

Midland Section News 2008

January 2008

Happy new year from the Midland Committee.

Sally & Grahame Cluley would like to thank the Midland Section for the beautiful flower arrangement sent to them by the section on the recent death of Sally's Mum, Lilian. Who sadly passed away on Saturday 29th September '07, she will be very much missed by us and for her help with section events at Greetham over the years.

Those of you who recover successfully from New Year's Eve might like to join us at Donington services for the customary NYD ride, which this time is heading for Rothley station (Leics). From there we'll board a steam train for a trip to the Loughborough station of the Great Central railway line, where food and amenities are available. The return cost is £8.00 but it's well worth it. There is ample safe parking at Rothley (Edwardian period station), and we'll return there to collect the bikes when we've had our fill of the 1950s period station at Loughborough.

Last chance now to reserve your place for Bill Rodgers' *post* Christmas four course Dinner at 8:00 p.m. on **Saturday, the 19th of January**. Venue is The Solo Club, Market Place, Sleaford. NG34 7SF. Details and a menu from Bill (01526 834480) or Chop Nunn (01529 305316). A deposit of £10 per head will be required, and for those travelling from further afield Bill has a list of Bed & Breakfast places & Hotels in Sleaford, but these are filling up rapidly.

Christy's will not be appearing on our regular gathering calendar for 2008, and it's (virtual) replacement for it will be a breakfast venue at the Friendly farmer café/farm shop just off the A1 near Newark, running on the 3rd Sunday each month from April to October inclusive. Keep your eye on the Journal diary for more information nearer the time, or subscribe to my e-mail list for reminders of upcoming events. Details below.

You should (Hopefully) have all received your calendar of events for 2008 with this issue of The Journal. We have a few events which need advance booking, so please read the calendar carefully to ensure that you don't miss out. Two such imminent events are our Easter in Wales weekend (see the full page advert in this issue), and my trip to Cadbury World at the end of this month (January). This is a heavily discounted price of £4.50 instead of the usual £13.00, which includes a tour of Cadbury World (nr Birmingham) with free samples along the tour, and a goodie-cup! Places are limited, and due to response from the website, we really do only have a few places left.. You can either come on the rideout or meet us there, but you won't get the £4.50 rate if your name's not on my list, so get phoning. All I need is a name and a firm commitment to attend.

We have a new evening gathering starting this month, at Kennedy's bar, Tower Sports Ground, 113 Irthlingborough Rd, Finedon, Northants. NN9 5EJ (01933) 681566. This will be replacing our existing gathering at the Queen's Arms, Orlingbury, which I am reliably informed has suffered a downturn in fortune, and has been attracting very poor turnouts in recent months. Kennedys will be on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

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discussion area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> I'm available most times by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com

February 2008

December's official section Christmas lunch was a really good affair with almost £100 being raised for the Air Ambulance as a result of some fantastic generosity from the people who turned up, both in buying raffle tickets and supplying prizes for the raffle and the auction. The meal was superb and the staff at Christys virtually had to ask us to leave as we stayed so long chatting and having a good time after the meal. My thanks go to everyone who supported this event and were deservedly rewarded with a good time. Lisa Parker and Mark Breeze warrant a special mention for bringing two very valuable prizes, which were auctioned rather than raffled.

February's Greetham gathering will provide us with a talk from a guest speaker on biker first aid, which should be very interesting, and possibly useful in the future (though hopefully not needed!). The talk starts at 11.45, with lunch at the usual time of 1.00pm

Please let me have your bookings for Easter in Wales and the South of France trip as soon as possible, as (respectively) the luxury bunkhouses and air conditioned units are being snapped up rapidly. Hopefully there is an advert for Easter with more details in this issue, and information packs with lists of participants for both events are available from me or on the Club internet Forum (see below).

The long running Long Eaton Steam rally is changing locations this year and we have been invited to take part in the new event at Rockingham Castle (Northants) over the weekend of August 8-10. There's no charge for day visitors, but due to the prestigious nature of the location, campers/caravanners will be asked to pay £10.00 for the entire weekend, including three nights camping with entry to the show on Saturday and Sunday, free tea/coffee all weekend and a free meal on the Saturday evening.

