

CWAM



NEWSLETTER

November 2022

CWAM first, our successes ~ our raison d'etre

Congratulations to

Kieran Scullion and Observer Paul Owen

For another successful Advanced Test

Going to press, so any further passes this month will be announced in the next issue.

Another timely reminder

Autumn leaves

As we tumble into Autumn *Simon Daffern* reminds us that wet leaves are said to be as slippery as snow. This has now been researched and proved to be a fact by those clever engineers at Ford (don't shout! I know JLR have even cleverer engineers). So, pretty as they may look, don't be fooled, like Lady MacBeth, they can be lethal for the unwary. The Ford article is [here](#).



Official Club Ride outs in October

Roger Barrett ~ Wednesday 5th

Ride out to KOTO Autotalli in Chipping Campden



On a day with a decidedly dodgy weather forecast nine brave souls turned out at the meeting point near Warwick which was heartening to see. I'd picked a route with many sections borrowed from previous ride outs so we set off west through Norton Lindsay to Great Alne then due south through Temple Grafton, Long Marston and Mickleton to KOTI Autotalli.

It was advertised it as a motorcycle themed café but in truth its more hipster hangout with high end clothing on sale along with several customised and classic bikes, including an open workshop where you can sip your coffee and watch them hard at work. There is plenty to see so it's worth a trip if you've never been.



There was a little rain in the air on the way back to Gilks' Café in Kineton but it didn't spoil our enjoyment of the roads back through Shipston, Brailes and Tysoe. We stopped at Gilks for further refreshments and after half an hour the predicted wind and rain duly arrived meaning a very wet ride home. Never mind, things dried quickly in the wind once the rain had stopped!

Nick Lilley ~ Sunday 9th

Rideout to the Ox Shed

A man with Blackbeard's treasure map secreted in his back pocket, turning the first sod of earth where X marks the spot, would have struggled to have exceeded my sense of anticipation and excitement, as I parked outside Starbucks. Such eagerness was obviously of epidemic proportions as all the other riders were already there, waiting. *(No change there then, Ed.)*
It was good to see some new faces and the return of an old one.
(I obviously don't mean old old but old as in long time no see).

The sunny October morning was a blessing and a curse. There was a time when my sight adapted to rapid changes in light levels in the proverbial blink of an eye, but now like cheap photochromatic lenses, they respond with the agonising slowness of a limping snail. This poses something of a problem when travelling through the heavily dappled shadows of roadside trees. Think the flickering images of the very early movies when each frame was separated by a deci-second of blankness – not ideal.

Back to the ride. I was keen to find a new route to Cotswold Farm Park that pandered to my partiality for lesser used lanes, avoiding traffic strewn, freedom restricting roads as much as possible. I headed behind Foxcote through Paxford and Blockley, skirting Springhill to reach Buckle Street and eventually The Ox Shed. Admittedly, not especially fast but a nice mix of rural lanes that afforded some fine views. Spellbound by the sheer fabulousness of the morning, I found myself passing the entrance and was forced into a U-turn at a handy crossroads but I don't think anyone noticed. *(Probably too polite to mention it. Ed.)*

I know prices are rising but the Ox Shed, despite the excellent chocolate cake, did appear a bit on the dear side. However there's always a seat, parking is easy and those rare breeds don't feed themselves. Well, they do but you know what I mean.

The back road to Stow, through the bustling town to pass the Rollright Stones and slip down into Whichford with its extravagantly large green, before the gentle bends leading to Upper Brailes and Honington were pleasing, compensating for the slog from Halford towards Wellesbourne and Longbridge Island.



We all managed to stay together, we didn't get wet and some of us enjoyed a good post ride coffee in the sun. A reasonable morning I hope.

As for the sun, well, there was a time when CWAM did quite a few evening rides and I temporarily stuck a strip of masking tape across the top of my visor which although aesthetically displeasing and subject to some ridicule did something to alleviate the low sun's glare. I may find myself rummaging around in the garage once more. *(You are not alone in this respect. Ed.)*

As usual, thanks to Nick for providing some feedback from these two on Facebook.

John Chivers Saturday 15th

The idea of an Associates only ride-out was muted way back in the February 2022 Newsletter and then again, to judge the level of interest, in the September issue. It finally came to fruition much to the delight of Nick Lilley, I'm guessing, as he has also been promoting the idea.

Nick commented on Facebook ~ Living the dream with CWAM associates at the rideout familiarisation session. Excellent morning thanks to John Chivers' efforts.



