countryside. That weekend the North Yorkshire Railway and surrounding villages had returned to the period 1940-1945. There were folks in military uniform and civilian clothing of the day, vehicles of all types, again from that era and we even saw Winston Churchill - honest. What with the period music, steam trains and the people, one could almost imagine one had stepped back in time. All in all, a good day out though the ride home was a bit damp and dark especially when your headlamp only lights up the first 15 feet of road but that's another story. So, thanks to Bill for another good day.

On to forthcoming events. On the 1st December, Sally and Graham are organising the Xmas lunch at Greetham, contact them if you want to attend - details in the Diary. On the 8th December a Xmas hamper is being raffled at the Towcester meet at the Rangers Cycle Club. John Darlinson is organising the Xmas Dinner for Saturday 21st December and tickets will be subsidised - for details contact John. This years successful trip to Normandy is being repeated - if interested, contact John & Freda Taylor (see Journal) but hurry as places are going fast!. Well, I will close for now, ride safe. Rob Harvey

## February 2003

Well here we are into the New Year with one month already gone and only 335 shopping days to Christmas. There is some good news but more of that later. I'm sure that those of you who went to the Christmas lunch at Greetham would like to join me in thanking Sally and her helpers for the excellent meal that they provided. So from the 72 members present, thanks very much. Thanks also to those who provided prizes for the raffle. The Club donated a music system, something that used to be called a boogie box and I hope the lucky winner hasn't got a sprain from having to carry it around on their shoulder! A total of £151 was raised by the raffle for the Ambucopter so well done to all. I have not heard any comments regarding the Christmas Dinner Dance so I hope that those of you who went, all enjoyed yourselves.

Garth Forbes and his intrepid band braved the extremes of the British weather to enjoy the Dunford Bridge camp. A resume of the weekend: six campers, four hoteliers and four day visitors enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather at Dunford Bridge over the last weekend of the year. Fortunately, the bar of the Stanhope Arms was open all hours, so no one suffered from dehydration. The ride-out was rain free although the wet roads encouraged gentle throttle hands: the 130 mile ride took in the centre of Derbyshire, Monyash, the Cat & Fiddle, Goyt Valley, Hazel Grove, Snake Pass, Derwent Reservoir (of Dam Busters fame) and Strines, ten miles of twisty, slippery, hairpin bendy road that was so nice we did it twice (once in each direction). Sunday brought a decent amount of rain to wash the previous days muck off machines during homeward bound journeys.

To forthcoming events: Dinah Kingston, who organises the Towcester meets has contacted me to say she is hoping to get a guest speaker to March meeting to speak about old relics, no, not vintage motorbikes, the archaeological type Hopefully, something will appear in the Journal before the event (keep an eye on the [Late News](#) page here).

A short column this month, should please the editor. As I stated before, tell me what is going on in the parts of the Section that I have not been able to visit so I can include you all. Well that it for now .... sorry, almost forgot the good news. Remember the missing rider? Well, he's alive and well - it seems that something to do with nature and calls got the better of him. OK NEIL. That is all for now, unless you know different.

Ride Safe, Rob

## March 2003

Well here we are into the third month already; hopefully the weather is improving. It's getting near to the time of year when the ride outs start, so if you go on one and I'm not there let me know what happened, send me the gossip. So what's been happening, what's going to happen? Hopefully this journal will have arrived as promptly as last months in which case there is time to tell you about the Time Team talk that has been arranged by Dinah at the Towcester meet on the 2nd of March. Miss it at your peril, Questions will be asked later.

Those of you with access to the Internet will be interested to know that the Midlands website is back up. Many thanks must go to Phil Hawksley for the superb job he has done so far, it is a developing site and there is scope for all sorts of good things, so log on and look in, you won't be disappointed.

