

Midland Section News 2006

www.bmw-club.org.uk/~midland

January 2006

This is my first section news 'on my own' and there's so much to say that I don't know where to start. Firstly, depending on what date this drops through your door it's either Merry Christmas.....or Happy New Year.... you choose...

There may still be chance to join us for the post Christmas evening meal at the Fox, Ropsley, which takes place on the 14th Jan. Give Bill Rodgers a call to check. (01526) 834480.

The response to the committee's request for volunteers to organise future Winter meets at Greetham was very gratifying. January's meeting is being covered Angie Machin and Phil Johnson (01623) 431934 We've also had a welcome offer of longer term help in this area from Judy Moyne, who with her husband Mick, have agreed to cover November 2006, January and February 2007. This kind of involvement certainly takes the pressure from us for a while, and means that the future of our Greetham gatherings looks a lot better than it did a few weeks ago. Many thanks to all concerned.

Please note that for February, the Greetham meeting, which is normally on the 2nd Sunday, will be on the 3rd Sunday (19th), instead, and will be organised by section Treasurer Graham Parker and his wife, the lovely Ann (01623) 467852. Please call if you would like to offer some assistance at Greetham, to any of our teams. The Towcester date remains in its usual slot, on the 1st Sunday, ably catered for by Janet and John Winn.

We have some superb events for you in 2006, and I'd like to mention just a few. Section secretary Rob Harvey's week in a Scottish hotel (July) in the Heart of 'Monarch of the Glen' country is unbeatable value and one not to be missed. (Rob's details are at the front of each Journal)

The weekend after that, we have a real coup. A camping/caravanning weekend 'inside' Cadwell Park race track at a fantastic rate, with the helicopter and team from the Notts/Lincs Air Ambulance (our chosen charity). They will be using our site as a base of operations on the Saturday. How cool is that? (or should that be how draughty?)

Another really special event takes place in Northumberland over the bank holiday at the end of May, and this is being advertised by several sections so don't miss it. Camping/caravanning/bunkhouse/B+B near Hadrian's Wall – with a ride out on Saturday organised for us by the North East section, and a ride into Beamish open air village/museum on the Sunday with discounted rates and free parking for our bikes in one of their event fields. This event has already generated considerable interest from other sections so if you're thinking of going in anything other than a tent or your own caravan–book now.

The Long Eaton steam rally at the end of July is happening again too. This will be our third year there and it just gets better and better. Booking for this event is essential, but when you consider that everything is FREE – entry to the show, camping/caravanning, tea/coffee, evening barbecue on Saturday – it really is unbeatable value (See around The Compass for more info on the above events).

We also have a great range of other weekend events and runs, with most of them being on Sundays, but some on Thursdays and one or two on Saturday again! Have a go, join in – you might enjoy yourself so much that you'll want to do it again. Don't be put off by the 'group' thing. Using the drop-off system as we do means that we don't ride in convoy, and everyone gets to ride at their own pace.

If all has gone well you should have received your diary of events for 2006 with this Journal, and I hope that you will find something in there which will be of interest to you. I've tried a different format for the yearcard this time, in an attempt to make it easier to read. Let me know what you think.

I have been in regular contact with social secretaries from other sections over the last few weeks to try and co-ordinate our events with theirs a little more, and with the use of our section website and the club's national site, many of our events (particularly some of the weekends away) are going to be given wider publicity in the coming year, which means that some events which need booking, are going to fill up very quickly. Midland section has a good reputation for putting on a decent 'do', so don't miss out by leaving it too late.

We need some people prepared to help out at the national Rally in August. Yes, I know it seems a long way away, but we are already finalising details for some aspects and it would be helpful if we had a list of people we can count on when we need things doing. Please contact the chairman for this event – Graham Parker (01623) 467852 and give him your details.

For those of you with internet access, (and I know that this doesn't apply to everyone so I apologise if this bit's boring) please visit our own section website <http://www.bmwMcC.co.uk/midland> regularly. Section member Phil (Boxerman) Hawksley has provided us with a fantastic website with much to offer, but it's seriously underused. Have a look, there's a lot of interesting stuff on there - reports of past runs and events, late news, traveller's tales, photos, and of course our calendar for the coming year, with a section devoted to up-and-coming events, so you can get a better idea of what you may be letting yourself in for. The calendar can be downloaded for printing if required. You can also access the websites of all the other sections, to see what they have on offer too.

Another good place to visit is the Midland section discussion area on the club national site (Free, full access to club members) <http://www.bmwMcC.co.uk/forum.html> where you can have your say and post your suggestions.

