

CWAM



NEWSLETTER

November 2023

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

.....
: Congratulations to

Mat Turner and Observer Zoe Haywood

Rod Bromfield and Observer Nev Pugh

For their successful Advanced Tests

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

This could be my last Newsletter (see my article after the motorcycle memes).

So, as my 'editorship' draws to a close, can I say that I took this on partly to repay the hours freely given to me during training. Colin Brink, for my first check ride, Andy Spencer my mock test and, of course, the very many hours that Roger Barratt patiently spent mentoring me. I feel that I have done that, especially as last Christmas I was persuaded to stay on another year! Roger also tirelessly encouraged me to become an active social member, though sadly in vain.

The many stalwarts in CWAM make it such a great club, but I was mainly influenced by Nick Lilley, a thoroughly amiable Gentleman ~ you may have noticed I'm a big fan of his. On hearing that he'd produced this for 11 years and seeing what else he did, truly 'Mr. Ubiquitous' (plus sensing his pressing need to pass it on) ~ my altruism took over, how could I refuse!

However, the committee is now faced with a dilemma. Having cancelled my subscription, from 1st November, technically I am no longer a full member of CWAM and so not able to take any further part in club activities. Does this mean not able to write the Newsletter for December?

Official Club Ride outs in October

Roger Barratt ~ Wednesday 4th

Ride out to the Two Flags Café, Morcott, Rutland.

We seem to visit a fair few coffee and cake type places these days so I thought we'd have a complete change and go to a roadside greasy spoon place instead this month.

The Two Flags café on the A47 near Morcott in Rutland didn't disappoint, it really is a throwback biker place with everything fried and definitely no cake!

Having said that they could teach some of the newer establishments a thing or two about customer service though, how about decent portions of everything along with free tea/coffee refills (in mugs obviously) and free biscuits for us all since we'd booked in advance.

The café is truly a throwback with basic facilities, but you have to warm to the owners.



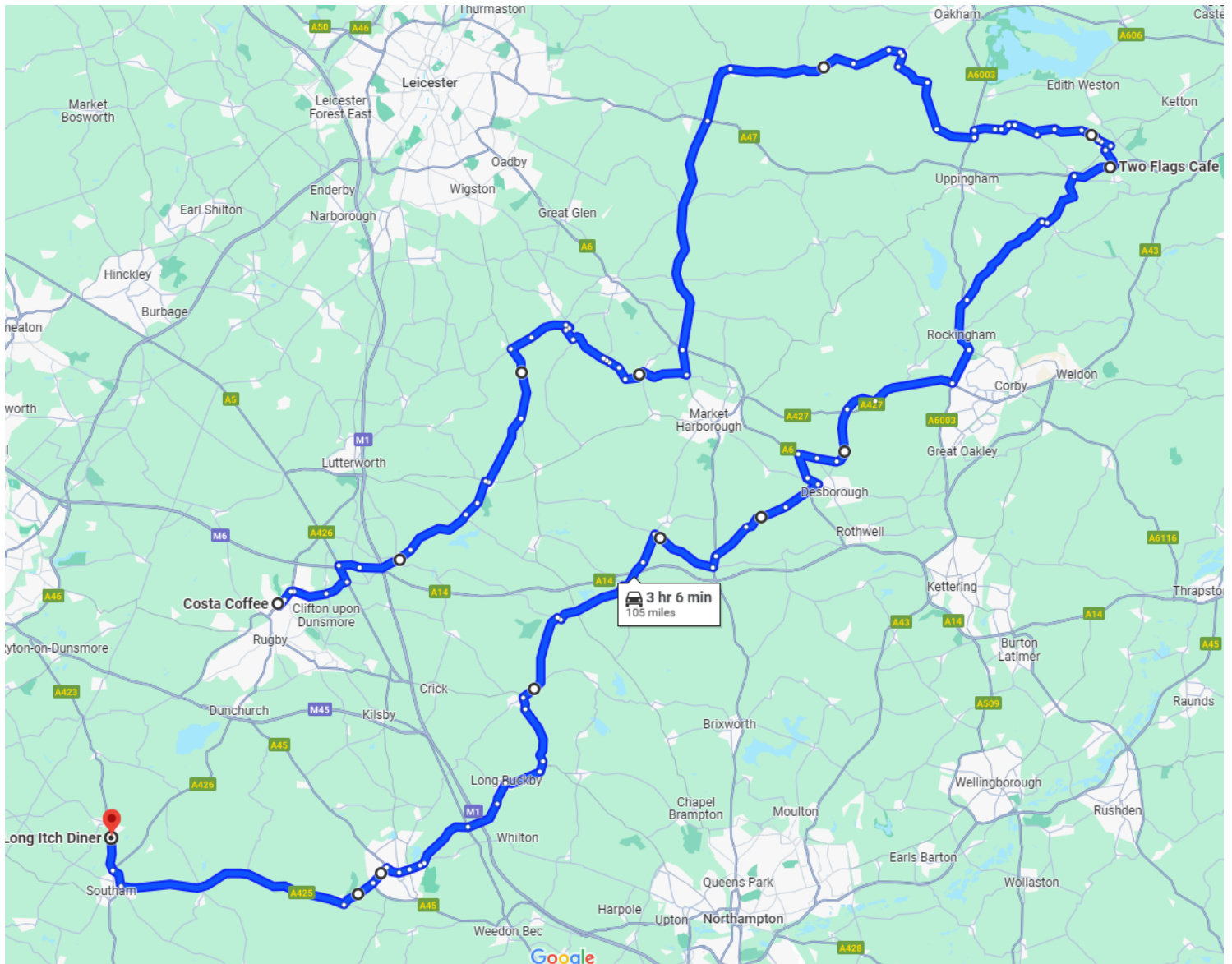
The route itself was a little tricky and it took me three recce rides to finalise it.

