



Welcome to the April edition of the Notts & Derby Section's Newsletter.

In this issue we have news of two new meeting venues in Bagthorpe, and Clay Cross, information about the Robin Hood Run, a plea for a leader, my tribulation on the Coffee Morning Run, a new Classic attraction in Derby, this month's mystery picture and a downloadable pdf of the Relay Rally checkpoints.

Also lots of news about new events!

What's on in May.

- 3rd Duke William, Matlock. 12 noon.
- 4th Natter Night
- 6th Sat Morning Coffee Run. 10am Papplewick
- 18th BARRIE'S CHIP SHOP RUN. 7pm. Ripley
- 21st **ROBIN HOOD RUN.** 10.30 Linby.
- 23rd INTER-SECTION GATHERING. 7pm.
- 24th Classic Bike Night, 6pm, Bagthorpe.
- 25th EVENING RUN. 7.30pm. Whatstandwell. **
- 27th MEET THE NEIGHBOURS. 2pm Motus
Commercials
- 28th Claymills Bike Day.

**** We still need a volunteer to lead the Evening Run on the 25th or we will have to cancel.**

Club Nights.

After last month's plea, attendance has improved. Here's hoping this will continue.

Meet for a Ride.

Further to our discussions on mid-week runs, we are starting a new idea beginning in June. We can't arrange them any earlier as the VMCC requires one month's notice to ensure that our rides are insured.

New Format – No Leader!

The runs will initially be on the second Wednesday of each month and we will trial both 10.30am starts and 1.00pm starts, to gauge interest.

There will be no designated leader as such, but there is always at least one experienced leader on our runs and we can decide who and where on the day, depending on weather, etc.

Just turn up and if you have an idea where you could take us, be prepared to lead us! Then we can operate the drop-off system.

The first run will be on 14th June at 1.00pm, starting from Ripley Market Place.

Further calendar updates will be emailed to you, and the runs will appear in the Journal.

Motorcycle Events.

These events will also feature in the updated calendar.

- 28th May. Claymills Bike Day: Open at 10am and is free entry for any age bike. Come, park up and explore the whole site in STEAM. There is a café and all the usual facilities. Make your own way there or ride as a group of friends. Meadow Ln, Burton upon Trent, Burton-on-Trent DE13 0DA.
- 26th August. Harboro Rocks Clay Shoot Charity Day: This is a family Fun Day with the added attractions of Have a go shooting and have a go Archery. All in aid of the **Air Ambulance** which is our chosen charity. The organisers would like as many old bikes as possible to turn up. Make your own way there or ride as a group of friends. Manystones Ln, Brassington, Matlock DE4 4HF.



Claymills Bike Day.

Relay Rally.

Don't forget that this takes place on Sunday 30th April. Our Section's checkpoint is at the Horse and Groom, Linby. We will be in the field at the rear of the pub. You'll find all the other checkpoints in the Journal or on the VMCC website.

As it is tricky to include the link, for reference, I have attached a **copy of the checklist** to this newsletter email.

The Robin Hood Run.

The Robin Hood Run is a route card run which tours the northern area of Nottinghamshire. You will purchase a route sheet for £5 at the beginning of the day with a choice of long or short routes. After lunch you will be given the afternoon route sheet (no extra charge) again with a choice. You can mix routes, ie if you chose short in the morning you don't have to choose short in the afternoon. The shorter route has fewer hills to cater for the older machines.

The ride starts and finishes at the Horse and Groom, Linby, and there is all day parking for trailers or vans if you transport your bike to the event that way.

The lunch stop is at Bleasby.

It's always a good day out; come along and enjoy the event.

New Meeting Venue....

Bill Lomas Motorcycles at Clay Cross will be hosting Classic Bike Meets every Sunday from 30th April onwards. See the link for more information.

Address: 136 High Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S45 9EG.

<https://www.billomasmotorcycles.co.uk/>

...And another.



Ladies and gents - in addition to our Classic Bike Meet at The Duke William, we are now going to run

a new classic bike event in the evening over at Bagthorpe. The landlord, two Vincent HRD Club members and I are running this trial event in May, with a view to running it once a month, throughout the summer. I'm conscious that a lot of classic bike owners can't make our Wednesday lunchtime meet as they are working, so hopefully they can come to this one. A lovely venue, 5 mins from junction 27 of the M1, and with food and drink available. Your support would be appreciated.

Jonathan Lambley.

Coffee Morning Run.

Ian Lawrence wrote in to thank Graham for the run on 25th March. He's not new to the club but he hasn't ridden with our section before. He says:

"A big thanks to Graham for leading Saturday morning's Coffee Run through some super lanes, ending up at Thornborough Hall for refreshments. Weather was a bit wet on the way there but brightened up on the way back. looking forward to next run."

It was good to meet Ian as he has sent in numerous contributions to the newsletter. I had been looking forward to this ride as I had been unable to make a couple of others, so I set out in spite of the rain. Unfortunately, my Tribsa developed problems at the start and I was unable to join the run.



Ian's Commando at the start.

Bob Sherras, a fellow member who lives locally, delivered machine and myself home in his van. Thanks also to Malc and Alan for their assistance. That's typical of the way we help each other out. I did suspect that the timing might have slipped but that has proven to be spot on. I started it at home and then it wouldn't restart when warm. Although the magneto was reconditioned relatively recently, the person who did it had been supplied with some faulty condensers; I think I might have ended up with one!

