



Newsletter January 2018

Congratulations to

Andrew Battrick

who recently passed the Advanced Test

The CWAM Annual Dinner 2018

Following the election of Pope Innocent X in the days before hanging chads and fake news, when blatant bribery and Machiavellian political manoeuvring were the accepted norm, it is said that the celebrations in Rome verged on the Bacchanalian. At dusk the mouths of the lions of La Fontana dei Leoni at the base of the Capitoline Hill spurted wine instead of the customary water and revelling Romans freely quenched their thirst throughout the night. Unsurprisingly this proved to be very popular with the masses (I'm talking populace not Eucharist here) and was repeated following the subsequent elections of Alexander VII & Clement IX.



Free alcohol at the CWAM Annual Dinner on January 26 will be quite unnecessary, as the ambience alone will be sufficiently intoxicating to render those attending suitably exhilarated although there is a bar for the thoroughly parched.



Our new venue, the [Coventry and North Warwickshire Sports Club](#) comes highly recommended both in terms of culinary excellence and comfort. There will be a three course meal with coffee for the modest price of £20. The club is along the Binley Road, 50 yards beyond the Gulf garage as you leave Coventry ([CV3 1HB](#)). There is a booking form at [CWAM 2018 Annual Dinner Booking Form](#) which enables

you to select your menu and method of payment.

The annual dinner is always a well attended social event; a fitting finale to the previous year and an enjoyable opener for the year to come. Doors open 7:30pm to sit down at 8pm.

Thanks to Social Ride leaders

Trevor Smith, CWAM Social Ride Coordinator writes

A huge THANK YOU to all those who have put themselves forward as Social Ride Leaders in 2017. Thanks to you we have enjoyed a full and varied program of rides this year. Although the organisation of a ride is not as difficult as some might believe, there is often a considerable amount of time taken to put a well-considered ride together.



Length, pace, duration, fuel and rest stops need to be considered and where possible or practical, tested on a dummy run.

All this takes time and effort and I appreciate that unlike me, basking in the afterglow of retirement, many who have led rides in 2017 have squeezed in the preparation time beforehand, despite their own busy calendars.



If you want to secure a date for leading a run, do pick one from the new Events Diary and let me know the essential detail of start and finish times, fuel requirements and locations for meeting and finishing. Do consider your pace and whether it should be advertised as a run for those who have passed the test, our Green Badge Holders, or for Associates too. Do take into account that your pace as ride leader will be

considerably slower than experienced by those at the back of the group before accelerating off into the distance!

There will be a workshop for the improvement of our social riding technique at Shilton Village Hall, 10am on Sunday 4th March. A classroom and on road session is planned.

I hope to see you there and on our 2018 rides.

The Leicester Round

Trevor Smith, CWAM Social Ride Coordinator writes



The last CWAM Rideout of 2017 was a little bit damp but far removed from the recent batch of frosty mornings. That was good news for me as, losing my garage accommodation for the bike, it now stands on the garden patio facing away from my drive, necessitating a manual handling through 360 degrees to get me to

the road. The previous Sunday frost caught me out as, with the patio turned into an ice skating rink, I tactfully withdrew from check-ride Sunday attendance.

Our grid line up of 8 riders suffered a stuttering start from a popular McD's as one of the party forgot the need to pull in the clutch lever to activate the starter motor. But the "Butchers" mechanical prowess was more than a match for the oversight, which was attributed to the sheer excitement of the moment.



A batch of Leicestershire villages showed off the county at its best despite



the grey sky and mist. Surprisingly, the county has some lovely viewpoints from a considerable elevation which I would not have associated with this Shire. We arrived at Rothley Station just in time to view a couple of steam engines hauling "Santa Specials" on this piece of track on the old Grand Central line. The half hour break over the group were treated to Cropston Reservoir and Bradgate Park and also with, nearer home, Thornton Reservoir.



A ride with lots of interest and will stand being rerun in warmer temperatures next year.

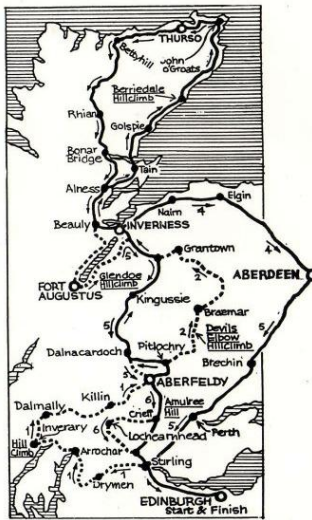
Scottish Six Day Trial

Once I start looking at the internet I find it all too easy to be lead astray (not like that), following links to barely relevant topics and it was this butterfly flitting that led me to the Morton Archive of motorcycling photographs and subsequently to Scottish Six Day Trial. Now my ignorance about all things biking is nothing if not insubstantial and I'd never heard of the Scottish Six Day Trial but in a slow news month it's worthy of note.