(Roger lives over 40 miles from the start point, yet 3 recce's to finalise the ride ~ now that is dedication!!! Ed.)

The main problem was the deteriorating road surfaces on the return leg as Northants Council remains opposed to fixing potholes never mind whole roads.

We also had a few detours on the route, two were my fault as I missed a turn off on the way there which meant we had to U turn, then I missed it again at which point I might have spoken a naughty word or two over the radios...

Added to that, there were new two road closures on the way back (annoyingly a closed road that I spotted two weeks earlier which required a lot of changes to the route was now open!).



(And as usual, a super map from Roger, so that those not free on Wednesdays could try a similar route? Ed.)

I've been running ride outs on the first Wednesday of every month for three years now but there is always something to learn.

On this occasion:

- 1) recce the route a couple of days before not two weeks before as things can change quickly.
- 2) ask Santa for a newer Sat Nav showing active traffic & road works/closures (please!).
- 3) avoid Northants completely in future as the roads are absolutely awful!

Next month, back to coffee and cake I think, followed by a longer trip on 6th December to the Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum near Bournemouth. For a change.

Jason Whitwell ~ Wednesday 18th Rideout to Bourton on the Water

(Not only was this Jason's first rideout, but he was kind enough to submit this write up for the Newsletter, Ed.)

My first attempt at leading a rideout was very much a tale of two halves, the first being dry with clean roads whilst the second half was soggy accompanied by every mud delivering vehicle seemingly having been out just before we used the roads!

We left Long Itchington on time heading south towards Banbury cutting through some back roads via Brailes, Hooky and on to Bourton via Moreton on the Marsh. Unfortunately, a few got delayed by some strategically placed temporary lights but caught up once we pulled in to a lay-by only for us to get involved in a typical CWAM 'low speed skills practice' loop (aka – I took a wrong turn) in Pillerton Priors, which at least gave the natives some entertainment.

Maybe we looked liked this...

