

Congratulations to
Digby Carrington-Howell & Paul Harris
on becoming Local Observers

Roger Barratt writes

Happy New Year to you all!

You may have noticed that we have a new look to match the New Year.

We have a new logo but not only that, we also have a new name – we are now known as *Coventry and Warwickshire Advanced Motorcyclists* which better reflects the area that we cover.

Our old logo has served us well for over twenty years but it doesn't quite fit in with modern social media and importantly, the new IAM RoadSmart look.

Many of us have been sceptical of the IAM organisation over the years but under their new leadership I think it is fair to say that things are changing and they are at last attempting to appeal to a wider, and often younger, audience. We intend to embrace this which is important because it is a fact that most people come to join us due to the reputation of the IAM and the kudos of taking the Advanced Test.

Our new look will be repeated in all our communications and I hope it will help us to appear fresh and appealing to existing members as well as attracting new members.

I wish you many safe and enjoyable hours riding your bike in 2017. I for one intend to ride even more than I did last year!

Christmas Jumper CWAM Club Sunday is gaining in popularity. More than double last year's number of sartorially challenged CWAMs entered into the spirit of things and with enough Santa's little helpers to fill a grotto to overflowing, judging proved to be singularly difficult.



After considerable deliberation, during which the judge doubled the number of winners then added

one for luck, Polly Chapman, Paul Catchpole and John Chivers triumphantly shared the box of Celebrations. Unfortunately the photo hardly does justice to John's illuminated magnificence. Supporting himself rather awkwardly against the snooker table, one can only speculate where he secreted his power pack. Suffice to say that nobody actually saw him sit down. It's a fair bet that quite a few of us will be scouring the shops for Santa leggings before next year's competition.



At Hill Farm everybody felt a lot more cheerful after a cuppa, even standing in a puddle wasn't that bad.

There were seven of us left to take to the road. A destination was decided upon, only the route was in doubt and with the navigational skills of a myopic mongoose it was only natural that I should offer my services. I managed a couple of miles without disaster then we hit Meriden where the road was closed for a Santa Fun Run. What is it with these extroverts who have a mad desire to dress up at Christmas time? Confused beyond measure by an enforced change of plan that I didn't really have anyway, I limped round the diversion desperately scanning every signpost, afraid to overtake anything in case I missed a turning and sweating buckets because I'd still got my wretched woolly jumper on. By sheer chance we hit Kenilworth and because my knowledge of the town is sketchy at best, ended up doing a bit of slow riding down the High Street. By the time we reached the A46 I'd got my bearings and it was but a brief flick of the throttle before we were rolling into Hill Top Farm on Hunningham Hill. Hanging my head in shame I shuffled into the café but was quickly restored by a splendid cream tea and jovial company.

Do not be deterred, our informal Club Sunday trips are generally not so haphazard. Please join us in 2017 for some fun you probably won't be disappointed. (December 11)

About eleven CWAMs made it to the Long Itch by 9:30, a couple more screamed up as we were preparing to leave and Lay-a-bed Hubbard was so late he met us at Jacks Hill having taken the clean option of a dry A5. Down the A423 then off on minor roads to Wormleighton, Aston le Walls, Weedon Lois and Wappenham to Towcester.

Timing our arrival at Jacks Hill nicely, just before an influx, we were able to grab a group of tables close together which was very companionable. Tea drunk, food consumed, mandatory



men-in-black picture taken and we were off.

Up the A5, left to Cold Higham, Maidford, then along our old favourite Welsh Road if at a more sedate speed than usual. Through Preston Capes and Marston Doles to Southam. Back at Long Itch, our bikes and boots caked in muck looked as if they'd been on a Steve Draper rideout. Nevertheless it was a fine end to our rideout schedule for 2016 with the welcome addition of a couple of new faces who will hopefully join us on our many ventures on the open road next year. Thanks to Roger for leading and Keith at the rear. (December 18)

Trevor Smith writes (December 4)

A severe overnight frost did not deter a dozen or so hardy biker souls from claiming a

parking space amongst a mass of restyled cars from bygone years at a crowded Long Itch Diner. Given the severity of the conditions, and as most of the planned route was on untreated minor roads it was quickly decided to amend the run to stay on major roads. This turned out to be a 40 minute dog leg skirting Daventry and picking up the A45 West to take us to McD's on the dual carriageway near Dunchurch.



Despite the route deviation, the run kept faith with its title, even if riders spent only five minutes in Northants!

There ensued a scenic but stress free bimbble along roads for once almost traffic free and the welcome warmth of McD's allowed us to thaw and natter for half an hour before going our separate ways.

Thanks to those who braved the conditions to join me. Let us hope better weather prevails for the final run of the year on December 18th with Chairman Roger leading a run into deepest Northants!

It is well documented that the Prince Regent liked his food and when a guest of Lady

Fetherstonhaugh in 1784, her extensive list of victuals included 2 bucks, a Welsh sheep, 12 ducks, 4 hams, dozens of pigeons, rabbits and fitches of bacon, a Turtle weighing 120 lbs; 166 lbs of butter, 376 eggs, 67 chickens; 41 bottles of port, 7 of brandy and 1½ butts of strong beer.

A few years later in 1817 when entertaining Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia at his Brighton Pavillion, he hosted a dinner of some 127 dishes including woodcock, turkey, pheasant, partridge, teal, quail, beef, boar, lamb, veal, turbot, whiting and sturgeon, not forgetting the 4ft-high Turkish mosque made of marzipan.

