

# CWAM



# NEWSLETTER

## June 2023

*CWAM*

first, our successes ~ our 'raison d'etre'

.....  
• Congratulations to .....

**Pete Schofield** and Observer Martin Williams

**For another successful Advanced Test**

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

I know that Nick often appealed for Newsletter articles and the Editor of my Vintage bikes club is no exception, *(he's even asked me to write some, as if I don't have enough to do creating this one!)*

However, I consider myself very lucky. There's so much going on in CWAM ~ Roger always sends an article on his ride outs and with an active Facebook page full of photos and comments from Nick, I can always find some 'copy'. However I've been especially blessed this month.

Mark Lunt kindly wrote about the Rugby Fest and Club night, which together with Nick's photos filled 5.5 pages and I also received a couple more pages of articles from two other prominent CWAM figures *(can you guess who, before you get to the end of each one? Ed.)*

One of the articles is particularly interesting as it links nicely to the one I chose from the BMF News. They might have closed the Pyrenees off to motorcycles, but there are still places to enjoy 'super twisties' in Spain (and the brilliant article gives all the information you need if you are tempted to try it yourself)! Read on to learn more..... enjoy!

# Official Club Ride outs in May

**Roger Barratt** ~ Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

**Ride out to Aberdovey**

The prospect of fish and chips at the seaside proved too much for nine CWAMs, even if it meant a full day in the saddle to get there.



We took a largely circular route so starting at Alcester we went round the bottom of Worcester through Bromyard, Leominster, Llandrindod Wells and Rhayader.



After lunch we came back through Newtown and Craven Arms, over Clee Hill then around the top of Droitwich back to Alcester.

We broke the journey by stopping at the excellent Cattle Shed café in Kington on the way out and at the interesting Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre on the way back.



Great quality fish and chips from Walkers in Aberdovey as usual although most of us wished we'd asked for a smaller portion rather than the epic ones served.

*(Looks like the local seagulls knew how many 'left-over's there would be Ed!)*



We enjoyed some great roads on the day and surprisingly little traffic, particularly the sections from mid Wales to the coast. Even a few short stretches of newly spread chippings didn't deter us.

There were some happy but weary faces at Alcester when we got back just after 6.00pm but it was well worth the effort of a 7.5 hour ride!

What Roger failed to mention was how nice the weather was, after his last 4 Wednesday ride outs being either cold, damp or dreary, and sometimes all three!

As you can see from the skies in the photos this was definitely a case of .....

**"Now was the winter of his discontent made glorious summer by this son of York".**

*(If you are wondering about the 'son of York' link ~ Roger was born and bred in Yorkshire Ed.)*

**Stop press: it seems that his 'glorious summer' is continuing on the 3 day Wales trip, as I write this.**

**Ian Collard** ~ Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

**Golden Valley rideout to Tintern Abbey**

This brief comment from Nick Lilley, was copied from Facebook.

Living the dream with CWAM in sunny Tintern via The Malverns where, it is said, Mrs Elgar moved Edward's desk because he was spending too much time gazing out of the window instead of placing notes on the stave and who could blame him when, as today, the hills were gilded with glowing Spring green. Super route, thanks Ian.

And this from **Ian Collard** ~ Thanks for coming along everyone. Lovely day, unusual for a Tintern run. Thanks for tail ending John, and for converting the route to GPX.



**John Chivers** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

**To Lakeside Kitchen, Nene Park, Peterborough**



This looks like a lovely day, a superb ride out and venue, but once again, no official write-up for this one.

Luckily, this short piece from **Nick Lilley** on Facebook.  
*(To fill the gap below Ed.)*

Living the dream with CWAM at Nene Park, enjoying the cygnus giganticus gliding effortlessly over the water, the confection that is Fotheringhay church, the last resting place of many leading Yorkists and the Victorian splendour of the 82 arch Welland Viaduct.  
Smashing ride with a great choice of route, thanks John.

The first brick of the Welland Viaduct was laid in March 1876 and the work was completed in July 1878 ~ HS2 contractors could learn a thing or two.



## VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM.

First of all, plaudits to our hard-working Social Secretary, Dave Shakespeare, whose brain-child this was and who made all the necessary running to make it happen. Well done Dave!

