



## VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 44

July 2023

With this being the middle of Summer the motorcycle events in which we might have an interest are coming thick and fast. In this issue we have briefly reviewed ones we attended and ones which we are looking forward to in the next few weeks.

We also have a few bikes for sale, all very different and from different eras.

As usual your contributions are vital to producing these monthly news letters which are designed to keep all members 'in the loop' and feeling included.

### Chairman's Chat:

Looking for Adventure...

I recently took part in an event aimed specifically at Flat Tank and Girder Fork machines – the earliest bike in the programme was a 1913 Lincoln Elk and the most modern machines on parade was a 1945 BSA M20, and a 1946 Norton 16H. This all took part in the wonderful county of Northumberland and was organised by the Reivers Section of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club...this was, of course, the Bamburgh Run, an event I have wanted to do for some time. Also joining me on the start line, was fellow Warwickshire member, Simon Dudfield aboard his faithful AJS. This event turned out to be a very friendly and relaxed affair, taking in some wonderful scenery on traffic-free roads. There was an easy to read route sheet, and an obligatory cake stop at the half way point, plus a hot meal at the end...and all for £23.00. If you are contemplating purchasing another machine, a Girder Fork Motor Cycle could open up a new world of adventures and experiences....who needs a modern 'Adventure' motorbike?



Stay safe...David Kendall



A few more images from the National Relay held at the end of April





## Hand-crafted wooden toys

made by long serving member Frank Parker

I have been making some wooden toys, this is something I enjoy doing and have made this set for Simon's granddaughter.

Each toy is made up of 3 main pieces of birch faced plywood glued together one leg is fixed and the other swings on a pin so the idea is to put them at the top of the ramp and they walk down, this does take a little fiddling to get right, once OK they can be used for ages No batteries needed.

Each model takes about 5 hours to make as each piece is cut on a scroller fretsaw then the one leg is glued into position and the other side glued on. When this is done it can be filed and sanded to shape, the pin hole drilled and the other leg fitted which should swing easy.

The whole model is rubbed down and given 3 coats of weather proof varnish. the pins are held in by the dark parts on the sides.



### Product Review - Chain split link pliers

by Arthur Farrow

This item may or may not be necessary depending on how many of those little spring clips you've chased across the workshop floor over the years.

Some years ago I saw some link pliers beautifully made by Reynolds and recently I noticed several companies offering similar types but cheaply and not as well made. I bought as pictured which seem to work well, but you could, of course grind down one of the jaws of an ordinary pair of pliers and put some grooves in the jaws to mate to the pins.



## Events we have enjoyed since the last news letter

### Kenilworth Run

Seventeen motorcycles were there in the lay-by in the sunshine but sadly they didn't all make it to the Tipperary!

A couple of 1927 models to admire – Phil with his Sunbeam M9 and Peter with his Raleigh M20, although Peter chose not to do the route this time.

Other bikes included 5 Triumphs, 4 Norton's, a couple of BSA's and Honda's.

A lack of route rollers amongst our members meant the run used the 'second man drop-off' system instead of individuals following the route independently. However our 'tail-end Charlie' never arrived at the first junction so the run was somewhat fragmented but interesting!

The route took us through some beautiful Warwickshire villages and along quieter country lanes of the south of the county. There was much to talk about when we arrived at the Tipperary Inn!

Thanks to Malcolm for both organising and leading the run.



### The Breakfast Run

This annual event has been hosted by former section chairman Harry Wiles, but ill-health prevented him from attending this year. However 16 members arrived on a variety of machines from 2 1930 girder forked bikes, an Ariel Model G and a BSA S30 ridden by Ken Bromley and son Elliot to a 2022 Royal Enfield...and even a Triumph Tina!

Dave Barnes reports "Sunday arrived with blue skies and very warm, just the right time to fire up the triple for the run to the breakfast meet at Malt Kiln Farm. As I was slightly early I took the long way round only to find Barry with Tina and Colin on his Commando 850 waiting when I arrived.

In the 18 bikes that arrived steadily all morning this included Ken and Elliot on their girder forked steeds, a couple of Italian bikes, post war Brits and a CB400 Honda twin, it was also good to see and meet some new faces and bikes at the run for tea, coffee and cakes."







## Club Night – Fish and Chips + Bikes.

Fine weather encouraged a decent turnout on a range of bikes and even a WW2 Jeep with an accompanying 1942 Matchless in Army khaki 'drab' and very nice it looked.