1909 & 1910 SSDT Routes

1909 - 5 days on the road and two "named" hills.
1910 - 6 days on the road, three additional "named" hills, and the route was 140 miles longer.

1909	MILES	1910	MILES
Inverness	186	Aberfeldy	173
Thurso	177	Inverness	164
Inverness	141	Thurso	176
Aberdeen	105	Ft Augustus	157
Edinburgh	150	Aberfeldy	122
	<hr/>	Edinburgh	105
19-23 July	759	6-11 June	897



In its day it was the most severe test not only of motorcycle reliability but also of a rider's endurance and mechanical skills. The first trial was run over five days in July 1909 (the month Blériot flew the Channel) and was extended to six days the following year.

Varied surfaces and challenging gradients were an integral part of the trial and much of the 759 miles was far from easy riding as may be seen for the picture (J S Holroyd riding a Swiss Motosacoche up

Armurlree Hill in 1910). The competitor's bikes were examined for roadworthiness twice a day with further checks at meal breaks. Of the thirty-one entries in the 1909 rally only 25 started in Edinburgh but a remarkable 19 completed the event. Astonishingly two competitors Salvesen and Thomson (both on 3.5hp Triumphs details of which I can unhappily find no trace) achieved a perfect score.



The SSDT is still going strong with riders taking on a combination of rough moorland, rocky tracks and public roads in the best - and worst - weather the Highlands can throw at them. As ever the today's route is designed to challenge the ability, experience, strength and stamina of each rider. Without disparaging the modern competitor, the early days, when riders wore gaberdine not gortex, topped by flat caps rather than flip tops and a comprehensive tool kit was indispensable, demanded a true pioneering spirit.

See <http://www.ssd.org/>

In 1909 W Niven, a Bronze medallist, rode a Belgian 5 hp four cylinder FN (Fabrique Nationale) Four. This was the world's first production inline-4 motorcycle first shown at the 1905 Paris Motorcycle Show. It was an immediate commercial success being produced and refined over the next twenty years. Originally single-speed, by 1909 it had a two-speed transmission with a plate clutch, overcoming the speed limitations of earlier models. Its 26 inch wheels were turned by a shaft drive with a bevel gear. Although it had a somewhat archaic



starter (the rider pedalled a chain drive and sprockets to turn the rear wheel) it had 'modern' high-tension Bosch magneto ignition and a spray carburettor. Earlier models had a rear coaster brake operated by the pedals but by 1909 a rear drum brake was fitted. By 1911/12 it was the world's fastest production motorcycle at 40 miles per hour.

If you're fond of pictorial biking nostalgia and fancy whiling away a wintry evening try www.mortonsarchive.com. I also chanced upon [The Moped Archive](#) which contains more than a thousand articles containing all you ever wanted to know and more about cyclemotors, autocycles, mopeds and similar beasts.

Subscriptions

A quick mention that CWAM subs are due on January 1st and email reminders will be dropping into your inbox shortly. Only £15 gives you access all the club nights, rideouts and many other events CWAM organises throughout the year which is astonishing value. We already have rideouts planned for January, April, June and October as well as an exciting range of Club Night speakers lined up for 2018.

CWAM Club Sundays

Just a quick reminder that this year CWAM Club Sundays will be held every other Sunday and start at 9am. John Chivers has produced a file that will automatically populate your electronic calendar with the relevant information, click [HERE](#).

Jan 14 th , 28 th	Feb 11 th , 25 th	March 11 th , 25 th	April 8 th , 22 nd
May 6 th , 20 th	June 3 rd , 17 th	July 1 st , 15 th , 29 th	Aug 12 th , 26 th
Sept 9 th , 23 rd	Oct 7 th , 21 st	Nov 4 th , 18 th	Dec 2 nd , 16 th

CWAM Events in January

Thur	4	Committee Meeting	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, CV7 9JZ	Committee members	Start 20:00 End 22:00	Roger Barratt
Sun	7	Social Ride Out	Provisional date	Associates & Full Members	Please contact Trevor Smith if you would like to lead this rideout	Trevor Smith
Sun	14	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 09:00	Associates & Full Members	Not just for check rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride.	Ian Collard
Sun	21	Social Ride Out	Provisional date	Associates & Full Members	Please contact Trevor Smith if you would like to lead this rideout	Trevor Smith
Fri	26	Annual Dinner	Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club Binley Road Coventry CV3 1HB	All involved with CWAM & their friends	CWAM's premier social event of the year.	Ryan Howatt
Sun	28	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 09:00	Associates & Full Members	Not just for check rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride.	Ian Collard

February

Thur	22	AGM	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, CV7 9JZ Start 19:30	Associates & Full Members	Doors & bar open 7:30pm. AGM starts 8:00pm. CWAM always enjoys a good turnout to review the past, look to the future and vote for your committee. Bar open!	Roger Barratt
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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).



Your website - your news - your contributions!