For anyone who doesn't know, this Club Night was rather different to the norm, in that it was a CWAM excursion. From the committee's perspective, it was a bit of a shot in the dark as to how it would go down, given that it was an event that members had to pay to attend, albeit subsidised by the Club.

There had to be a sufficient turnout to make it viable and the bookings only started coming in fairly slowly at first, so there was some angst in the early stages.

Dave was so worried that he fled the country – He tried to make out it was a holiday, but who is he kidding??? None of us need have worried, though. The buzz after the event marks it down as having been a huge success, the only negative being the lack of refreshment facilities.

Having congregated at the Museum we went through to their foyer area and, it being Club Night, we kicked off with the usual presentation of certificates. (A little to the bamboozlement of our guide for the night.)

There were scheduled to be three presentations that evening but traffic/navigational issues meant that only two of the relevant folk were present at this point:

Sandra Tudball for her F1rst, achieved in March of this year under the guidance of new Observer Zoe Hayward and her mentor Simon Oatley.





Also Andy Spencer presented Neil Harrison with his certificate for his success in achieving Local Observer accreditation in March, too.

The "missing link", John Meaking, was able to catch up with his presentation at the end of the evening, celebrating his F1rst under the guidance of new Observer Steve Krikler and his mentor Roger Barrett.

Brilliant achievements by all, well done.



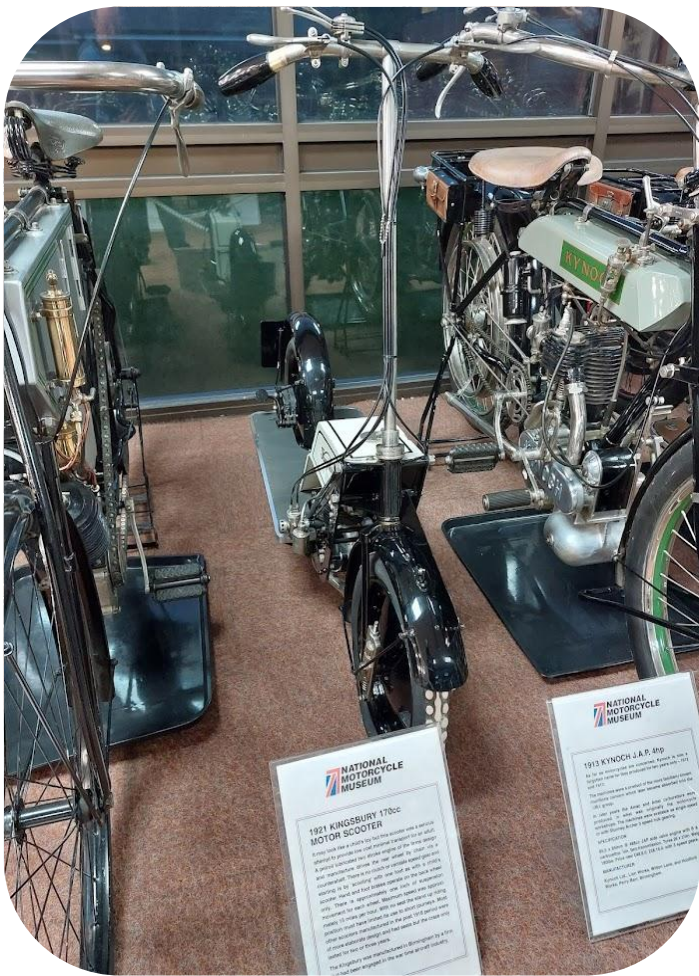
And so, on to the visit to the museum. We had opted to engage the services of a guide, though there had been some discussion about whether this was sensible, given the numbers.

Would people be able to hear? Again, we needn't have worried.



Our very entertaining guide was Bob Badland, a guy who is just steeped in British Motorcycle lore and who pitched the tour commentary perfectly, with just the right mix of tech, info. and anecdotes.

What is more he did so with a delivery voice of which I can only dream; seemingly effortlessly holding virtually the whole hall. He really made the visit for me and, I think, lots of others too.



