

The Gazette
of the
Waterlooville
motorcycle
club



THE YEAR IN REVIEW



ANDALUSIAN
ADVENTURE



WHAT TO EXPECT IN
2025

MERRY XMAS!



CHRISTMAS GAZETTE 2024

EDITORIAL

Christmas, already? That old chestnut! (ouch). It does seem to rush by more quickly as you get older. September Song, and all that stuff! Having said that, another good year to look forward to with the 20th anniversary of the start of the (old) Fossils run.

Below, Three old fossils watching the old Gales start at Horndean with pints of Gales mild.

The old fossils run has seamlessly transformed into the Fossils run and enjoyed an influx of younger members.

If the Fossils run is 20 years old this year, that photo of Al Straughan myself and our old biking chum, Paul, was possibly 22/23 years ago! Moving on from events to machines, one of my neighbours is going through a bereavement, and a few months ago asked for my advice on his dad's old collection of classic bikes.

I am no expert, but I do trawl through Ebay at times, and enjoy a free read of classic bike and car mags at the supermarket. It would seem that old bike values have dropped a bit, while old cars have remained the same.

Have creaky knees and well worn hips, anything to do with this? A friend with a modern electric start machine, and 30 years my junior, says he would struggle to kick over my Thunderbird.

I don't suppose many of the young 'uns know the trick to avoid a broken thumb when using a starting handle on classic cars either. All of these quaint features add to the appeal of old machines in the headlong rush to turn us all electric.

Happy trails. Editor.

Three old fossils!



TEA BREAK(NOW).

As mentioned, I am no expert at bike prices. We do, however have in our ranks, Chris Golby, the ex editor of the B.S.A. owners club glossy magazine.



As in all things serendipitous, my neighbour's motorcycles were all beezer! A Gold Star and a Rocket three amongst others so a serious bike nut, his dad! The father had three sons, none of them remotely interested in bikes. My dad loved and played football and was a dyed in the wool Pompey fan. I have tried, but football does nothing for me. I've been to Fratton Park a couple of times at gunpoint- the old Portsmouth fire brigade visited the venue after home games to ensure that the concrete stands hadn't caught fire.

Type to enter text

A Jolly ,I Hear you say.Guilty as charged.A lot of these visits involved some refreshments for the crew. Brickwoods brewery,as you can imagine, was a very refreshing visit,and we always left with gifted bottles of delight “Little Bricky” in particular.(Little Bricky?-ask your grandad).

As this is supposed to be a tea break,that’s enough of that alcoholic stuff.I have been a stickler for a proper brew ever since being an apprentice.The tea boy was always the nipper's job!Mess that up at your peril! My wife is addicted to an insult to this proud tradition-biscuit tea and even toast and jam tea! Yorkshire tea of all people responsible.Grrr.-I’m off to have a proper cuppa!



TEABREAK(THEN)1961

“The motorcycle” magazine had its usual “unusual” road test .this year-the flying scotsman locomotive-a bit too big for most garages! A christmas eve scramble and a boxing day scramble advertised.Just about enough time for turkey and christmas pud in between! Mike Hailwood confirmed a move to MV in 1962.

“Motorcycling”christmas 1961 edition announced that ten year tests are about to become seven year tests in January,with the message “don’t get caught out”

Lots of fabulous cartoons and illustrations by Bill Tidy and Alex Oxley(our own Jack Mortlock was drawing ,just as fabulous ,creations in the w.m.c.c. Gazette)

You could go to “the flicks” for half a crown and have a fright watching “the frightened city” or “curse of the werewolf”.

On a lighter note there was “a taste of honey”, “carry on regardless” and “dentist on the job”which featured Shirley Eaton,who,three years later, would be covered in gold paint for “goldfinger”.

Elvis top of the charts .Kenny ball for “trad” fans,Cliff with the young ones and Eden Kane with “well I ask you”. Incidentally as a young wannabe rock star,I backed Eden at The Savoy with The Strollers.

FOR SALE!!



FOR SALE. 1971 Moto Guzzi Nuovo Falcone. Military 500c.c. 4858Km. 3018 miles only. New exhaust and silencer, battery and tyres. Dynostart so no need to kick start.

