

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

Congratulations to

Richard Coker and Observer Mark Ford

Joanna Stevely and Observer Roger Barratt

Kieran Kennedy and Observer Dougy Vincent-Squibb

For their successful Advanced Tests

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

This is possibly my longest Newsletter yet, but then there is so much more going on in the summer months! One of our most prolific ride-out organisers (who modestly prefers his anonymity) has run **no less than three this Month** for me to report on, and Nick Lilley's inputs have also swelled these pages more than normal.

Also, the frequent requests not to wear helmets in club photos means that now, many more of them are worth including. Those of you with Facebook can skip 9 of these pages. Enjoy!

I've even written a piece on my favourite ride-out to the Chip Shop, Moreton in Marsh, it's way down, almost the last page now, so as not to upset all this lovely formatting.

STOP PRESS ~ a change of venue for the first Club Sunday, see events page.

Official Club Ride outs in June

Roger Barratt ~ May 30th to June 1st Tour of Wales 2023

This article kindly sent in by Nick Lilley.

Whenever two or more motorcyclists are gathered together, intently studying their helmets and scratching their heads, you may be sure they're synchronising their radios and so it was at McDonald's in Walsgrave at 8:30 on Tuesday 30th May. Once communications had been established, we were eating up the motorway miles with the intention of getting to the fun bit as soon as possible. True, we got to know one particular stretch of Shrewsbury road more than we expected but it didn't seem long before the hilltop ruins of Dinas Bran were spotted, signalling that Llangollen, the Horseshoe Pass but more importantly the Ponderosa and lunch were just around the corner.



What a difference 80 miles northwest makes.



The cool overcast skies had been left far behind and we were stripping off layers which proved to be the daily pattern for the rest of the tour. Betws-y-Coed was, as ever, bustling and the road down to Beddgelert offered stunning views of the Glyders and Snowden, stark, grey profiles contrasting with the brilliant blue sky.



Leaving the twisties behind we headed east to Bala and the Loch Café where, parked beside the water, we were grateful for an ice cream. The lakeside was thronged, taking on the guise of a holiday beach rather than a grass sward. Now in the high twenties, with all vents open

we were coast bound, passing through the seaside towns of Tywyn and Aberdyfi with stunning views across the blue Irish Sea from the cliff top road. Most of us were quite pleased when we pulled into Borth Youth Hostel, perfectly located on the seafront.

With two rooms between us, I felt privileged to be sharing with a descendant of the distinguished Henry



Morton Stanley (of Dr Livingstone fame) and pleased to see that the adventurous genes had been passed down the generations as Martin manfully braved the decidedly chilly ocean. Actually he only had a paddle, so the DNA has possibly become diluted over time.



There was a slight holding of breath when Roger discovered a foreign object embedded in his tyre. Although not as impressive as Ian Collard's fork, there were visions of a detour to the nearest tyre fitter. Fortunately the tyre and our spirits remained fully inflated for the rest of the tour. A pleasant walk along the

sea wall found us on the rooftop terrace of the

Victoria Inn for a swift half before dinner.

A cooler morning found us travelling the narrow lanes before skirting Cardigan and lunching at the Propeller Café outside Haverfordwest. I caught the merest glimpse of part of the refinery at Milford Haven. The afternoon brought us more A roads, dual carriageways and traffic than we were used to but that's inevitable and it was certainly an opportunity to hone our overtaking skills. As we crossed the bridge in Pembroke, the castle dominated the river to our right, although blink and you'd have

missed it. We found ourselves broken up, especially by one obstructive white BMW driver, but



we regrouped in time to get off the A40 for a quieter road to the Owl's Nest for tea in Llandovery.

Then came the highlight of my day, if not the tour, the climb up the A4069 over the Black Mountains which was new to me. Apart from this great stretch of biking road, the viewpoint near

the top proved irresistible and found most of us videoing the panorama of South Wales laid out before us.