## A couple of early casualties from the Banbury Run..... Barry relates his visit

As I had a couple of hours to spare I rode down to Gaydon to watch some of the bikes ride past the traffic island at the entrance to the Jaguar site about half a mile from the exit to the British Motor Museum grounds, on the B4100, where the pre 1931 motorcycles start the annual run from. Although rain was forecast for later in the afternoon it was warm and dry on that Sunday morning.

After a few bikes had passed me I noticed an entrant had stopped just after the exit from the island. So being a helpful person I walked along with my trusty backpack of tools to see if I could be of service. The bike was a **Scott** - a 1930 600cc Squirrel - which was being ridden (or not) by David Green, the Chair of the Pennine Section. He had completed the run on each of the several occasions he had entered but this time it was not looking good. He had been tinkering with the clutch in the previous week and said the machine was riding up his road which was "twice as steep as Sunrising" without a problem. But now when he tightened the nut which held the clutch in place and squeezed the lever it slid back down the shaft due to stripped threads. Hopefully, he said, it was the nut which was stripped and not the shaft. He then proceeded to push the bike back to the museum grounds, declining my offer of helping him push.

Heading back towards the island, 2 other bikes pulled in. A 1929 350cc **James** ridden by **James Woolston Scott** (you couldn't make it up!) and his riding companion Howard Bentham on a 1930 AJS RG350. 'Jim' was holding his primary drive sprocket which had come adrift from its shaft as he rounded the island. He needed a wrench to undo the approximately 4 inch a/f chrome nut to enable the unit to be refitted. As one was not available they decided to return to North Wales after only riding half a mile that morning. So of he went on the AJS to fetch the van from the museum car park.

Just 2 examples of a lot of planning ending in disappointment. I hope not too many more had problems and that they all got back before the heavens opened at about 3.30 that afternoon!





As a post script to the Banbury Run I spoke, in Cassington, to Alan Millyard (the motorcycle genius and TV celebrity) who entered the Run on the Clubs 1902 Dreadnought. I asked him how he got on with riding this legendary bike. His face lit up and he replied: “It has got no gears, no clutch, very little brakes and poor steering....it was great!”

*Barry*

## The Warwickshire Section Coventry Parade is Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Here are just a few reasons why you should consider supporting this event**

- THE Warwickshire Section ***PREMIER all-day event***
- Coventry’s most historic motoring event – now in its 68<sup>th</sup> year
- Coombe Country Park venue with individual event field
- On site Café and facilities
- Experienced and knowledgeable event team
- Get flagged off by our VIP special guest, to a professional commentary
- Scenic new route through the scenic Leicestershire countryside
- Shorter route for veteran (pre 1915) machines
- Choice of postal or on-line (new for this year) entry
- Souvenir printed programme
- Finisher award
- Rider refreshments
- Prize giving
- All this (and more) for just £10
- See you there!



# Coventry Parade 2023 - Have you entered yet?

The 2023 'Coventry Parade is the Jewel in the Crown of the Warwickshire VMCC Section calendar, and *should* be the premier event for the entire Vintage movement - Coventry having been the 'Epicentre' for the British Motorcycle Industry, from the cradle to the Grave, spanning a whole Century of development.

This years event takes place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Coombe Abbey Country Park, Coventry, with signing on completed between 08.30 and 09.00 hrs. The location is spacious with plenty of parking, toilet facilities and a coffee shop for extended family supporters. Lunch will be a 'self catering picnic'.

The event is a very broad church, spanning 100 years of our Motorcycling heritage with an optional 50 mile leisurely run through the surrounding Countryside flagged off by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, and a live commentary by Geoff Booth with a plethora of awards in the afternoon's machine display and 'Concours D'elegance. Those that wish to limit their entry to a static display are also welcome to do so.

I first enjoyed entering the event myself 43 years ago in 1980 on my 1951 98cc Sun 'Hornet', and have entered since on a borrowed 1897 Leon Bollee, my own 1913 REX vee twin (which also appeared at the second ever event in 1957), my 1938 Morgan 'Supersports', my 1972 Triumph X75 'Hurricane', and my 1974 Fantic 50cc Chopper! My father used to enter on his 1951 Ariel Red Hunter (RIP).