So what else, well the Greatham Sunday meet went well, more popular than ever, some 60 members attended and almost ate us out of house and home there was a danger that Bill wasn't going to get any second's. Thanks again to Janet. £65 was raised for our nominated charity, the Air Ambulance. It was also nice to welcome some new members and some that had transferred to our area, so welcome to John Baugh, Martin Nellis and partners. So into the future. Plans for Moreton Morrell are well advanced, we're still open to polite suggestions for anything that you may wish to contribute, so come on don't be shy.

Right, that's the near future, now for that a bit further away. I have been making enquiries about a motorcycle trip to the USA; several people have expressed a wish to know more with a view to accompanying me. I have therefore contacted H-C travel they specialize in this type of holiday. They are willing to come up here from deepest Hampshire and give a presentation to those who may be interested, so give it some thought, if you are interested let me know sooner rather than later. I am looking to go in the later half of 2004, certainly no earlier but later may be considered. Right, enough of my personal plugs. Back to club business. Dave Twist is organizing a trip to the ARDENNES June 13th to 18th. Dave can be contacted on at [dave.twist@bt.com](mailto:dave.twist@bt.com). But hurry as places are limited and I 'm led to believe that this is a

lovely area to visit and ride. Well I think I've rambled on enough for now, let me know what's going on out there and above all else

Ride Safe, Rob

## April 2003

Well, I have just got home from a nice ride out, meeting and listening to some interesting people and a nice ride home, but more of that later. Firstly, someone has asked me not to mention them this month so I won't. Those of you who attend John and Frances camp at Tattershall will be sad to know that for personal reasons they are unable to go ahead with this year's camp. They are going to warmer places for a while. I'm sure you will all join with me in thanking them both for the excellent camp they have organised over the years. However all is not lost if there is someone out there who would like to take over from John then please contact him soon. If I haven't heard from anyone by the end of this month then the event will be cancelled.

Now to other news. Rhino Rally 2003. About sixty campers and at least fifty bed & breakfasters (enough to deny the traditional band beds on the Saturday night, hence the absence of musical entertainment) experienced a weekend of brilliant sunshine, blue skies and minus 7 degrees Centigrade nights; some were so enthusiastic, they arrived a day early. On Saturday, a ride, led by Barry Warner at appropriate speeds for the roads and participants, provided an opportunity to view Wales at its best, whilst two expeditions tackled Snowdon from different compass points and others chilled out doing whatever turned them on. Both nights saw plenty of convivial company followed by the gentle uphill stroll to the campsite enjoyed by all campers except for five on an outfit built for three under the control of a trainee pilot. Next year will be a week late (20th to 22nd February) in consideration for those who prefer to avoid the trauma of being absent on St. Valentine's Day.

The Greatham Sunday meet was another success, some 60 plus members attended. Welcome to new members Kevin and Anne from Mansfield. The raffle raised £66. Thanks to Christa assisted by Gill for the food. I was asked by John, he who organises the Xmas dinner dance, to mention that he is again organising another, so if you're interested, make a note on your calendar for Dec 20th, more details will follow nearer the time.

For those of you who like Easter eggs there is an opportunity to join an Easter egg run from Bottesford to Grantham on April the 12th, further details can be obtained from John Bartlett.

Now to today. I'm sure there are those amongst you who are familiar with the TV advert "What's in your wallet" Well at the Towcester meet Dinah arranged a talk by two enthusiastic gents on "What's in your garden" To be more precise the garden of John Kliene. John lives in a converted barn that is built on the site of Alderton Manor, a 16th century residence built by a man who had considerable wealth and influence in his day. John has extensively researched the historical background and was keen to know what was under the ground. He was introduced to Paul Blinkhorn an archaeologist who specialises in pottery. Those of you familiar with the programme Time Team will have seen Paul when he has appeared on it. Their talk and presentation was fascinating and kept all of us glued to our seats until Dinah switched the power off and the electronic gizmo went into a sulk, eventually calm was restored and the presentation continued. They have been excavating areas around the property and some interesting discoveries have been made, they were even able to persuade a neighbour to go away for the weekend whilst they dug up a section of his garden. Apparently the locals have now got used to seeing two men digging in a ditch, sounds like a TV title I hear you say. Well, keep an eye on future TV listings. An excellent afternoon, thanks to John and Paul, also Dinah for organising it. I hope the new member, Gill from Milton Keynes found it interesting, welcome to the club. Finally Dinah announced that the monies raised by the raffle