Through Brecon to Talybont-on-Usk and our bed for the night in the heart of the Bannau Brycheiniog or Brecon Beacons National Park as we still say in Wellesbourne. To reach it we



and much needed curry.

crossed the dam of the Talybont Reservoir and took a sharp left along a track which, for someone who thinks parking on a gravel drive is akin to extreme off-roading, was a bit of a surprise. The local pub, proving to be a step too far, we settled for dinner in the hostel, which provided a reasonable

Simon had left us during the afternoon to clank his way to a local dealer. Catching up with us at the hostel, he sadly decided to head for home at his own pace, nursing his bike and hoping for a quick remedy from his bike doctor. We could still hear the rhythmic clank of his chain long after he'd disappeared from view over the dam.





their advice not to travel along the side with the perilous drop. However, not being a circus act, I ignored all suggestions to stand on the pegs. Our coffee stop, The Lost ARC in Rhayader was interesting not only because it was down a side street so obscure that I thought it must be a wrong turning, but with its ancient and varied history and current building works was, to be honest, a bit of a hotchpotch but very hospitable.



Soon we were crossing the softer hills of mid Wales to Llandrindrod Wells and Crossgates for our final fuel stop and lunch. The journey onwards through Kington Leominster and Worcester to Alcester appeared to fly by and we were in McDonald's Alcester by 15:28 with 649 miles on our odometers. Had we stopped whenever the view warranted, we

would have needed six or even nine days not three. Rugged mountains, stunning seascapes, lush green valleys, rushing streams, blue llyns, rolling farmland, quiet estuaries or the sheep dotted moors all deserved more time. But this was, above all, a biking tour with the emphasis on enjoying the roads and whatever challenges they offered.

Of course we had our share of road works and even a road closure, which as usual we ignored, managing to squeeze past with the help of some cooperative electricity workers replacing poles and cable. Luckily bike security wasn't a problem, had it been, we could have blocked our bikes in behind David's BMW which he secured with an anchor chain similar in dimensions to those used by super tankers in Milford Haven.

I know we all like to zap around but personally I find great security in knowing that the culture of CWAM is one of safety first. The simple fact that I'm not surrounded by a group of who are solely concerned with speed and expecting me to act as if I've been fitted with a Duracell battery, is reassuring.

A successful tour ideally requires good organisation and leadership, a good route, good weather and good company. We were fortunate to have all these components. Huge thanks have



to go to Roger for taking on the burden and making light of it.

A tremendous three days of biking.





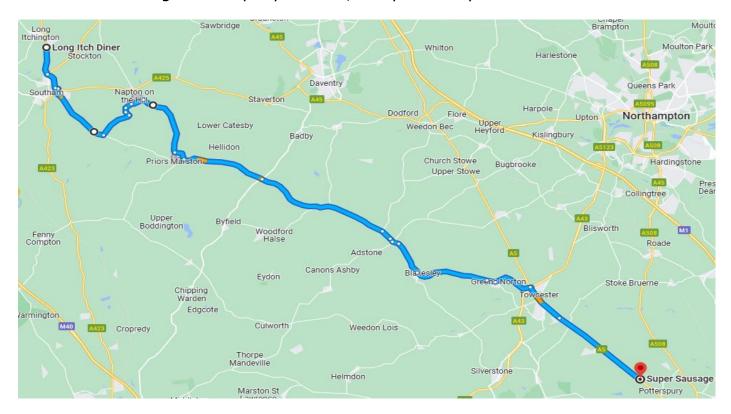
Roger Barratt ~ Wednesday 7th **Rideout to the Super Sausage**

The Super Sausage Café on the A5 south of Towcester has become a regular annual destination on our ride outs. So much so that 18 people were tempted away from work or chores to enjoy a cooked brunch.

The route was supposed to be a little longer but I recce'd it on the Sunday morning before the ride, only to find no less than three major road closures! No doubt due to a combination of HS2 work and Northants Council finally spending some money on their terrible roads.

So a more direct was called for, only for us to find out that Warwickshire Council had added a sneaky fourth closure on the Welsh Road the night before the ride! Never mind, a short detour via Napton gave us some interesting lanes and we still arrived in plenty of time for food.