Finally, I'd like to see as many of you as possible ignoring the hangovers on New Year's day and joining me for the ride to Papplewick pumping station in Notts. It's a fascinating place with some wonderful architecture and of course those magnificent Watts steam pumping engines, at least one of which will be in steam. There is a café on site, and even after the ride there a good look round, you should still be home before dark. Details are in the centre section of this issue of The Journal and on our section website.

Feel free to contact me on (01623) 401405 midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com if I can help you with any further information, or if you feel that you could help out in any way, such as setting up for camping weekends, or being a back-marker on runs. All help gratefully accepted.

Martin Ellis

February 2006

The Christmas lunch at Greetham was a great success as usual, with good food, good company and excellent value. Graham Cluley announced that the 2006 lunch will be their last

for us and I'm sure that we'd all like to thank Graham and Sally for their efforts over the years. Volunteers of this calibre are hard to find.

The New Year's Day ride-out was well attended again with over 30 people on 25 bikes (most of the time!) this year, and Papplewick pumping station was actually open (unlike last year). Visitors from Leicestershire, Milton Keynes, Warwickshire and Merseyside show that there is a good deal of interest in a run such as this, and my thanks go to Dave Clayton for being back marker. See the Midland website <http://www.bmwcc.co.uk/midland> where you'll find a report with photos, and more information on many of the other items mentioned here.

Don't forget the bring'n'buy at Askew Grove, Repton, Derbys. on the 26th by kind invitation from those nice Mercia people (more info from Mercia social sec Keith Hamilton – details in The Journal).

Another gentle reminder that for February, the Greetham meeting, which is normally on the 2nd Sunday, will actually be on the 3rd Sunday (19th) and this one is being covered by Graham and Ann Parker, so you are advised to turn up hungry! If you want to offer them some help please call on (01623) 467852 soon. Our Towcester gathering is still on the 1st Sunday of each month as usual and to give you something a little different, for the March Towcester meeting there will be a bring'n'buy (motorcycling related items only). See the Journal diary section for more info.

If all went well you should have received your calendar of events with the January Journal, and if you haven't, please let Rob Harvey (details at front of Journal) know. Be patient though, Rob has a heavy 'club' workload at this time of year.

It's still a little early for outdoor activities for most of us, so how about trying one of the pub gatherings which we have at various locations all year round. All of the pubs now have their addresses and phone numbers listed in the diary section of The Journal, and they're on the year card too.

Something else a little different, this time in March, but not in the year card, is a chance to go clay pigeon shooting on SATURDAY the 18th. Numbers for this event are limited to 20 and it must be paid for by March 1st. Professional tuition and all equipment (Oh Lord, they're going to give us guns!) will be provided and lunch is available at the venue, Cosford Shooting club near Rugby. Participants must be over 18 – directions available from Tony Kingston (07714) 951194 tckmail@btinternet.com. It's a 'Make your own way there' day and it will run from 10 to around 3 in the afternoon. Cost is £21 each and it's mainly aimed (no pun intended) at beginners but is suitable for all

Don't forget to visit (if you can) the Midland chat area on the club national site

<http://www.bmwcc.co.uk/forum> regularly where you can ask questions and have your say. It's free to members.

Finally, just a reminder that our chosen charity for this season is the Notts and Lincs Air Ambulance, and **all** monies collected for charity from our various events should be sent to our treasurer Graham Parker, so that a single donation can be made later in the year. To all event organisers, your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated.

As always, if I can be of assistance I can be contacted on (01623) 401405 or midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com

March 2006

Bill Rodgers' well organised post-Christmas meal at The Fox, Ropsley, went really well, will all diners having a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks to Bill for taking the time to arrange this for us.

Apart from the clay pigeon shooting day mentioned last month (this should already be full by now, but you never know), we've three other events in March which are worthy of an extra mention. The first is an invitation from East Anglia to a bike-and-camping-bits auction at Wimbotsham nr Downham Market in Norfolk on the 19th, and the second is a ride to Kelling on the Norfolk coast with section member Ian Griffin on the 25th. This is Griff's first run for us and I hope that he gets a good turn out. Please note that this is a SATURDAY.

The third event to mention is the Sunday meeting at Greetham on the 12th (last one until October), which is being catered by Bron and Terry Collier from Oakham who, like others stepped in to help when we needed it. If you'd like to lend them a hand, contact them on (01572) 755292 or tcollier@freeuk.com Don't forget also that at the March Towcester meeting there will be a bring and buy for motorcycling related items only please. 11.30 setup. (45 people at Towcester in Feb and 55 at Greetham in Jan— superb turnouts).