have been used to purchase a bench for the Ridgeways Nursing home and it will be presented on the 12th April, Dinah would like a few members with Bikes present so please contact her if you can attend.

Well, folks I think that's about it for this month and I haven't mentioned Bill once.

Ride Safe. ROB.

## May 2003

Hi there, by the time you read this many of you will have been out on the first organised runs of the year. I hope that all went well and you had an enjoyable day. So what has been happening this month, well not a lot really that I am aware of. The last of the Sunday meets at Greetham has been held, until the autumn. It was well attended, more money was raised by the raffle for our nominated charity, the Lincs. and Notts. Ambucopter.

On March 5th several members attended a social evening organised by Balderstons of Peterborough. The guest speakers were Kevin and Julia Sanders, the holders of the Guinness World Record for circumnavigating the world on a motorcycle, a BMW 1100 GS. They covered over 19,000 land miles in 19 days. A fantastic achievement. Well done to you both. Kevin stated that he was getting back into the distance riding again a short while ago and he went out for the day , to INVERNESS and back, a weekend run would be to BARCELONA! The supporting act, if you can call it that, was a talk by Simon Pavey, He of the Paris to Dakar rally fame. As well as showing us the delights of riding across a desert he gave us an insight into the off road course that he runs for BMW in Wales. I believe some of you have already participated in this bit of fun, perhaps its something to consider for next year.

A number of members attended the National AGM, issues were hammered out, a new president was elected, congratulations Tony. I think I speak for my fellow Midlands members in that we look forward to working with you during your term as our president.

In an earlier edition I spoke of my plans regarding a trip to America, I intend contacting the travel company soon to organise a visit by them to explain what is available, the venue will probably be the Threekingham meet on the first Tuesday of the month, so watch this space for the date if you are interested.

Finally, a matter that I have discussed with the Midlands committee regarding what is and is not discussed at club meetings. This has come about because of a phone call that was made to me following the last Greetham meet concerning a private conversation I had with a friend. The basis of this call was that I had no business discussing non BMW matters at club meets. I found the nature of this call offensive not in its language but by its implied attitude. If this is the attitude that prevails within the club then I can see why there are so many letters in the journal about new members feeling isolated. To the member who phoned me, If you wish to reply to this statement then feel free to do so. After all we live in a society where free speech is still permitted. Basically, I and the committee don't care what people talk about at club meets so long as they enjoy the meet. If this is not acceptable to you, remember that at the AGM you can always put yourself up for election. Right, I will shut up now. My apologies for finishing this month on a sour note but it had to be said.

Ride safe, I look forward to meeting you ALL out there.

ROB

## June 2003

Well folks, the riding season is well under way. Before I get to what's been happening some reminders about what is planned and future projects. Number one. Bill Rogers has asked me to let you know that there are two meeting points for the ride out to the Royal Gunpowder works on June the 22nd. The first meet is at 09.30 at the services at Colsterworth on the A1, the junction of the A1 and the A151. This is the main service area in the car park NOT the smaller garage also on this junction. The second pick up / meet point for those from Peterborough and the east and west sides is the Little Chef located south bound on the A1 at Alwalton, we will be arriving there at about 10. For anyone further south than this contact Bill or myself for the route and suitable joining points.

Right, number 2. There is Dave Twists June run to Moulin -de - Ruy, Read May's round the compass for details or contact Dave direct, details in the Journal.