Suitably topped up we came a very similar route back to the Long Itch Diner. Good weather and great company as ever, see you next year.





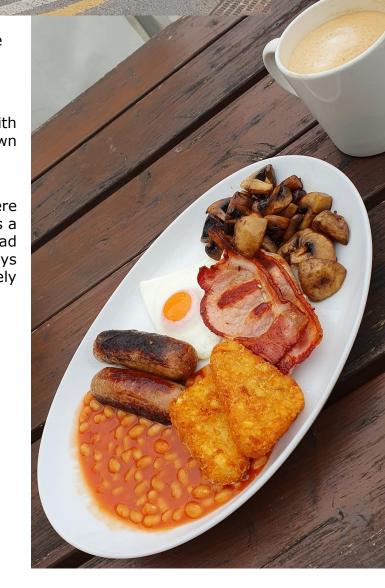


Chris Allen ~ 17 super CWAM-ers on a super ride to the Super Sausage Cafe, thanks Roger for organising and leading.

Geoff Allen ~ Fantastic ride to Super Sausage with Rodger and 17 others. A one mile snake going down the road ~ lovely to see from my viewpoint.

Nick Lilley ~ Living the dream with CWAM where today's ride to Super Sausage near Towcester was a metaphor for a well lived life. Even though one road appears closed, if one perseveres there is always another route to reach one's destination. Lovely ride, lovely people. Thanks Roger.





John Chivers ~ Sunday 18th Rideout to the Bridge on the River Wye

Thanks to all who came along on today's group social ride to Whitney-on-Wye. Our outbound route took a back-road route to Alcester from the McDonald's off the Longbridge roundabout in Warwick. From there, we did the route via Inkberrow, skimming Worcester and on the A44, through Bromyard, onto Leominster, then from there, the final run on to Whitney-on-Wye.

We managed a lunch spot in the beer garden, despite the heavily-reserved Father's Day tables and witnessed a miraculous dog, walking on water.

He's not the Messiah! He's a very naughty boy!

Our return journey took us briefly further west, across the border into Wales, a brief excursion through Hay-on-Wye, then straight back into England, along a route past Hereford and on to Ledbury. From Ledbury, we had a brief pause at Sally's café at British Camp, before the final leg back to McDonald's in Alcester.

Despite the anticipated afternoon downpours, we somehow managed to dodge them all, but had to contend with rapidly changing wet and dry roads on the return leg.

Good to meet up with former CWAMmer Chris Thompson at the Boat Inn at our destination, who kindly obliged as photographer, so we could include the ever elusive Nick in the group photo. Thanks also to Ian for tail-ending and Nick for being my wing-man in number 2 position.





Nick chose wisely. While many went the savoury path, he took the road less travelled and instead went straight for a banana split. It did look very good.

The annual Chip Run to the Mermaid Fish Bar in Moreton-in-Marsh continues to be a big draw for CWAM members. It takes place on the nearest Wednesday to Midsummers Day and this year it fell on the longest day itself, the 21st June.

A promising (and improving) weather forecast saw 34 bikes with four pillion passengers turn up so 38 people in all – a record!

We chose a straightforward route through Stratford and Chipping Campden then over to Moreton-in-Marsh. There were only six direction changes turns in the entire route so with admirable restraint the party all got there safely as one group. The return journey was then back up the Fosse Way.

There was a moment of minor interruption on Five Mile Drive above Moreton when someone broke down but we stopped briefly at a nearby petrol station and people were despatched to assist. It turned out to be an intermittent problem so we all arrived together anyway, albeit the running order was a little mixed up!

It was nice to see some old (and new) faces so thanks to everyone who attended and very well done for sticking together.





(Another fantastic turnout for this increasingly popular ride-out, even though 5 are missing from this photo, Lesley Barratt (photographer), and Annette Jelley (European explorer), to name but two. Ed).

A good attendance at tonight's Club Night with a record number of certificates presented followed by an informative but sobering talk about bike security from Rich Jenkins.