Any age bike can be displayed, but it MUST be a BMW. Entry forms are available from the usual places (see below).

Bill Rodgers has once again secured a marvellous location for a hotel weekend (April 10th – 13th), this time in York. It's a spacious, elegant Victorian B+B called The Hillcrest guesthouse, which has secure parking and is only 10 minutes walk from the city centre. www.accommodation.gbr.fm All rooms have colour TV, with tea/coffee facilities, and a Saturday ride out is planned, weather permitting.

Costs are £30.00 pppn for bed and breakfast, and a maximum of 20 people can be accommodated in a mixture of double, twin and single rooms, so you are advised to book early to secure your preferred room type.

All bookings are to be made via Bill Rodgers (01526) 843380. Please do NOT book with the guesthouse directly. A £10.00 deposit (made payable to the BMW Club) is required at the time of booking.

We had quite a few events in January, but due to publication deadlines, reports will have to wait until next month. Please feel free to let me have a report on any of them (in your own words) and I'll do my best to include it for March's section news.

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March 2008

With only a few weeks left, this really is the last call for anyone wanting to join in with our Easter in Wales holiday (joint venture with East Anglia and Western), as all of the B+B rooms are now full and the three bunkhouse rooms (male, female and unisex) all have multiple occupants. Some clever campers have also reserved their prime spots next to the internal roadway in case we have any rain.

There are still a few bunkhouse spaces left, and with our marquee in use as a central gathering place, and rides planned over the weekend, it has all the hallmarks of being a really good event. Those of you who have already paid a deposit should now let me have your balance as soon as possible please (made payable to the BMW Club).

The bring and buy sale at January's Greetham gathering was well attended, with a bacon roll or hot-dog and coffee being provided for the entry fee. The kitchen crew (Terry & Bron Collier assisted by some of the committee) did a sterling job of catering for the masses, with supplies just about keeping up with demand. Takings were sufficient for us to make a charitable donation to the section charity, and as feedback was very positive on the whole event, it's likely to be repeated in the future. Thanks to all who tuned up as sellers, buyers or helpers.

The 'Post Christmas' Dinner organised by Bill Rodgers took place at The Solo Club Sleaford on Jan 19th, where thirty seven people sat down to what everyone agreed was a superb dinner at a first class location. So successful all round was the evening that Bill has already provisionally arranged next year's bash at the same place.

The Cadbury World visit was a great success, marred only by a newcomer to our ranks being let down by her K100's electrics while en route, but as usual everyone rallied round to help and she made it to C/W with the rest of the group, where 27 of us spent an enjoyable day in this very interesting attraction. My thanks go to everyone who let me know in advance that they would be attending, as this enabled me to secure a really good price for us.

The South of France holiday (September) continues to fill up steadily, and we now have only a few units left available for hire from our original nine. This is a holiday not to be missed. Six nights in an air-conditioned holiday home on the South of France, including travel insurance, for as little as £175....how much more generous can we be?

I make no apologies for once again mentioning Bill Rodgers' hotel weekend (April 10th – 13th) in York. It's a spacious, elegant Victorian B+B called The Hillcrest guesthouse, which has secure parking and is only 10 minutes walk from the city centre. <http://www.accommodation.gbr.fm/> All rooms have colour TV, with tea/coffee facilities, and a Saturday ride out is planned, weather permitting.

Costs are £30.00 pppn for bed and breakfast, and a maximum of 20 people can be accommodated in a mixture of double, twin and single rooms. Details and ALL bookings from Bill (01526) 834480, or see 'Around the Compass'

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April 2008

February was a really quiet month for us with only the first aid talk at Greetham standing out. Unfortunately I missed it due to an altercation with a ford (not the vehicular kind) in Shropshire (see last month's Journal), and was still feeling a little bruised. Treasurer Graham Parker has made arrangements with the speaker (Mark Harris of Rubicon First Aid Ltd) to host a special one day motorcycle first aid training course for those interested. It will take place during the warmer months, on a Saturday at Greetham and costs will depend largely upon the numbers. Cost is expected to be £45. Please contact Graham on 01623 467852 or graham@microhelpuk.net to book. Places are limited so you are urged to register your interest soon.