Looking forward to April, rather than sit at home on Easter Sunday (16th) why not ride with us to Mallory Park racetrack in Leicestershire <http://www.mallorypark.co.uk/default.asp> to support club member Alan Hurd who, with his son-in-law races (under the name of Adako racing) a BMW outfit based on an R100 which Alan personally imported and collected from Norway. There will be a full day of vintage and classic racing, including practice if we get there early enough, so the discounted entry cost of £12 per person is good value. For this we will also be given reserved parking for our bikes and free access to the paddock area as concessions, but in order to receive these extra benefits, booking in advance is required. Please make cheques payable to The BMW Club and send them to me, Martin Ellis (Mallory), 11 Mapplewells Road, Sutton In Ashfield Notts. NG17 1HZ by 10th April at the latest. Let's go and give him some support and have a good day out in the process. Meet at Donington services M1 J24 anytime from 8.30 for breakfast and **depart** at 9.30.

I know it's still early in the year, but the holiday season will be upon us soon, and to that end, some of our events which need booking...should be booked! Rob Harvey's week in a Scottish hotel (July) is one such event. This is 5 nights (Sunday to Friday) half-board at a good quality hotel in the Cairngorms (Monarch of the Glen country) and at a really good price. Limited places are available so get booking on (01788) 393178. More info on the hotel can be found at http://www.strathmorehotels.com/neth_site/ and the other usual sources, mentioned below. Entry forms for the Long Eaton steam rally weekend in July should also be being requested from me (or downloaded) about now, and you should be booking your accommodation (if needed) for Dolgellau and Northumberland.

Due to an administrative error (I sent the wrong file in to the Editor), there's a possibility that some dates may be wrong in March's diary section of this (March) Journal. If in doubt consult your yearcard (which is correct) or phone to check. Other sources of information and downloads can be found at <http://www.bmwccc.co.uk/forum> and the Midland website <http://www.bmwccc.co.uk/midland>

As always, if I can be of assistance I can be contacted on (01623) 401405 or midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com

April 2006

Turnout for Greetham and Towcester has been record breaking so far, so we must be getting something right, let's keep it up for the rest of the year on the runs and other events. Thanks to all who have helped at both venues.

The 17th Rhino rally at Beddgellert in N.Wales was once again a great success, with three days of sunshine enabling the 100 plus who stayed in B+B's and tents to have a good time sightseeing, and an even better excuse for trying to drink the village pubs dry. Long may it continue.

Richard's run to RAF Cosford on the 2nd looks interesting (all the more so because entry is free), and there are only a very few days left now to prepay (see centre pages, around the compass and Midland website) for the Mallory park visit to support club-member Alan Hurd. Alan will be racing an R100 outfit against other classic/vintage machines on what should be a fascinating day, including practice and all manner of machines. Prepayment (£12) is required to receive discounted entry, reserved parking and free access to the paddock area. Anyone turning up for the run without having prepaid will have to pay full price.

We've the invitation from East Anglia to the Cambridgeshire Police's motorcycle safety unit display on the 23rd which I personally am really looking forward to, and then there's George Gibson's camping/B+B weekend at Dolgellau in Wales at the end of the month. Last year's rally was excellent so don't miss it this time around. B+B (if needed) has to be pre-booked, and information can be had from George on (07832) 458585.

Finally in April there's the Lincolnshire Wolds run (formerly the Louth Lions run). This too is a long standing well-attended run, and Bill Rodgers (01526) 834480 has more information if needed.

I hope you've all booked your B+B's or bunkhouse beds for the Beamish/Northumberland long weekend at the end of May and secured your hotel room via Rob Harvey robharvey261@aol.com (01778) 393187 for the Cairngorms hotel week in July.

Check the Journal diary section for pick up points and start times for all runs, and if you can, visit the Midland website where you can download a printed copy of our year's calendar and find out much more about some of the above events. You can also download a booking form for the Long Eaton steam rally, and extra booking forms for this year's national rally at Moreton Morrell.

The national AGM at Chorley in Lancs on the 8th (Saturday) will be full of action (probably not the right word, I know) and anyone with any interest in what's happening to the club should go up at least for the meeting if they can. Some bits *can* be boring but the discussions and proposals sometimes produce real fireworks. It's a day out on the bike and you will get chance to comment and vote on some of the most important issues facing the club for some time. It's your chance to be involved in the club's future. I'll be riding up on the Saturday morning and if anyone wishes to join me at my house (near J28 M1) and ride up with Peter Dunn (BCE rep) and me, I'll make sure the kettle's on.