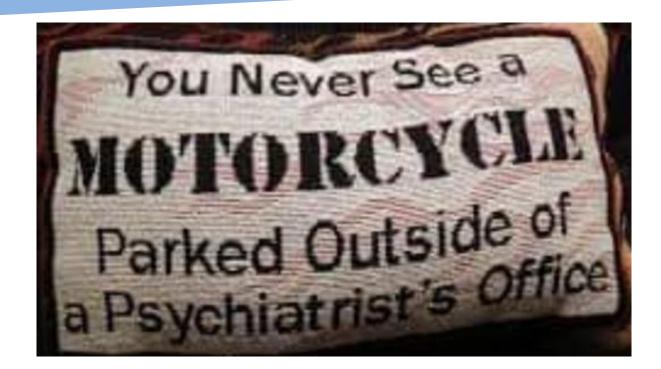




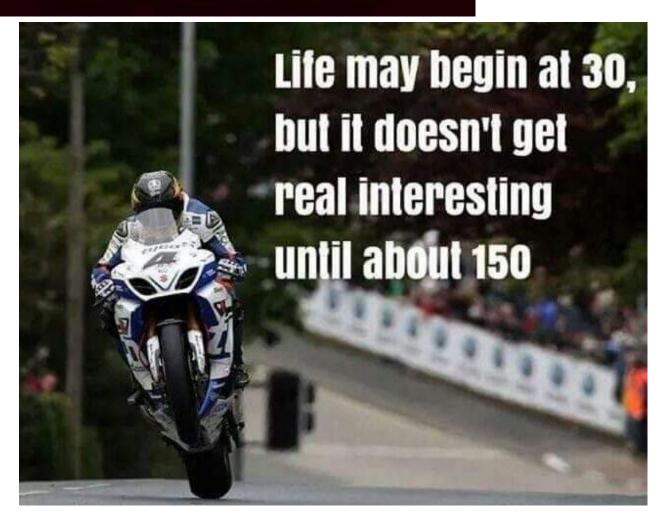




Motorcycle Memes anyone?



I Don't Know The Question But A Motorcycle Ride Is Definitely The Answer



British Motorcycle Federation News

This section was influenced by Ian Collard

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

The latest article in June relates to riders who have not yet passed their test, so not of interest to most CWAMmers and the two posted in May nearly put me to sleep, so I haven't included any of their articles this month, but click on the link above if you need help with insomnia.

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

What a nice idea. What a pity more members don't do an introduction like







...



A Club Sunday impromtu ride-out $\sim 25^{th}$ July A lovely setting, but not sure if they do biker butties?

Living the dream. Well who would have thought it...we forgot to do a group photo, (we were too busy eating cake) and what a great selection too! After an hours ride we arrived at Jenny Rings craft centre and coffee shop in Hanbury, not far from Bromsgrove. I think it was 10 in the ride so thanks for coming along.







Last year I met Louise who is a trainer at Sweet Lamb KTM Off Road School.

I regretted not taking her offer of 1-to-1 training as I head out on 10+ off road test rides not having a clue about the basic skills required. I winged it!

This year she remembered me and was delighted I had come back to take her up on her offer!

She spent 30 minutes coaching me through the basics of cornering, as she said I cornered like a road rider. What an enthusiastic and brilliant teacher! If ... See more





Just a comment on the value of doing a post assessment ride. I passed my advanced training in 2018 and when the Fellow scheme (which requires you to get retested every 3 years) was created I signed up for it because I want to keep my riding at the required standard. Due to a shoulder injury I've been off the bike most of the last 18 months so before I get retested I asked to go on a post assessment ride. Thank you Simon Oatley for your valuable and honest assessment of my riding today which has given me both the confidence that I haven't forgotten everything I learnt but also identified the areas to focus on before my retest. Even if you haven't signed up for the IAM fellow programme I would recommend that every few years you do a post assessment ride.



As CWAM ride through Stratford tonight in perfect 'staggered' formation, could anyone bringing up the rear with a handle bar mounted camera, get a shot for the Newsletter?

Or better still, a short video?

Thanks in anticipation.



Scott Banks shared a link.