Graham's late May bank holiday weekend is in Keswick. This proved so popular last year that we're doing it again, even using the same hotels. The two hotels are filling up rapidly but some places are still available. Please contact Graham (details as above) to find out where to send your deposit.

The cut off date for booking a place on the South of France holiday is fast approaching so please contact me or visit one of the websites mentioned below if you need further information. Six nights in an air-conditioned chalet on the South Coast of France (including travel insurance) for as little as £87.50....how good's that?

A small point and a long way off yet, but the yearcard has the wrong dates for our national rally in August. They should read 22nd to the 25th. My fault, sorry.

Our popular steam rally weekend at Long Eaton has been replaced with another similar event at Rockingham castle in Northants over the weekend of August 8 – 10. This is for BMW bikes only, and costs £10 for the entire weekend, including three nights camping, tea/coffee/biscuits, entry to the show on both days and a free barbecue on the Saturday night. Day visitors are welcome too. All entries MUST be pre booked to receive a pass beforehand, and entry forms can be obtained from the usual places (see below). This is a fantastic site and previous events have been superb, so give it a go. Many of the 'regulars' have already booked in.

Those of you who read my letter in the Journal about Rick Marshall's plight, will be pleased to hear that he's home now, and getting used (short term we hope) to life with a wheelchair. Rick and Val would like to thank everyone who responded to the letter, and they look forward to getting out and about more in the near future.

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May 2008

Our Winter gatherings at Towcester and Greetham have now finished until October, and I'm pleased to report that they have collectively raised well over a thousand pounds for charity

since the first one of the Winter season, last October. Many thanks to everyone who contributed, or took part in any way at all. We need some volunteers to provide the catering at Greetham for the next set of meetings, and it would help us greatly if you would let me know now so that we can make plans, even at this early stage.

One of Towcester's stalwarts, Janet Winn was rewarded for her efforts by being awarded the Mary Dudgeon Trophy at the recent national AGM, for services (particularly) to the section. Congratulations Janet - (as the bearer of good tidings, does this qualify me for an extra bit of cake next time?).

Easter in Wales was a great event, and didn't suffer the weather doom and gloom which was forecasted. Yes it was cold, but only outside! and it's true to say that the whole weekend was a resounding success. The Castle Inn looked after us all very well, the food was superb and the bunkhouses were a great place to sit of an evening and tell stories if the pub was too hectic. Despite the brief (but heavy) snowfall on Sunday (which dissipated after about an hour), I believe we all managed to get out over the weekend (either on bikes or in cars), with many having exhilarating rides in the Brecon mountains. There are numerous comments and pictures on the Club Forum, the address of which is below.

There may still be chance to take part in Graham Parker's late May bank holiday weekend is in Keswick, so give Graham a call on (01623) 467852 to check.

May brings us quite few rides and events, starting with my run to the Cambridge museum of technology on the 5th. It's a shame that the word museum conjures up an image of stuffy rooms filled with long dead exhibits in glass cages, because many of these places are vibrant sites, brimming with interesting machinery and glimpses of our industrial heritage. It emerges that it's unlikely the engines at Cambridge will be in steam, but it's still a damn fine place to visit.

We also have the Belvoir Castle steam rally and the BMF show in may. Please contact Bill Rodgers (01526) 834480 and Lisa Parker (01234) 750959 respectively for more information.

We have our second breakfast gathering at the Friendly Farmer café (just off the A1) on the 18th, and I hope to see many of you there either just for a chat over breakfast, or for a rideout afterwards (weather permitting).

The end of June sees us visiting Ancaster again, with 'Gorgeous George' Gibson once more being your genial host. Tents, caravans and motorhomes are all welcome at the venue www.woodlandwaters.co.uk/allframes.htm The Midland 'hospitality tent' will be used, providing us with a congregation point, along with free tea/coffee/biscuits over the weekend, and there'll be a free cook-out on the Saturday evening. Please contact George on (07832)458585 for more details.

