

WMCC Gazette April 2026



“There’s nothing new under the sun”. Hmm! Read on to discover another new, but not new topic. The “new” subject is publicans banning MPs from their pubs....and the old matter? Well, you’ll find out if you can stay awake long enough to trawl through this issue. (and the reason for this month’s cartoon will become apparent)

Reading the August 1980 Gazette, I was surprised to see a committee of 29 members, letters to the

editor, Gazette cup entries, "for sale" posts and articles. (Nice to see a "for sale" ad. In last month's issue-there must be more of you out there. Keep 'em coming!). In the mag. Stan Coxon wrote that five riders on impeccable machines were told by a landlord of a local pub "we don't want your sort in here, lads". Another bike rider was told "drink that and get out" after the landlord noticed his crash helmet. The list continues with other local pubs mentioned! Stan goes on to suggest a sign at the upcoming Ken Hall scramble "NO PUBLICANS ADMITTED"

We are members of MAG, the motorcycle action group and editor, Ian Mutch writes "Half the things you worry about never happen, while half the things you don't do". Wise words mate! (Have I "borrowed that from Smashey and Nicey?). In his editorial he writes about fancy waterproofs that aren't and says that his most effective riding apparel is not an expensive motorcycle creation, but an old, "uncool" pair of trawlerman's bib and brace [trousers](#). He also says that he is not really relaxed riding in the wet and I feel the same. Bjorn, our ride out captain said the same about extreme cold conditions. Most of us ride for fun and when I think back to negotiating icy roads on my A7 on my way to Wadhams on a cold winter morning, I'm a world away writing this with a cuppa and my trusty

dog on my lap.Marshalling at a very wet Fossils a few



years back,I wore my most waterproof jacket-not a fancy motorcycle coat,but one I bought for about fifteen quid at a well known machinery and tool [store.It](#) had seen better days and the welded seam at the bottom had come apart.Torrential rain had forced water through the opening creating a virtual wet suit. As I went to sign in,the water was still cascading over the floor!

Happy (dry) trails Colin editor.

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Tea Break (now).

There's not much interest in diesel bikes;I remember seeing a Royal Enfield bullet conversion and have heard of a Ducati limited run.Just as well,perhaps,as petrol stations supplying diesel fuel may be soon

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limited according to a think tank urging us all to “go electric”.(well they would say that ! to mangle Mandy Rice Davies’ famous quote.) Steve Gooding,director of the RAC foundation,said we could soon see diesel car owners seeking stations that still stock diesel.



Hmm!Not sure if that “evidence” isn't “pants”. Most of us will remember the phasing out of leaded petrol and introduction of ethanol and the lead substitute shots and pellets,reputedly first used in W.W.2 [spitfires.On](#) the subject of “most of us”,leafing through classic car mags at the supermarket,I saw a classic car meet described as a “scramble”.Sacrilege

