

# Midland Section News 2004

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## January 2004

Well, folks the quiet months are upon us, In terms of biking that is.

For those of you who read my ramblings let me assure you that there is nothing wrong with your eye sight. In last months issue I kept referring to Photographs; I did send them in but there was obviously not enough space as last months was a bit long to cover for the missing month. Maybe the ED will take pity on me and put them in this months if I keep it short.

Hopefully you will have received the 2004 section calendar by now, if not don't worry it wont be far away.

Don't forget that even though there are no organised ride outs at the moment there are still the pub and Sunday meets so find one near to you and go along, If there isn't one near to you then you could always organise a new venue just like a member in Louth has done - and a very successful meet it is. So with that thought placed in you mind I will close for now.

Best wishes for the new year.

Ride safe.

Rob

## February 2004

As I sit here writing this for your enjoyment, or not, it is the last day of the year, slightly bizarre don't you think as by the time you get to read it, we will be into the second month of 2004.

So what is there to say. Firstly a big thank you to Sally and Graham for another successful Xmas lunch at Greetham. It was well attended and there was an excellent range of raffle prizes - hope you are enjoying the photo you chose Ian, you had to be there to understand.

I hope that those of you who attended the dinner organised by John Darlison at Leicester enjoyed yourselves. Maybe someone will send me some info about the evening.

So what of the past year? Well, for the committee it was a busy one as we were responsible for the National rally but there was still the occasional run and weekend to be enjoyed.

Hopefully this year we will be able to focus on section events. the Calendar is a full one and there should be something for everyone. If there is an idea that you have come up with then let me know and I will see what can be arranged to advertise it but remember that I will need to know about it at least 3 months before the proposed date.

On the subject of holidays. A week in Spain has been proposed by Terry Collier. It arrived to late for inclusion in the diary. The proposed date is from the 4th of September to the 11th. Full details can be obtained from Terry on 01572 755292. He has said that he is wanting couples initially, so if you and your other half fancy a week in Spain then give him a call, but it needs to be sooner rather than later.

Finally a cry for help. Our webmaster Phil is looking for an assistant to input a lot of data onto the webpage (scanning). If you are able to help then go to the web site for the Midlands section where there are details of how to contact him.

So until the next time. Stay safe.

Rob

## **March 2004**

So here we are two down ten to go.

My call for info. regarding John Darlisons Xmas Dinner has been answered; here is a report from one happy diner and I have spoken to several others who also enjoyed themselves. Our Xmas Dinner Dance was held at the usual venue in Leicester with in excess of 80 people attending. Apparently more tickets could have been sold, such was the demand, but numbers are limited by fire regulations. An excellent 5 course meal was followed by great "sounds of the sixties and seventies" from alternating "sets" from a musical duo and a vocalist - and all for only £15 per head, remarkable value in this day and age. Judging by the number of people "rocking" the night away, a great evening was had by all and, once again, many thanks are due to John and Maureen Darlison for organising the event. My thanks to Brian Smith for his report.

Thinking laterally here. The new meet at Ropsley has got off to a good start. We have been welcomed with open arms by our host Paul and his staff. For those that normally meet at this and the previous venue, Bill Rogers arranged a Saturday night dinner. This was held on the 17th and was a great successes. Many thanks to Bill.

As this is for March, now is the time to talk about the forthcoming rideouts. As you will see from the diary's that you have received, they begin this month. On March 28th to be precise. This is the run to the Astley Green colliery Museum at Tyldesley Manchester. Free entry to this venue has been arranged. The sites include a vintage steam engine display, a tour and slideshow. From the start point as listed in the diary our leader estimates the run will be 80 miles including a stop at CMC motorcycles in Chesterfield on the way and on the return, passing by Manchester airport with the opportunity to stop at the public viewing area. Then proceeding on to the Riverside Kiosk at Matlock Bath for final refreshments. A busy day so prompt arrival at the meet for a 9 am start is required. For those with Internet access further details of this and the other rides can be found on the section webpage, or contact the organiser.

On the subject of meet points, a member has raised a valid point about the meets. Unlike in previous years only one point has been listed. This is because in the past when various points were arranged a lot of time was lost in waiting for the various groups to finally assemble for the main ride. It is appreciated that some members will have a considerable ride to get to the meet. However the meets have been arranged in the general direction that the ride intends to go i.e. north if going north. However. this does not stop individuals contacting the ride leader finding out what the route is and arranging to join it at a point convenient for them. But please understand if you choose this option your pick up point will only be a momentary stop to allow you to join the group....

