



**Berkshire Section
of
The Vintage Motor Cycle Club Ltd.**

Summary of the Year 2013

We meet on the last Tuesday of every month
from 7:30pm at

The Englefield Social Club
The Street
Englefield, nr. Theale
Berkshire
RG7 5ER

Our January midweek lunchtime meeting, the first gathering in the new year was to the Green Man in Hurst. A very good turnout all but filled this friendly pub. It may have been the sunshine that brought out so many including several who rode their bikes to the pub.

The AGM was so poorly attended the members were almost outnumbered by the committee. There was nothing new to report and the committee was re-elected without dissent.

There are several hundred members living within a few miles of our meeting places but why do we see so few?

For our February midweek lunchtime meeting we went to the Beehive in White Waltham, a pub we have used in the past for our second Tuesday meetings. There was a good turnout to this friendly pub where we had good beer, good food and good company.

The February meeting at Englefield was the guest speaker night, this time we had one of our own section members, Vic Blake, talk about his recent trip to Hungary in his capacity as President of The VMCC. He enlightened us about the hospitality of the Hungarian people and the varied collections of old vehicles he encountered in that country. The talk was accompanied by some of Vic's photographs projected onto a screen.

Many thanks to Vic for his entertaining talk.

We sent two teams to the Cyclemotor Section's delayed quiz. Neither disgraced themselves, the "A" team coming second.

The March midweek lunch was held in a new pub for us, the Rising Sun on the A4 at Woolhampton. Another very good turnout for these popular events. The Rising Sun was run by the man from the Aldermaston Wharf Visitor Centre which had been closed and we wanted to see if it would be a suitable venue for the Relay Rally next year.

The riding season for some of us usually starts with the Pioneer Run to Brighton in March. Unfortunately due to the thick snow and ice on the South Downs it was cancelled at the last minute with no prospect of it being run at a later date.

March 26th was our Bring and Buy book sale at Englefield. The sale of your old unwanted books gives your section a small cash injection which enables us to provide most of our runs without an entry fee.

Our first midweek run was to the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum in Calne. A nice run on a cool day along reasonable roads was a good start to our riding year. The museum had expanded since our last visit a few years ago. After looking around the cars and motorcycles we adjourned to the Talbot Inn for lunch.

The Calleva Gallop is first of our Sunday runs was on the 21st of April. A 10am start at the Calleva Arms, Silchester was about right for a morning riding around North Hampshire returning to the pub for lunch. We had the usual start riding beside the old Roman wall of the town of Calleva Atrebatum before heading out into the countryside.

The event attracted a larger than usual entry for a nice dry morning run. The landlord awards the John Moore Cup for the motorcycle that he would like to own (he is only allowed one each year much to his chagrin). This year it was awarded to a nice Indian Scout.

The April meeting was the video night. A mixture of films to suit all tastes.

The May midweek run was to Ivan Dutton's works to see some Bugatti's being restored. It was a very interesting visit around the machine shops where parts are manufactured and then we rode to his own collection of vehicles. This was followed with lunch in a pleasant pub, the Rising Sun in Ickford close by.

Our premier event is The Owen Tyler Run, held again this year in the Padworth Village Hall.

We had three routes again as usual, one suitable for veteran and low powered machines like cyclemotors and mopeds, there was the traditional route over Owen's favourite lanes and a slightly longer one for more modern bikes over faster roads.

The same small group of stalwarts braved the beautiful sunshine for a nice day's riding. Just two veterans and two post vintage bikes were amongst the two dozen who rode around some quiet roads to a friendly pub for lunch.

We returned to the start for the judging and tea and cakes. It was such a nice day that some of the riders stayed chatting until six o'clock. Why don't more of you turn out? The only thing to spoil the day was that we were double booked again, but the hastily provided marquee was better than the hall on a hot day.

The May meeting at Englefield was a Noggin and Natter night with no interruptions' to the chattering.

The June midweek run was to the Aston Martin Heritage Trust's museum in Drayton Saint Leonard. Afterwards we went to The Crown in Stadhampton for lunch.

A few of us were at the Banbury Run. Another good event over unfamiliar roads. At least the rain held off until we were at the autojumble. Some of our section man a few of the one make stands that surround the paddock.