to us pre MotoX devotees”,and John Theobald

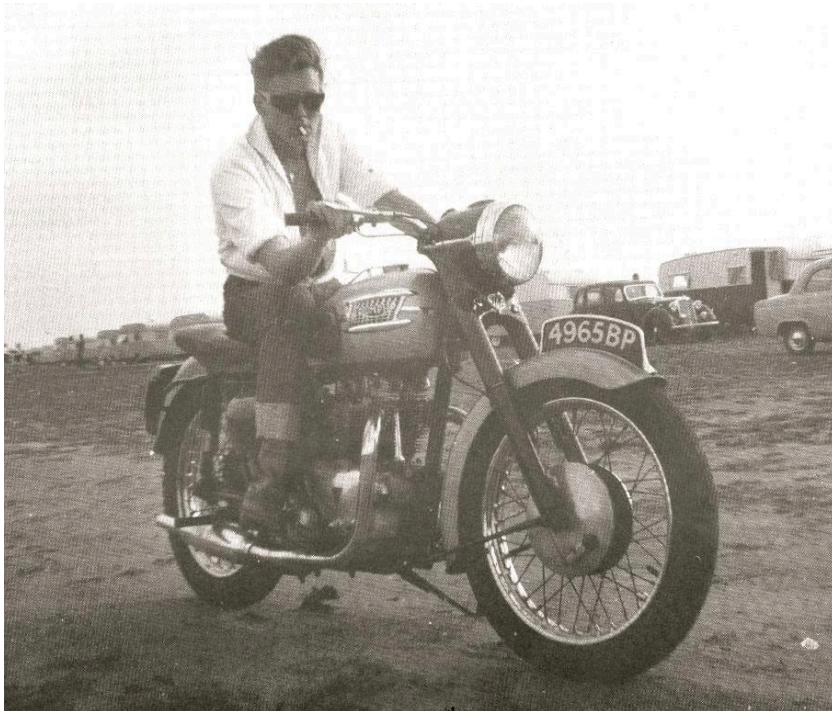


capturing all of the excitement of those glory days!
Tea Break (then).

“Be there or be square”-a phrase that will be familiar to some dinosaurs in our ranks. You were, of course, square if you weren’t HIP or BEAT or COOL. This new trend started in the ‘50s with Britain finding it’s feet after WW2. Those of us entering our teens were hit by the wave of music from the US. Rock and Roll from Elvis, Bill Hayley Etc. inspired teenagers and the blues was at the heart of “skiffle”. Portsmouth is said to be where the first venue of a R&R tour with Tony

Crombie and the Rockets kicked off at the Theatre Royal in [1956](#).As this progressed to the '60s and,thanks to hire purchase,motorcycles and R&R

became intertwined.



Left-Billy Fury on a Triumph. As a “I won the war” sort of bore,I can’t resist saying that I had a foot in both camps and a

rather good time!

A message from Dave Jacobs,a wmcc member since [2017.phone07881533506-claverton0605@gmail.com](#)

The Newtown fete at Soberton Heath 3mls north of Wickham has had for many years, displays of cars ,tractors,steam and the likes of Ferraris,Aston Martins and Lagondas.I have run the beer tent for 15 years and have been asked to invite owners of classic and interesting motorcycles.I’m taking my old Bonneville T140 and my sidecar outfit. 2p.m. on Sat.23rdMay

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and in aid of local charities. A perfect English garden fete with plants, books, clothes bric a brac, stalls, games, treasure hunt and the Victory brass and Swanmore jazz bands. Please contact me if you can come.



Nice to reflect that our help keeps them on the road. Please remember that to keep the Gazette alive and relevant, we need YOUR input. Anything, memories, articles, for sale, rides.....

WATERLOOVILLE MOTORCYCLE CLUB

MARY ROSE ACADEMY CHRISTMAS PRESENT RUN – 2025.

The morning of Saturday 13th December wasn't bad, weather wise, so a good size group of WMCC members, some in Christmas fancy dress, gathered in our usual meeting place in Denmead, in preparation for the Mary Rose Academy Annual Christmas present run.



At about 11.30, we set off for Wickham, to join the other motorcyclists taking part. When we arrived, Wickham square was already packed with bikers and we all got a bit split up trying to find somewhere to park the bikes. The Christmas present run to the Mary Rose Academy in Portsmouth has been an annual event for many years, and riders take presents for the

children, or make donations to the school. It is always well supported and this year, with a sunny day, the support was huge.

The ride starts from Wickham Square at 12.30 prompt, with the usual meleé of machines everywhere. After a well-organised run, all the bikers arrived at the Academy to be welcomed by staff and children alike. The only drawback with the run was that Pompey were playing at home on the same day, so the traffic getting into Portsmouth was very heavy.

Once there, we all headed for a cup of tea or coffee and a mince pie, and to leave our presents on the table in the main hall, which, as usual, was piled high.



The 2025 run was very well supported with over 170 bikers taking part.

The school hall was packed with people and several Father Christmases! After a nice cuppa, we all made our way home, looking forward to the Easter Eggrun in April.



Thanks to your support last year, our Critical Care Team were able to respond to a record **2,593 emergencies** across our region, an average of **seven missions a day**. And we didn't stop for Christmas.