Motorcycle Group Riding Positions



We stopped off in Bourton for refreshments at The Willow with the group still looking as if they were enjoying it...



The ride back was a damp affair, with just about every challenge out there from dumper trucks, tractors, combine harvesters, camper vans and so on. Apologies to those who keep their bikes in mint condition, but I'm used to country lane bashing so mine isn't as clean as others!

As they say, the more you put in the more you get out so I'd encourage others to lead a ride out when you can, as at the very least it encourages us to consider others riding when planning a route, which is an education in itself. A big thanks to Roger Barrat and Nick Lilley for their help and guidance and last but not least, to Martin who volunteered a 'Tail Gunner' (see above).

Mark Lunt ~ Sunday 22nd Rideout to Hampton Ferry, through The Vale of Evesham

This was another Associate-friendly group ride, using mainly A and B roads with na'er a whiff of grass down the middle. The stop was at Raphael's Restaurant, Hampton Ferry near Evesham. A pretty area on the banks of the River Avon. The river Avon was a feature of the route, passing through Pershore and other riverside venues. Judging by the number who turned up and the comments on Facebook a very successful trip.



Quite a different 1st Wednesday ride-out with Roger.

Roger has asked me to publish this in Novembers Newsletter to give plenty of notice.

On Wednesday 6th December Roger Barratt will lead a ride to the world famous Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum on the south coast near Bournemouth.

Situated in the heart of the New Forest, the Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum is home to around 500 rare and exotic motorcycles from all over the world.



The route will be all main roads - M40 motorway down towards Oxford then onto the A34 dual carriageway, taking approximately 3 hours each way which includes a 30 minute coffee/comfort break.

There is a nice café on site and we have allowed 2-3 hours to visit the museum for which there is a discounted entry fee of £11 for CWAM members.

Meeting at Starbucks at the A46 Warwick Bypass Southbound Services to leave at 8.30am and finishing on the opposite Northbound Services around 5.30pm.

There is no limit on numbers but it's 270 miles there and back so be prepared with riding kit etc. depending on the weather.

Look out for the booking link which will go out around two weeks in advance.

(Unusually, no photos here ~ though this excellent piece from Nick, starting in his 'inimitable writing style' Ed.)

I must admit to being a couple of minutes late for October's Club Night. My first thought upon opening the door was, 'that's odd', because the sight of tumble weed rolling across the polished floor was unusual. As I tiptoed in, my immediate problem was which of the many available chairs to occupy. John Chivers was in full flow, basking in the glow of the overhead projector, talking about the joys and discipline of group riding, his mellifluous tones echoing off the walls of the cavernous, empty space. I was reminded of a goatherd I once had the pleasure of hearing as he called his flock down from the altostratus of the Swiss Alps, his melodious yodel rising from the valley to ricochet endlessly around the mountain peaks.

I exaggerate, of course, the hall wasn't empty; not quite. Sadly, of the 14 or so souls clustered round a couple of tables, not one was a social ride virgin, the audience we were actually targeting. In fact, many were so practised that they had actually led rideouts. So, what was the point of carrying on?

Well, learning, as we are constantly told, is a continuous process. No matter how much we think we know, there is always something new to ponder or a different point of view to consider. And so it proved, we may not have brought peace to Ukraine but by the end of the evening we could have signed a concordat, amicably agreeing the finer points of social riding etiquette.

The important lesson of the evening was that CWAM are still failing to attract our newest members, i.e. associates, to our social events. I know their prime concern is becoming better, safer motorcyclists which is an admirable goal and one our excellent team of observers facilitates so well but the group needs to find a way to introduce them to the other and equally enjoyable aspects of CWAM. – One for the committee!

Having said that, it was good to see some associates and new faces on Mark's ride to Hampton Ferry at the end of the month.

I can understand why the evening wasn't as popular as Kirk and Sandra's excellent Norwegian saga in September and I know November's club night will be a roaring success, so I probably shouldn't beat myself up too much. Despite my doom and gloom mongering I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, John was, as ever, knowledgeable on his subject and there was a wide ranging and open discussion that most people joined in.

