

Waterloovile M.C.C Gazette June 2026



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EDITORIAL



“So many roads-so many roads to ride”. A song by the Grateful dead,of course,but earlier,Otis Rush sang “So many roads-so many trains to ride”.

Both with a connection(in my mind-at least) to us as motorcyclists.The trains theme is echoed in skiffle songs about “outlaws” riding the rails in the great depression in America in the 1930s and the outlaw connection carries through to the biker gangs in the 1950s and 1960s in the states.

The Outlaws M/C gang started in Matilda’s bar on the old route 66 in Illinois and biker gangs continued to outrage polite society on the other side of the pond.

The ton up boys in the ‘60s in England became the “folk devils” that the popular press needed to keep old colonels spluttering into their brandy.

Just after passing her car test in the 1960s,my wife ran out of petrol.She was suddenly surrounded by a group of bikers that she described as “hells angels”.They returned with a can of petrol,refused payment and saw her on her way.The “real” hells angels in America are reputed to have done the same,while keeping it to themselves.

I have been involved in the motor trade since the '60s and one of the oldstagers has a car showroom near me, so I dropped in with a Fossils flyer (He has had old bikes including AMC twins and a rather nice Sunbeam). He was having a tea party with some other vintage car dealers and I was invited to join them.

The conversation inevitably turned to Frank G, who had done a stint a majesty's pleasure for being involved in a car ringing syndicate. I did some work for him back then and when my car was stolen he said "I have just taken in a Cortina with 9 months tax and MOT. Run it as long as you like and return it when you have sorted a replacement". There was, of course, a caveat. "tell anyone and you'll be in trouble". He didn't want his reputation ruined by an act of philanthropy!

Even more bizarre; An Alaskan man has been given a Ural motorcycle and sidecar by Vladimir Putin. This personal gift was given to Mark Warren as his old Ural was out of action.

Happy trails, Ed.

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DID YOU KNOW...

In the UK, having the NHS means we don't see the real cost of medical treatment. Medical costs abroad, however, can quickly add up, especially in countries where healthcare is expensive or in situations where medical evacuation is necessary.

In one case, the cost of medical treatment in Spain following a fall and emergency medical repatriation back to the UK was an eye-watering £124,000. In another case, a traveller who contracted Covid while in Cyprus and getting them safely back to the UK cost £70,000.*

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Tea break (now)

TEA BREAK (now).

Unlike the world being flat, global warming is real and CO₂ emissions from petrol engines, we're told, are a big contributor. In an idle moment (perhaps I should get out more), I wondered about something which might help to redress the balance.

In previous decades, fire brigades and mine rescue used the "proto" breathing apparatus. This was a "closed" system using pure oxygen. The user would clear his lungs and breathe from a bag filled with oxygen from a back-mounted cylinder. The exhaled air would go back into the bag and be cleaned by soda/lime crystals absorbing the exhaled CO₂. Could this be used in a filter in the vehicle's exhaust, I wondered.

Back in the real world, methane is being researched as a possible fuel, although having quite a few drawbacks; flammability and storage of the gas in tanks being problems to overcome.

Naturally occurring hydrogen in the United States is a way off but still a possibility and a report outlines the cleaner properties of H₂ICE usage. All of this is a long way from fruition, so perhaps, petrol heads may soon be electric heads!

.....And talking of heads,I remember a crash helmet advert from many years ago- If you've got a ten bob head ,get a ten bob helmet.

TEA BREAK (then)

.....And talking of "bobs", the letters page of "motor cycle" from 1966,had one from Mr.G. Lewis who had a five bob bet that the cigar shaped Triumph which reached 224 M.P.H.had one 650 Triumph engine-his friend said it had two.Bill Johnson's machine had just one and Mr.Lewis collected the five bob.

..... And talking of five bob-what would it have bought you in 1966? Well,over a gallon of petrol,3 pints at the pub or fish and chips for two with change jingling in your pocket.

.....And talking of fish and chips,Margaret Theobald's parents and mine ran the Cowplain Fisheries opposite The Spotted Cow pub for some years.

