

CWAM



NEWSLETTER

September 2023

CWAM

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

Congratulations to

Joe Garratt and his Observer Roger Barratt.

Rhyming surnames too! See comments and photo below.

Kenny Kwok and his Observer Mike Searle.

For their successful Advanced Tests

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

Roger Barratt sent me this picture of his associate Joe Garratt who passed his Advanced Rider Test 30th July on a 1972 BMW R75/5.

This is one of the oldest bikes that anyone has ever taken their test on.

It's difficult enough on modern bikes, let alone something from this vintage so full respect to Joe.



Official Club Ride outs in August

Roger Barratt ~ Wed 5th

Ride out to AV8 Cafe at Cotswold Airport, Cirencester.



It was a new destination this month.

We restricted bookings to 16 this time as it promised to be a faster pace ride on more open roads so likely to get strung out at times. I needn't have worried, there were some fine examples of group riding with junctions being marked and riders waiting patiently for the person behind so we all kept together, even though I didn't see the tail person for miles and miles!

The weather going down was fine and we enjoyed some excellent stretches of road through Shipston, Chipping Norton, Burford and Bibury.

Unfortunately the predicted rain arrived in force just as we got to the café so it was a quick dash to get in. It's a very nice café, definitely a step up from Wellesbourne, with plenty of space and a good variety of food on offer.

After some excellent food we braved the rain to head back up the Fosse Way where we got well and truly stuck in some poorly phased temporary traffic lights near Northleach. Picture the scene, sixteen of us packed together in between large lorries in the pouring rain on a steep uphill section, double white lines as far as you can see.

Contrary to popular belief you cannot cross a solid white line to overtake a queue of vehicles so we maintained our best behaviour and sat it out for twenty minutes or so. There is little you can do in these situations (although if I'd been on my own I might have 'U' turned), you just need to remain calm and not get frustrated.

After the traffic light debacle we enjoyed some better weather and even some sunshine so it gave people a chance to dry out on the way back to Warwick.



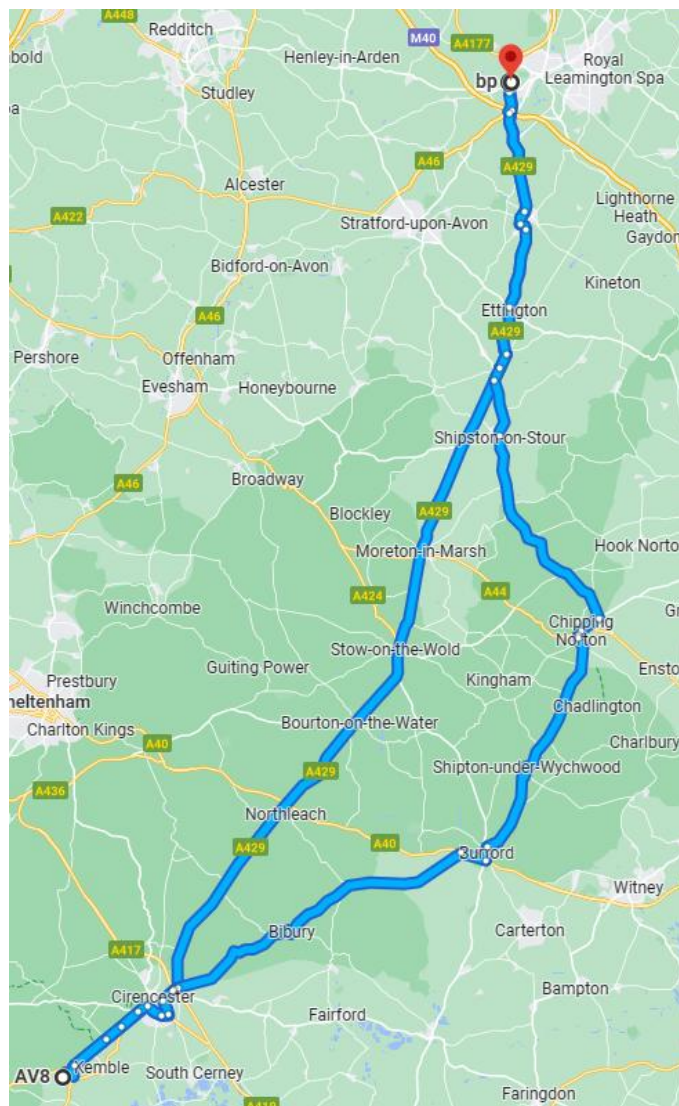
Although the airport itself looks like an interesting place in reality you can't get that close to the aircraft, except for a Jumbo Jet where you can go on an organised tour which needs to be pre-booked.