4 d ⋅ 😝

Thanks for a great ride out yesterday evening to Moreton in Marsh. My first but definitely won't be my last. I was made to feel very welcome and had a nice chat with a few guys over a tasty fish supper. Here is a little video of the ride into Moreton.



YOUTUBE.COM

CWAM Chip Shop Ride out June 2023

CWAM Chip Shop Ride out June 2023. #hondacb500x #CWAM #rider #rideout



Colin Brink

You may want to mount your camera so that the clip for the wind deflector isnt right in the middle of your cameras view,

(I didn't like to say..... Ed.)

Thank you Scott, though I wasn't expecting a video of 11 and a half minutes!

It does however show the unusual aspect of this ride-out, an unscheduled and confusing stop at a garage from the 2 minutes 50 seconds point......

and the reason for it at the 2: 10 point.

Here's the link to watch on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DK9D-eWkjmw



And here is 'top contributor' Kosha Maya again, sharing her experiences for the benefit of all.

The Bike Shed - London

Exceeded expectations. What a place!

The ONLY place I've considered going to London for as it has bike parking at the back. Rest assured, if someone tried stealing it, they would have to ride past me first! Ahaa.. genius!

Highly, highly, recommended 😁





Roger Barratt Top contributor

Cool place but you need the right bike for it though. Wish I'd taken my top box off eg



(Yes, it's that red bike, stealing the show again! Ed.)



Reply 1 w



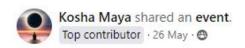
Christopher Read

Roger Barratt You are almost challenging me to ride in their with my Burgman!



GOOGLE.COM

Bike Shed Moto Co. · 384 Old St, London EC1V 9LT, United Kingdom



Thinking of going to this next weekend if anyone's up for some intricate courses to push your slow riding skills.

It's roughly 2 hours there, 2 hours back ...with a few hours of skills inbetween. Might be longer with a coffee stop and a route which favours twisties!

I bet you'd be able to feel the difference in your capabilities on the journey back.... See more



SUN, 4 JUN

FREE Low-Speed Skills Event - 4 June 2023 Gloucestershire Berkeley Power Station Lower Car Park GL13 9FB N51 41.406 W2 29.727

☆ Interested



Behind Bars Motorcycles - Follow

Look similar to our slow riding day courses.

https://w3w.co/imply.private.flats...

Like Reply 3 w



Kosha Maya Author Top contributor

Behind Bars Motorcycles got a date so I can pop it in the diary?

Like Reply 3 w



Kosha Maya Author Top contributor

They've got another event in Autumn - date TBC

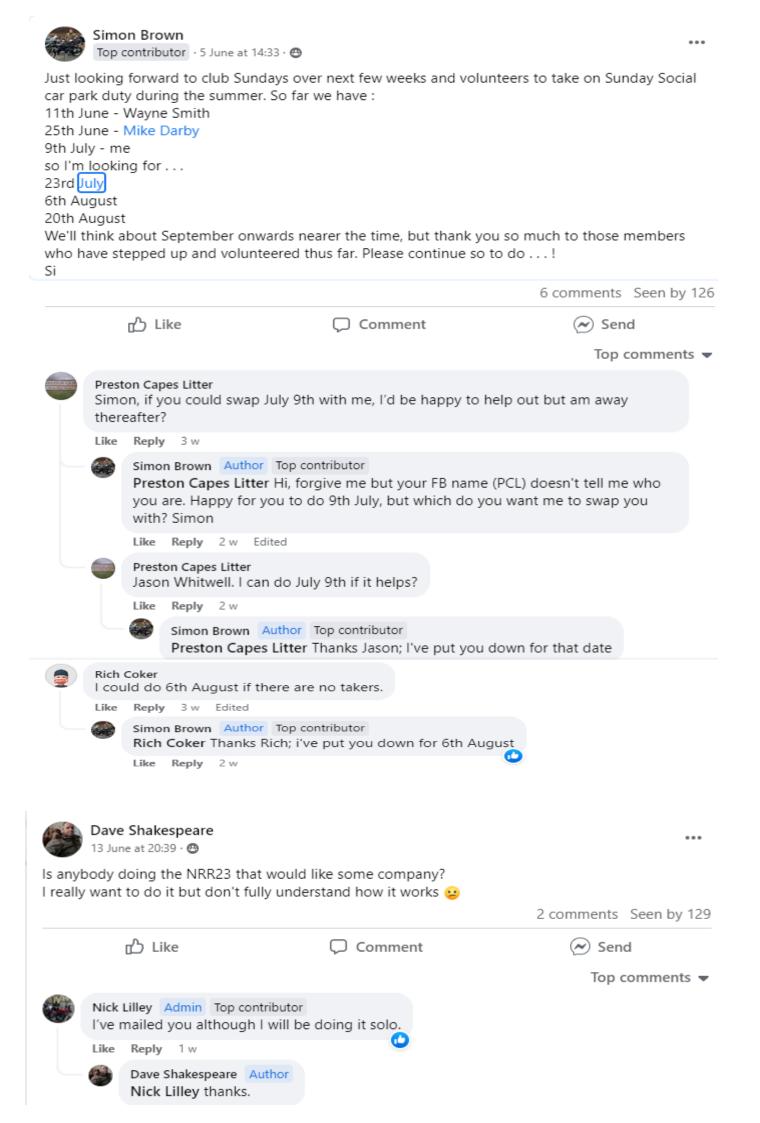
Was a good craic. Not as much of a focus on gaining speed in intricate maneovers like the Motogymkhana at Warwick, but to hone in the motorcycle control at lower speeds.