Having wisely omitted the Prince Regent from our guest list, our Annual Dinner on Friday January 20th will be of more modest proportions but equal, if not exceeding in enjoyment, to that which the corpulent royal ever experienced. Full details and the all important link to the booking form are below and may be completed in less time than it takes to swallow a quail's egg.



Mark Ford writes

Trip to Assen for the Dutch Motogp June 2017

Having enjoyed my first continental excursion to the "Cathedral of Speed" this year, I plan to return in 2017. If anyone fancies accompanying me next year here is a rough idea of my itinerary :-



Thursday June 22- leave Coventry to catch ferry to Calais/Dunkirk, over night stop in Antwerp area.

Friday June 23- Antwerp to Assen camp site (Not a mega noisy one, but lively enough, and you can sleep if you want to), Pitch in time to catch afternoon practice

Saturday June 24 - Back to the track

Sunday June 25 - Race Day



Monday June 26 - Pack up and head to Bruges, to take in a bit of culture.

Tuesday June 27 - Back to the ferry & blast home.

Accommodation will be cheap hotel/motel in Antwerp (Thurs) & Bruges (Mon), Camping in Assen (Fri-Sun).

Any questions, just drop me [a mail](#).

As Roger mentioned earlier, we are restyling outward-facing elements of CWAM in an attempt to keep up with IAM RoadSmart's new found impetus. Not so much a caterpillar metamorphosing into a magnificent butterfly; more a diadromous salmon leaping from the shallow freshwater stream to plunge into the wide, exciting expanse of the wild ocean. Diving headlong into 2017 with a new logo, a newly styled website and a slightly changed newsletter maybe more excitement than some of us are used to; I find breathing into a paper bag helps. If you happen to look at the website and notice any oddities or have any comments, don't hold back, please let me know - it's your website, it's your newsletter, I am just the typist.



Worthy of mention, although it isn't until February, is CWAM's Annual General Meeting on Thursday February 2nd. It starts at 7:30 and is normally very well attended. As usual it's held at Shilton Village Hall where the bar will be open. The officers will review the past year and I'm sure Roger will be saying something about the interesting things that lie ahead in 2017.

We have welcomed 39 new members during 2016. The most recent are
David Merry, Adam Martínez, Christopher Allen, Dean Hinton, Gary Bowers, Tom Bullock, Nigel Walker, Dean Alcock, Andrew Battrick, Graham Ball, Derek Ramsdale, Stephen Bagley, Stephen Watkins & Luke Brink

Colin Brink brings a video to our attention and certainly it's not everyday you hear a motorbike being zapped through its gears in a curiously tiled bathroom. To view the highly strung motorbike click [here](#) and select item 973.



The first ride out of the year is, snow and/or ice permitting, on Jan 15th to Burford Garden Centre which isn't as boring as it may seem. Although overflowing with the clutter, knick-knacks and generally useless bric-a-brac ladies of a certain age browse interminably; they have a large car park and reasonable café. Leaving at 10 and sticking mainly to major roads in deference to the weather, with ½ hour for refreshment we should be back at Long Itch by 1pm.

Hot off the press - to book and select your menu for the Annual Dinner at [Ansty Club, Grove Road](#) on Friday January 20th click [CWAM 2017 Annual Dinner Booking Form](#)

Starter

Chunky winter vegetable soup with crusty bread
Camembert with onion marmalade

Main Course

All main courses are served with a selection of vegetables.
Traditional turkey roast dinner with all the trimmings
Beef Wellington with blackcurrant sauce and winter vegetables
Pancetta wrapped cod fillet with prawn and cream chive sauce
Vegetarian option on request

Pudding

Festive Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
Banana and amaretto cheesecake with whipped cream
Pistachio kulfi with crushed nuts

The cost is £19.50 per person and payment by bank transfer within 7 days of booking is ideal. Alternatively a cheque payable to 'CWAM' given to any Committee Member or posted to Ryan Howat (address on booking form) or cash given directly to Ryan is acceptable. Full details are on the booking form.

CWAM Events in January						
Thur	Jan 5	Committee Meeting	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, CV7 9JZ	Committee members	Start 20:00	Roger Barratt
Sun	Jan 8	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 10:00	Associates & Members	Not just for Check Rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride out.	Ian Collard
Sun	Jan 15	Social Ride Out	Long Itch Diner CV47 9QZ Meet 09:30 Leave 10:00 Return by 1pm	Associates & Full Members	Celebrating the Chinese New Year on the highways (not the byways) to Burford Garden Centre Cafe & back. 80 miles.	Nick Lilley
Fri	Jan 20	Annual Dinner	Ansty Club Grove Road 7:30 for 8 Licensed Bar	All involved with CWAM & their friends.	CWAMs premier event of the year. Use the link below to book and select menu. CWAM 2017 Annual Dinner Booking Form	Ryan Howatt
Sun	Jan 22	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 10:00	Associates & Members	Not just for Check Rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride out.	Ian Collard
Sun	Jan 29	Social Ride Out	tba	Associates & Full Members	Provisional date - Please contact Trevor Smith if you would like to lead this ride out.	Trevor Smith
CWAM Events in February						
Thurs	Feb 2	AGM	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, CV7 9JZ Starts 19:30	Associates & Full Members	CWAM always enjoys a good turnout to vote and the BAR will be OPEN.	Roger Barratt

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 (webadmin@cwam.org.uk).



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