Gazettes from the 1960s make interesting reading with Major R.W.Gale as the club president and John Theobald as secretary .Lots of letters about a

Government white paper "control of motor rallies" and a reassuring letter from Lord Chesham containing an assurance that it would be at the discretion of the local constabulary who had a good relationship with the club.

...And another letter from "the great and the good";Motorcycling magazine ,no less offering cheap advertising in their publications for club members.

Lots of input from club members!!



....And talking of Theobald/Wood fish shops,the photo shows John and Margaret top right next to Margaret's mum and bottom my mum and dad and Margaret's dad.(and a free mention in the gazette to anyone spotting the editor in this photo).



...And

talking of Theobalds, John's uncle Monty, brigade mechanic and

war time fireman, commissioning one of three of Portsmouth's Dennis pump escapes. I often saw him at club nights at Copnor fire station. (he had a lovely vintage Riley).

The Dennis, wooden framed and aluminium bodied machines boasted a Rolls Royce straight eight, just in case you were wondering.

....And talking of wondering, I wonder why no club members want to share their stories, rebuilds, stories. It would make a change from my ramblings.

WMCC BULLETIN BOARD

Afternoon, all,
Barry Redsall is traveling to the IoM TT races and has a
FREE spare ferry ticket for someone to travel with him.
The ticket is from the 27th May to the 10th June.
For anyone interested in going, the cost of accommodation will be £35 per night and he would wish
to split the fuel costs for the journey.
Other costs would be for food and drinks, etc.

Subject: Wales Ride September
nigeltailyour@gmail.com

Hello Members, New member Nigel has booked a cottage for a September ride around the Brecons, and space is available.

Anyone interested please email Nigel at the above address.

Best regards, Bjoern.

I have booked a cottage near Aberystwyth so 6 of us can ride around North Wales. But two mates have pulled out. So we have accommodation if anyone fancies a long weekend riding the Brecons and N. Wales in September. It's only a bunch of mates. Not some organised Club event.

Thanks Nigel

Awards - Summer Social evening

Waterlooville Motorcycle Club

Presents

The 2026 Presentation of Awards/Summer Social Evening

On Saturday 25th July at Barton Hall Bar, Horndean Technology

College 7.30pm-10.00pm

Buffet provided -

RSVP by email to Sarah Hards via

wmcc.membership@hotmail.com

or text

Sarah on 07752 443934

(for catering planning purposes numbers required by 20th July)

All members and family welcome.



WMCC Calendar

Thursday 21st May 2026 - Talk by Eric Patterson - Horndean Technical College - details via email from our club captain.

Saturday 23rd May 2026 - Newtown Fete - Soberton Heath - details re email.

Saturday & Sunday 30th & 31st May 2026 - World Sidecarcross & EMX Quadcross Championship of Great Britain - Canada Heights, Swanley, BR8 8DX

Saturday 13th June 2026 - Skittles night - The Crofton -Hillhead - please contact membership secretary.

Sunday 14th June 2026 MHM 'War Room' Motorbike Coffee Morning - see poster at bottom of page for details.

Sunday 5th July 2026 - Brooklands Museum - Motorcycle Day - see website for details - [Motorcycle Day I Brooklands Museum Event](#) - WMCC will have a display - details to be shared via email via Club captain nearer the event.

Sunday 12th July 2026 MHM 'War Room' Motorbike Coffee Morning - see poster at bottom of page for details

Sunday 19th July 2026 - Jim Stokes Coffee & Classics open day - see poster at bottom of page.

Saturday 25th July 2026 - Social/Awards night to be held at Horndean Technical College - details to be shared via email via Club captain nearer the event.

Sunday 26th July 2026 - The Fossils 21st Charity Run - start/finish Horndean Technical College.

Summer BBQ - date to be confirmed.

Sunday 27th September 2026 - SBMOC Bulldog Run - see website for joining instructions - [Sussex British Motorcycle Owners Club Official Website](#)

Wednesday 16th December 2026 - Christmas Club night - The Farmer Inn, Catherington - due to the growing numbers attending this event WMCC have hired the small bar area this year.