All in all, the route was a welcome change and as usual there were 16 happy faces at the end.

(I'd like to mention that I'm not the only one who appreciates Rogers maps. One of our lady members kindly wrote to say how much she enjoyed the Newsletters and how useful she found these maps. She can't make Wednesdays but can try out the routes in her own time. Sorry, I can't mention you by name as I've mislaid your email Ed.)

Nick Lilley commented on Facebook

And lo, it came to pass that although it seemed there had been rain for forty days and forty nights, those who followed the path of righteousness and rode with Roger were spared the most extreme conditions. But there were those amongst them who were tempted by the sin of gluttony and partook thereof. He was much angered and yet more aggrieved when they found shelter from the tempest in the AV8 café. As punishment for such egregious action, He created havoc in Northleach and they were forced to atone by remaining stationary and enduring the most devastating deluge for half an hour after which He relented and allowed them to proceed northwards, to the dry climes of Warwickshire. For the most part, a really enjoyable ride, thanks Roger.



John Chivers Sunday 13th **Rideout to Braintree Electric Forecourt**

John Chivers led us to something a little different: an unapologetic electric journey a little further afield. This ride took us from Rugby, across some great roads and countryside to Braintree, in Essex - specifically to the country's first custom 'electric forecourt', operated by Gridserve, before returning on a different path to finish in Banbury at the impressive InstaVolt charge hub with adjoining Costa beverage outlet for tea/coffee and medals.



John wrote on Facebook

I don't remember feeling this tired when I got back from doing the recce run. I think the breaks half way there and back which I didn't take when I recce'd it must have made me more tired! 😊

Thanks all who came along and enjoyed the day.

I'm glad those who wanted to get to have a test drive of the cars too.

'Twas a twisty, turny route and we kept together well.

Zoe Haywood ~ Wednesday 16th **Rideout to Shobdon Airfield**

No Official write-up but here are a few of the comments from Facebook

Chris Tudball ~ Living the Dream! A roads, B roads, C roads(?) and G (grass) roads. Thanks Zoe for an interesting and entertaining ride!

Richard Chamberlain ~ Great route and company, thanks everyone!

Martin Payne ~ Lovely ride enjoyed the company. On The old laverda 183 miles not bad for a 51 year old bike



(Refuelling at Shobdon for the ride home) picture courtesy of Chris Tudball

Chris Tudball ~ Sunday 30th July

(This ride out report, kindly submitted by Chris, was too late to include on the August edition).

Around the Water and Under the Arches - Summer Sequel

As promised, a Summer Sunday reprise of last February's chilly rideout to Barnsdale Gardens. Only change to the route was our start point, this time choosing the more sociable venue of Rugby's Café Nero instead of the rather bleak and windswept Moto Services just up the road on the M6/A428 junction. The change of the start venue did cause slight confusion for one of our group and I'll leave it at that!

I'm pleased to say that 14 of us set off in good weather and even more pleased to say that the 14 included an associate member. Interestingly at the recent August Club Night, it being an "open" discussion night, there was talk about ways and means of getting more associate members to partake of the organised rideouts. Comments such as "not feeling confident enough" or that they may "hinder the speed of the group" were made. All I can say is that as an associate I joined a number of rideouts and found them to be both enjoyable and informative. Enjoyable in as much that you were riding with skilled riders both in front and behind you and informative as you could study their riding skills at first hand. There is really no pressure to "keep up". The only point I would make is that if you have doubts then possibly checking with your observer whether, or not, they feel you are ready for a group rideout might be a good idea.

Once again we followed the same route that took us due east through decent Leicestershire back roads then north of Market Harborough after which we picked up the fast, twisty and undulating B664 to Uppingham, one of the few roads in Leicestershire that features an alpine type, hairpin bend. On our approach to Barnsdale along the A606, we were once again rewarded with the impressive sight of Rutland Water glinting in the summer sun.

Brunch was taken at Barnsdale gardens and whilst it took some time to arrive, was well worth waiting for when it did. Our return route took us south down and around Rutland Water into the Welland Valley through the 82 arch railway viaduct at Morcott and onwards skirting Lutterworth to the 1902 Café at the Triumph factory in Hinckley.