Our crew received **19 calls for help** over Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, taking us all over the south, with deployments to the Isle of Wight, Southampton, Fordingbridge, Portsmouth, Bordon, Thatcham, Alresford and more.

But we were only able to be there for these patients because of support **from people like you**.

Thank you for being by our side in 2025.

Operation Airbase: a home for life-saving critical care

In July, we **secured the keys** to our new airbase near Southampton Airport.



ACU strengthens rider safety with action against fake helmet stickers

The Auto-Cycle Union (ACU) is taking firm action to protect its riders by clamping down on the sale of counterfeit 'ACU Approved' helmet stickers – with more than 5,000 already removed from the black market.

Helmet safety remains a top priority for the UK's national governing body of motorcycle sport. Every helmet that passes the ACU's strict, independent safety tests is given a Gold 'ACU Approved' sticker by the manufacturer or importer. These stickers show technical officials that a helmet meets the required standards for use in competition.

However, a growing number of fake and unauthorised stickers has prompted a major crackdown, led by the ACU with support from its legal partners and Trading Standards.

"This is a serious issue for rider safety," Matthew Edwards-Wear, CEO of the ACU, said. "Anyone using a helmet with a fake or tampered sticker is putting themselves in serious danger. We're committed to stamping this fraudulent activity out and protecting our competitors."

"With the help of our partners, we've already acted against eBay for trademark breaches and removed over 5,000 fake stickers from sale. It's a strong first step, but our work will continue to make sure we eradicate any illegal activity that threatens the safety of competitors and fundamentally goes against what we stand for as a members' organisation."

Alongside removing counterfeit stickers from online marketplaces, the ACU is also working up new agreements with helmet manufacturers and importers to tighten the control of official stickers and stop them being misused.

New hologram-style, Gold 'ACU Approved' stickers are also being developed for introduction in the 2026 season.

"Our new Gold stickers will have enhanced features that will reduce the possibility of them being copied, tampered with while they're on a helmet, or removed from a helmet altogether," Matthew Edwards-Wear added. "Closing loopholes will stop bad actors and improve the safety of ACU riders."

For questions about helmet safety or ACU 'Approved' stickers, contact the ACU technical team on 01788 566400.



Waterlooville Motorcycle Events

presents

A talk by Eric Patterson



Many WMCC members will know of Eric as the 'chap' who ran the bike jumbles and shows at Kempton Park, and is still to be seen at most events.

However, did you know that Eric is also the holder of 2 speed events at Bonneville Salt Flats, USA?

Well guess what!! Eric has kindly agreed to come and do a talk for WMCC members in May 2026.

So, hold the date in your diaries:

When: Thursday 21st May 2026

Where: Horndean Technology College 7.30pm

To reserve a place, please contact Steve Cox on 07970 088234, or email wmcc.events@outlook.com

First come, first served as capacity is approx. 30.

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Hello Dapper Ones!

It won't be long now until Spring and we can get back to some warmer weather. Preparations are well under way for the West Sussex Ride, and all is looking good. The ride will be on Sunday May 17th 2026.

We would like to inform you of one change to our procedures. Over the years we have noticed that a growing number of riders have registered for the ride, and turn up on the day without having obtained any sponsorship. We are all aware that the DGR is a fund-raising event and all participants are expected to play their part in raising as much money as possible. Taking part without contributing is not fair to those who enter into the spirit of things and work hard to collect as much as they can.

This year there will be a **minimum donation of £20.00** to be made when registering. Many DGR rides are adopting this policy to encourage fair and proper participation in the event. Most riders give far more than this towards their tally, so for them it will not have any personal effect. We must stress this donation is the start of your fund-raising, and each participant is expected to raise enormous amounts as in previous years! With a bit of effort we could well exceed £300k in our overall total this year.

Registration is essential. You will not be permitted to join the ride if you are not registered. This is an important requirement from the event's insurers. It is not possible to register on the day.

It won't be long, so start thinking about what to wear - Smart, Dapper or even Eccentric!! DGR is a theatrical parade, so please come dressed accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you on the day

Very best wishes and good luck on your fund-raising.

Bob Lock, Mick Thair, Neil Westoby

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