The tour of the five halls took just short of two hours, which flew by. Just some of the gems he imparted:

- The most valuable exhibit is a Brough Superior, over £1,000,000-worth. And when they opened it up there were no engine internals, just newspaper.
- Bikes called Brough used to be made by father and son team, Brough Snr. and Jnr. They had a falling out and Jnr. set up shop a few doors down and started making bikes himself. Being a Mr. Brough, he called them Brough, then tacked "Superior" on, just to pee off his Dad!
- You think motorised scooters are a new thing? How about this one (middle, left) from 1921?

If you have never been to the NMM I highly recommend it, there is a lot to see and it is not just for the petrol-heads. And I reiterate the plea made by Bob on the night for those who did go; Please can you do a Trip Advisor or similar review? Apparently, the National Motorcycle Museum has closed down ..... in America!

But as a result of that being reported, many people now think that our NMM has gone, so Bob and his team are keen to get the word out to as many as possible that they are still, very much, in business. Here's looking forward to the next CWAM "excursion". (But please book earlier next time, to prevent chewed nails on the committee members!) MAL.





The annual Rugby Bikefest hit town on 21<sup>st</sup>. May and we were there. If you are clever with an almanac and measurement of shadows, you can work out that the photo is from pretty early on that Sunday morning. (If you want to check your answers it's 10.34BST according to my phone.) Another way you can tell it's early is that the people on the stand aren't yet frazzled! Because everyone who helped out that day certainly earned their corn: It was busy, busy, busy.



The sun shone and the people came out in their droves. It was a really good atmosphere, with a good mix of bikers and ordinary members of the public. The shops in Rugby must love it.



Being on the stand is lovely too.

We got a lot of people who were genuinely interested in what we do, some just fancy a chat and, what is particularly nice, we got to see "Friends of CWAM"; members who are there as visitors, ex-members, other exhibitors who know us or who are CWAM members as well (eg. The Police and Fire Brigade Biker Down guys that came to do a Club Night previously, Bloodbikers, etc..) plus a handful of personal friends and acquaintances.

*(Being on the stand has other advantages too, especially if you like supersized sausage baguettes.*

*Ed.)*

Initially we were a little concerned about our location, as we were the first solid stand in front of the main stage, so thought there was some chance that we wouldn't be able to hear anything other than the music. But it turned out to be not too bad at all. And some of the music was quite good too!



In terms of recruitment we came away with 13 potential new members on the list. So that is a pretty good haul. Now, given the fact that we already have a burgeoning waiting list there is an argument that it is 13 more than we need. But the counter argument that won't sway is that Rugby is right on our patch and it would almost seem rude not to be there. Also, the potential recruits have been warned about the likely delay before they can be taken on and, in spite of the waiting list, it is important to keep our presence out there, for the future.

Of course, CWAM Flag-waving cannot happen without members who help on the day, so a big thank you to "The Bikefest Team": Julian Rahau, Ian Collard, Digby Carrington-Howell, Steve Krikler, Wayne Smith, Margaret Damen, Rod Bromfield, David Buchholz and Mark Prior. Couldn't have done it without you!

MAL.

Missed last month by at least a third of our members, who are not Facebook users.....

Articles on Facebook mostly about the Rugby Bike Fest and the Motorcycle Museum Club Night which are already covered above, so only one notable event this month.

**14<sup>th</sup> May Club Sunday,** A Dave Rowley impromptu ride out.

Living the dream with CWAM in the sun, with a very select bunch of riders at the very select Fig and Olive near Bassetts Pole.

Thanks to Dave for taking us there and even more importantly, leading us back. ~ **Nick Lilley**



# The Welsh National Rally 2023

If my riding was a school, Ofsted would assess me as 'Requires Improvement', marginally better than 'Inadequate' but not quite up to being 'Good'.

So, it was something of a surprise when my last biking endeavour was, and I am being modest, an absolute triumph. Last year's Welsh Rally was good with clear views of Snowdon and wonderfully quiet, windy roads in Mid Wales with few errors but this year was one step beyond. A smiling Ofsted would have awarded 'Outstanding'.



My core was only slightly better than hypothermic by the time I arrived at the first check point near Shrewsbury thanks to 8°C being further cooled by the motorway wind-chill. However, just as the curtain rises at the start of act one, so it was that the clouds were borne away and anticipation of the scenes which were about to unfold increased. A short hop found me at Welshpool and by the time I crossed the dam on Lake Vyrnwy, the colours were vibrant, the sky was clear and the water, morning still. Along the lake and the superb single track to Bala before continuing north to Maentwrog.