Overall a pleasant 110 mile ride with no major glitches except for perhaps one where I failed to mark a turn, which could have resulted in the rest of the group riding off into Leicestershire with little or no idea of where they were going! That this didn't happen is thanks to eagle eyed Nick who just managed to spot me as he passed the turn and rerouted accordingly. Note to self – Practice what you preach (at the pre-ride briefing!)

Working on the assumption that you can never get too much of a good thing I'm planning to do another couple of ride-outs of the route, one on a Wednesday, the other on a Sunday sometime in the future but this time the opposite way round* so once again, watch this space.

If you are interested in seeing the route we took, check it out in the March 2023 CWAM Newsletter (*pages 4 and 5 Ed.*) As I mentioned previously the only change was to the outbound route where, originally, we met at Moto Services on the M6/A428 intersection and this time at Café Nero down the road towards Rugby.

If anyone would like the gpx file for the two routes just let me know and I will oblige.

*I was going to say "in reverse" but I thought that I may be laying myself open for a few wisecracks.

This report was kindly submitted by **Nick Lilley**.

As I don't always make Club nights it often falls on the shoulders of Nick or Chairman Mark to supply these write-ups for the Newsletter. We would like to appeal to some of the other committee members to offer to write the occasional report ~ please.

Firstly the presentations



Tim Carey with Observer John Chivers



Joe Garratt with Observer Roger Barratt



Alex Durnea with Observer Andy Duncombe



Lee Pillinger with Observer Keith Daffern.

a **F1rst!**

David Harbour with Observer Paul Harris.

another **F1rst!**



Chairman Mark Lunt addressing the assembled multitudes.

When I publicised our August Club Night on Facebook as “undoubtedly incredibly exciting”, I thought I was stretching the limits of hyperbole beyond the horizon but actually, the event itself could have been much worse. After the presentations, Chairman Mark introduced those committee members who were present. He went on to facilitate a general discussion based on what the members wanted from CWAM, garnering thoughts on how we could improve. We were fortunate that the audience was prepared to engage and indeed articulated some observations that certainly bear further scrutiny.

Succession and the composition of the committee was touched upon. New blood is always welcome to revitalise and move the group forward. The Chair is halfway through his three year tenure and diligently searching for an apprentice to learn the trade and take over the business in 2025. It isn't lonely at the top of CWAM, the Chair always enjoys strong support from the committee and training team. If you are even vaguely interested in helping to drive CWAM forward, please contact Mark (chair@cwam.org.uk).

There was overall satisfaction with our Club Night speakers, although targeted 'roadcraft' sessions had been missing from the recent programme, an omission that will be addressed. The general opinion was that topics outside the realm of 'road safety' should be included. In a break from tradition, the meeting considered that where appropriate, a small entry fee at the door to engage quality speakers was acceptable.

The popularity of the National Motorcycle Museum visit indicated similar trips should be considered – any ideas, please contact Dave Shakespeare or one of the committee.

We need to encourage associates into the CWAM family. There is a problem enrolling associates into the social side of the group. It is often the case that they generally only meet their observer and possibly a few other members. To counteract this isolation, the importance of Club Sundays as a start venue for check rides was stressed.

Specialised sessions for group and slow riding, apart from furthering skills for all members would also bring associates into the fold.

There's more to CWAM than simply passing the test. It is important to retain our members and enable associates to discover our additional benefits before they take their test and are lost to us. *(Here, here! Ed.)*

There was quite a protracted discussion about rideouts. General agreement was that CWAM offered a good mix of rides, both whole and half days, to different destinations over a good range of distances.



Unfortunately there appears to be a perception of elitism; that only 'good' riders are welcomed on our rideouts. Nothing could be further from the truth. Whilst it is true some longer rides



are restricted to full members, associates are welcomed on all other rides. Ride details in the Events Diary and the booking system include information which should enable riders to gauge whether the ride is suitable for them.

The 'we are not worthy' syndrome is unfounded and invalid. Associates and indeed full members should not be deterred from joining rideouts by self-doubt; to do so is to miss some good days out amongst friends.

The perennial topic of car park sentry duty was touched upon. It is testament to the generosity of our members that so many volunteer to stand watch over our bikes on Club Sundays but there are always gaps in the calendar to be filled.

Overall the evening, if not as well populated as usual, proved beneficial and nowhere near as boring as I'd feared. Thanks to all those who attended and participated. Certainly the committee came away with food for thought.

Nick Lilley. Unsure you want to join a rideout? I hope this may persuade you.

Because the inclusivity of rideouts is a personal hobby-horse, I mention the following in addition the comments made in the Club Night item above.