All motorcycles over 25 years of age are welcome - entry fee £10 with a £7 concession fee for 'Veterans'. It's an informal fun event for all of the family and I urge you to dust off the cobwebs, enter a bike and support this noble gathering to ensure that we keep the embers of this proud Coventry tradition alive and well.

If you haven't entered yet - Do it NOW!

**Richard Woodcock**



*Images from last years run*



*..on a very hot day!*







I enclose entry fee (please mark appropriate boxes (note that all monies are non-refundable)):  
Veteran machines (pre 1915).....  
£7.00   
All other machines (must be pre 1999) .....  
£10.00   
Static machines (display only, no road ride).....  
£5.00

Do you have a trophy to return?

**Notes \***

***This year is “picnic in the park” – please refer to the supplementary regulations for details.***

- Please send remittance via bank transfer : Nationwide Bank, a/c **00765160** sort code **07-08-06**, **reference your surname, make of machine and year**, e.g. FowlerNorton1907
- Photograph or scan this form and email it as an attachment titled ‘**2023 Coventry Parade**’ to: [burrowtech1@googlemail.com](mailto:burrowtech1@googlemail.com)
- **For multiple entries, please do separate transactions.**

***Please read carefully and retain this regulations page for your information.***

Supplementary Regulations.

Once again, you are cordially invited to take part in the annual VMCC Coventry Parade, to be held on Sunday 13th August 2023 at Coombe Abbey Country Park, Brinklow Road, Coventry, CV3 2AB

[http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/136/coombe\\_country\\_park/498/coombe\\_country\\_park/3](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/136/coombe_country_park/498/coombe_country_park/3)

This is a non-competitive run, open only to members of the VMCC Ltd, and machines manufactured prior to 1st January 1999.

Assemble at Coombe Abbey Country Park Events Field from 08:30 (on left hand side of the main driveway nearest the main road; follow event signage)

- **Entrants should ensure that their Third Party Insurance is valid for the event**
- **Machines must conform with all legal requirements**
- **Trade plates are not permitted**
- **Please bring your VMCC membership card on the day – this will be required when signing on.**
- **If you have any Covid symptoms then please do not attend the event**

Machines will park in their designated area (oldest first) and will be flagged off at 30 second intervals in programme order; number one away at 11:00.

Riders may travel at their own speed and stop when they wish.

A suggested route of approximately 50 miles will be supplied to participants, with the option of a shorter route for the veteran machines.



It must be emphasised that whilst the route is recommended as interesting, there is no obligation for riders to comply. Should they wish to take an alternative route they may, providing that they return to the start by 14:00.

This year features “Picnic in the Park”; routes will return directly to the park, with no official stop en route. Participants can make the most of our idyllic venue; there is a café on site at the opposite end of the event field by the visitor centre, which serves a variety of hot and cold food and drinks.

<https://www.coombeabbey.com/visit/eat-and-drink/dining-rooms/cafe-in-the-park/>

You are also welcome to bring along your own food and drink to enjoy.

All machines taking part in the run will be judged for awards, providing that the entrant has signed off at the organiser’s control desk..

There are facilities to allow parking of transport and trailers etc on the events field. Please follow the marshals instructions, and park neatly with consideration.

Upon arrival, before signing on, please read the event health and safety information sheet that will be provided on the day and please ensure that you make every effort to ensure that you comply with what is written within this document.

All entry monies are non-refundable. **Closing date for official entries is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 but late entries will be accepted on the day at a cost of £18.00 for all classes.**

*more images from last years event*





# Chairman's Social @ Blue Lias, Stockton (Long Itchington)

This Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> from around 6.30pm

One of our best attended events. A Summer evening ride in the country to a very nice canal side pub. We usually have around 30 bikes there, lined up on the grass in the sunshine. We have ordered a buffet with chips which you can pay for (£5) on the night. We will also have our usual raffle with great prizes.

**Pailton Steam event.** Next Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> Please try to arrive between 10.30 and 11.30. Loads of parking space for cars, vans and trailers.

This was a new event last year at a picturesque location near Pailton.

The steam boat will give rides around the lake and the trains, both steam and diesel, will take you round a mile of track through the woods. Rides from around 12.00 noon.

We hope to have even more bikes there this year. They will be judged by a guest and rosettes awarded. We ask that you bring a picnic lunch, a gas BBQ will be available for you to use and hot drinks and ice creams will also be available for a charitable donation.

