

news letter No.29, Dec., 2021



## VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter



Hi all, As we come towards the end of another difficult year we can only hope that 2022 will be better so we can participate in more of the activities that we enjoy.

We did, of course enjoy some good events and a brief resume and images are featured in this news letter.

Chairman's Chat.....David's bit.

### No socks please, we're British!

Its coming up to that time of year again, and if you're really unlucky you just might end up with socks again – it's always Grandma's default present, a pair of boring socks. We can definitely do better than just socks or aftershave. Listed below is a list of useful things that after a bit of gentle hinting, may just end up in your stocking or pillowcase.

Emergency cable set £10.50 from Hitchcock's motorcycles...never be stranded again with a broken cable.

6" Draper professional adjustable spanner £6.99 from tool station...fits easily into a jacket pocket.

Motorcycle neck tube bandana thing £11.47 from 'The Cafe Racer'...other fetching designs available.

MS038 twin-clamp cable oiler £9.37 from Sealey...Go on give 'em a good oiling this Xmas!

And for those who insist on tradition and want socks:  
Aviakit Sea boot socks £14.00 from Lewis Leathers..for the secret-rocker in you.

Whatever your presents this year, the committee wish you all a Happy Christmas. Before you know it, you will be receiving notification emails from Barry, telling us of the first meetings of the new year, definitely something to look forward to. And do keep polishing that bike, re-proofing that jacket, and embrocating your kick-start leg in readiness for the new year.

Stay safe..... David Kendall

## **Tales of a motorcycle courier by Neil Ives**

### **Part 1 of 2**

In late 1976 I got a job as a motorcycle courier for a printers in Diss Norfolk. The regular rider had been banned for 6 months so I was taken on for that period. The company provided the motorbike; a Honda 500 Four and riding leathers. The pay was good so I thought I was doing well, getting paid to ride a nice motorcycle.



*A similar Honda 500/4*

The job required the courier to ride from the printers in Norfolk to various locations in and around London collecting 'Copy' that would then be brought back to be set and reproduced on a Web Offset press. Typical pickups were at The Orpington Advertiser, (one of several free-sheets) but also The Liberal Party News Letter, West Indian World and Gay News. The average weekly trip total would often be well over 1000 miles.

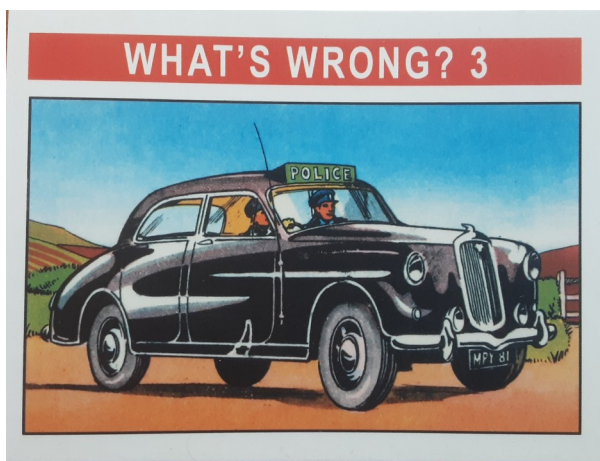
After the first week I realised that this job was not going to be as easy as I had first thought. The weather that winter, following one of the UK's hottest summers was not good. By the time I had ridden to my first pick-up I was so cold I could hardly get off the bike. To try and keep warm I would dress with many layers of clothing with the leather bike suit over the top and three pairs of gloves.

One morning I set off early; there was frost on the ground but the sun came out so the roads were getting cleared. An hour or so later later I was burning rubber on the Newmarket bypass which is pretty much a motorway. I had just overtaken a line of cars when I felt the back wheel kick sideways; black ice I think. I had time to think, "Oh \*\*\*\*\*, I hope this doesn't hurt too much". Next moment I was sliding along in the fast lane with the bike on its side ahead of me with sparks flying out from underneath. After what felt like minutes the bike and me stopped in the fast lane.

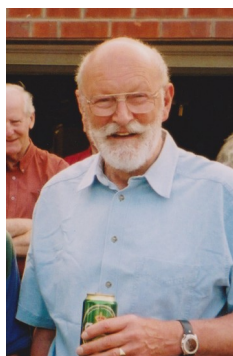
It was very lucky that at that early hour there was very little other traffic, but I had just overtaken a couple of vehicles. One car stopped on the hard shoulder and a young man ran across to see if I was ok. It was very lucky that I had been wearing all that winter clothing because my slide along the tarmac had worn the hip of my clothing right through but only just reached the skin. Also the gloves had worn through to the under gloves. I was pretty much ok, just shaken up.

The young man that stopped, happened to be an off-duty policeman; he helped me to push the bike over to the hard shoulder; he said that when I overtook him, shortly before I came off I must have been doing about 90 mph. The off-duty copper drove me to a cafe in Cambridge so I could phone my employers to tell them what had happened. No mobiles back then.

**Just for fun....** These images are from a set of cards produced some years ago. 1950s?  
Can you spot the deliberate mistake in each of these pictures?



## John Lycett



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend John Lycett. John was a past Warwickshire section Chairman of many years, and could always be seen aboard an immaculate machine..often a Vincent and in all weathers!

For a long time, John held a popular summer gathering at his home in Warwick, any proceeds being donated to the RNLI. He raised so much money over the years for this

important organisation that his name is immortalised on a plaque in a Lifeboat station.