CWAM has rules in place designed to make rideouts safe and inclusive activities. Although we obviously overtake other vehicles, because we do not allow the overtaking of riders within the group, there is no competitive and gung-ho behaviour.

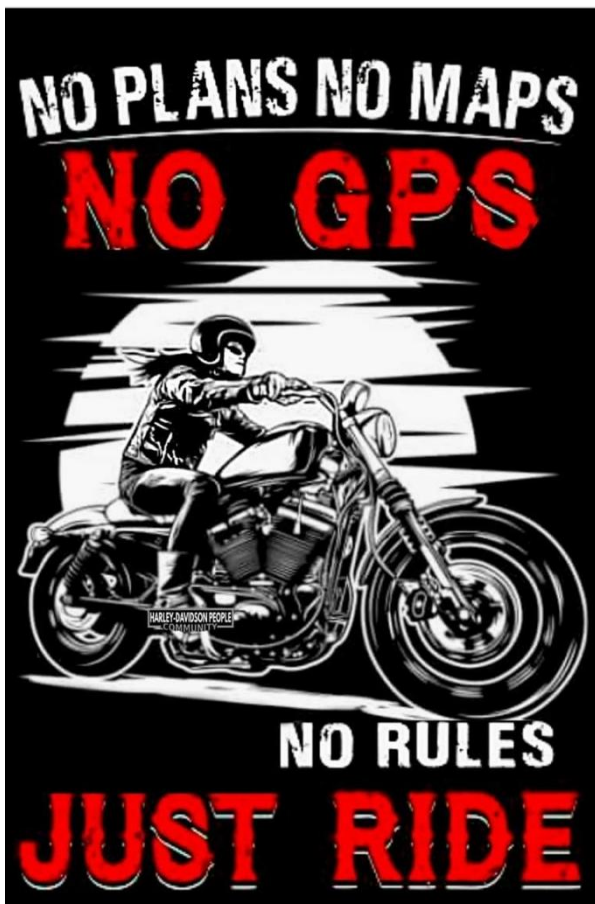
Associates and those who prefer a more relaxed ride should position themselves near the front of the group where the pace is more measured and, being in sight of the leader, (s)he is able to adjust the pace if necessary.

The expectation is that riders will keep within their comfort zone. If a gap develops between one rider and the rider immediately in front, our system of junction-marking is designed to ensure that no one is left behind or lost.

There is no need to become stressed. You will not be criticised. Rideouts first and foremost are about enjoyment. Riding with a CWAM group will not only give you extra practice, it will make you a better rider, maintain your roadcraft skills and enable you to meet like-minded friends.

Motorcycle Memes anyone?

When you're a new dad and your wife is out, but you still gotta ride.



Mike Searle's Intrepid Trails ~ Portugal July 2023

Mike Searle, Gilbert Bradshaw, Andy Johnson, Dave Burrows and 2 non-CWAM members.



It all started at the Bike Show 2022 – a few of our riding crew were hitting an age milestone and we discussed an 'off-road' trip abroad as something different. We came across Steve of Intrepid Trails at the show and he convinced us Portugal (rather than Spain) was the way to go. A few more beers and the decision was made!

Flights booked with Squeezy Jet and soon it was July 2023 ~ 6 off us are off to the Figueira da Foz via Lisbon Airport. (Transfers all sorted by Steve/Debbie – Intrepid).

Digs were their Hostel in the town – The Paintshop, which rates in the Top 10 Hostels on various web sites. Our room was 3 bunk beds – 6 lads – need I say more! We were welcomed with a couple of cold beers, plenty of info as to where to eat/drink in the town and the hostel was full of character and very clean and tidy. PS – called 'The Paintshop' as it was an old body repair shop when they brought it.



We had booked 2 and a half days riding via a deal at The NEC, Steve picked us up each time and took us to his home where the Sherco 250/300 Enduro bikes and all the riding gear was waiting – bikes were immaculate and the riding gear was 1st class including body protection and quality new Bell helmets.



Now to the important bit - the riding,

Steve very quickly ascertained our level(s) and we were off on trails you would die for in the UK – generally fast, hard packed with a smattering of sand and grassy bits, plenty of climbs/descents and no puddles.



We even went through tunnels which would be a river in full flow come winter.

There were very few road sections as it appears that in Portugal it is pretty much a 'free for all' as to where you can ride. We travelled through forest sections and up to a number of viewing points with great vista's across the town(s) and Atlantic.

Approx. 2 and a half hours riding each morning, 1 and a half in the afternoon – interspersed by a 3 course lunch – all included!