Other sources of information and downloads can be found at <http://www.bmwcc.co.uk/phpBB2/> and the Midland website <http://www.bmwcc.co.uk/midland> As always, if I can be of assistance I can be contacted on (01623) 401405 or midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com

May 2006

If you get this Journal soon enough, there may still be time to remind you about George Gibson's camping weekend at Dollgellau in Wales, over the weekend of April 28/May 1. George's number is 07832 458585 if you need on-site B+B.

Griff's run to Kelling in Norfolk was an unqualified success, and I hope that we can persuade him to do more of the same. 'The Gallery' café/bookstore provided us with good, homemade food in a really nice environment, and this coupled with good, dry weather and some interesting roads...you get the picture. I was a little perturbed when passing through one village on the way there and the sat-nav showed that we were 4 metres below sea level! Scary!

The East Anglia invitation to the auction at Wimbotsham was appreciated, and Midland member Chris Barnes provided a goodly amount of the things to be auctioned. Rob Bensley's infectious enthusiasm made for a decent event.

The Thursday midweek run in May will now go ahead, but with some alterations. It will in fact start from Donington Services J24M1 at 9.30am and will be led by me (join us early for breakfast). Entry fee for our mystery location is around £5 and the only clues are that if you're over 35 there'll be something of interest for you, male or female, and there are laughs to be had. Food and drink is available on site.

I hope to see as many of you as possible partaking of the free refreshments provided for us after the run to Starcom HQ (Huntingdon, cambs) on the 4th, where you will be able to test the new Starcom Advance intercom, along with all sorts of other goodies. (Did I mention that there's free food?)

Bill Rodgers' Edinburgh hotel weekend is now fully booked, but he is still welcoming entries for the steam/classic show at Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire. Belvoir Castle is a fantastic site and it will be a really good show with something for everyone. It takes place on the weekend of 20th/21st May. You need to call Bill on (01526) 834480 if you're thinking of attending.

As I mentioned last month, there will NOT be a BMW club stand at the BMF rally this year, so you'll have to find somewhere else to deposit the gear while walking round (why not go to Belvoir instead?).

Please don't miss what should be a brilliant weekend in Northumberland for our Beamish weekend at the end of May. You can camp or take your own caravan without booking, and there is a bunkhouse available on the site, as well as B+B's within a few yards. A rideout on Saturday will be complemented by discounted entry to Beamish on the Sunday, and with this being a three night event, you can arrive on Friday and leave on Monday (bank holiday).

Congratulations and thanks are due to Janet and John Winn for their 'first half' this season, as they have managed to donate to charity the sum of £420 raised from raffle and catering profits. The last meeting (until October) at Towcester was attended by 50 people – excellent.

Rob Harvey's Scottish hotel weekend in July has fallen victim to lack of support unfortunately, and has been cancelled, but we'd like to thank Rob for his efforts in arranging this event.

As usual, more details for all of the above-mentioned events, along with contact information, our full calendar, past run/show reports and booking forms etc can be found on the Midland website <http://www.bmwsmcc.co.uk/midland> and you can have your say on the club discussion forums on <http://www.bmwsmcc.co.uk> (click on Forum) which also has our full calendar available for download.

I'm always available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972

June 2006

Richard's run to RAF Cosford (April) was well attended with a total of 14 bikes joining in. The weather remained good for the important bits and the visit was a great success, as was our day at Mallory park to watch Alan Hurd race his R90 based outfit. I presented Alan with the Club's sporting Spirit trophy, which was awarded to him at the national AGM the weekend before.

Our run to the Police safety demonstration in Cambridgeshire was a good day out with a superb ride – thank you to E Anglia for inviting us, and the Dolgellau camping weekend was a great success once again (with good weather) and we owe George Gibson our praise for organising it.

The first run of June is the brunch run to a mystery location, on the 4th. I can promise you good roads, good scenery and good food at proper prices. After lunch we will briefly visit a local place of interest (outdoor and free). The ride will be around 100 miles each way and will include a comfort stop.

The Thursday midweek run on June 8th has unfortunately had to be CANCELLED, but we *do* have a bonus run for you on the 18th – a ride to Whitby on the North Yorks coast. I will be starting at 9.00am from the Tesco car park, ½ mile East of Melton Mowbray on the Grantham (A607) road, and riding to meet Dale Marchant, who will be leading the run-proper at 10.00 am from the Forester's café, on the A616, 100 yards west of Ollerton roundabout, where the A614/A6075/A616 meet (petrol available). This is about 15 miles north of Nottingham. There will be a comfort stop on the way to Whitby.

Bill Rodgers' ride to a private motorcycle museum in Bakewell (featured in last month's MSL magazine) should prove fascinating to anyone with an interest in vintage and classic machinery, and will reveal some really rare bikes. There will be a lunch stop in Derbyshire, then tea and biscuits at the museum later in the afternoon. Miss it at your peril!