On the 23rd of June we had the Mystery Run. We started at 10am in the Pangbourne village car park opposite the Bentley showroom. We headed out over Whitchurch Toll Bridge towards Christmas Common and the Chiltern hills. Afterwards dropping onto the vale of Aylesbury we went to the Bugle Horn in Stone for lunch. In the afternoon we meandered around some back lanes stopping at H's cafe for tea. The Mystery Run had a good enough turn out to make the drop-off system work well.

On the 25th June we had the girder fork and rigid night at Englefield. This brought out a couple of new bikes for a nice gathering outside for a change. One surprise was the arrival of Geoff Skates on his latest wheels, it was very nice to see him again.

The July midweek run was to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, a good run to a great place with the navy Museum, the Mary Rose and other historic ships.

For those who didn't go to the 1000 Bikes at Mallory Park we had the Girder Fork and Low Powered Run.

The idea of this run is to encourage those with early bikes and post war low powered machines to turn out on a run not dominated by 1950's and 60's superbikes. It is suitable for cyclemotors, mopeds and small two strokes. Unfortunately only 5 eligible machines started. Nevertheless they enjoyed a nice run around the countryside returning to the Cottage Inn for lunch.

We had a pleasant evening with good company for the Chairman's Barbeque. Thanks to Allan and Jean and some welcome volunteer helpers.

After a wet day only a few motorcycles turned up for the Car Park Concours which was won by a very nice BSA B33.

The August midweek run was to Sammy Miller's Museum. A good ride down to New Milton with lunch in the museum. The slight drizzle as we left turned into a downpour just short of home for some of us.

It is with sadness that I have to report that long time member Reg Jordan passed away after a short illness aged 86. He will be missed by the regular riders.

Reg had to ride modern machines in his later years to accommodate his legs but that did not stop him riding with us until quite recently. Our condolences go out to his family and to Barbara who rode pillion with him until he had to stop riding. We had four motorcycles following his hearse, one a V twin to represent one of his last bikes.

We had a section stand in the marquee at the Popham Mega Meet. The variety of machines attracted a lot of attention. Malcolm as usual had an adjacent stand for the New Imperial Owners which is useful as an overflow, as we had more bikes than one pitch could take.

The Bucklebury Run had a good attendance for a run out through the Berkshire and Wiltshire countryside to Vernham Dean. We returned by a slightly shorter route to Allan's for a chat in the sunshine with tea and cakes.

Thanks to Jean and Allan and the cake makers for the hospitality.

We had a great time in Rhyader. A smaller contingent than usual gathered at the Brynafon Hotel (the old workhouse) on a Sunday for a week of riding over some very quiet roads. The weather was very good for mid Wales enabling us to cover a lot of the smooth country lanes where we encountered very little other traffic.

The Devil's Staircase held no problems as most of us were on bikes with enough power for the hairpins when two up. Those who did not come this year missed a very good holiday. See our web-site for fuller details.

The Hotel still has pictures of some of our bikes from a previous visit.

Congratulations to Dave and Elaine Albon on their trusty Velocette and Malcolm White on a pre-war Speed Twin for completing the End to End run with the West Wiltshire Section.

The quiz team managed to come third at Stonehenge and later in the month, second in our own quiz.

The October midweek run was to the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock. These small community museums hold good collections of local artefacts and make a nice break before we go for lunch. We stopped in the Black Prince on the road out of Woodstock on the A44 for lunch before riding home. H's cafe was a pleasant stop for tea on the way back. A good ride for so late in the year.

The Bring and Buy sale was another good turn out.

That's it, another riding year was over with November's meander in the rain from Allan's to the Four Points Inn for lunch. A short run to enable us to get home before the sun sets and it gets cold.

We sent three teams to the Oxford Sections quiz. The "A" Team managed to win and our Ladies Team came a creditable third.

The December midweek lunch was to the Longbridge Mill, not too far to enable some of us to go to the Chiltern Quiz. The "A" Team won for the second year running.

We had the Christmas Dinner in The Fox and Hounds in Theale. A smaller gathering this year but we still had the same good company, an evening enjoyed by everyone who went.

Michael Bryant