Bright parts replated. A batch of these was supplied to the Yugoslavian army, but just used for a few months, then put away, then imported to the UK. Hence low mileage!

£5500. Contact Bjorn Christiansen at captain.wmcc@gmail.com for more information.

A message from David Thorne.

Dear fellow members,

Is there anyone who would fancy about 5 days ride around Gran Canaria in January or February? Fly there and hire bike, of course.

david@shout-telecoms.com

.....and don't forget to shout about our club to all and sundry. Even non riders will find the new website of interest!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Waterlooville Motorcycle Club 2024.

A quick resumé of some activities in which club members have been involved during the year.

February

The WMCC year was ushered in with our AGM on Wednesday, 7th February. As usual, the AGM was well attended with all the usual business of year end reports and election of committee members. The most important piece of business was the presentation of our charity donations to our two charities, the IoW and Hampshire Air Ambulance and The ServWessex blood bikes, who each received a cheque for £1500 raised by the Fossils Ride in 2023.



March

On Thursday 7th Martin Gegg gave a group of about 30 WMCC members a very interesting talk about the early adoption and development of motorcycles for the Military. Apparently, it all started with cyclists.....and progressed from there. The Military were, as always, suspicious of any of these new-fangled contraptions, but once they had been championed and tested, motorcycles proved their worth, particularly in the field of communications via dispatch riders.

May

Bank holiday Monday, 6th, saw a bedraggled group of WMCC members attend the Amberley Classic Motorcycle Day. As we all probably recall, this spring won't be remembered for its glorious weather and this Bank Holiday Monday must rank as one of the wettest. However, we had said we would support the museum with a club stand, so off we all went, some on two wheels, others on four, towing trailers. The new club gazebo was put up in the rain – not a particularly nice experience – but it did lend some shelter to the group and the bikes; really important that the bikes stayed as dry as possible! Due to the state of the roads after the days of rain previously, the bikes that were ridden in looked like they had been off-road for most of the way. Lots of cleaning needed afterwards.....

It must have been a disappointment for the museum to have such a wet day which kept the number of clubs and bikes on show, as well as the number of paying visitors, well down. We all commented on how few bikes and clubs had made it. Fortunately, the café at Amberley provided succour for the team, with frequent visits to warm up over hot cups of tea and coffee, and, possibly, sample some of their nosh.

AMBERLEY CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE DAY 2024

Around 3.30 we were given the nod that we could leave. Taking down a large, soaking wet gazebo was less fun than putting it up! But we managed and were pretty well all ready to leave by 4.00, allowing for getting bikes started, of course! Still, it was an enjoyable day and I'm sure we'll be back to Amberley in '25.





May also brought us the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride in which four members took part. The meeting point for our area was on the A32 at Soberton. This year the organisers relied on passing out the route on Smartphones, so there appeared to be no route markers or marshals. Unfortunately, this led to some confusion, and some people lost the route which was a shame. This charity ride is for the very good causes of prostate cancer care and men's mental health. Perhaps the organisers will have a rethink about route marking for 2025.



June

Wednesday 12th saw around 12 WMCCmembers have a hosted visit to the Andover Norton business in.....unsurprisingly,Andover.Our host for the meeting was Karl Smith, their Chief Executive who, with his technical Director Ashley, gave us a fascinating insight to their operation, how it came about, what they do now and their customer base and their thinking for the future. We spent a smashing couple of hours there, treated to tea, coffee and biscuits and being shown around their whole facility, including the newest venture a workshop for classic bike restorations. They certainly have a slick operation for their spares despatch and have customers in many places worldwide, particularly in North America.

Karl and Ashley also showed us some of their project work and unique machines. Apparently, they stock something like 90% of all the bits you might need to build a Norton Commando! And they try, whenever possible, to source the parts from either UK or EU manufacturers as they have found in the past that parts made elsewhere were lacking in quality.





June also saw a group of members take their annual Continental break, this year down to Saumur, on the Loire, for 10 days.

Christine Lawrence has done a brilliant write up of, what turned out to be, a quite eventful holiday, which was published in the August WMCC Gazette, so please have another read of this to help remember the summer, now that the nights are falling in.....