I think it would be fair to say all our skill levels increased and as many people have said before – riding off-road will contribute to your on-road ability.



Nobody was left out when it came to falling off – some more than others – what goes on tour as they say!

All in all I can only say Steve/Debbie run a fantastic Hostel and Trail/Enduro Experience business – I would 100% recommend it to anyone who wants to ride off-road in a warmer climate to the UK. We are definitely going back – I might even ride there! (Maybe another article in the offing).

If anyone wants more details ~ happy to chat at any club Sunday or Wednesday meet.

(Mike, many thanks for submitting this super 3 page article Ed.)

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INTREPID TRAILS LOCATION

LOCATION & HOW TO FIND US

The location of Intrepid Trails means that the climate and terrain are ideal for all-year-round dirt bike riding.

Situated along the Silver Coast of Portugal amongst the Serra da Boa Viagem the scenery is rich with forestry, off-road trails and awesome sand dunes of Europe's widest beach. Its a playground for bike lovers with a sense of adventure wanting to try their hand at something new and exciting.

BY PLANE

Figueira da Foz is located on the coast between Lisbon and Porto, and both airports are served by low-cost airlines such as RyanAir and EasyJet. From the airports you can catch public transport (train/bus). Or for cheap car rental please try www.holidayautos.pt

Please contact us directly for more travel information or help with finding flights. We can also arrange airport transfers for you.

British Motorcycle Federation News

This section was influenced by Ian Collard

Here's their web site link to read more

<https://www.britishmotorcyclists.com>

Exciting New Rally Venue For 2023 – Muncaster Castle – September 8th To 10th 2023

BMF News 31 July 2023



Exciting new rally venue for 2023 – **Muncaster Castle** September 8th to 10th 2023

We are keeping the laid back style for this rally, with a slight festival feel twist to it!

There will be live music, fantastic food, a rally bar, traders, all in an amazing venue steeped in history and not to forget it's an excellent ride-out location to explore the fabulous Cumbrian countryside.

Why is it called The Lucky Cup Rally?

They decided to recognise the history and the tale of the drinking bowl left by Henry VI. Full story on the website.



CWAM events in September

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 3 rd 09:00	CWAM Club Sunday	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS
Wed 6 th 09:00 to approx 13:30	The 1st Wednesday of the month Ride-out led by Nick Lilley	Starting and ending at the Long Itch Diner, a 90 mile exploration of rural North Oxfordshire. Half-way break at The Bicester Bean Café.
Sun 10 th 13:00 to 16:00	CWAM Open Day	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, Shilton, CV7 9JZ
Wed 13 th 19:30	CWAM Club night	'Norway the long way up'. Kirk Pickstone and Sandra Owens share memories of their recent trip to Nordkapp, Europe's most northerly point.
Sun 17 th 09:00	CWAM Club Sunday	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS
Tues 19 th 20:00 to 22:00	Committee meeting	A real face to face one, at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS
Sun 24 th 08:30 to 17:30	A Dave Shakespeare Welsh rideout	Weather permitting , 10 full members will enjoy a 300 miles jaunt to the Elan Valley and Devil's Bridge including some very remote single track roads.

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



Martin Payne

2 d · 🌐



Some more music to your ears



YOUTUBE.COM

Hilarious trombone bike!

subscribe for more funny videos!!!Click below to see my most recent video of ...

And here's the link to share it on the Newsletter ~

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oipg71dSem0>



Kosha Maya

Top contributor · 13 August at 17:39 · 🌐



I finally did it - I got a new bike

[#HondaMonkey](#)



Rebecca Catchpole showing us how easy it is to change a tyre ~ though there is no follow up video showing how to straighten out the spokes afterwards.

I've included the link to the whole video below, but that's somewhat pointless in this section as non of you reading this will have the Facebook App that it links to!

<https://www.facebook.com/657637406/videos/819569739836757/>

However, you CAN use the links under the photos below because they are not on Facebook!



Caroline Wilson

2 August at 13:48 · 🌤️

Barnsdale ride out people from Sunday... with our observation skills we all saw the photographer as we rode into Uppingham... and he has captured some of us on this link below (we're on page 3!).



RUTLANDPHOTOGRAPHIC.SMUGMUG.COM

B664, 30th July 2023, AM. - Rutland Photographic

This gallery hosted by SmugMug; your photos look better here.

<https://rutlandphotographic.smugmug.com/Roadside-Photography-2023/B664-30th-July-2023-AM/i-2WBhnfQ>



Rich Coker

5 August at 14:37 · 🌤️

Wise words. Biking is something that helps so many people with every day troubles. It is our time to focus away from life's trials and tribulations.