Finally some reminders about the ride etiquette. We do use the drop off procedure. If you don't know what it is, ask, There is a ride leader and a tail end Charlie No one gets ahead of the leader or falls behind Charlie. We ride at the pace of the slowest rider. There is no overtaking, except on safety grounds, of other riders in the group. Headlights on is a requirement, as well as

the usual reasons it also lets the group organisers know where everyone is. Finally please ensure you arrive with sufficient fuel to at least get to the destination.

So with all that said I will adjourn for now and look forward to meeting you out there. Ride safe. Rob

## **April 2004**

By the time you read this the AGM will be history. But one piece of news from it that I can write about in advance is the award of the Fred Sekker Trophy to our treasurer Graham Parker for his work in the organisation of last years National Rally at MORTON MORRELL. Whilst the rally was a team effort the driving power behind it was Graham. I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating him. Right, pats on the back over down to the serious stuff.

Hopefully those of you attending the first ride out on the 28th March will read this before then. The organiser has asked me to remind you that the clocks change that weekend so don't forget to alter your alarms or you could turn up and find we left an hour previous.

CHOP NUNNS clay shoot is the next event, those of you attending will need to phone him and find out the directions to the shooting ground if making your own way or to the meet point (number in diary).

MARTIN ELLIS has been in touch with a company that manufactures bike intercom systems. Not Autocom. There will soon be an article in the journal about them. They have offered to host an open day for the club at their premises the proposed day is the 25th July. Keep a lookout for further details.

On a final note, Pub meets. I had a call recently from a member who discovered that there was a meet advertised close to his home, so taking the night off work and persuading others to do the same he went along. By 9pm he was beginning to wish he hadn't bothered as, other than his friends, no-one else turned up. He spoke to the pub landlord and it would appear that this is not uncommon. I am still in the process of making enquiries into this. When these meets are arranged they are placed into the journal on the basis that they are a regular event. If there are problems then we need to know so that a solution can be worked out. These meets are important as they are a way of attracting new members. I have had it said to me by some that due to the inclement weather they didn't want to get their bikes out so didn't attend. Let me clarify something, yes we are a biking club, but you can attend a meet using ANY mode of transport you choose, the bike is a means to an end not the end. OK nuff said.

I look forward to seeing you out there.  
Ride Safe  
Rob

## **May 2004**

Firstly some important admin changes: due to unforeseen circumstances, Phil Johnson, our Section Secretary has had to take a step back from his duties. In the meantime, section member Dale Marchant has stepped up to the plate. He can be contacted on either of the following numbers, 01623 847907, 01623 662981. Please call Dale if you have any questions re membership. This will stand until the next section AGM when all posts are up for grabs.

Now down to social matters. The first run of the season got under way with Martin Ellis's ride to Astley Green. There was a good turn out for this run and the subsequent ride took us through some interesting and scenic countryside including the ride past the CAT and FIDDLE. A first for some of us. There was a slight hiccup with the pub meal but those of us who choose to eat from the burger van were OK. Time was a bit short so an early decision was made by some to head home via their own routes. All in all it was a successful first run organised by Martin and I'm sure many of us will look forward to the next one of his to Wigan pier on the 9th of this month.

Bookings are now being taken for the camping weekend at Long Eaton near Nottingham at the end of July. For those of you prepared to pre-book, I'm informed that there is no charge. If you just want to attend on a daily basis then the same will apply but you must pre book it. There will be more details in a letter from the organiser to the journal.

Last Month I wrote about problems with Pub Meets. It has been brought to my attention that the Thurgaton meet has moved to the pub over the road as the regular one has shut. Can someone who goes to this meet please contact me and bring me up to date with the actual situation. I cannot emphasise enough how important these meets are and that I need to know if there are any problems. (It would also help if someone bothered to inform the webmaster - Phil).

Paul Nadin, who looks after Torque Reaction has been in contact as a member of a section close to ours, he is organising some midweek rideouts for those with time on their hands, if you're interested then his details are in the journal in the editorial team section.

Finally for those of you who attended the last Greetham meet and want to know what the mystery prize was. It was a bottle of wine and two bottles of a very nice Australian beer. Hope you enjoyed them Chop.