Dave Shakespeare ~ Sun. 23rd **Rideout to the Whistlestop Café in Blunston**

This was to have been my longest rideout to date but dental surgery, the day before, put paid to that. Quite fortuitously, for me as it happens, because the rain at the start time could only be described as Monsoon-like! OK, I could have put my rain gear to the test (as indeed, everyone on the ride must have done!), but I now know that wet leaves are as dangerous as ice, (see first page) so no thank you, at my age, I don't court danger anymore!

Again, this feedback borrowed from Nick on Facebook ~ Fortune favours the bold and those who were brave enough to swim through the early morning torrents and avoid the odd amber ice rink of fallen leaves, were rewarded with another great route from Dave.



Good to find somewhere new and Blunston Crossing didn't disappoint.

I recently had an accident and while I didn't recall my head hitting the ground hard, I was very conscious of the advice to always replace your helmet after an accident. It looked perfect on the outside, but I knew from a previous helmet incident that damage may not be visible on the outside. I did take out the lining to have a look inside and couldn't see anything amiss, but really didn't want to take any risks.



However, having only bought the helmet in January and having been told that there were none in my size available locally until December, I decided to see if it was possible to get it tested. Moto Central in Hinckley recommended this company based at East Midlands Airport and so I contacted them via their website.

It cost £40 for the inspection and return postage and I needed to arrange for secure packaging and postage to them. In the end, I took their recommendation and bought a huge and sturdy box from Amazon and added padding around it. With the pick-up courier service booked via Package2Go, it cost me around £75 all in.

I received an acknowledgment when they received my helmet and they kept me up to date as it progressed through their checks. Details of how they test helmets and why can be found on their website <https://helmetinspection.co.uk/>. I'm glad to say that my helmet passed all their checks and no damage was found. That saved me a significant amount of money over buying a new one and has given me the reassurance to continue using my very comfortable – and very expensive – helmet.

I thoroughly recommend their service. It takes around 4-5 days and could save your life. There's a thought.
(thank you Zoë Ed.)

October Club night ~ Biker Down

Wed 12th

There were less than 40 at October's CWAM Club Night which I thought was disappointing considering that we are all road users and the topic was not only relevant but of practical importance to us all. Mark started proceedings with the presentation of a test pass certificate. Tonight was the turn of Stephen Harbon, who excelled with a F1RST and received his framed certificate from his observer Ian Chapman. (CWAM Logo top)



The Biker Down team, Darren Morris and Moreno Francioso from the Fire & Rescue Service, with Keil Hetherington and Rich Jenkins both motorcyclists from Warwickshire Police, seamlessly supported each other during the presentation and had no difficulty in fully engaging their audience.

The advice given on of how to organise/lend on the spot assistance at a road accident, was more pragmatic and flexible than the presentation I'd heard some years ago or possibly my memory is at fault. Certainly there was no hard and fast rule about positioning your bike/car if you were first on scene. Most pertinent was to assess the scene before you rush in, then phone 999. If there's an injury always ask for the ambulance service first and if you don't know your precise location, which when we're out and about we often don't, use the what3words app (<https://what3words.com/ways-to-use>).

After that, well, you had to be there.

There was also real world advice about riding, most notably when they were deconstructing David's Story <https://youtu.be/IyHpf7K2PKc>.

I would be the first to admit that I am given to hyperbole but undoubtedly this was the most informative Club Night we've had for some years. If you missed it, I would urge you to enrol on one of their courses.

Contact - bikerdown@warwickshire.gov.uk or call 02476 314376

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/bikerdown>.



This photo shows the Biker Down team with sundry CWAMs.

Apologies to Wayne Smith who was presented with his certificate at our Open Day, Shilton back in September, but it was somehow omitted from Octobers' Newsletter. So, as compensation, here's a full sized photo of him, with his Observer Digby Carrington-Howell (on the right for those of us not yet familiar with all our illustrious Observers).