Newsletter Continues.

I was at the Duke William lunch meet this month and it was impressive that at least twenty-five bikes made it despite the rain. A few others travelled on four wheels. The pub did a roaring trade in hot food as it was a wet, chilly day. At £5.50 for a HUGE chip butty and a refillable cup of tea, it represents very good value. It was good to talk to member David Vardy, who asked if we had enough takers for the Relay Rally check in duties and offered to be around to help even though we have. Welcome aboard, David.

We also discussed the newsletter:

I have been thinking that it might have run its course, as it was started primarily to keep us connected during the dark months of Lockdown. Also, it gets harder to find material if members don't submit articles for me to publish. And it will get a bit "samey" if everything comes from me. It is, however, a convenient way to bundle together in one place all the updates that I would send out during the month. Any urgent ones still get sent out when necessary.

David was the second person of the day to tell me that he gets a lot out of it and as a member of the MZ Club, he often shares information from it with their members if he thinks it will be helpful or interesting to them.

Some members phone me with information or a plea for help and say, "Could you put this in the Newsletter for me."

Other comments I have had also make me think that it is worthwhile to keep the Newsletter going, so it looks like you're stuck with it for now.

So, come on, folks, send me some copy!

A Piece of BSA History



This gem came up for sale earlier this month. It was described as a full race engine built by BSA legend Chris Vincent.

The seller says that he bought it from Chris's family on his passing. It was in Sammy Miller's Museum for years and it is still on its display stand.



The pictures show some neat external modifications but no details of the internals were given. The advert states that the engine was built at the BSA experimental centre and after the TT Chris messed around with the bore and stroked and raised the capacity to near 750cc. He then put it in his grass combo. Later it was paraded at some shows, notably Stafford.

Other sources show a pre-unit engine with a single carburetor and two remote float chambers but still with the shortened timing chest. It's known that Vincent used a series of engines, with both unit BSA's and the Fath Four coming to mind, but this could easily be a genuine article. The asking price was £3,000.



A Vincent BSA with single carb.

INSIDE DERBY'S OWN REPAIR SHOP

Great Northern Classics (GNC) is taking over the former Rolls-Royce heritage centre site on Osmaston Road.

Opening in late summer, the £3 million project will be a centre for Classic Motorcycle and Car centre specialising in restoration similar to the BBC "Repair Shop" series, though it seems likely that cars will be the main focus. Those who visit the garage will be able to access upholsterers, electricians, mechanics and bodywork specialists, all of whom will be given workshop space within the 85,000-square-foot Victoria Ironworks building. Visitors will be able to watch on from a viewing platform as vintage cars and bikes are restored back to their former glories by specialists working at the heritage vehicle centre. The idea for Great Northern Classics belongs to Shaun Matthews, a classic vehicle fanatic and the former managing director of Denby-based Deb Group's International Dispensing, R&D and IP Divisions, who wanted to establish an academy where the skills of classic vehicle restorers could be passed on. He approached the High Sherrif of Derbyshire and eventually Rolls-Royce agreed to sell the company the former Light Alloy Centre, which was formerly home to the aerospace firm's heritage collection of aero-engines.

The centre says: "The heritage vehicle industry is booming – in the UK alone it is estimated to be worth around £6bn. Yet, paradoxically, it faces a skills crisis: many restoration specialists are well beyond retirement age, with little opportunity to pass on their skills to a younger generation." They aim to solve this by training a new generation in the necessary skills: "Young apprentices undertake on-site training and serve apprenticeships alongside existing specialists, all under one roof."



A computer-generated image showing how the £3 million classic car centre is set to look when it opens in Derby

The centre is expected to create around 120 jobs and will incorporate a café and meeting space and will also host events.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.greatnorthernclassics.co.uk/>

Mystery Picture.

Which famous rider rode this machine?



A Matchless with pannier tanks in the fairing and fuel pumped up to the header tank by the swing arm. Norton type frame, built by Bob and Joe Potts. It's still running at events like Goodwood but radically altered.

Last month's answer: The riders standing near the Bonneville at Silverstone were John Hartle and Percy Tait.

Free Advertisements.

FOR SALE:

1962 Triumph TR6SS Pre-unit.

I have owned this bike for over 25 years. This is a very reluctant sale as I head to my octagon years, sadly, it is becoming too big and heavy for me now and my longer owned 1960 BSA C15 becomes my preferred riding choice.

Interested buyers please give me your **best offer!** I do have many detailed photographs and history details to provide should potential buyers want more, as I'm sure they will.



Please contact: hornsbj_jm@yahoo.co.uk

1982 Honda 400 Superdream



Recent new tyres, new fork seals fitted.
Front brake lines renewed. New front pads fitted
New rear brake shoes fitted.
New cush drive rubbers fitted.
Oxford heated grips fitted.
Cannot guarantee mileage shown although the bike
and been off road for 15 years it would seem that
the mileage is something like correct.
£1250.

Contact Derek, 01623 552480 or
67dcrookes@gmail.com

CONTACT US:

Please let me have any stories from the past, amusing or otherwise, concerning motorcycles, or any technical information, rebuild stories, photos or news of events by replying to this email. Let us know what you've been up to by emailing me at: nottsandderbyvintageclub@outlook.com

Use the same address and format if you have any items or motorcycles for sale. Don't forget to include a phone number and a price.