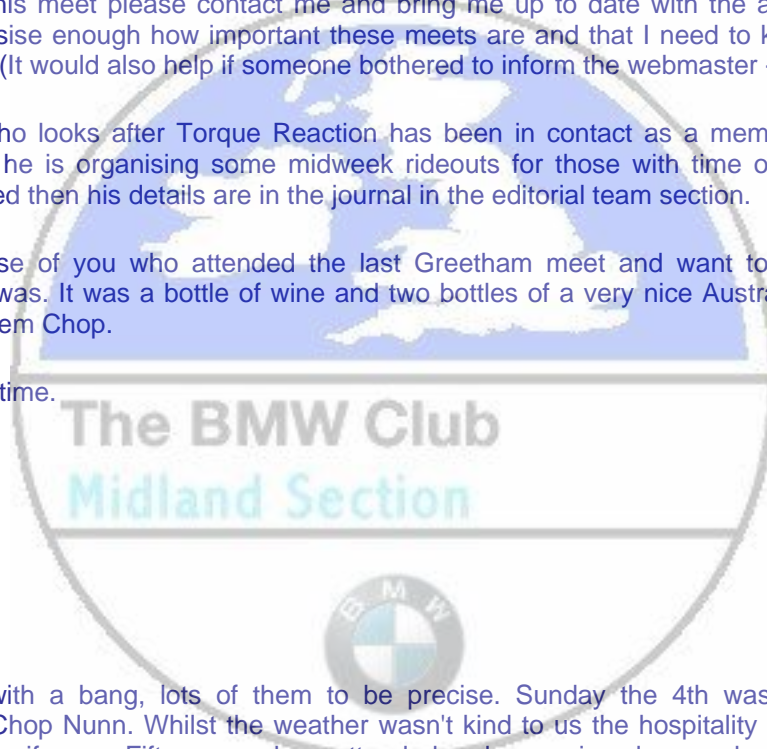
So till the next time.

Ride safe.  
Rob Harvey.

## June 2004

April started with a bang, lots of them to be precise. Sunday the 4th was the clay shoot organised by Chop Nunn. Whilst the weather wasn't kind to us the hospitality shown by Stuart Ogden and his wife was. Fifteen members attended and were given lessons by Stuart on the art of clay shooting then following a refreshment break. A competition was held with joint winners Brian and Chris - they collected Easter eggs for their efforts. It is hoped to repeat this day, possibly including a pub lunch or bar-b-que so watch this space for further details. Thanks to Chop for organising the afternoon.

The next run out was to Crich Tram Museum on the 25th organised by Graham Parker. Despite the best efforts of the Little Chef to delay our departure, they only succeeded in putting the schedule back by some 30 minutes. Graham then lead the group on an interesting cross country route to Crich. On arrival he had arranged for the parking of the bikes along the main street of the museums turn of the century reconstruction. It was strange to see the trams clanking along past a line up of modern motorcycles. Following a breakfast, the group dispersed around the museum to ride in the trams and visit the various items on display. A thoroughly interesting day out. Thanks to Graham.



Now to other matters. In response to my enquiry re the Thurgaton meet I have been informed that the Coach and Horses has closed. For the time being those who normally attend are meeting in the Red Lion over the road. They are going to discuss a new venue and will let me know what they come up with.

An extra meet has been proposed for the Mansfield area. The proposed venue is the Park Hall Tavern, Park Hall Road, Mansfield Woodhouse. The first meet will be on the 20th of July. This is the same night as the Orthingbury meet. As there is some distance between them, it is not considered to be a problem. Further details can be obtained from Graham Parker.

Finally my run to the fighter meet at Duxford on the 11th of July. The ticket prices have been announced. They are £22. 50 for adults over 19, £14 for Over 60's and £6 for under 19. These prices are for pre booking only. the adult on the day price is £25. If you want me to pre book you a ticket I need a cheque by the 10th of June.

Well, I can't think of anything else at the moment so I will leave you in peace.

Ride safe

Rob Harvey

## **July 2004**

So what's been happening in the merry month of May?

On the 9th there was the brunch run to Wigan Pier I will let Martin Ellis tell you about the day.