Finally number three. AMERICA 2004, Dave Grist of H-C Travel will be at the July 1st Threekingham meet to give a presentation on this adventure to the West Coast. Kick off is at 8pm so if you're interested, be there. Right that's the future taken care of now back to the past.

The run to Ashbourne went well, unless you followed me, sorry about the route folks, but on the map it looked more appealing than the A50, ah well, another lesson learnt. Anyway there was a good turn out. Tea and sticky's were enjoyed in Spencers Tea Room and those of us who were late had to evict some of the early arrivals so we could get a seat, thanks folks. There was then much discussion about where to go next, a run to Manifold valley was prepared and most people seemed to go. Some went a bit quicker than others and two of the party were left behind when one of them had a little mishap, but don't worry your social sec is ok now, wounded pride heals quickly. Anyway by the time the final two got going the others were never seen again. Still we enjoyed our ride, didn't we George? Say, yes Rob.

Plans for Moreton Morrell are well advanced we are still open to polite suggestions and ideas for anything you may wish the committee to consider including. Don't sit there chewing the fat about an Idea you may have, contact one of us, after all you may have the idea that turns the weekend from being successful to outstanding. So come on don't be shy. Failing that just get your application form in and come and enjoy the party.

OK, time to sign off for now, well almost. If you have been out on a run with friends that was memorable for whatever reason then let me know about it so I can include you in the write up, if there are incriminating pic's even better.

Finally, after a months break I got to mention him again.

Take care out there. Ride safe.

Rob.

## July 2003

Well, where to begin. The ride out season is well under way. This month has seen a number of rides including a trip to France. That trip was loaded with thrills and spills and a birthday party so I think it is best if I leave that trip for an article of its own.

So what else has been happening. On the 4th of May a group of members took part in the annual Louth Lions run. This run began life as a ride out for classic and vintage bikes but due to its popularity has grown to include all makes and ages of bikes. The original machines still attend in large numbers and it is a real treat to see these bikes in convoy negotiating the Wolds roads. There were other events going on in the area that day including a classic car run, a cycle race that some of us got caught up in and the annual scarecrow show in one of the villages that we rode through. In fact Bill liked it so much he took his group through the village three times, from different directions. That's his excuse anyway for arriving at the half way stop 20 minutes AFTER the back half of his group, that got separated from him when we were split by the cycle race. That aside the rest of the run went smoothly There was one point when on a dipping Wolds road with woods to our left and rape fields to our right, all one could see stretching into the distance was a conger line of bikes of every conceivable age and make. It is a credit to the owners of these older machines that all those that set out made it back to the assembly point under their own power.

On the 5th a few of us went with Balderstons of Peterborough to Oulton Park. There we saw the UK round of the Boxer cup. If you want to see how a boxer engined bike can be ridden, then watch this event if the opportunity presents itself. We were also shown the new Kevlar helmet from BMW possibly on sale next year, it weighs 994grams, its cost £1 PER GRAM. Ah well.

So what next. Well, there was WET IN FRANCE, no, sorry I'm saving that one. Tell you what, I'll tell you about the trip down a coal mine. That was today, I know it is in June but I don't mind if you don't. So at 9 am some 24 machines and 38 riders and pillions gathered at the Little Chef on the A60 just north of Nottingham. At 9.30 we set off for a spirited ride North to the National Mines Museum near Wakefield. The leader did a fine job and with the drop off system operating and everyone arrived at the destination at the same time. Once there and after a refreshing drink kindly donated by our treasurer ,we were split into two groups and taken down the mine. When I say taken down, this involved getting 19 people and a guide into a lift that was smaller than some found in modern office blocks - to say we were snug is putting it mildly. It helped if you were on friendly terms with those around you. We then went down, only a short distance, about 300 metres or 1000 feet in old money. Once at the bottom we were taken through the mine in a manner that started with mining in the Victorian era and led up to the mid 1980's when the mine ceased production. At the beginning of the tour the guide instructed us to turn off the lamps we were issued with to experience the total darkness that young children used to spend 12 hours a day in working with their mums and dads. There is darkness and then there is pit darkness, it has to be seen, metaphorically speaking, to be appreciated. The guides are all former miners and so they give you a true account of life down a pit. If you find yourself in the area with a few hours to spare then this place is worth a visit. So what next, well why waste a good day when in such a lovely area. After lunch the majority of the group set off with Bill in the lead on a scenic ride to Ladybower Reservoir then on to Grindleford for a cuppa, well that was the theory. We all made it to Ladybower and then through the twists and turns to the A57, I think, then a small group of us got separated by traffic at a busy junction. Well, we got to Grindleford, but where were the rest of you, you should have been there first??? Anyway, a good day out which I certainly enjoyed as I was trying out a new bike, an R1150RT. To those of you behind me at junctions,, I do apologise and I will master the clutch for pulling away if I get one of my own, OR should that be when.