The beach at Barmouth bustled then it was more or less south along the coast to pebbly Aberaeron. OK, there was a slight mishap when I mixed up Llanthis with Llanthat and had to retrace my tyre tracks for four miles but on such a perfect day it was but a trifle. No inconvenience, just prolonging the joy. Inhospitable Harlech Castle glowered incongruously across the sapphire bay with a view along the Llyn Peninsula as it waded out into the Irish Sea and a heat hazed horizon.



I have always found it difficult to define why I enjoy biking so much but travelling the curvaceous A40 from Sennybridge towards Abergavenny (or possibly Damascus), it came to me. Not the smooth cornering that many love because I tend towards the timid on bends.

It's the ability to overtake, a practice most car drivers appear reluctant to consider these days. I am as a peregrine, floating on a thermal when I spot a juicy morsel, a BMW or Audi. I swoop, a streamlined blur, in seconds my prey is but a speck in my mirror, smaller than the most emaciated sparrow in winter. A flight of fancy possibly but you get the idea.



As I slipped off the dual carriageway at Monmouth around 7pm, I was reminded of opening the last door on an Advent calendar; recalling the delicious treats that had gone before but sadly realising the next one was almost a year away. Dinner and a drink in the town set me up nicely for the journey home and by the time I rolled onto the drive, the tripmeter had ticked over to a pleasingly symmetrical 444 miles.

*(You have just one guess at who wrote this*

*Ed.)*

*Answer on the last page.*

# Land of a thousand (plus) bends!

It was with a sense of excitement with a not inconsiderable side order of trepidation that I set off for Birmingham airport on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April to embark on my last-minute holiday decision – a week in the Spanish mountains on 2 wheels.

A brief Google search had led me to Biking Abroad in the Valencian town of Ontinyent. Their website indicated that there were places available for the following week, so I fired off an email and was soon pencilled in. I must say that the communications with Cliff and Zoe (yes, another one – we get everywhere) were excellent so I felt like I'd landed a good'un.



On arrival at Alicante airport, I was met by Cliff and off we headed about an hour inland to the Biking Abroad house in Ontinyent. My five fellow bend-seeking riders had arrived earlier that day so we spent a pleasant couple of hours on the terrace chatting about our favourite places to ride, our bikes, and what we were expecting from the next day's ride before we were called for our home-cooked dinner.



I'm not sure I can do the following 3 days justice in words. The views, the lack of traffic, the fabulous road surface (leaders of UK county councils take note!)

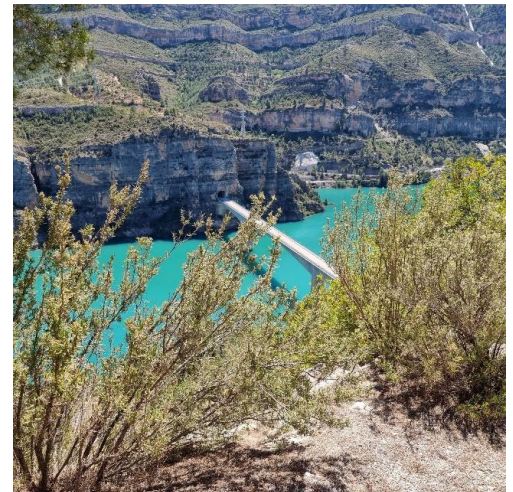
*(If it's frost free most of the winter there that would explain it Ed.)*

and, of course, the bends, and the bends, and more bends – thousands of them a day.

We were ably led by Cliff through some of the region's most impressive scenery, passing through tiny villages, and stopping for refreshments and lunch in quintessentially Valencian small towns.

With Andy's voice yammering on about the Golden Rule in my head on a loop, I made sure that was indeed able to stop should anything untoward occur. I did meet a rather intimidating BMW GS heading straight for me on my side of the road after the

rider had overcooked the corner and I'm not sure whose helmet contained the bluer air.



Maybe I was a little too cautious as I was merrily bringing up the rear, but Cliff always marked junctions and afforded us many fabulous photo stops. On returning to the accommodation, one of the group proudly announced daily how 'few' corners he had run wide on that day. I must say that I may have been slower but I was in total control round every bend so that was more than good enough for me, and I never felt under any pressure to push myself beyond my skill level by anyone.