The ride to Wroxham on the 25th promises to be a corker. You can hire a day boat for an hour or so, take a trip on a riverboat, walk around the busy seaside-like town, or just sit and relax at a pub next to the river while you watch the boats and enjoy your lunch. We will be stopping for a break/pickup around 10.45 at the 'Farm café/shop' on the A17 about 2 miles east of it's junction with the A151. We will then meet up with the East Anglia section near Swaffham for the final ride into town. We have FREE off road parking arranged specially for us off Station street behind the King's head. You should plan to be out for a full day.

Run departure times will be **prompt**....not five or ten minutes past!, and as with all runs, please do arrive at least 15 minutes before departure time.

Note that there is NO RUN on July 2nd. The Dudley canal tunnels visit scheduled for that date will now take place a week later, on Sunday the 9th. We have two start points to cover both ends of the section.

As usual, more details, contact information, our full calendar, past run/show reports and booking forms etc can be found on the Midland website <http://www.bmw-mcc.co.uk/midland> and on the Midland area of the club discussion forums on <http://www.bmw-mcc.co.uk/forum> where you can also have your say. I can be contacted via midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com or on (07970) 682972 *even while I'm on the bike*, for more info, or if you want to know where 'the pack' is on a run at any given time.

July 2006

George Gibson's long weekend in Dolgellau gave us good weather and a really good 'social' weekend, even if George did drop his Kwak (on some gravel) while leaving the slate mines at Llechwedd. Thanks George.

The May midweek mystery brunch run saw 5 bikes head out to....no, I'm not saying....it was a mystery. We had a great time and were well fed and entertained. Unfortunately the rest of the scheduled midweek runs will not take place as our original leader has had to withdraw from the fray, and my commitments make it difficult for me to take them on.

Against all odds, the club *did* have a stand at the BMF show in May (my comment about us not going had already gone to print when it was decided at the national AGM that we should indeed be there, so I apologise for any confusion). It was a resounding success (mentioned elsewhere in this issue) and a very entertaining weekend. Midland section contributed in a large way to this effort and we can be proud that we made it happen. Special thanks to Lisa Parker and Hugh Reid, and the others who spent all weekend helping out.

Bill Rodgers' Edinburgh weekend (now almost an institution) was the triumph that it usually is, and was helped in no small part by superb weather, but the same unfortunately can't be said for the Belvoir Castle steam and vintage show, where a respectable number people braved the elements to exhibit their bikes, only to have rain virtually 'stop play'. Thanks for the effort anyway Bill.

The end of May saw about 50 people from all over the country converge on a campsite near Hadrian's wall in Northumberland for our 'Beamish' weekend. The weather was 'changeable' but behaved itself for the important bits like the Saturday rideout (thanks to Neil Langley and Graham Walker of the Northern section), and the run into Beamish on the Sunday. If you didn't make the weekend you missed out on a fantastic gathering with real camaraderie. Quite a few used the nearby B+B's, and some used the bunkhouse, but most camped, and the Saturday evening barbecue/cookout was hectic, but having our section partytent complete with griddle and water boiler made for a really good shindig. Many thanks to those who helped, but particularly to Graham Parker and my long-suffering (so *she* says) wife Diane.

Please note that there is no run on the 2nd of July. The Dudley canal tour run has been moved back from that date to the following Sunday, the 9th, and our second start point has lost its leader (Brian Smith) due to him having had his bike written off, so the ride is from the usual place, Donington Services (details in the Journal centre section).

Don't miss the annual Midland section barbecue which will be at the Fox, Ropsley, on the evening of Tuesday July 4th, and then later in the month we have a couple of unusual weekend events, notably the Air Ambulance weekend in the grounds of Cadwell Park racetrack (Lincoln), and the steam and vintage show at Long Eaton (Notts). The Air Ambulance will be using our rally site as a base of operations on the Saturday, which means that not only will you get chance to see the helicopter taking off and landing at close quarters, but you will also get chance to talk to the team who pilot it and possibly even sit in it.

Finally, tucked away in the middle of everything, on the 23rd, is Griff's second run of the year, to Founders day at Stanford Hall near Lutterworth.

Remember, I'm always available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com Please check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-mcc.co.uk/midland>

August 2006

Our biggest turnout since New Year's day was on June 11, when Bill Rodgers led a huge group of bikes in sweltering heat to a good lunch stop in Derbyshire, then onto the private motorcycle museum in Bakewell where we were all suitably impressed by the variety of machines on display. We were all equally impressed that we lost no-one, especially with such a large group – well done Bill.