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June 2008

The success of our April events was overshadowed by the news that fellow section member (and long time friend to many) Mick Barr had died. There is a eulogy elsewhere in this issue but we can feel proud to have given Mick a damn fine send off with around 300 people turning up at the crematorium, and a superb turnout of bikes which followed the cortege for the last ten miles or so of Mick's final club run. He will be greatly missed.

We did have some *high* points in April though - my bike dealers/Derbyshire ride went well (see picture in May's section news), and Bill Rodgers' hotel weekend in York was by all accounts highly enjoyable, which comes as no surprise. Thanks Bill.

June is a really busy month for us, so here goes. Bill Rodgers has a ride on June 1st to the National fisheries museum at the Fishing heritage Centre, Grimsby. Visit www.nelincs.gov.uk then click on A to Z (at the top of the page) and find it under the letter F. As with all of Bill's runs, lunch will figure somewhere. It's unfortunate that some of these places have names which don't conjure up a very exciting picture, but this place is fascinating and Bill never takes us anywhere boring, so give it a go. There will be an admission charge at the museum of £6.00 or less, and for those who want a little more seaside atmosphere later perhaps, Cleethorpes is only a few minutes away. The run departs the Friendly Farmer café (see below) at 9.30, and Bill can be reached on 01526 834480 for more information.

Section member Andy Pilkington takes us to the Carpetbaggers aviation museum (Northants) <http://harringtonmuseum.org.uk> on Sunday the 8th, and details of the start point and departure time are in the diary section of this issue of The Journal. There is an admission charge of £4.00 or less. Andy's phone number is (01529) 241092

Our new breakfast venue at the Friendly Farmer café (just off the A1) attracted a good number in April (despite the weather), and I hope to meet more of you there on the 15th either just for a chat over breakfast, or for a rideout afterwards. Details in the diary or 'Where we meet'.

The 22nd sees me leading a ride (again from the Friendly farmer) to the famous Eastgate market at Ingoldmells on the east coast (we're going to the seaside!) where you can buy anything from a new case for your phone, to a 50" plasma TV (though how you'd get it home on the bike is your problem). The market is smack bang in the middle of a real seaside environment so there'll still be something to do for those who don't really want to buy anything. Departure time is 10.00.

The end of the month sees us visiting the Woodland Waters caravan/camping site at Ancaster (Lincs) again, with 'Gorgeous George' Gibson once more being your genial host. Tents, caravans and motorhomes are all welcome at the venue www.woodlandwaters.co.uk/allframes.htm The Midland 'hospitality tent' will be in use, providing us with a congregation point, and free tea/coffee/biscuits over the weekend. There'll also be a free cook-out on the Saturday evening. Please contact George on (07832)458585 for more details.

Our France trip closing date is very near (see advert in May Journal) and I've heard that some people have been put off at the thought of having to share accommodation. As a special offer you can have an entire unit to yourselves for £360.00. How about that?, but you need to act fast. Call me for more details.

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section yearcard, and I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972. You can also e-mail me at midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com

July 2008

Graham Parker's B+B weekend in Keswick was a resounding success (again!), and a full report with pictures appears on the Midland website, with a link on the Club Forum.

Our collective thanks go to all those who turned out to say a final farewell to Mick Barr at Greetham on May 11, and although it could have been under better circumstances, it was lovely to meet his immediate family. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing them all good health and many happy memories of Mick.

The BMF stand (organised by Midland Secretary Lisa Parker) went well, and I understand quite a few Midland members showed up over the weekend as visitors or helpers. This will be Lisa's last year as BMF stand organiser, but don't let that stop you from volunteering to help out next year. Contact the National Social secretary (Tony Robson) for details. So far I've heard nothing about our display at Belvoir, but if it's anything like Bill Rodgers' other events, I'm sure that all went well.