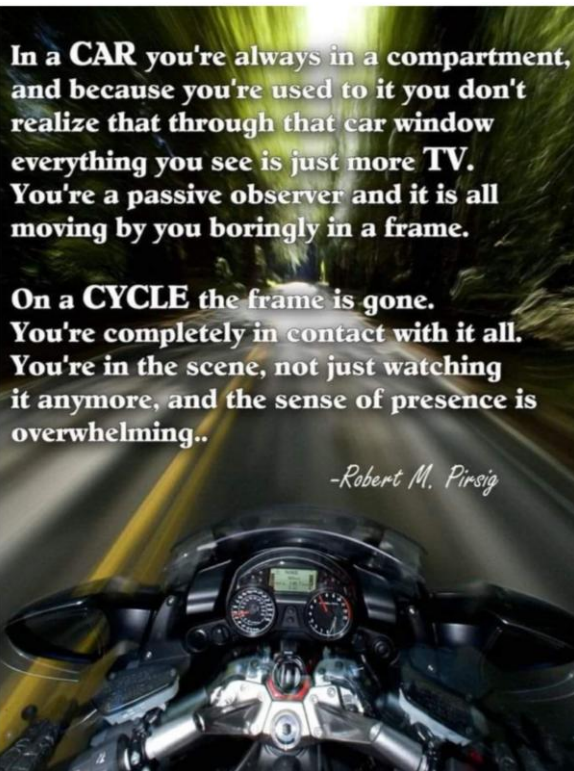
IAM RoadSmart News

As usual the latest IAM RoadSmart News is [here](#),
their tips and blogs are [here](#)
and their Facebook page is [here](#).

Motorcycle Memes anyone?

You have not lived life until you ride a motorcycle down the road with a big grin on your face and a bug in your mouth.

(Or a wasp trapped in your helmet? An 'in' joke, Northleach prison trip ~ see Oct 2021 Newsletter Ed.)



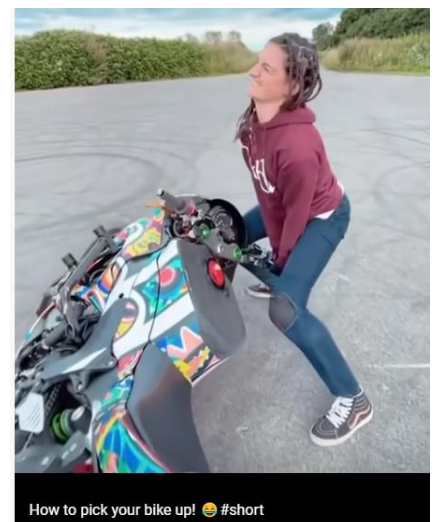
Stressed out? Maybe you just need an iron supplement



And this one, not a Meme, but a thumbnail of a cool Motorcycle video. I'm pleasantly surprised that I was allowed to publish this by the CWAM board of censors, as it's clearly not CWAM's policy to try tricks like this! It is just a bit of fun. Click [here](#) to watch it.

When I first saw it I thought I'd found the answer to my prayers ~ viz, finally an easy way to pick my bike up!

I figured that Candice would be able to master this easily and then could run a course for those of us that are 'liftingly' challenged. Then a biker friend pointed out the size of her chain wheel ~ clearly a stunt bike ~ Doh!



Spotted on Facebook this month

Club Sunday rideouts

Nick Lilley ~ Sunday 2nd

Rideout to the Touchdown Café Wellesbourne

Living the dream with CWAM at the Touchdown Café with a welcome and unexpected meeting with ex CWAM observer Peter Hawking.

A perfect biking morning, I thoroughly enjoyed the ride and the excellent company.



Mike Darby ~ Sunday 16th

Rideout to the Jinny Ring Craft Centre café Hanbury.



Living the dream with CWAM on a lovely sunny morning at Jinny Ring Craft Centre café.

This photo taken by me shows, at best, what a nice day it was. Much better ones from Mike are below.

Mike commented

Interesting ride today with certainly an eclectic choice of roads 😊!

Thanks all for coming along but a simple request to remind all that if you lose site of the guy behind you, PLEASE MARK THE JUNCTION. As unfortunately on the way back we got split mid way in the group and the trailing set were left.

Luckily Roger who was our tail rider had a satnav and managed to guide the tail end group back to civilisation.



Mike Darby ~ Sunday 30th Breakfast run from Shilton village hall this Sunday to the Cow Shed (Yew Tree farm) in Wooten Wawen (no single track lanes on this run either). So, if you want to come and join me it would be great to have you along. Departing 0930 as usual. 🏍️👍
(Any photos will feature towards the end, if received in time. Ed.)

John Chivers posted this report and 20 photos about his trip to Belgium. Those of you without Facebook can see more by clicking on the links.