Busy bee that he is, Bill also informs me that the annual running of the Sleaford Historic Motorcycle & Car Show takes place on Sept 2nd 2006 & entries are welcome from BMW members with ancient or modern machines (even ancient or modern members are welcome). Please contact him on 01526 834480 or "Chop" Nunn on 01529 305316 for details & entry forms, and he's at it again in August with a trip to the industrial heritage museum at Kelham island in Sheffield on the 13th. This place really is fascinating and well worth a visit – check out the website <http://www.simt.co.uk/index.html> Food is available on site.

Dale's ride to Whitby went down really well (even if it did rain a little) and our day out in Wroxham was an unqualified success with around 20 people from Midland and East Anglia sections having good food in excellent company and good weather. It was nice to meet some new faces, and we had a decent lunch at the King's head in Hoveton where free parking had been reserved for us. These newly made friendships prompted some of us to hire a boat for a leisurely trip along the river Bure onto Salhouse Broad, where we met a river-vendor selling ice creams from his own boat, complete with huge Mr. Whippy cone sticking out from the prow. Did you know that it's impossible to run over a duck with a boat on a river? Not that we tried, of course.... We all had a really enjoyable and relaxing day together – even the ride along the busy A47 only brought about three near misses, all with the same car within the space of a few seconds, when a suicidal Nissan Micra attempted to pull out on three separate occasions into the path of three of our number, but our superhuman reflexes and supreme riding skills (did I mention that I was one of them, by any chance?) saved us from disaster. Thanks to East Anglia social sec Paul Brown for coordinating his end of things, and hopefully this kind of interaction is the shape of things to come. Let's not forget that we are all welcome at all club events, whichever the section.

Our mystery brunch run on August 6 will not be a marathon, but will still be worth getting the bike out for, and it's not to a 'specialist' place – it should suit all tastes – hopefully.

As I have mentioned before, the remainder of our planned Thursday 'midweek' runs will not take place due to unforeseen circumstances.

Don't forget to send in any nominations or proposals which you may have for our section AGM in October. The cut off date is September 7.

Start times/locations and contact details can be found in the diary section of The Journal, or I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com

Please check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland> and don't forget the midland chat area on the newly resurrected club forum at <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/forum/index.php> It has been difficult to access in recent weeks, but all should be well now. Do persevere with it, it's your place to have your say and keep in touch.

September 2006

OK, it's that time again....this is official notification that the Midland section AGM will be held at the Community Centre, Great lane, Greetham, Rutland on Sunday October 8th. Meeting at 11.00, hot snacks around 1.00pm. If you have any items or proposals for the agenda, or would like to make it known that you fancy being on the committee, please notify the section secretary Rob Harvey, (Rob's details are in the 'Section Secretaries' page near the front of this magazine) Submissions should officially be with Rob one month before the AGM date.

The section barbecue at The Fox, Ropsley had a good turnout, and even a shower to kick things off didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those who turned up.

Rob has informed me that the Fox at Ropsley has closed, and our temporary (may become permanent) meeting place is an old haunt, The Three Kings at Threekingham. Same days, same time as the Fox. Watch this space for more details.

My Dudley canal tunnel trip was well supported and we stopped off at the Birmingham Canal Basin (Gas Street) on the way for a cuppa and a breather from the heat. The Gas Street basin was the location for many items in the recent Waterworld series from Central TV and it was interesting to see it in real life. The Dudley canal tour took us underground to see the limestone caverns, one of which was used for musical concerts, and still hosts wedding ceremonies to this day.

All went well despite George Gibson realising that he had locked his helmet to his bike and forgotten the keys for the lock.

Our Cadwell Park 'Meet the Air Ambulance team' weekend was better supported by the Yorkshire section than our own, but was successful nevertheless. Pictures will appear on the Midland website soon, and by now there should have been a small article in the local paper. Keep checking the website for details.

Now is the time to contact me and let me know how well (or not) you think this year's events have gone down. Good...bad...enjoyable...interesting...boring...start places OK?...enough information...more camping/less camping...evening rides...Saturday rides...etc etc. *Please do* take a few minutes to contact me, either by phone (evenings are best) or e-mail to let me know your feelings. We put a lot of thought and effort into trying to provide a varied calendar, and the only way that we'll know if it's any good or not, is if you tell us.

Some of next year's events are already in the advanced planning stages, but there's plenty of time to jump in and volunteer your services or just your ideas. Where do *you* want to go...what do *you* want to see?