July

Sunday 7th July saw a very good show stand from the club at the Brooklands Motorcycle Day. As always, Brooklands put on a super day with lots of club and manufacturer's stands spread throughout the site. The particular theme this year was Norton Motorcycles, so there was a strong presence of Nortons as you would expect. There was also an ex Moto GP Ducati of Loris Capirossi which was started and run a couple times during the day – a `fingers in ears` job if ever there was one, but delightful! Sadly, the weather was a bit temperamental with some heavy rain showers which sent people dashing to cover the bikes, or themselves. But despite this, there were still runs up the Test Hill (always fun to do) and demonstration rides of some of the museum's bikes.



Our awards evening on Friday 19th was held in the bar at Horndean Tech! A very nice informal and social occasion where a number of awards were given for supporting or leading on club-organised activities.



Then, of course, on Sunday 21st we held our Fossils Charity Ride.

Once again, the weather was kind to us and we had a great day for the ride. Chris Jefferies had worked out another of his 50-mile circuitous routes through Hampshire, taking in lanes and villages last seen by the Anglo Saxons, with a mid-way stop at the Hunter's Inn, Swanmore. This year we had around 110 riding entries with a number of pillion passengers.

The hall at Horndean Tech was, largely, sorted on the Saturday afternoon before, thanks to the sterling work of quite a few members setting up signing on tables, ride and rider information, photos of previous Fossil events, and organising the stage and the bikes brought in for the bike display. Signing on, on the day was slow to start with and then got very busy, very quickly, with the signing on tables going flat out for a while.

At 10.00 the 'ride and display' group went off, following a rider's briefing from Chairman Jon Brook to everyone in the car park. At 11.00 the main group of riders was flagged off in groups of 10. The Bike Shed, Waterlooville provided, as always, their pick-up of any broken-down machines along the route.

Around 12.00 the early group of bikes started to return and were set up in hall display, with the main group starting to return around 1.00 p.m. The bar was open at the hall and the burger van was doing a nice trade feeding the hungry motorcyclists. The Hampshire and IoW Air Ambulance, ServWessex Blood bikes, Institute of Advanced Motorists and Mental Health Motorbike were in attendance and received quite a few visits from the riders.

In the end, we had just over 30 bikes on display in the hall, which was of great interest to the more than 100 riders and their passengers who came back for the class awards and raffles prizes, all of which were gratefully received by their recipients. The Chairman then thanked all the riders and the sponsors for their participation. A brilliant day was had by all.







August

August was a quieter month for club things, but culminated in the annual WMCCbarbeque held, with gratitude, in Rob and Sylvie Doney's garden. The weather held very fair for us and everyone who attended enjoyed themselves and had their fill of burgers and sausages(including the veggie ones!)



September

September was a busy month. The first event that WMCCmembers attended was the ShereHill Climb, near Guildford. This has its roots in the hill climbs of the inter-war period where people pitched their machines against testing hill roads. Today, these are more of a parade at speed but good fun, nevertheless. The ShereHill Climb follows a closed road over the North Downs, from North to South, then back along the Guildford road for another go. It's also a great classiccar and bike show!





Saturday 14th saw another hill climb, this time at Princes Risborough, near Marlow. This is a more testing hill climb than Shereasthe hill is, actually, quite a hill. In fact, the Kop Hill Climbs is one of, if not the oldest, hill climbs in England. Two WMCC members braved another early start from Hampshire with one machine which decided to behave very badly (it's a Velocette, so what can one expect); it was very difficult to start and then on the first run, the clutch decided to slip, then not disengage leaving the rider (me) stranded in someone's driveway until rescued. The Velo is now firmly on the naughty step until such time as it can be got at.....The WMCC attended here as part of the Brooklands Motorcycle Team, who had a much more successful day!



Thursday, 19th had Mike Jackson, of Greeves and Norton fame come along to Hordean tech to give a talk for WMCC members. Around 30 members attended and Mike did a fascinating and highly amusing talk about his career in the motorcycle industry, his adventures with Norton, both in the UK and in the USA, and all of the personalities he has met and interviewed over the years. An excellent evening, we were all in awe of Mike's memories for events, places and names as well as his encyclopaedic knowledge of the industry.