YOUTUBE.COM

What Motorcycling Taught Me About Dealing with Anxiety | Benjamin White | TEDxBlinnCollege

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi5WZdW6GQY>



Martin Payne

30 July · 🌐



Police be like....

**We want to make sure your
motorcycle is safe for the roads.**

THE ROADS:

An impromptu Club Sunday ride out



Nick Lilley

Admin

Top contributor

· 6 August at 13:06 · 🌐



Living the dream with CWAM at the National Herb Centre where I think most of us ended up although not necessarily at the same thyme. Thanks for your company.

Probably one of the busiest CWAM Club Sundays at the Jag, I can't remember seeing so many bikes in the car park for a very long time.



With the usual humorous comments whenever the visit the National Herb Centre!



Chris Tudball Top contributor
Mint ride!

3 w Like Reply



Dave Shakespeare Top contributor
Great to see so many riders cumin to the club today.

3 w Like Reply





Paul Catchpole

6 August at 19:47 · 🌐



In case anyone's interested; selling our 701 rally bike. Never quite managed the European rallies it was built for... 🤔👍



£6,500 · RUGBY, ENGLAND

2019 Husqvarna 701 enduro rally



Kosha Maya Top contributor

Would it be a crime to buy for a daily commuter and weekend TET warrior?

3 w Like Reply



Paul Catchpole Author

Kosha Maya I brought it on a CWAM social ride a while back, it's not a bad road bike in that sense. Good lights and a screen. Handy for the TET, as you say. 🤔👍





Martin Payne

8 August at 05:31 · 🌐



A very interesting read



THEGUARDIAN.COM

A new start after 60: I yearned for freedom after raising kids – so I rode a motorbike across Australia



Tony Millsopp

8 August at 20:33 · 🌐



BBC.COM

Nuneaton motorcyclist makes safety clothing plea after crash
Lee Vigor is campaigning for protective gear to be made more afford...



Kosha Maya

Top contributor · 6 August at 18:48 · 🌐



Sports bikers put up with a lot

Seat is uncomfortable, knees are not happy, the lip on the back of the seat is there to keep you in it when you twist the throttle and my back is broken from the pot holes my GS is happy to roll over

Yet I love it.. figures



Nick Lilley

Admin Top contributor · 20 August at 13:34 · 🌐



Café au lait not Café no pay

A quick note for those who attend Club Sundays at the Jaguar Social Club. Although I don't personally partake, I do see members drinking coffee and I'm reliably informed that there is an honesty box into which one deposits the not unreasonable price of £2. Now, I'm not saying it's you, or you or you, or indeed any of the upstanding members in CWAM but some unscrupulous scallywags are 'paying' with items that are definitely not legal tender. I belie... [See more](#)



Kirk Pickstone · [Follow](#)
Who doing that ffs

1 w Like Reply



Andy Spencer Top contributor

Steve the steward at the Jag Club mentioned this to me this morning and I thought, surely no Cwammer would do that, it must be one of the footballers.

I am pleased that Nick has posted the above and although clearly it is not intended to accuse or upset anyone, if you are offended by it, it is clearly you that has abused the system, so wise up dude and cease this practice, some of us need a coffee on a Sunday morning.

And finally, another impromptu Club Sunday ride out organised and led by Mike Darby to a venue very near to the popular 'Cowshed' in Wootton Wawen, but for those with bigger wallets, methinks!.

Not sure who took the photo because Nick is in it, but lots of lovely big sky again!



Nick Lilley

Admin

Top contributor

· 20 August at 12:21 · 🤖



Living the dream with CWAM at appropriately named 'The View' near Wootton Wawen where Nev was good enough to remind me that the cool breeze was a portent of autumn, which was only just round the corner. Cheered me up no end. Thanks to Mike D for leading. Shame on you Nev!



That's all folks. Any more pages and the PDF file may be too big to email!

Stop Press. This arrived from Nick at the eleventh hour!

Car Park Duties

Everyone attending CWAM Club Sundays is reassured by the presence of the volunteer guarding our precious machines in the Jaguar car park. September is covered but there are still four Sundays available in 2023 if you feel the urge to offer your services. Please contact Simon Brown at simesab@icloud.com.

3/9 – Nick Lilley
17/9 - Martin Nee
1/10
15/10 - John Fordam
29/10 – Howard Biggs
12/11
26/11
10/12



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).
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THE END