Wigan Pier run - 5 bikes turned up on a dry overcast morning and we had a very enjoyable run through Hartington in Derby's, on some very unusual and interesting roads. With so few riders, drop off was not used but we had no problems and made very good time. Wigan Pier is a really interesting place with a wide variety of stuff to see and do. After a ride on the canal waterbus and a walk round one of the museums, we all took part in a 'tongue in cheek' lesson in a typical Victorian classroom, complete with slates, markers and authoritarian teacher.... Good fun. Then it was into the enginehouse for a demonstration of cotton spinning through the ages, with working machinery. The weather remained dry all day, with good temperatures, and didn't spoil it's manners for any of us until near home. A really good day out. Thanks to Martin for the time and effort he put into organising the day.

On the weekend of the 14-16th it was Bill Rodgers Edinburgh run. After a slight delay in setting off (sorry, I wont be late again) good time was made on the run north. A breakfast stop was made at a cafe recommended by George and all the other vehicles parked there had at least six axles and were made by Scania, then the run proceeded on, crossing the border on the A68 at midday, another stop there to take in the view and then on into Edinburgh. It's amazing how good the roads became once over the border, good time could be made but an eagle eye had to be kept for the many speed camera's.

The Sonas Guest House, chosen by Bill was located within a few minutes bus ride of the city centre. After settling in, a few of us went for a little walk around Arthur's Seat, two hours later we got back. Irene, our host recommended a hotel with a good restaurant not too far away so we adjourned there for dinner, it was so good we went back for the remaining two nights meals.

Friday was a group outing to the Royal Yacht Britannia, well worth a visit if in the area. In the afternoon the group split with some taking in the castle. Saturday was a do your own thing. Some went on sightseeing tour bus's, others took a walk over the Forth Bridge. Sunday arrived all too soon and it was time to pack up and return home. A thoroughly good weekend and there are plans to repeat it next year, many thanks to Bill.

The BMF show at Peterborough came and went - it was good to catch up with those who attended, seems a lot of piggy banks have been raided as quite a number of you mentioned new bikes.

Finally some announcements. The Thurgaton meet has changed with effect of this month, the plan is to meet at the Green Dragon, Blind Lane, OXTON, on the last Thursday of the month, so if you normally go to Thurgaton please note. For those who attend Ropsley, the August meet will be a Bar-b-que. **See below**

**Note:** The new Green Dragon meet has since been cancelled and it's back at the original venue at Thurgaton (I think) - it's changed back and forth so many times that I've lost track so if you're unsure, check with the organiser. *Phil*

So with that mouth watering thought I will take my leave.

Ride safe.  
Rob Harvey

#### August 2004

Firstly an apology to anyone who read the journal diary and went to the Green Dragon at Oxen and found themselves alone. In between writing about the change of venue and it getting to you, the original venue at the Coach and Horses at Thurgaton has been reinstated as the pub has reopened. Sorry.

So what went on in June? At the beginning of the month there was the run to Whitby. There were two groups that set off. The Nottingham contingent, led by Martin Ellis and the Sleaford group, led by Bill Rogers. A total of 25 bikes, a good turn out even managed to persuade two new members, Marianne and Andrew to come along. The aim was to meet up at the harbourmasters office at Whitby. The best laid plans and all that. The contingent arrived, after a good run, at midday and promptly devoured the fish and chips. The group took a more scenic route, some eventually arriving at about half one and the main body at three just in time to wave goodbye to the contingent. Ah well. Whitby itself is a scenic town and well worth a visit especially on a day when the sun is shining as it was for us. The contingent took a route home led by Dave Bromely. The group had a staggered departure. A good day. all in all. everyone got something out of it. Thanks to the run leaders who put so much time and effort into organising these days.

On the 27th was Bills postponed brewery run, I was unable to go myself, so at the time of writing I have not had any feedback on this outing. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and refrained from consuming the local tipple.

So what's coming up for August? There's the Camping weekend that covers the end of July and beginning of August. Don't forget the BBQ at Ropsley. If you are intending to go can you let me know by the first just so we can give the pub some indication of numbers. There's Bills run to Chatham. Finally at the end of the month the National meet in the New Forest.

Although this year is only half way through it is time to think about next years diary. There are already some ideas in the pipeline for weekends away but what we need to do next year is bring back some of the traditional brunch runs. So get your thinking caps on and let me have your ideas - I need them by the beginning of October. Talking of October, on behalf of the secretary I am giving notice that the Midlands AGM will be held on Sunday the 10th at the Greetham Community centre - an agenda will be formalised so if you have an issue that you need raise please put it in writing to the secretary by The 1st October. There will be an election of the committee so if you wish to nominate yourself or another please have your nominations with a proposer and seconder with the secretary, again by the 1st.