Thanks to @zeromotorcyclesuk for the invitation to Belgium to ride Zero Motorcycles' new fully-electric true adventure bike, the DSR/X, yesterday. This shares most of the name of the dual sport Zero DSR I owned for five years, which was designed for some off-road riding, but the DSR/X is not just a different design from the DSR, and a bigger bike, but Zero's first foray into a true, fully electric adventure bike.



The day comprised a classroom introduction to the bike, followed by a hands-on session and practical training on riding the bike off-road over various surfaces in the safety of the MotorPark in Balen.

After lunch, we spent the whole afternoon dividing time between roads and predominantly green lanes, sandy and stoney tracks.

People are all-too-ready to make comparisons between the new Energica EXPERIA and the Zero DSR/X, but whereas the former is a sports tourer, designed for undertaking long road trips in comfort, the latter is a true adventure bike, capable of riding on all off roads surfaces and a number of off-road riding settings capable of keeping an inexperienced off-road rider like me off the ground!

Video and thoughts on the bike coming soon.

Subscribe to

<https://youtube.com/jtchivers>, so you don't miss it!

Spotted on Facebook this month continued.

Here's the [https link](#) again as the one in the image clearly won't work.

 **Andy Spencer** shared a post.
5 d · 🌐

 **Keep Britain Biking**
5 d · 🌐

Are advanced riders any safer than other riders? It seems obvious that they must have fewer accidents, injuries and mishaps than 'ordinary' motorcyclists but nobody really knew. Until now... <https://bit.ly/3yZPccH>



DEVITTINSURANCE.COM

Are Advanced Riders safer riders? | Devitt
Are those riders who have complete advanced training actually safer than ...

 **Kosha Maya** shared an event.
4 d · 🌐

Sunday 20th November

More than likely the last event of the year to learn some bike control skills in a closed environment with some useful feedback to help you evolve them!
Plus you're paying for Blood Bikers at the same time - a win win 😊



SUN, 20 NOV AT 09:00
Moto Gymkhana - Skills Day
Warwick

☆ Interested



Kosha was also there on October 2nd!
I followed her on a rideout recently ~
It was like watching a 'master class'
in how to go round roundabouts.



Kosha Maya

9 October at 19:45 · 🌐



Well, Kosha, it would appear that you are following in the footsteps of Andrea Smith and Rebecca Catchpole.

(And no doubt other members that I am unaware of yet).

By that I mean, with the greatest admiration and respect, fearless female riders with the confidence to 'do their own thing and go it alone'.

(I envy you as I'm nowhere near that confident yet.

Though I guess being able to pick your bike up with no help for miles around is a great advantage? Ed.)

Wrynose, Hardknott, Buttertubs, Hartshill.. including all the interconnecting routes, North England is bloody fantastic!

I highly recommend the North England Tour in Simon Weir's Bikers Britain. Next CWAM trip to the Lake District I'm going, because I want to see how others get their massive machines up those 30% inclines, then back down again!



Extra photos gallery ~ the team at the cow shed 30th



CWAM events in November

For more detail on any of these events, please click on this [direct link](#) to the events diary on our website.

NB it says at the top "To view details of any event left click the text"

when	what	where
Wed 2 nd 9:30 am to approx 3:00 pm	Rogers 1st Wednesday of the month Rideout	A super new 130 miles route. For more details, please click on the web link above and on the event itself
Sun 6 th ? am	A possible Rideout	Please contact John Chivers if you would like to lead a CWAM rideout. (or what seems to be a growing trend, just announce it on Facebook)?
Wed 9 th 7:30 pm	CWAM Club night	Scant details to date, so please refer to the events diary nearer the time.
Thur 10 th 9:15 am to approx 4 pm	Mike Darby leads another 'themed' ride.	From Gilks' Café to Bletchley Park Code breakers Museum. There is a variable charge for this trip, so please see the events diary for details.
Sun 13 th 9:00 am	CWAM Club Sunday	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS
Wed 16 th 7:30 pm	Committee meeting	Still on Zoom
Sun 20 th ? am	The annual, topical, Gunpowder plot trail	Brush up on your history. A 'themed' ride out with John Chivers visiting Warwickshire locations involved in the 1605 plot to kill King James 1
Sun 27 th 9:00 am	CWAM Club Sunday	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS



For all future events check out the [Diary page](#).

If anyone has news to share, tips to pass on, pictures for the gallery or items for sale please mail me (newsletter@cwam.org.uk).

Your website - your news - your contributions!

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