So now to the routine stuff. I have been contacted by the organisers of the Repton meet and they have informed me that this meet has had to be cancelled for the foreseeable future. An announcement about its future will be made when a new Mercia committee has been elected.

Don't forget the America brief at the Three Kings meet on the 1st of July, 7.30 for an 8 start.

Finally ,the drop off system seems to have fallen by the way side, for whatever reason, it was used on the first part of the run today then fell into disuse with the obvious outcome. So ,ride leaders include it in your briefm it does work. Nough said. Well, enough for now, check that diary, there is more excitement planned.

Ride safe. ROB

## August 2003

Well, another month has come and gone, so what's been going on. Before I tell you a bit about future presentations: The run to DUXFORD for the premier airshow of 2003 is planned for Sunday 7th Sept. This show is celebrating 100 years of flight lots of classic aircraft attend well worth it. The meeting point is the EXTRA services at the junction of the A1 and A605 just to the west of Peterborough departure time is 9.30. Advance tickets are available through Bill Rodgers (£20 instead of £22.50) entrance to all exhibition and workshop areas is included, if you want advance tickets Bill needs the money no later than 8th August contact Bill on 01526 834480.

For those of you who expressed an interest in the clay shoot, we are unable to get a date this year so we will put it into next years calendar.

The September meet at Threekingham will be a Bar B Que.

With regard to the America trip 2004, following David's presentation to us he has now come up with some figures. We are looking to put together a formal package in time for the National meet at Moreton Morrell. Contact me if you want to know more I m looking for numbers now to make this a viable trip. So, future over, back to the past. On the 6-8 June a group rode from the bottom to top of Wales the weather was excellent, views magnificent and company superb what more can I say. Accommodation was in pre arranged B and Bs. We started in Barry and rode the valley roads up the centre of Wales to Llandudno. In Llandudno following a fish and chip supper we went out on the town, well to Weatherspoons actually. The drinks were reasonably priced, it was the meeting point for all ages. The views were magnificent, OOPS sorry repeating myself. So an excellent weekend many thanks to KEITH and YVONNE for organising it.

On the 22nd Bills run to the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey took place. A good turn out. There was a tea stop at Wimpole Hall and then on to Waltham. Bit of a delay at Ware due to road works but the benefits of being on a bike paid off. In its day it must have been an awesome place, the constant feeling that one mistake could have resulted in and sometimes did end in disaster was present. There is a group of volunteers who look after the site and who are making valiant efforts to restore what is a huge area to a more visitor friendly environment. Well worth a visit if in the area with a day to spare or just go anyway. Its a fascinating part of our history. Oh by the way Bill some of the group want to say thanks for eating the last sandwich. Saved us the job.

So that's it for now. Ride safe.  
Rob

## September 2003

Quick announcement. For those going on the DUXFORD trip on 7th please note that the time has changed. The meet time is now 0845 with a 9 am departure, same place, this is to allow for the expected large volume of traffic we will meet, So please be there at the meet time all fuelled up and ready to go, if you still want to go but haven't booked tickets you can pay at the gate but it is a higher cost of £22.50. Don't forget 08.45.