## September 2004

Well, folks here we are into September, where has the year gone? Into enjoying yourselves I hope and taking advantage of those days when the weather has looked favourable and getting out on those marvellous machines.

So what's been happening in July. On the 11th, I lead a small contingent to the Flying legends display at Duxford. The weather held fair and a good time was had by all, remind me next time to ignore the signs that say all show traffic this way.

The 25th was a day of mixed events and in my area appalling weather. For those that ventured out there was the visit to Starcom communications organised by Martin, over the course of the day 60 plus members attended. Starcom were so pleased they have donated a communications system to be raffled at next years AGM. The same day was Founders day at Stanford Hall. I have not had any feed back on that but if it was like last year then I'm sure that it was another success.

So to the premier event of the month. Martin Ellis has done a full report so I have included part of it here. If you want the full text check it out on the club webpage, Where you can read about the exploits of Glennys Barr who has earned herself a fast reputation. So over to Martin: Erewash Steam and Vintage show – Long Eaton 30th 31st July. Fantastic: that's all that needs saying really – 'bye then.... OK, a bit more info. Diane and I arrived on site with the caravan on Thursday afternoon to prepare the stand and mark out the area for our expected camping visitors.

Our campers came from Yorkshire, the West Midlands, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Mick and Glenys Barr stayed with us, which was a good thing, allowing the stand to contain a little more of a vintage/classic element, along with the other classic bikes which turned up on Saturday. Dennis Asquith (Yorkshire) turned up on his RT, and I have never seen so much camping stuff come out of so small a space in my life. A tent you could throw a party in, a chair (not one of these dinky little stools mind you, a proper fold out camping chair), solar water heating bag, all necessary clothes and toiletries....and what looked like a cooking range! Not for Dennis a tiny Coleman pan boiler, oh no, this was a two ring camping stove which unfolded into something you could feed a platoon with, and he had a proper Camping Gas cast iron gas cylinder! I was really impressed with the ingenuity of the way that everything packed away, and the obvious evolutionary way that this packing procedure has happened. I'm certain that there are may of you for whom this is standard practice, but never having camped 'on a bike' I was amazed.

Saturday arrived and we made our way up onto the display field, where the tent was, and lined up the bikes for display. Although I say it myself, it was a really impressive looking stand, with

the BMW flag, and the bunting. We attracted a great number of visitors, and had many conversations with the public about the bikes. Some familiar faces dropped in over the two days, including our own Midland section webmaster Phil (The Boxer Man) Hawksley, and the tea and coffee flowed freely. Many biscuits were consumed (but that was mostly Gilbert) and the days just seemed to fly past.

Being a steam and vintage event, many of our participants took the time to investigate the trade stalls and to look around the hundreds of different exhibits on display, including, bizarrely, a particularly ugly owl, and a sheep shearing display. Two special favourites spring to mind, one of which was the acrobatic display put on by a fearless JCB driver who did everything with his machine apart from make it fly. We marvelled at the balletic precision with which these machines can be operated, and you would not believe the angles of lean which can be achieved with one of these gargantuan beasts without tipping over. Incredible. Another show worthy of anyone's money was the Wall of Death, which was part of the fair, in another field. There are precious few of these travelling shows left in existence now, I believe you can count them on one hand and still have some fingers left. This one was Ken Fox's team, and is the one which featured in an episode of Heartbeat some time ago. Thrilling is not a very widely used word these days but it really does apply to a live wall of death display. It's the best £2.00 that you'll ever spend – go and see one while you still can.

Biking visitors turned up on their immaculately prepared machines, from places like Wakefield, Coventry, Sleaford and Peterborough, with some people, like Carl Wells and his wife, from Rotherham, and Bill Clarke from Beeston, Notts, travelling to take part on both days. Furthest travelled were Paul Wilson and Larry Staines, respectively from Stockton on Tees, and Fareham in Hampshire. Help and support was given 'on the day' in various ways by committee members Dale Marchant, Bill Rodgers and Richy Filipczac (thanks for the ice cream and cakes), but special thanks must go to Graham Parker and Gilbert Thomas, who both gave up the chance to attend on their bikes, in favour of bringing much needed equipment in vans, and then working very hard to make sure that everything went smoothly, which it did.