Although unusually there were no test pass presentations, CWAM is on course for a record breaking year. As the soprano said, always end on a high note.

British Motorcycle Federation News

This section was influenced by Ian Collard

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

Brough SS80 Could Near £100,000?

Other news 16 October 2023



'Box of bits' restorations can cause no end of heartbreak, but this Brough Superior SS80 – coming up for auction on 26th October – could make a happy ending for its owner, who after buying the 'basket case' Brough in the 1990s, took 20 years to restore it to its current pristine condition. Charterhouse Auctions, which is putting the Brough under the hammer at the Haynes Motor Museum, along with 100 or so other bikes, expects it to make £65,000-£70,000 on the day. However, get two determined bidders in the same room, and maybe it really could get to six figures... Broughs – the British superbikes of the 1920s and '30s – are highly sought after today, and not just because of

Motorcycle Airbags Arrive In 2025

Other news 15 October 2023



Your next new bike could be equipped with an airbag as standard, especially if it's a scooter. Autoliv, one of the world's leading suppliers of airbags to car manufacturers, has developed a low-cost bike airbag, which could dramatically reduce rider injuries in a crash. The company says that its airbag reduces the critical Head Injury Criterion Score (HICS) – the target is 500, which was measured at 6794 for a rider on a non-airbag bike. With airbag, the HICS was cut to 118. Autoliv's bike airbag works just like the same item in a car. Sensors detect a sudden deceleration and in milliseconds inflate the bag via a gas cannister. Until now, bike airbags have been hampered by the rider being

Motorcycle Memes anyone?

I now struggle to find originals that Martin Payne hasn't already posted on our group Facebook page but I think these are.



Newsletters versus Facebook, that is the question.

It was nice to receive some emails recently from Joanne Mitchell, an ex-CWAM Observer, now living in New Zealand since 2012. Joanne, I hope you like the photo which Nick dug out of the archives.

I'll start with a few extracts below....

Sorry to hear that you are stepping down, I have enjoyed your newsletters and those of Nick before you. It's the devil's own job getting anybody to take on the editor's job - best of luck with it.

I did just want to point out that my husband Dylan Rogers and I were Newsletter editors when it was a hard copy affair! We were awarded the Dave Homan trophy (I think that's what it was) for services to the club as a result. I do wonder what happened to that trophy since I never see it awarded to anybody these days.

(Well deserved, especially as you were also busy as an Observer. I think the trophy should also have been awarded to Nick for his 11 year stint, including during all those Covid lockdowns Ed.)



Jo and Dylan being presented with the Dave Homan trophy

At first, I thought "Wow! Fancy printing copies of the Newsletter each month", but on reflection, it could have been around 15 years ago when they started, so many members didn't have Smart phones, Tablets or maybe even emails back then? So, as we moved on from hard copy to posting PDF copies via email, maybe it's time to move on again? At my first Club night, when I mentioned about taking over from Nick, John Chivers said "Do we even need a Newsletter"?

I've always thought he was a visionary but unfortunately, for me, he didn't say it loud enough! Two years on and I'm saying it loud and clear. **Do we really need a Newsletter?**

For balance, I should include this from another email in which Joanne added

It's possible that the newsletter is a thing of the past, but have you and the rest of the group considered a blog? It would provide an adjunct to Facebook and provide a platform for longer pieces. The good thing is that you can add to it piecemeal as items come in (exam passes, ride reports and the like) rather than having the hassle of an edition to put together.

And it's another advertising tool (or touch point, as they say in marketing) for potential associates. I know someone still has to curate the content but it's slightly less onerous!