The midweek runs seem to be doing very well for other sections, and our brief foray into this area was a success, but unfortunately our run leader had to change his plans after things were arranged, so most were cancelled. Do you want midweek runs next year? Is anyone willing to pick a place from which to start, and have a go themselves? Typically 60 to 80 miles to a pub for lunch, with a tea/toilet stop on the way – simple as that. Jump in, have a go...we'll give you all the info and help that you need. You really won't believe how satisfying leading a run is.

Please remember to check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland> and don't forget the midland chat area on the newly resurrected club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> It has been difficult to access in recent weeks, but all should be well now. Do persevere with it, it's your place to have your say and keep in touch.

Start times/locations and contact details can be found in the diary section of The Journal, or I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com

See you at Moreton Morrell.

October 2006

I hope you all enjoyed the fruits of our efforts at Moreton Morrell in August, we had a great time arranging things, and I have already received many messages of praise from some of the people who attended, directed towards the organising committee. We mustn't forget those of our team who contributed but were unable to attend due to prior commitments, particularly Gilbert Thomas and Dale Marchant.

The attending members of our own section committee, who planned and arranged the whole event, would like to thank our band of willing helpers without whose help an event of this magnitude simply couldn't take place.

Although all of our committee and helpers performed brilliantly, I personally would like particularly to thank Wayne Gunn and Paul Straw (plus family) for helping out with lifting the heavy stuff and coping for long periods with the arduous task of registration/booking in, along with Keith Wheeler for overseeing the bus trips into Stratford, Ian Roulston and Norman Piff for doing a great job selling horses for Sunday's race night, and the 'A team' of Wendy Roulston and, Yvonne Wheeler (who I kept calling Kath! – sorry Yvonne) especially for their long stints on the tea/coffee table. I must also single out Bill Rodgers for the run on Saturday, Richard Filipczak for arranging our silly sports on Sunday, and my long suffering wife Diane without whose tireless efforts I would probably have collapsed!. All of this was coordinated and managed by Graham Parker as event chairman, and his prowess in this area is now achieving almost legendary status.

The Moreton Morrell event itself was a tremendous success with vast numbers, and you simply wouldn't believe the number of breakfasts which were served over the weekend! The accommodation was good, the camping was good, the food was good, the weather was good and the people were brilliant. How can you better that?

We had all of the national executive attending, President, National Secretary and Membership secretaries, Editor, National Social Secretary, and even the National Treasurer dropped in as a day visitor. It was nice to see that our club's top officers still take part in club activities. All were made welcome and we even temporarily removed the target from the National Treasurer's back, just for the weekend (I did say temporarily)!

Don't forget the first Winter meeting at Towcester on the 1st, and our section AGM at the community centre in Greetham, which takes place on Sunday the 8th. There'll be hot snacks following the meeting itself, which starts at 11.00am. Judy and Mick Moyne will be doing the catering for us so let's give them a real baptism of fire and have a really large turnout.

We have a new candidate for section secretary this year, and with some committee members standing down, and our long-standing treasurer Graham Parker relinquishing the position of treasurer, now's the chance to come forward if you feel that you have something to offer in this department. Please remember that only Midland section members and their associates can vote at the AGM, but everyone's input is welcome (yes, even yours, uncle George!).

We have now adopted the Three Kings on Saltersaway at Threekingham (Lincs) as the new permanent replacement for the Fox at Ropsley on the evening of the first Tuesday of each month, so give it a try.

If you can, check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland> and don't forget the midland chat area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> Start times/locations and contact details can be found in the diary section of The Journal, or I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com

November 2006

September was a quiet month for the section where runs are concerned, and we really only had Richard's ride to Kenilworth Castle. At least the weather stayed good for the ride, but Richard had to cope with the fact that a large part of our regular team were on holiday over that particular weekend.

The Sleaford show provided an excellent showing of bikes from section members as usual, and Bill Rodgers offers his thanks for the support. The inclement weather lessened the turnout somewhat, but we still had over 40 bikes on display. Well done.

As you know, our section AGM takes/took place on the 8th of October, (depending on whether you're reading this on the website before it was published in The Journal) but due to publishing deadlines for the Journal, it was too late to be able to produce a report in time for this issue. A report should however, be on the Midland website by now (or will be by about the 14th) for those with internet access, and further details will appear in the December section news for those without. Catering was by Judy and Mick Moyne, and they've also agreed to cover November and next January at Greetham for us too, so if you fancy giving them a hand either on the day, or with preparation beforehand, please call them *now* and let them know (01572) 755519. We need volunteers to cover the catering for Greetham next year too – fancy having a go?