Super useful and had 7 different arrangements for you to conquer!

Highly recommended 24



(At this rate I'm going to need a separate Kosha Maya section under this FaceBook heading Ed.)





Living the Dream at "The old Crankers" car and bike in Binton, just outside Stratford. Geoff lead a great ride though a selection of A and B roads and past some lovely houses in and around Knowle....need to speak to my bank manager to see if I can have one, I think I know the answer to that!





Nick Lilley

Admin Top contributor ⋅ 31 May at 11:20 ⋅ ⊕

(Yet more photos from the 3 day trip to Wales

Ed.)

Living the dream with CWAM at the Propellers Cafe at Haverfordwest Airport. Not quite so sunny this morning but the route and scenery, not forgetting the great bunch of riders, make up for any deficiencies in the weather. Forecast looks good.







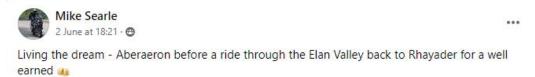
Living the dream with CWAM in Rhyader where the sun melted the clouds after the first cake stop of our final day. So many views, so many bends, so much fun.





Living the dream with CWAM on the road to Bala.







You see, it's possible to get your photos in the Newsletter 'sans' helmets, because we know who you are!

The next step is maybe to get contributers to crop the **50%** of the picture which is just sky?

It makes it much easier for formatting the Newsletter and would give bigger images of you.

I always do it with single photos, but when copied from Facebook, with text included above, it becomes too tedious!





Recollections of my 2023 Chip Shop Run!

This was my third Chip Shop run, I remember the first time well, my first club ride-out and still an associate. The first time I met Candice and David Buchholz, who's tests were imminent.

Having watched the 'advice for ride-outs' video, the route started well from McDonald's Europa way, nicely staggered through the town and not needing to put my foot down at any traffic lights. Through Bishops Tachbrook we had a right turn across what was, at that time, a busy Warwick to Banbury 'old road'. I thought "now here's a good chance for me to break the group up", but as per 'pre-ride video' we were well bunched up and went across in two's.

There followed a straight 'high speed'catching up section' terminating in a very sharp left hander near Oakley Crematorium, a real 'white knuckle feature' for this unsuspecting associate followed later by descending Sun Rising Hill where I was stupidly trying to keep up with the rider in front (before I'd fully learned counter steering) ~ that was so nearly a 'brown trouser moment'!

(Following my remarks to Roger later, we practiced on Sun Rising Hill on my next check ride and not surprisingly, neither **it** or 'Oakley Crem. Corner' have featured in the last two trips there).