In recent years, he rode a marvellous BSA three wheeler, a machine that he restored himself and later gave an entertaining talk and slide show about the restoration of his three wheeler at Club nights. Members will have fond memories of John's organised ride outs to a local village hall for home made tea and cakes....and of course, the banter of fellow Vintage and Classic enthusiasts.

John Lycett was a true gentleman and will be sadly missed by all.

Our thoughts go to John's family.

David Kendall

## Don't lose your licence!.....Can the VMCC help?

Very recently a friend and VMCC member phoned me at breakfast time. He had just received a letter from the DVLA which informed him that his driving licence had been revoked! He immediately phoned them but got an automated message then was cut off.

How did this result come about? The story goes back several months. He was 70 in November 2021 and needed to renew his licence. However due to the Covid pandemic the DVLA extended his (and mine) for several months.

About March he filled in the required form and answered the questions truthfully. He declared that he had sight in only one eye due to a childhood accident. In his 50+ years driving and riding it had never been a problem.

DVLA said he needed an eye test. This he did with a local highly qualified optician. He sent the - very favourable - result off to Swansea. Various communications went back and forward. They then said that no record of his application could be found!

So he straight away wrote it all out again, copied it all, and sent it recorded delivery a couple of weeks ago. Then he received THE letter. It said that he had not applied in the time permitted and therefore his licence had been permanently cancelled! He was not happy!

He phoned to tell me and to see if I could help via the VMCC. I searched the VMCC website and found that Peter Bennett who works in the library at Allen House was 'DVLA liaison officer'. So I emailed the address given for him but received back an automated reply that my request for assistance may not be dealt with for several weeks! - he usually deals with bike registration issues.

As it was an urgent matter I phoned him and was pleased to say that he was in the process of replying to me by email. I asked if he could possibly phone my friend and try to assist him. He agreed to do so straight away. Several minutes later my friend phoned me and needed to send Peter copies of all the information available. So we spent the morning scanning all the documents, medical reports, proof of posting etc and emailed them to Peter.



After lunch Peter confirmed that he had forwarded them to his contact at DVLA, and in turn, the contact had forwarded them to the head of DVLA's Driver Licencing Policy Team. The next morning my friend had a phone call from a very nice lady at DVLA to say his licence had been reinstated but he needed to get an eye test from Spec savers. His application would then be reviewed.

We are not sure whether Peters intervention caused the positive response but it certainly seems to be the case.

So...If you need to deal with DVLA always keep copies of your paperwork, obtain 'proof of posting' or, if very important, send by registered post.

Secondly, membership of the VMCC entitles members to use the services of very helpful staff. We were absolutely delighted by the extremely prompt and effective action by the staff at Allen House.

## Events during November/December

### Classic Car and Bike Show N.E.C. November 12-14

The VMCC headquarters organised a stand at the event for the first time. This task was delegated to Gary Sleeman who is Secretary South Lincs & Peterborough Section, Anglian Region Rep and National Show Stands Organiser. He requested members to provide bikes to display at the show. I obliged by taking my Bridgestone 100 TMX (as seen at Founders Day).

He had a good stand which you may have seen pictured in the V&C journal at a different event. It was never crowded but had a steady stream of visitors drawn in by the wide selection of bikes. Barry



### Kineton Classic car and bike event Sunday November 7

On a cold but bright November Sunday morning, we held a meeting at the Kineton Sports & Social Club. Normally held in the evening on the first Thursday of the month, their Classic car and bike gatherings can easily fill the surrounding fields. This was one of their first events to be held on a Sunday morning and we were made to feel very welcome.

Many fine motorcycles were on display outside the front of club house, and on the rear field were parked the Classic cars that had driven there that morning. A well



organised table was laid out serving Tea, Coffee and Bacon rolls, just the thing after a cold ride in. If they continue their Sunday morning Classic gatherings next year then we may well return!  
David Kendall



## Kineton Classic car and bike event Sunday December 5

The weather on this morning was slightly more gloomy and not too warm but still several hardy souls arrived on classics. I was not able to due to having to dash off early, so arrived in a warm car! Around 20 interesting cars were parked along the driveway. This time drinks and hot rolls were served in the bar.  
We will certainly attend more of these events next year. Barry



*3 shady characters!*



*A very cold Ron Thorley arrives*





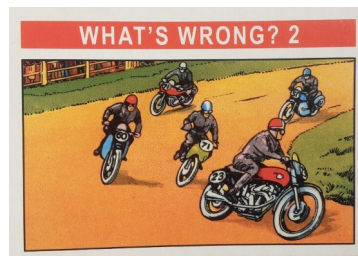
## Secretaries Shorts,

My 3 bikes made it safely from the Classic Show at the NEC. One in a van the other 2 on my trailer behind it.

Frank Parker still has **for sale** his excellent 1955 Sun Cyclone as advertised last month. It is a rare bike. He wants a very fair £4000 ono phone; 01926 429310

If you have a club trophy can you please bring it, nicely polished, to the AGM scheduled for January 12 at the Kenilworth Rugby Club at 7.30. Subject to change.

For those readers who are eagerly awaiting the answers to 'Whats Wrong' in the last news letter, the rider is displaying an L plate but carrying a passenger. The other picture shows 2 bikes with the same number...71



Just in case you have not heard, and were planning to go (we were) the Motorcycle Show at Newark in January has been cancelled once again!

## For Sale

### Velocette Viper 1958

Gorgeous looking bike that goes really well starts easily with new magneto. Restored a few years ago by a fastidious engineer. Good gearbox clutch and feels very solid on the road **£6,750**

Arthur Farrow

Telephone: 024 7501213 Mobile: 0771 007 8586