The Three Kings at Threekingham seems to be settling in now as our replacement for the Fox, and we will be having our post-Christmas lunch there on Saturday January 13th next year (my birthday!). As always, Bill Rodgers is organising it, and all places need booking in advance. Please do this as soon as you can as we need to know how many to cater for. Bill is reachable on (01526) 834480.

It looks as though you'll be stuck with me for another year as Social Secretary, and with that in mind, there should be a provisional calendar for next year at Towcester on the 5th, and Greetham on the 12th (November) for any of you to suggest ideas for rides and events for 2007, and to register your support with me if you fancy leading a run or arranging a camping weekend yourself. I already have some rideout ideas, and leaders for some of those would be greatly appreciated. Seek me out and I'll let you know what's involved.

Our indoor Sunday gatherings over winter are now in full swing at both of our venues, and as I like to try to attend all of them if possible, I look forward to seeing many new, and familiar faces. The meeting places are the community centre, Great lane, Greetham, Rutland (Judy and Mick Moyne), and the Rangers clubhouse, on the right at the bottom of Islington Road in Towcester, Northants (Janet and John Winn 01604 631043). There is always something to talk about, and you're guaranteed a good chinwag, a chance to put faces to names and enjoy hot snacks and other refreshments, all for only a couple of quid. Details in the diary section, in the centre of each Journal. At the end of last season, we had numbers in the 50s at Towcester and in the 60s at Greetham. Long may it continue.

Sunday 3rd December will see us once again enjoying a 2 Course Christmas Lunch plus Mince Pies and Coffee and a glass of wine at Greetham Community Centre, courtesy of Sally Cluley from whom tickets are available. The meal is at 1.00 pm and costs £9.00 - under 12's £5.00. Tickets available from Sally on (01572) 813639.

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December 2006

As you know, our section AGM took place on the 8th of October, and a short report is now on the Midland website. With a typical turnout, it must have been one of the shortest AGMs on record with no gripes or grumbles whatsoever really, and no questions regarding any of our section officers' reports. Does this mean we're getting things right? Section secretary Rob Harvey stood down at this year's meeting, as did four of our ten committee members - Dale Marchant, Gilbert Thomas, Richard Filipczak and Alan Edgar. I'm sure that you'll join with us in offering them our thanks for all of the work which they have done for the section.

Lisa Parker (no relation to treasurer, Graham), from Cranfield, Beds. has taken over the role of section secretary, and we wish Lisa every success at the helm. Graham Parker had a change of heart and has (thankfully) stayed on as treasurer. Our new committee therefore, consists of six people (so far): Lisa Parker, Secretary – Graham Parker, Treasurer – yours truly, Social Secretary and National Committee Member, with Bill Rodgers, Phil Johnson and Wayne Gunn remaining as Committee Members. If you think that you could contribute something to our section by being on the committee, please contact Lisa on (01234) 750959 or lis_parker@btinternet.com

Don't forget to book your 'Post Christmas' meal at The Three Kings, Threekingham with Bill Rodgers, for Saturday January 13th at 7.30pm. Bill is reachable on (01526) 834480. There may also still be time to get your tickets for our Christmas meal at Greetham on December 3rd, if you're quick. Sally Cluley has them and they are £9 each for adults and £5 for under 12s. Two courses plus mince pies, coffee and wine for £9. What are you waiting for? Call Sally on (01572) 813639. There's more good news too, as Sally let us know at the AGM that she will also be catering for the section 2007 Christmas lunch after all.

Don't miss the 2007 New year's Day ride, which starts once again from Donington Services (J24 M1) at 10.00. Please be there by 9.30 to top up the bike and visit the loo (if needed) as I like to have a few minutes chat before we leave. Our destination is the wonderful "Arkwright's Masson Mill" at Matlock Bath in Derbyshire. This is a working textile museum and is a fascinating place <http://www.massonmills.co.uk> There's also a restaurant and shopping village, so all tastes should be catered for.

Now, some advance notice of two relatively major changes to next year's dates – firstly, we are dropping our pub meet at The Park Hall Tavern in Mansfield Woodhouse and it will not be in the 2007 calendar, and secondly, we have a NEW, ALL YEAR ROUND informal venue on the 4th Sunday of each month at Christy's café/restaurant/farm shop on the A617 at Hockerton, Notts – about 8 miles West of Newark. The map reference (for those of you with GPS) is SK 71295 56663, the postcode is NG25 0PJ and they can be reached on (01636) 816472. They serve everything from a cup of tea to full Sunday lunches, and also have a vast variety of home made cakes, chocolates and bread available. Keep your eye on the diary section in The Journal, but our first gathering will be from 11.00 onwards on Sunday January 28th.

Oh, nearly forgot...Merry Christmas to all from your section committee.

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