For the last 15 years there have been 'we three' Editors and to date I haven't heard of anyone 'taking up the baton'. Even Chat GPT, though brilliant at writing code and helping our pupils and Graduates to obtain better grades, doesn't have the 'local' information to be able to take over. *(I won't dwell on it, because I suspect it won't happen ~ but I am willing to help anyone who is interested Ed.)*

So, my thoughts? ... It would be nice if the responsibility didn't fall on the shoulders of just one person? If maybe 15 to 20 members could join forces, each submitting a short article, video etc.

Oh, but of course, they already do..... very successfully on Facebook!!

Much that is in the Official Newsletter is already on our 'alternative Facebook Newsletter'.

Indeed, it was a lifesaver for me wondering what on earth to publish! Our Facebook page is so current, if you read about Roger's first Wednesday ride-out it's not too late to sign up for it, (unlike in this Newsletter)! There's no shortage of articles and many members give immediate feedback or banter. There are so many more videos than can be included in the Newsletter. Martin Payne is even posting 'Motorcycle Memes' now. The events diary, which the editor has to check and double check? ~ it appears on Facebook as a timely reminder just before the event.

It all just appears ~ quite effortlessly ~ every month, from members who never think to send articles to the Newsletter, because Facebook posts just come naturally to most of us nowadays.

But I'm told we **MUST** have a Newsletter for all those not on Facebook. Hmm!

I suppose One could also say the same about having parking meters or self-checkouts which still take cash for anyone not wanting to use cards or Smart phones?

But the world is not listening, I have friends who can no longer park in town, but Technology is moving apace and we are also expected to, or risk being left behind or excluded.

My article in a previous Newsletter was to no avail, but might I suggest a theme for the December Club night?

Announce that you are going to show, on the big screen, to any 'PhacebookFobics' how to use it **completely anonymously** so that they are **NOT** left behind. Then follow up by others helping them to open an account and show how easy it is to view and enjoy the CWAM group page.

And in conclusion, to those who are still not interested, having no Newsletter and no Facebook will only mean you missing out on the photos and reports of the social side of the club.

Let's not forget that Nick Lilley is still responsible for maintaining your excellent Website and regularly sending out email updates to you all. To really know what's going on, Nick's Events Diary on the website has much more information than there can ever be in my PDF version.

A final point ~ as sometimes happens ~ if there are any important articles/notices that are just too big to post on Facebook Nick could email them to every member, it would not incur any extra work for him as he won't be emailing the Newsletter,

Well, that's my two penn'orth put in, but I'm history now. The decision is yours.....

Judging by all the the McLaren cars in the car park though, they are following the Caffeine and Machine business plan It will be £5.00 to park next !!!!



Mike Darby

1 d · 🌐



Living the dream. Great turnout and good company meant an uneventful run from Shilton village hall to the Piston Club (The Stag) on the Evesham Road. Thanks to all who came and hoping Nick feels better for the next run 👍😊. Mike



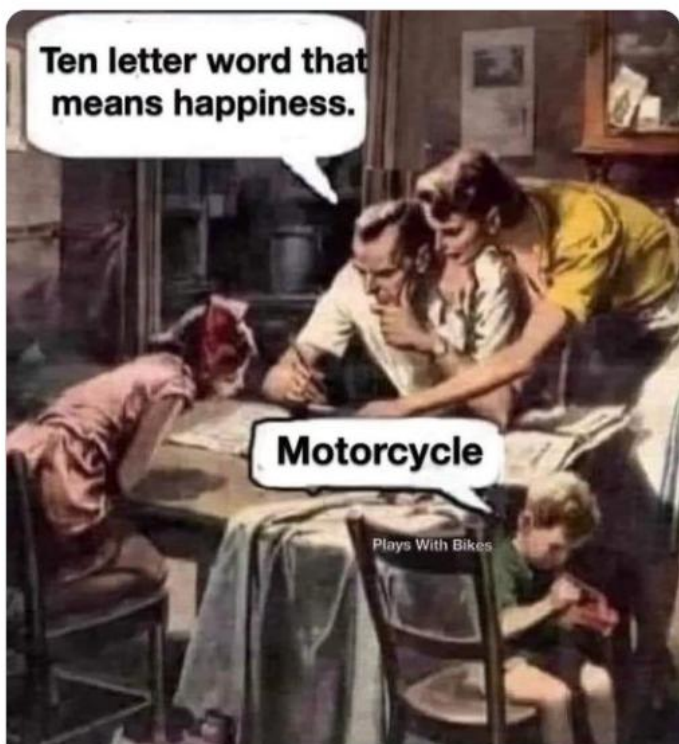
(I had planned on using these in my memes section, but someone got there first!