**As we get the use of this location for free we are expected to raise a decent amount through donations to the 'Air Ambulance' so collecting buckets will be around the site so please give generously**





# Founders Day July 23rd

A VMCC event organised annually by the Taverner's Section from Leicester. It is held in the grounds of Stanford Hall-*Stanford Rd, Lutterworth LE17 6DH*. This is a great event. Lots of bike clubs have stands there, there is an events ring for parading bikes and other events. The auto jumble is huge and well worth an hour. Our section will have our gazebo with seating and – if you bring yours – a good range of bikes owned by section members. Please ask us if you need more information.

*Here are a few images from past Founders Day events:*



# VMCC Warwickshire Diary of events for 2023

\*This is a provisional diary which may change. More events will be added nearer the dates\*

\*Watch out for emails or visit our website <http://vmccwarwickshire.co.uk>\*

July 05	Wed	Chairperson's Social	Blue Lias, bikes and buffet. from 6.30pm
July 09	Sun	Pailton Steam & Bikes+	Fairfield lake and Smite Brook Steam Railway
July 12	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. Talk on Shackleton 8.00pm
July 23	Sun	Founders Day Rally	Stanford Hall. From 9.00am. Display bikes wanted.
Aug. 06	Sun	Bill Lacey Run	Evenly, Northants. (more details TBA).
Aug 09	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. bike night
Aug 13	Sun	The Coventry Parade	Coombe Abbey. More details later.
Sept. 03	Sun	Genteel Run	Run mainly for smaller, older bikes. (details TBA). (D.K.)
Sept 10	Sun	Atherstone Motor show	Great town centre free event. Lots of cars/ bikes.
Sept 13	Wed.	Club night	T.B.A.
Sept 17	Sun	Afternoon Tea and cake run	Meet at Hatton lay-by. 2.00 for 2.30 (S.D.)
Oct. 08	Sun	'Autumn Leaves' run	Meet at Long Itch Diner. 10.00 for 10.30 (S.D.)
Oct 11	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. 8.00pm
Oct. 22	Sun	Antelope Ride In	Meet at Antelope Inn, Lighthorne, 12.00 or ride in from Chesterton Windmill at 11.30. (S.D.)
Oct 28/29	s/s	Nat. M/c Museum	Open Day. Free entry + trade stands + guests.
Nov. 08	Wed.	Club Night	T.B.A.
Nov. 29	Wed.	Xmas lunch	T.B.A.
Dec. 13	~Wed.	Club Night	T.B.A.

*Attendance at most of our section events will count towards the 'Rider of the year award' (D.K.) etc. indicates run leader. Events in purple are section events, others may be of interest.*

**\*Please note this weeks events: Wednesday our annual social event as above.**

**Next Sunday: our second Steam event at Pailton. Details to follow by email.**



## Bikes for sale

### \*BSA Bantam 175cc

\*1969

\*has been expertly entirely refurbished

\* very little use since engine overhaul (rebores, pistons, bearings, seals etc.)

\* the paint work was professionally done.

\* seat revamped by Leightons.

\*kept warm and dry

\* got to be easily worth £3000.

\* phone Frank on 01926 429310.  
Please say why you are calling.





## Sun

\*1956

\*2 stroke

\*rebuilt to high standard

\*kept warm and dry

\*very little use

\* phone Frank on 01926  
429310.

Please say why you are  
calling.

\* only £3000 for quick sale





One of our members is reducing his collection and so is offering for sale two very diverse machines both of which he has owned for several years. Both have been well looked after.

## Sunbeam model 9

first registered in 1932  
500cc single twin port  
3 speed Sturmey Archer hand change  
excellent condition  
starts very easily and runs ok.  
Comes with a pair of crank cases  
and a pair of bar end levers.

£10,250 o.n.o.



## Honda VTX

1800 cc  
registered 2007  
low mileage  
recent m.o.t.  
Runs very well.  
Vance and Hines pipes  
Held saddlebags

£7,250

For more information please  
contact John Pearson on

07946 731702

or email [jdpearson75@gmail.com](mailto:jdpearson75@gmail.com)







## Stop press! Last Sunday a 'pop-up' at 'the Tea Shed, Napton.

News just in about this well attended meet. Around 16 bikes of all ages meet for hot drinks, bacon rolls and plenty of mainly bike related chat.

A Couple of new faces and some different bikes. A good event in good sunny weather.

