

Coventry Parade 2021, Event Report

Sunday 8th August 2021 dawned dry, if a little overcast- Coventry Parade day.

This year, running in a different format, due to the ongoing uncertainty regarding the COVID pandemic; the organiser's reservations being proven absolutely correct, as fellow Chief Organiser Robert Thomas was forced into isolation, just days before the event – a great shame, as this year was the big chance for all members of the organising team to actually get a ride on the event.

Upon arrival at the War Memorial park around 8am, I was met by new member Terry Hayton on his ex-Metropolitan Police Triumph, who had beaten me to it!

Secretary, Barry Heath soon showed up on his T90, along with Chairman on his Cotton, quickly followed by the Bromley clan, Brian Thomas, Pete Brown and a good rain shower (just to keep the dust down and the volumetric efficiency up).

New fellow organiser Matt Wills turned up in his car (motorcycle CBT booking problems) with routes in hand and at this point, I pushed off, keen to get a quiet ride, which was, of course, the whole point of the option of an early start.

The route navigated through Stoneleigh, Cubbington, Hunningham and off toward Princethorpe, where the A423 Banbury Road was picked up. I pressed on around the twisty but open road and came across Brian on his little Honda, about a mile before Princethorpe, sitting very briefly behind him, until my 91 year-old machine nudged me to "get on with it".

Out on to the Banbury Road, it was just me and the lusty beat of a long stroke exhaust, a couple of cars were dispatched, the weather was dry, the road ahead was clear and all was very well with the world, in fact, things were just plain wonderful! Around Farnborough, the faint smell of burned oil hit my nose, causing me to briefly glance down at my machine before the nose picked up that it was not mineral oil that I could smell, but rather the heavenly smell of a vegetable based oil; the only machine I knew of on the run that was running on "R" was Dave Kendall's Cotton and sure enough, about a mile further on, I caught him up, briefly pausing to savour the lovely aroma, then pressing on, very soon arriving in Banbury. A quick chat with Dave upon his arrival, I then rode on to Deddington as I felt the need to go a little further. Meanwhile, several members enjoyed tea and homemade cake at a very pleasant café in Banbury, remarking how delicious the "rocky road" was!



Back at the Diner, fellow competitors had gathered, a total of 18 machines in all signed on, ranging from Richard Woodcock's 1913 Superbike; the mighty 900cc Rex to a couple of 1980 lightweight Honda's ridden by stalwart members Brenda Hallard and Brian Thomas respectively.



The food was up to the usual standard, most indulged and all enjoyed.

The consensus was that it had been a great day, obviously a very different day to a traditional Coventry Parade, but as the promotional material stated, it was all about the ride, along with minimal levels of organising.

Worthy of note regarding individual's support for the event; Dave Mac, who has been a stalwart supporter of the event for literally decades, Jim and Bill Martin, who drove all the way from Reading in their van to act as backup, Kate and Crawford Davidson-Mahon, hosts for our wonderful lunches in events past, and Frank and Linda Chapman along with "Kickstart" the dachshund, coming in from Oxfordshire in their Daimler Dart SP250.

Thank you to all comrades who supported the event, watch this space for next year's hopeful return to a more traditional event, along with a continuation of the "Café Run".....?