Well, July has been a relatively quiet month. There was the joint camping weekend at Cromer with the Anglia Section, I haven't had a report so I will have to assume that everything was OK and you all enjoyed yourselves.

On the 27th it was Founders day at Stanford Hall, that was Stanford on Avon, NOT Stanford on Soar, which also has a hall. Still, I enjoyed the ride to both places. Once there it was a very good day lots to see and for those into the Bike jumble, lots to buy. The Club put on an excellent display of which I am sure we will read a full account in the relevant section of the Journal.

By the time you receive this copy of the journal Moreton Morrell will be but a memory, hopefully a pleasurable one.

The final draft of the France weekend is done so it will soon be with you. Who says there is never anything to look forward to. As you can probably tell I am into waffle mode now, just trying to use up my 600 words, coz I know the Ed won't let me carry over any unused ones to the next month.

I see from the journal that the new meeting place near Louth is doing well, so If you are in that area why not go along and enjoy some good company. Well, I will have to go now. Remember I can only put items in if you tell me about them.

Stop the press: Late news hot off the e-mail. A group of members recently went to the 4 stroke rally, here are some jottings from Alan Edgar.

The 4 stroke rally held annually in the Czech republic has long been a favourite for our club members, maybe something to do with how cheap it and the Czech republic is! Although this year saw a rise in the exchange rate, it is now 30 pence to the pint! This year however saw the Midland section pick up an award for the "3rd most attendees from a single club", nineteen in total. This was quite an achievement, because, in order to stop the "BMW Club" always winning such awards, (as generally happens at the motocamps), the organisers decided to split our club up into sections, therefore the Midland section was competing against all other clubs attending the event. Keith Wheeler the oldest oops, sorry Keith, longest serving Midland section member collected the award. The photo shows our group with the award (note the Yorkshire sections Dave and Christine, (back row) incursion, still, this is one of their favourite rallies). Anyone wanting more info on the rally just gone or next years, have a look at their official web site: [www.four-stroke.cz](http://www.four-stroke.cz)

So there you go. Right I will sign off now.

Ride safe. Rob

## October 2003

Hi there, this month has, with the exception of the National Rally at Moreton Morrell, been a quiet one. For those of you who got to the rally, I hope you enjoyed yourselves whether you were there for the weekend or just a day visitor. It was great to see so many of you. I have been told that a report is being prepared and hopefully will be in this issue along with some pictures.

So what is coming? Well, the Sunday meets are with us again; check the journal or calendar for dates. The first is on Sunday the 12th at Greetham and is the AGM so if there is a burning issue you need to get off your chest this will be your chance to do it in person. Also those of us who serve on the committee are up for re-election so if you wish to vote you will need to be there. If you want the chance to serve the club by being a committee member you need to let the secretary know before the AGM. Please note: you can only

vote if your membership shows that you are registered with the Midland section. The time is also with us when we need to decide on next years calendar, so if you have any ideas please let us know, bear in mind we will expect you to have researched it and be prepared for the fact that if the idea is accepted you will be responsible for it.

On that note I am still looking at doing the America trip next year. To date only one other couple have expressed a wish to go. I have the expected prices to which a discount will apply if booked by the end of October. If I hear nothing more or cannot meet the minimum numbers, then those of us who have made the decision will probably join one of the company's pre-arranged tours, so give it some thought.

Now for something in November. I'm sure many of you are aware that Kevin and Julie Sanders are going for the Guinness record re north to south of the American Continent. They are expected back in Britain on Sunday 2nd November and it is proposed to escort them from Dover to Peterborough. The first leg is being organised by a dealer in Kent with Balderstons taking over when they get into the Essex/Cambridgeshire area so if you are interested in joining in the celebrations then further info. as it becomes available can be obtained from me or direct from Balderstons on 01733 565470. That's about it for now, see you at the AGM or on the road. Ride safe. Rob

### November 2003

Sorry, no news supplied for this month due to Rob Harvey moving house and missing the copy date. Hopefully double next month.