Ed.)



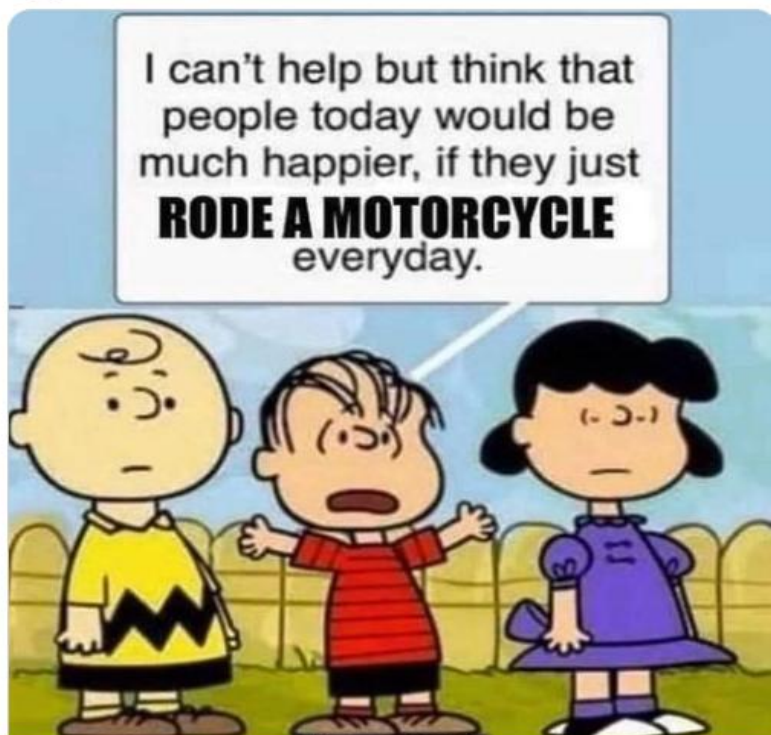
Martin Payne

2 October at 23:56 · 🌐



Martin Payne

6 d · 🌐



As if to prove a point, these were posted on the third, seventh and eighth of October. As I've said repeatedly, If you rely on your Newsletter for updates, it's often too late.



Geoff Brown

Top contributor · 7 October at 10:04 · 🌐

Shame to waste what's predicted to be a sunny Sunday so tomorrow morning from 8:30 we will be meeting at the BP Garage on Stonebridge Highway to organise a Breakfast run.

We aim to leave around 9:00/9:15 am giving us half an hour or so to decide where we are going to go and who is up for taking the lead.

It's open to ALL and EVERYONE, ANYONE can lead if they think they are up to it, have a decent route / destination in mind and the majority agree...

See more



Behind Bars Motorcycles

3 October at 17:01 · 🌐

We are starting to label up items in our AUTUMN SALE, so if you are looking for Jackets, Jeans, Gloves, Helmets, Boots and any other Motorcycle Gear call in to our Warwickshire shop and have a look, there's some great deals to be had, as you can see.



Paul Dodd

8 October at 01:30 · 🌐

Hi All, thinking of going to Snowdonia/North Wales next Sat/Sun to stretch the legs of the new MultiStrada. Any suggestions for a good biker friendly(thinking overnight security!) accommodation daytime cafe stops or general tips as it's my first 'touring' trip! Anyone at a loose end next weekend is welcome to join in! Cheers Paul 🍷😊🏍️



(Please excuse the poor formatting in this section. It is very easy to copy these items, but not so easy to make them fit the page neatly. Ed.)