We had some new faces turn up for breakfast at our May visit to at the Friendly Farmer café, and most of us went for a ride later to Cleethorpes. The weather was excellent and we went cross-country (avoiding the major roads) through some great countryside and quaint villages. Who knows where we'll go in July? You'll never know unless you get the bike out on the 20th and join us – see you there.

Before that on Tuesday the 1st we have the Section barbecue, 7.30 pm at the Three Kings (Threkingham), Waddington Air show over the weekend of 5th/6th, and for those not going to Waddington, I'll be leading a ride into Shropshire for a trip on a Severn Valley steam train on Sunday the 6th.

Later in the month (27th) 'gorgeous George' Gibson will be taking us to see the steam collection at Thursford in Norfolk (www.thursford.com). This event is carried over from last year as the atrocious weather put a real damper on it (which it did with so many things), and it'll be a full day out with an early start. I hope to see many faces at the start point in Melton Mowbray for what promises to be a great day's ride.

Don't forget to get your entry form for the Rockingham Castle steam and country show from one of the usual places (see below), so that I can get your entry pass to you in plenty of time.

I've been Midland Social sec for three years now, and although I've enjoyed the challenge and met many new faces, I'll be standing down at this year's section AGM in October. If you fancy a go, please contact me so I can explain the procedures and go through what I have planned so far for next year. I hope to remain a section committee member and would like to carry on as section NC rep, but I have plans for next year with which I'll not be able to proceed if I remain as Social Sec.

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August 2008

I hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting for the Midland section of the BMW Club will take place at 11.00am in the community centre, Great lane, Greetham, Rutland, on October 12th. Nominations are invited for all committee positions, and any such nominations and/or submissions/proposals should be with the section Secretary Lisa Parker by September 11th. There will be free hot snacks following the meeting at around 1.00pm.

This section news was submitted on July 2nd so you'll have to wait for September's Journal for reports of any events which took place in July, apart from the Section BBQ at the Three Kings, Threkingham (July 1st) which saw me managing to go for the first time, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening it was too.

My thanks to Bill Rodgers and Andy Pilkington who provided us with a couple of superb and well received runs in June to the National Fisheries museum and the Carpetbaggers aviation museum respectively. Andy took the plunge and led his first run for us last year, and he says it's addictive. We need more volunteers for this kind of thing please.

Our June sojourn from the Friendly Farmer café found us riding to meet Bill Rodgers at the Bourne classic car/motorbike show, and the weather generally held good for us to wander around a really interesting mix of vehicles. Join us on the 17th to see where we end up this time.

My run to Eastgate market found us snagging some bargains before having lunch and riding down into Skegness for an ice cream. Good weather and great roads made it a very enjoyable day out.

The Woodland waters camping/caravanning weekend was a huge success, with over 40 participants enjoying great weather (despite the forecast) and a communal cook-out on the Saturday evening. Couple this with a Saturday morning rideout and a superb site, and it's easy to see why the event was so popular. Our thanks go to (gorgeous) George Gibson (the good looking one) for organising it and to everyone who pitched in with help in one way or another.

August is yet another busy month for us with Terry Collier's ride to private vineyard on the 3rd starting us off. It'll be a 90 minute tour at a cost of £4.00 per head (including tasting) then on to Foxton locks for lunch.

Then we've our new venue at Rockingham Steam and country show over the weekend of 8-10, and now is absolutely the last chance to gain FREE entry by phoning me for a pass. (See Around The Compass).

The Club national rally takes place this month too, and when planning the calendar last August, a few Social Secs (myself included) got the dates wrong. It is actually over the bank-holiday weekend of 21-24, and NOT as mentioned in your yearcard. As a result of this alteration Graham Parker has kindly agreed to reschedule his 'Point and Go' ride to the 31st. Diane and I will be at the national, so if you fancy dropping by for a chat, look for the giant Hobby caravan.