We had a communal cookout around my caravan on Saturday evening on Graham's monster griddle, with Graham proving to be another Gordon Ramsey without the swearing (mostly). An evening of chat, jokes and holiday tales was made easier by the fantastic weather, and I hope that everyone had a great time.

Sunday was much the same as Saturday, again with good weather, and with some of that day's exhibitors returning, and some being replaced by riders from other locations. We managed to take part in Sunday's parade of bikes around the arena which was good fun for us all, but I became a little apprehensive when the commentator mentioned that my bike was called Trigger, and I was hoping that he wouldn't ask me, on the microphone, why, because as some of you know, the explanation involves some colourful language.

This has been my first foray into putting on a camping weekend and I have to say I've had a fantastic time. I'm looking forward to doing more. Diane and I have been exhibitors at this event for five years now, with agricultural machinery, and my thanks go to the organiser, Dave Hoyles for allowing me to bring what is essentially a non-vintage display to his event, and for being so helpful in his own loveable, gruff way. Thanks also to everyone who helped in whatever way, but especially to my wife Diane who did so much for an event where she normally has to do nothing but read and relax. I hope that we are allowed to take part next year, so check the Midland calendar, or Around The Compass.

My final comment is that Dale Marchant must have shares in Autosol and Mer, I have seen new bikes not looking as fine as Herman did. If you fancy honing your skills on Trigger, Dale..... Martin Ellis.

Many thanks Martin for your efforts, I have already pencilled it into next years events calendar so its over to you. Talking of next year, the calendar is already filling up with idea's so if you have one and want a date get in touch soon June and July are still available'ish.

Finally there has been a bit of confusion over some of the pub meet dates. Just to confirm. Thurgaton is back on at its original venue and time and the new additional venue for Mansfield is the Park hall Tavern on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. So till next time.

Ride safe

Rob H.

### October 2004

Well, August was a bit damp to say the least. Not many completely dry days. But we managed to find one that stayed dry almost to the end. That was Bills run to Chatham Historic Naval Dockyard on the 15th. 22 members met at the appointed time at the Peterborough services including a member new to us, Brian from Metherringham near Lincoln, hope you enjoyed the day? There's not a lot that can be said for the A1, M11 and M25 but it was the only way to go in the time available. A brisk pace was maintained and after a short break at Thurrock to refresh riders and machines, the journey continued. The group managed to stay together until the Dartford crossing got in the way. Despite the fact that bikes go free the barrier is lowered after each bike so only allowing one through at a time. Something to do with counting the total number of vehicles. So with the free for all wacky race style exit a few of the group got separated but thanks to the excellent tail end Charlie, Richard, they were all rounded up and arrived at the dockyard only a few minutes behind the rest. Once admission was sorted we were allowed through with the bikes to park on the quayside. The docks cover 80 acres and have a 400 year link with the Royal Navy. The group split into smaller units and each did their own thing, occasionally meeting and exchanging stories of what had been seen.



There is an excellent display of RNLI boats from its beginnings to the present day and a WWII Destroyer that saw service on the arctic convoys. The open bridge must have been a cold and sometimes frightening place. There is also a submarine and a warship that spanned the period between sail and steam. All of these boats and ships are open for inspection and well worth the time.

The navy used to produce all its own ropes or sheets and the Ropery is still in place as a museum. It is so large that in later days bicycles were used to get about.

There really was too much to see in the time we had available and there will, no doubt, be members who will make a return visit. The journey home was uneventful for most, except Terry, who tried to get his own back on drivers who allow diesel to spill by trailing the contents of his fuel tank up the M11.

For an unlucky few the weather caught up with them near to their homes, still better the end of the day than the beginning. So what next? Well, October is here and with it comes the Sunday meets at Greetham and Towcester. Check the dates in your Diary's. Don't forget the AGM on the 10th at Greetham, if you have something to say be there or as the saying goes forever hold your peace. Due to a holiday clash I won't be able to attend, Want to know where I will be? then attend the AGM. If you have an issue that you wish placed into any other business beforehand then let the Secretary, Dale Marchant know by the 3rd. The committee is up for re-election and I believe that those currently serving are willing to continue unless you want something different. So be there to vote. On that note I will sign off.