And finally for September, a number of WMCC members attended the Sussex British Motorcycle Owner's Club Bulldog Charity Run, on Sunday 22nd.

Unfortunately, the weather forecast seemed to have put off people from attending as numbers were down on previous years. Ironically, the day was actually nice and dry and a few WMCC members made their way over to Climping Village Hall for the run. The planned run went North around Arundel and then up into the lanes and roads of West Sussex and Surrey towards Haslemere. Our Chris led the WMCC contingent up to the point where even he wasn't altogether sure of where the route was going, so he made up his own route back, which was great fun! Back at Climping hall there was finally some karma – the SBMOC members are always great supporters of our Fossils rides, and also seem to win more than their fair share of the awards and prizes. This year it was our turn, winning the first prize in their raffle and Pet winning the best bike trophy!



October

October brought the Pioneer Run, a motorcycle run organised for over 80 years by the Sunbeam Motorcycle Club for veteran motorcycles, pre-1915. The run starts on Epsom Downs and follows a course south via Pease Pottage near Crawley and Leonards Lee gardens to the magnificently named Brighton International Airport (actually Shoreham airfield), some 50 or so miles. Once again, our intrepid Chris Jefferies set forth on his 1914 BSA and made it to Shoreham in very good time. Sadly, numbers this year for the run were well down on previous years, but there was still a superb showing of veteran machinery, some dating back to the late 1800s. It's incredible what is tucked away in people's garages and sheds and one can only be in awe of the work needed to keep these old machines going, still on the road and capable of (mostly) completing the 50 mile run. It's fair to say the weather was reasonable for the day which is always helpful and there was a good showing of machines that finished at Shoreham.



November

Friday 1st had almost 30 members trying their best at nine pin skittles at the Barley Mow in Walderton. The evening comprised three games each, attempting and often failing, to knock some skittles over – it's harder than it looks. The intense concentration was interrupted by a delicious buffet meal, before resuming more seriously than before. Competition was fierce, with Dave Cox the defending champion out to keep his title. Unfortunately, this wasn't to be and Gordon White pipped him to the post, with Sue Cox winning the ladies, and Hillary Brooks taking the prize for the ladies lowest score, and yours truly taking the prize for the lowest men's score – still, I got a bar of chocolate out of it. Many thanks to Sarah Hards for organising a super evening!

..... and there's still The Remembrance Day ride on the 10th November and the Kempton Park Off road show where the club will have a stand, and the Mary Rose school Christmas present run (sadly these clash), both on Saturday 7th December.

Steve Cox

AN ANDULICIAN ADVENTURE



Andalusia tour October 24,

Once again an intrepid team of members with a different lineup from previous visits ventured forth on a weeks tour of the Granada province .

Following very heavy rainfall over the previous week we experienced a very different climate to previous tours,unusually chilly,rain,windy ,(especially atop the Sierra Nevada where a couple were blown quite literally off the road!)and challenging road conditions from broken surfaces to mud slides and rockfalls,fortunately no damage or injuries,though an “adventurous “ tour best described the experience.

Despite the conditions a great time was had enjoying a hamman bath and massage in Granada followed by a flamenco evening and then the following day exploring the amazing Alhambra palace and gardens.



Moving from place to place on mountainous twisty roads and staying in wonderful hotels or hostals we rode through and often up into the white villages so renowned for this area, tiny narrow cobbled streets often too small for cars took us into Zahara, Grazealma, Montefrio, cave dwellings and places I can't remember or pronounce to our furthestmost westerly point of Rhonda before returning to our start and finish point of Salobreña on the coast. Along the way the Camino del rhey at El choro was walked, (worth a Google, a head for heights is needed just to look at the pictures) also a tour of a wolf park on foot treated us to a howling all across the hillsides.

This was a fly and ride experience with Enfield classic moto tours, all on royal enfields, either Bullets or Himalayans, and guided by the owner Steve Percy who has an amazing knowledge of the whole region, the best roads, places to stay, eat and drink, and a great raconteur to have along.