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September

Here's another brief reminder that the Midland section AGM will take place at 11.00am in the community centre, Great lane, Greetham, Rutland, on October 12th. Nominations are invited for all committee positions, and any such nominations and/or submissions/proposals should be with the section Secretary Lisa Parker by September 11th. We now have a new face prepared to step in and take over from me as Social Secretary, so please come along to meet him at the AGM and show your support. He is Midland section member Steve Foreman (known as 'Bodger' on the Club Forum), and he's from the Kettering area. Steve (a regular at Towcester) already has a good grounding in this sort of work and I'm sure he'll do us proud.

There will be free hot snacks following the meeting at around 1.00pm, but on that note we currently don't have anyone to do the catering for our Greetham Winter gatherings...including the AGM! Would someone please contact me and offer to help out or it'll be a short day indeed.

July 6 found me wondering if the dismal-looking morning weather was going to spoil our ride, but the day ended up being largely bright and dry with the occasional shower. Thus, 9.45 saw us heading to Hampton Loade (Shropshire - via Codsall garden centre for a toilet break). Then, following a ride on the funicular 'Cliff Railway' and lunch in a really nice café, we took a steam-hauled train into Bridgnorth, discovering along the way that the Severn Valley railway network had been taken over for a wartime '40s' weekend. There were squaddies, naval captains, army officers and any number of 'spivs' offering cheap watches and nylons. All this plus steam engines and period surroundings meant that we had a brilliant day out, and I arrived home in bright sunshine around 8.00pm. A warm welcome to Phil and Ann Pearce who joined us on their first Club run. I hope you both enjoyed yourselves as much as I did.

Our Friendly Farmer gathering in July was well attended with around 13 bikes showing up, and it was nice to catch up with some folk I hadn't seen for a while, and even nicer to greet some new faces, in particular Will Spray and Paul Ward - I hope you enjoyed yourselves gents.

Some of us left for a ride to Rockingham Castle where I wanted to check out the site entrance for our rally (which will have happened by the time you read this). Then it was on to Foxton locks where we had snacks and drinks as we watched the boats on the canal.

Do any of you have any places you'd like to visit next year? Would you like help arranging a camping weekend, a hotel/B+B weekend or perhaps a continental trip? Assistance/guidance will be given at every step if required, and it's a really rewarding exercise. Phone or e-mail me if the idea tickles your fancy.

I lost two weekends-worth of riding at the end of July while I swapped the clutch and performed other essential maintenance on my K1100LT prior to our upcoming French trip, but if anybody wishes to send me a report of anything I missed out on (photos are OK too), please feel free.

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October

October eh? I've already started writing my Christmas list but my wife says I have no chance 'cos Jennifer Aniston probably already has plans....

Our Winter gatherings start this month at Towcester and Greetham, so don't mothball the bike just yet! Towcester's Janet Winn won the Mary Dudgeon trophy at this year's National AGM for her services to the section (especially her home made cakes) so let's go and embarrass her further by turning up in our droves to congratulate her!

Reports of recent events have been non-existent recently, but I hear that Terry Collier's vineyard ride at the start of August was very well received, and a 'warm feeling' was reported by all those who sampled the wine!

Rockingham Castle saw a good turnout (despite the patchy weather), and the Saturday Evening cook-out was almost gourmet, with speciality sausages and home made burgers from a local butcher! I love the steam rallies as they give me chance to stock up on those nuts, bolts, screws and unusual tools which I never seem to be able to find anywhere else.

I've been a little preoccupied recently preparing for our South of France trip early in September (as I write this, we are 5 nights away from departure), especially since after taking my bike for it's MoT following the arduous task of fitting a new clutch (and thinking that at last all would be well with it), it failed due to notchy steering head bearings! I've now replaced them and we're looking forward to the holiday, replete with a shiny new MoT certificate. I feel a Journal article coming on! My apologies go to those whose events I was unable to attend as a result of these complications.

I missed September's Friendly Farmer gathering due to the above problems, and October's will be the last such event of this season, so I hope to see some of you there.

At a recent committee meeting, we concluded that our last few years' calendars have been a little *too* full, and that we should cut back somewhat on organised events, in the hope that it may generate larger turnouts. Only time will tell, but it should certainly make life a little easier for our new Social Sec..