## Admin bits –

it was a totally all-inclusive trip from the moment I landed in Spain until I was dropped off at Alicante airport. I didn't spend a single cent as all the food and drinks, bike (very well-maintained Yamaha MT09s) and fuel, and coffee stops en route were included. I chose to take my own lid and gear, but you don't even have to do that as there is a decent selection of branded clothing, boots, gloves, and helmets that you're free to use. At £870 (depending on the exchange rate when you book) for the 5-day trip, I thought it good value. Would I go again? Yes, but possibly with a friend, as listening to 5 lairy gentlemen of a certain age try to out shock each other every evening was starting to become a little tiresome!



*My thanks to our new Observer, Zoe Haywood for this most excellent and informative article.*

*Ed.)*

## Motorcycle Memes anyone?



**MOTORCYCLIST**  
**/noun (moh-ter-sy-klist)**  
**...a person willing to take a container of flammable liquid, place it on top of a hot engine and then put the whole thing between their legs.**

Mechanic ~ "What seems to be the problem"?

Customer ~ "It's making a funny knocking noise and seems to have lost power".

# British Motorcycle Federation News

This section was influenced by Ian Collard

Here's their web site link to read more  
<https://www.britishmotorcyclists.com>

## Motorcycles Are Banned From Parts Of The Pyrenees National Park

FEMA News 4 April 2023

This links in rather well with  
Zoe's article above!



A measure to limit noise pollution prohibits the use of motorcycles in parts of the High Pyrenees Natural Park (El Parque Natural de los Altos Pirineos). Electric vehicles and cars are not covered by the ban.

A 'Special Noise Quality Zone' (ZEPQA) was created, with a ban for motorcycles, quads and buggies throughout the year. This makes a large area of 80,000 hectares inaccessible to motorcyclists. The Pyrenees are located in the border area between France, Spain and Andorra.



Picture courtesy of radiocentro977.com

The ban may exclude motorcycles from local roads and trails but does not place similar restrictions on cars. That double standard forced **Moto de Campo Sostenible**, an advocacy group backed by the Spanish Motorcycle Federation (RFME), to characterize the lockdown as "unfair discrimination". Moto de Campo Sostenible is a platform that supports the users of country motorcycles, in order to ensure and work towards legislation that regulates the practice of sport and motorized access to the natural environment in a sustainable and responsible manner. Moto de Campo Sostenible's legal department is studying the case.

# CWAM events in June

**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
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> ?	<b>A possible Rideout</b>	Please contact John Chivers if you would like to lead a CWAM rideout.
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> 09:30 to approx 15:00	<b>Rogers 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month Rideout</b>	Leaving the Long Itch Diner at 9:30, for the Super Sausage Café just outside Towcester for a legendary fry-up, 80 miles, return to the Diner around 1pm.
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> 09:00	<b>CWAM Club Sunday</b>	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS <b>Bikes guard will be Wayne Smith</b>
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> 07:30	<b>CWAM Club Night</b>	Rich Jenkins from Warwickshire Police will talk about all aspects of bike security. Plus presentations and socialising with your biker chums.
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Time ?	<b>A Rideout to Brill</b>	A 100 miles, half day ride, with refreshments near Bicester. Check on the link above for the latest details.
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> 18:30	<b>Roger's, not to be missed, Chip Shop run</b>	Approx. 60 miles to the Mermaid Fish Bar, Moreton in Marsh from Starbucks A46 Southbound via Stratford and Chipping Campden, returning along the Fosse, to the A46 before dark.
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> 09:00	<b>CWAM Club Sunday</b>	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS <b>Bikes guard might be Mike Darby.</b>
Wed 28th 20:00 – 22:00	<b>A real, in person, Committee meeting</b>	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Ln, Shilton, Coventry CV7 9JZ, UK

## IAM RoadSmart News

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

## CWAM small print



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](mailto:newsletter@cwam.org.uk)).  
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**Many thanks to Nick Lilley for the Welsh National Rally 2023 article who's  
unique writing style will already have been recognised by most, I'm sure.**

# THE END