### December 2003

Sleaford Show



BMW C1's



North Yorks Moors



Hi folks I'm back. Firstly apologies for missing last month, due to a house move and job change I sort of missed the deadline.

So back to business. Regarding the photographs of Moreton Morrell a correction is required. The ones showing the ride outs also included the run organised by Bill Rodgers to the heritage motor museum. Thanks Bill for the time and effort you put into this very successful run.

Now then, what has been happening. In September there was the Sleaford show, (see photo) organised for the lovers of classic Bikes and cars. Bill Rodgers is involved with this group and this year he arranged for a BMW display and 14 members attended with machines spanning 50 years of the "ultimate riding machine" (Bills words). to those of you who attended and helped, Bill says thank you.

On the 7th, a group rode to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford for the celebration of 100 years of flight and the flying display was something to behold especially the South African Airways 747. It put on a display that you would have not thought possible for an aircraft of it's size. It appeared to be flying so slow but in actual fact its speed was close to 200 mph.

On the 12-14th Sally and Graham Cluley hosted the Rutland Rally, another successful weekend. Sadly this will be the last. 50 members attended with a number of day visitors on the Saturday. These included a group on C1,s (see photo). They again raised a substantial amount of money for the air ambulance. On behalf of all section members I would like to thank Sally and Graham for their efforts over the past 10 years and those who have helped them make this rally one of the highlights of the section year.

On the 26-28th the usual suspects went to Cheddar Gorge again. Staying in two hotels with a convenient pub between them. The weather was fair so the group split into small units and did their own thing. Visits were made to the Gorge itself. The Maritime museum at Bristol Docks. The Retail Village at Street, for those in need of retail therapy, and for some the day finished with a few personal moments at Wells Cathedral. Thanks to Graham Parker for organising this weekend.

So into October. The main event was the first of the Sunday meets, the Greetham event was also the AGM. Thank you to those members who attended and listened to the ramblings of the committee. It was the first one for some of us. We will try to get better by the next one. The main points covered were the accounts, which all seemed in order. The social scene has been a bit muted this year, mainly due to our involvement with the National Rally and the nominated charity which will be the Notts. and Lincs. Air Ambulance again. A point was raised that those in the Southern end felt that the money was going to an area not local to them. We have researched this and whilst the bulk does go to the nominated area all the Air ambulances benefit as there is the provision to transfer moneys around to support an area that may be short on funds. A photo has been taken showing some of the section with a nice cheque to be handed over in due course. Then there was the election of the committee. The current crew were re-elected as no-one else put themselves forward. So don't blame us if you don't like the way the section is run. The treasurer has hinted that this may be his final year. So if there is someone out there who fancies a go, give Graham a call and he will be only too happy to show you the ropes.

The final outing of the year was to the North Yorkshire Moors (see photo) for the 40's re-enactment weekend centred on the Pickering area. A good time was had by those that were able to attend. I know that a number of you couldn't attend due to a lack of accommodation. Bill the organiser has already made provisional bookings for next year that will increase the amount of accommodation available to us. So that's it, the year is over. A big thank you to all of you who have arranged and supported the various events. Don't forget the Sunday meets and pub nights are ongoing, support the one nearest to you. Next years calendar is completed but items can still be added if you think of something.

I have saved one item till last. To those of you who attended the B B Q at Threekingham, our apologies. It was the straw that broke the camels back. As of the first January meet that venue will no longer be used. We are instead going to the Fox at Ropsley. It is located on the A52 halfway between Grantham and the A15. (See 'Where We Meet'). I look forward to seeing you there. In the mean time to those of you who venture out in the winter months take care and ride safe.

Rob.