Geoff Brown is at Astley Book Farm.

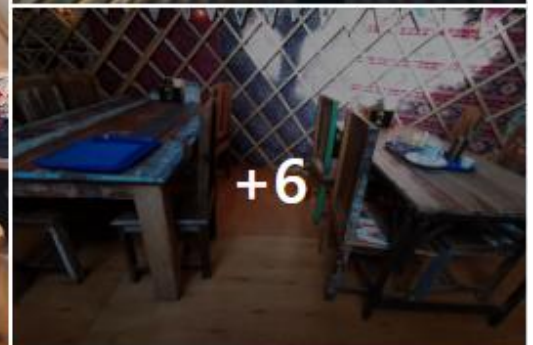
Top contributor · 15 October at 13:10 · Bedworth · 🌐



Despite a chilly start fifteen people braved the cold for this mornings Breakfast run.

John Chivers took up the challenge and led us through some nice local roads to Astley Book Farm.

Great reception from the people in charge who quickly reserved us a couple of large tables in the Yurt next to a roaring log fire.... See more



Paul Harris

22 October at 14:48 · 🌐

How it's done. She was doing this for about an hour !!



I so wish that I could share this video here, but I still haven't discovered how to capture videos from Facebook.

It is just 'poetry in motion' to watch, the stuff that bikers dreams are made of!

Our Social Secretary retires

After some years as Social Secretary, Dave Shakespeare has stepped down from the role. He has brought us John Young of Iron Butt Rally fame, Kate Jenkins from Hideout, interesting and relevant speakers from the National Highways and Warwickshire Police as well as organising the very successful visit to the National Motorcycle Museum. The list goes on and we all thank him for his efforts in giving us so many entertaining and educative Club Nights. Going out on a high, he has booked Sam Manicom for his final hurrah this month.

BUT, there's always a but; no one on the committee is currently free to take over the Social Secretary role. I would ask you to form an orderly queue and express any interest to the Chair (chair@cwam.org.uk).

(One Club Night Dave regaled me with his tales of 'wild camping' in Wales and Scotland, where it's free; toting little more than a hammock and a 'tarp'.

He really fired my imagination and I must confess that it's something that I would have loved to have tried, were I much younger and much more of a biker.

Sadly, for me, it must remain a 'pipe dream'. Perhaps Dave could do a talk about it one club night, so that someone else might get to join him on one of these trips? Ed.)



CWAM events in November

I was instructed by Nick at the outset that I had to include the events in the table below in every Newsletter, but to be honest, it just created extra work and hassle for me.

I wouldn't dream of looking in the Newsletter during the month to see what's on, when it is sooo much easier to 'Google' Nick's Events Diary Web page. See below.

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 1 st 09:30 to approx 13:00	Rogers 1st Wednesday of the month Rideout	To the Twisted Spoon Café in Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire. Unfortunately, by the time you read this, it will be too late to sign up for it!
Wed 1 st 19:30 to 21:30	Committee meeting Virtual	For CWAM Committee members only. The Zoom link will be circulated prior to the meeting.
Sun 5 th 09:00	John Chivers annual Gunpowder Plot trail, this time on the anniversary of that infamous day	A jolly rideout which visits all the local sites used by, and associated with, the 'Gunpowder Plotters'
Wed 8 th 19:30	CWAM Club night	As well as presentations and chatting socialising, We are fortunate to have Sam Manicom, traveller, adventurer, author, ardent motorcyclist and radio host as our guest tonight. To cover his costs, there will be a charge of
Sun 12 th 08:30	CWAM Club Sunday	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS
Sun 19 th ?:?	A possible Rideout	Please contact John Chivers if you would like to lead a CWAM rideout.
Sun 26 th 08:30	CWAM Club Sunday	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS

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).
Your website - your news - your contributions!

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THE END