RIDE SAFE.  
Rob H

### November 2004

Summer is over, if that is what we had? Christmas is only a few weeks away along with the new year. Talking of which as I sit here almost at the end of September I can say that the calendar for next year is in the final stages of coming together. Many thanks to those of you who responded to my requests for ideas, I hope that what we will be putting together will include something for everyone. There are camping weekends, hotel weekends a mix of the two and even the possibility of trips overseas.

So what has been happening in September. Well, at the beginning of the month Terry Collier took a group to Calella in North East Spain. What can one say about it? The place is scenic, quiet and beautiful. The hotel was first class, the company was pleasant and at the end of each restful day it was nice to sit on the terrace drinking some of that excellent medicine and just let the conversation drift with the tide. You had to be there to appreciate it. There is talk of a repeat next year. Thanks to Terry and Bronwyn for introducing us to the area.



As we returned another group under the leadership of Gilbert Thomas, crossed the channel for a weekend at the chateau a few miles south of Cherbourg. A venue visited before and plans afoot to visit again. From having visited the place myself last year I know that those who went will not have been disappointed, it is an area with so much to see that every time it is visited there will always be something new to see and do. The chateau has a uniqueness all of its own, the food is superb and there's plenty of it.

So what of the rest of the month. There was a planned trip to the Railway museum at York, at the time of writing I have not had a report. I hope those of you that went enjoyed the day.

There was the classic bike show at Beaumanor Hall for which I'm sure there will be a write up in the vintage section.

There's not a lot more to say at the moment (bet the editors relieved) This article is a bit shorter than my usual as I am having to write it a bit earlier due to a forthcoming holiday, which will have been and gone by the time you read this.

So to finish don't forget that the Sunday meets will have started at Greetham and Towcester so get along there and enjoy yourselves.

Ride safe Rob H

## December 2004

So the year is almost over, Christmas is but a few weeks away. I hope you have all written your letters to Santa and that you get what your heart desire's. Failing that you can renew your membership for another year and continue reading my jottings.

So what has happened over these past weeks. Well, the AGM was held. Things were discussed and voted on, your committee was voted back in. So all is well. If you want a full account of proceedings then I am sure if you contact Dale the secretary he will send you a copy of the minutes for the price of a self addressed and stamped envelope.

So what has been happening? I received a short report regarding the run to the York railway museum. Sadly due to accidents, two trips abroad and uncooperative weather there was a small turn out but I am assured that those who went enjoyed themselves. To those who made the effort, thank you, you upheld the honour of the club.

Other than the AGM the main event for October was the 40's revival weekend at Pickering, I'm referring to the year here not the members age. This year those that attended got well into the spirit of the occasion in all its forms. Here's a report from Alan Edgar; Back to the 40's Weekend. What a great weekend we had in Yorkshire in October. Every year in the towns/villages linked to the North Yorkshire Steam railway, which runs from Pickering via Goatland (Heartbeat country) to Grosmont there is a 40's celebration weekend, 80% of the visitors dress up in 40's gear, there numerous vehicles from that era both civilian and military (BSA's chugging about everywhere) there are parades and re-enactments of various events which are extremely professionally played out. It is our second year we've organised a weekend to the event, staying at a Hotel in nearby Cropton. This year we all decided to "Dress up" and it was great fun, we had "Bill the Spiv" and "Show me your documents Alan" who looked more like Herr Flick of the Gestapo than anything seen in this country. Bill the Spiv was in constant fear! Of course for the women seamed stockings were the order of the day. The Gang from Peterborough were all dressed in very smart army gear with Gill Radford outranking hubby Malcome "so what's new " was the general comment. The return trip from Pickering to Goatland and Grosmont on the steam train with the old corridor carriages just added to the overall atmosphere, the general consensus was "Can't wait until next year". So there you are, as stated there will be a re-enactment of this outing next year so get your bids in early.

With the approach of winter things start to slow down. Don't forget that there are still the pub meets and those extra special Sunday meets at Towcester and Greetham. Dinah has informed me that she has arranged for some special speakers at some of the Towcester meets so check the diary which and I hope I am not tempting fate, will be with you soon. So with that thought. I will wish you and yours a happy festive season.

I hope to see as many of you as possible out there next year.

Ride safe.  
Rob Harvey