Final night high up in the old town for a group meal on the terrace with magnificent views sealed the end of a fabulous week, we packed more into this week than ever before and still barely rode the same road twice.

Highly recommended by all.

Colin, Andrew, Catherine, Sue and Andy.

Skittles Report

On Friday 1st November, WMCC members joined together for another fun skittle evening. As always the club received a very warm welcome from landlords of The Barley Mow at Walderton, along with another lovely spread.

We had four winners this year; top scoring lady and top scoring gent, and one lady and one gent with 'not such top scores'.

The top scoring winners were Sue and Gordon, who were clear winners, well done.

The 'not such top scoring' lady was Hilary, the gent position had to be fought for.....

So a play-off was held between Steve and JJ, Steve was the winner of this heat (I think JJ is still talking to him).

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who attended, it was great to see new members as well as established faces.

There was lots of 'chat/socialising' taking place so I am considering the evening was a success.

Chat, this reminds me I must say a massive thank you to our two skittle stander-uppers who worked so relentlessly throughout the evening they barely had time to catch up !!! Many thanks to Jon and Andy.



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2025

JOIN THE ACTION: MOTORCYCLE, AUTOJUMBLE, AND CAR EVENTS ALL YEAR LONG!



Classic & Performance Car Spectacular

Tatton Park, WA16 6QK

JUN 7-8, 2025

Classic American Stars & Stripes

Tatton Park, WA16 6QK

JUL 5-6, 2025

Classic & Retro Car Revival

sponsored by Hagerty

Tatton Park, WA16 6QK

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

theclassiccarshows.com



VanLife Fest

Scrampton Hall, YO17 8NG

JUN 20-22, 2025

vanlifeest.co.uk



Classic Bike Guide Winter Classic

Newark Showground, Notts NG24 2NY

JAN 11-12, 2025

The Classic Dirtbike Show

sponsored by Hagon

Telford International Centre, TF3 4JH

FEB 8-9, 2025

The Bristol Classic Motorcycle Show

The Royal Bath & West, BA4 5QK

FEB 22-23, 2025

The International Classic Motorcycle Show

sponsored by Carole Nash

Staffordshire County Showground, ST18 0BD

APR 26-27, 2025

The Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show

sponsored by Carole Nash

Staffordshire County Showground, ST18 0BD

OCT 11-12, 2025

classicbikeshows.com



AUTOJUMBLE.INFO

Normous Newark

Newark Showground, Notts NG24 2NY

JAN 25, FEB 16, MAR 30, MAY 4, JUN 8, AUG 10, SEP 14, OCT 19, NOV 16

Kempton Autojumble

Kempton Park Racecourse, TW16 5AQ

JAN 18, MAR 8, MAY 10, JUL 19, SEP TBC, OCT 25, DEC 6

Stratford Autojumble

Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse, CV37 9SF

MAY 11, SEPT 7

Eurojumble

Nelley Marsh, SM0 7GY

DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

autojumble.info



Christmas 2024 Reflections or that was the year that was.....

Reflecting on 2024, the real thing that really springs to mind is how much the weather has affected what we had planned. Every year, as soon as the calendar is available, I always pick the events we're going to race and then deconflict with club and family events. Our first race this year was mid-May and by that time 4 events we had planned to do had been cancelled. The theme continued throughout the year and although we did have some busy periods, we only managed to race 7 meetings although 3 of them were 2-day meetings. That's a total of 34 races. Last year our Awards Secretary (and my son) David jumped in the chair and has had an impressive rise from rookie to winning his first race in 2024. No mean feat given how demanding passengering is and worthy of being awarded the Nex-Ryall Trophy for the most improved rider/passenger. Overall, our performance has left us 2nd in the Mortimer Club Championship through a consistent season with good rides and reliable machinery (see Karen the money is worth it)



Team Brooks/Brooks race win at Reading September 2024

(David celebrating his first ever win – Proud Dad on the bike)

Next year is already shaping up for us with a planned ride in Germany at the end of May just after our Grand Prix – so another busy and hopefully breakdown and injury free year! year.

On behalf of your President, Vice Presidents and Committee