All in all though, I really enjoyed the experience ~ and the fish and chips! Hence I was so looking forward to this one too. For those of you new to CWAM, my usual parody of Henry V's famous Agincourt speech still fits this occasion well as it is just such a popular trip out.

("And gentlemen CWAMers now in their shed Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whilst any speaks That rode with us upon this Chip Shop day." Ed.)

By now I was experienced enough to know that If I rode at number 3, behind Nick, I could be second in what was going to be a **very** long queue for the chips. No one would beat the well practiced 'Lesley leap' off the back of Rogers Pillion, but I'd possibly dismount before Nick. However, "the best laid plans of mice and men", my selfish thoughts were to catch up with me!

All was going well until Five Mile Drive into Moreton. My Fazer started to mis-fire and then lose power, before eventually cutting out altogether. I waved the rest of the group on. A new member stopped to support me (sorry I didn't catch your name) closely followed by Martin Nee bringing up the rear and Nick Lilley who had been despatched back from the front. Even a random transit van stopped behind us which I was later told was to protect us from the traffic.

No way would it re-start and after me panicking for a few minutes I was just about to see whether my choice of recovery, 'Start Rescue', had been a good one. Martin Nee has seen a few breakdowns in his time, so he said "let's have one more try". On turning the ignition we could here the petrol pump clicking like mad, even through the new earplugs!! Clearly there was a fuel starvation problem which had sorted itself out after a short rest time.

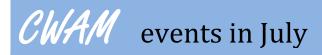
I made it into Moreton with no further issues and I joined the queue at number 37 half way down the road, my belly over-riding my brains' concern over how I was going to get back! In the event, suspecting that it was a manageable, intermittent fault, **Nick Lilley, Martin Nee** and **Dave Rowley** volunteered to 'escort' me right back to the A46 at Leek Wootton.

(Dave even insisted on accompanying me the last 3 miles right to my home in Kenilworth).

It was fortunate that it was the longest day, because I could only manage about 5 miles, before breaking down again, needing to cool the petrol pump down for 5 minutes each time (it was running VERY hot). My 'escorters' were amazing, they knew better than I of the danger from the traffic as I couldn't always stop in a safe place and they swung into 'traffic control mode' each time. As we limped home it was a case of ~ *We few, we happy few, we band of brothers!*

I just can't thank them enough. Nick reminded me that one of the huge benefits from being on a club ride is that you will never just be abandoned on the side of the road. There's even a video of it (above) and as soon as this Newsletter is finished I'll be looking into what caused it. (Apart from my Karma, through selfishly trying to beat everyone else to the front of the queue, that is!)

Will it be a quick fix at home? A new fuel filter? or an appointment with Andy at Behind Bars?



For more detail on any of these events, please click on this direct <u>link</u> 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 2 nd ?	A proposed Rideout	Please contact John Chivers if you would like to lead a CWAM rideout.
Wed 5 th 09:30 to approx 13:00	Rogers 1 st Wednesday of the month Rideout	A ride out from Starbucks, Southbound to the Cotswold Barn Café near Stow- on-the-Wold. A 2 hour,75 miles trip returning to Gilks Café in Kineton.
Sun 9 th 09:00	A Shilton Village Hall CWAM Club Sunday	Please note a change of Venue Now at SHILTON VILLAGE HALL, Wood Lane, Shilton CV7 9JZ Bikes guard will be Simon Brown.
Wed 12 th 19:30	CWAM Club night	As well as socialising and presenting certificates, John Young will be talking about his Iron Butt Rally ~ 11,000 miles across America and Canada on a Triumph Trident T150 in only 11 days!
Sun 16 th 08:30	Dave Shakespeare's Dambusters 80 years celebration rideout	An excellent all day trip, please read the very informative Events Diary 'write up' as there's too much to précis here.
Sun 23 rd 09:00	CWAM Club Sunday	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS Bikes guard?
Sun 30 th ?	A possible Rideout	Please contact John Chivers if you would like to lead a CWAM rideout.



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 <u>Diary page</u>.

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

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