I still desperately want volunteers for runs in 2009, so if you are one of the people who have told me throughout this year that you could be persuaded to lead a run, I'll be at the section AGM on the 12th (hope you will too) and I'll try to get to Towcester on the 5th, but if possible, please phone or e-mail me now. Our calendar is being planned as we speak.

I don't believe this but I've actually finished in under 600 words! (Eighty words under, to be precise...damn...just used six telling you that, so now it's only seventy-four...oh, less those I just used telling you that it was seventy four so...probably around 560 in total...who cares? Space for forty whole words left over...what a waste! Maybe some of it has sunk in *after* all!)

I have yet to discuss with our new Social Sec what his intentions are regarding the mailing list, but for the time being, I will continue to maintain it myself.

Whenever possible, please check the Midland discussion area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> for late news and changes.

November

None received

December

Hello All. As the new Social Secretary for your section, my first job must be to thank Martin Ellis for the excellent job he has done over the last 3 years. In fact, if it was not for one of his New Years Day runs, and being made to feel so welcome, I would probably not hold the lofty position I find myself in now.

So thank you Martin, for all your hard work and continued support. Thanks also to Paul Straw who stood down from the committee, after doing much work behind the scenes.

The Section AGM was held on the 12th October at Greetham, followed by a cold buffet and many took the chance of a rideout to enjoy the late Autumn sunshine. The elections for the Committee places were uncontested with the exception of the representative for the National Committee position; Lisa Parker was elected to this position in place of Martin Ellis so please contact her for future input to the NC. For details of your committee please see the Midland Section website.

October proved to be a little quiet, with not much happening except the normal Monthly meets, until Graham Parker decided to put on an Impromptu Run to Mablethorpe. Well, that was plan A. Apparently, after meeting at the Friendly Farmer on the 19th, 9 bikes had a dry and sunny run out, via Derbyshire, Carsington Water and Matlock, through some outstanding Autumnal scenery. I'm not sure if this was deliberate, or Graham needs a new Sat-Nav!

Unfortunately I couldn't make it, as I had arranged to meet Chris, an Irish member, at the Stafford Show with a few mates. This show is well worth a visit, and better value than a lot of others.

November has the normal monthly meetings, see "Where we meet" for details. However, watch the Forum.

<http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> or your Email if you are on the mailing list, as if the weather is good, more impromptu rides could be on the cards!

The Greetham Christmas Lunch, kindly being catered again by Sally and Grahame Cluley, takes place on Sunday December 7th. Tickets are £10 per head and must be pre-booked by calling 01572 813639. Please note that this is a ticket-only event and NOT a regular Greetham meeting.

The Christmas Special at Towcester will be held on Sunday December 14th, and as usual, will be catered for by John/Janet Winn (01604) 631043. This is a popular event, and Janet's cakes are legendary!

2009

***Reminder!** We still require volunteer caterers for Greetham, either February or March meeting.*

Don't forget your items to sell at the buy and sell, Greetham, 11th Jan!!

Martins traditional N.Y.D. ride leaves Donnington Services at 09:45 SHARP! And will take in a steam engine trip and Lunch. Phone Martin for more details.07970-682972

January 17th Bill Rogers has again arranged the post- Christmas Midland Section Dinner at The Solo Club Sleaford, Lincs. 4 course meal. Cost £15.00 per Head. £10.00 deposit per head .Call Bill Rodgers (01526) 834480. B&B places are readily available, speak to Bill on the number above.

There are lots of events in the pipeline, Including Martins Tour to Lake Como, Graham Parkers Derbyshire B&B Weekend, the Rutland Rally, a Couple of camping weekends still to be confirmed, one at Easter, plus the usual rideouts and get-togethers.

Finally, please get in touch ASAP if you would like to lead a ride, have any other event you want to put on,

or just have any ideas for a social get together. You can get me at:

Email Midlandsocialsec@ntlworld.com

Tel 01536-722048

December

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Finally, please get in touch ASAP if you would like to lead a ride, have any other event you want to put on,

Mobile 07859-909853

Steve Foreman