

The clocks are forward, the chill is out of the air and the sun is no longer a total stranger – nowt like getting a bit of bikin' weather! So, what's been happening in your region and what's coming up this month?

March – Manchester Bike Show at Event City

A big thanks to everyone who called in at the stand to say hi, especially those of you who took the opportunity to renew your memberships! The show was generally well received – there was plenty there to drool over (and some nice bikes as well). Lembit turned up to help out, which gained us some useful publicity in the MEN.



MEN. MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014 Follow us on Twitter @MENnewsdesk 25

More than 10,000 enthusiasts and special guests gather for display of new and classic dream machines

BIKE FANS GET REVVED UP

Dean Erby
MANCHESTER CORRESPONDENT
@dean_erby

THOUSANDS of motorbike fans flocked to the city for the Manchester Bike Show.

They gathered at Event City in Trafford Park for an action-packed weekend and a stunning display of more than 400 bikes.

It is the third year that the event, which attracts more than 10,000 visitors, has taken place.

Visitors watched stunts, enjoyed entertainment and took part in competitions.

Among the guests was former MP Lembit Opi, who is a keen motorcyclist and supporter of the Motorcycle Action Group.

Motorbikes on display included modern bikes, racing bikes, classic bikes and dirt bikes – making it the largest indoor enthusiasts show in the north.

There was also a 'retail village' where bikers could buy leathers, helmets, accessories and parts.

Jimmy Torenco from the Motorcycle Action Group, which exhibited at the show, said: "It was a good show."

"It was a great crowd and the exhibitions have been excellent."

He added: "The show is going from strength-to-strength and is getting bigger and better each year."

● Jimmy Torenco, from the Motorcycle Action Group, with former MP Lembit Opi

● Oliver Barrow from Stockport finds his dream machine and (left) visitors check out the bikes

SARAH PINCHICK

Looking ahead to April – MAG AGC on Saturday 12th

If you're ever in any doubt that MAG is a grassroots, democratic organisation then come along to the AGC and witness it for yourself in all its unruly glory. This is the first time that Blackpool is hosting the event and it looks like being a lively one!

Motorcycle Action Group UK Annual General Conference 2014 **Blackpool**

Booking in from 11am, AGC starts at 12.30pm

@ The Ashley Club, FY5 5HQ

Saturday, 12th April 2014

Camping available and post AGC Party

Featuring.....
Drea Knight & 50 Shades of Rock



8pm till Late



@ Blackpool Rugby Club, FY5 1RN

Plenty of local Hotels and
B&Bs to choose from



Details available @

www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org

NW MAG Branches

Branch of the Month for March is **Salford MAG** who meet at the **Henley's Bar**, Barton Lane, Eccles M30 0FW on the last every Thursday of the month at 8pm. This is a brand new branch and welcomes anyone who'd like to get a bit more involved.

MAG in its Early Days – a personal recollection by Red Rose MAG member Bob Berwick

I guess we all know a little about MAG's early days from back when it was formed. But as time goes by and fewer and fewer members from those far off days will now be riding bikes I think maybe a little bit of the foot soldiers memoirs should be recorded.

In 1973, at the time the law was about to come in, I was working down south in Southampton and to be honest did not care that much when the papers came up with the news about this new law. However not long after I started to have second thoughts about it all; I just did not see how riding with a helmet would make me a better rider and when I read about a new riders' rights group called MAG it did not take a lot to get me to pay up and join. The first helmet demo I rode on was in the Birmingham area. I can't remember the official turnout figures but they were in the thousands rather than in the hundreds; I think 'Bum' was held to a standstill that Saturday afternoon! There was a tie in with a local rally down near Coventry for the Saturday night, so a

good time was had by all and the seed was sown. Many more demos were attended over the next few years including Huddersfield where I had my first real close up of Fred Hill; there he was, clad in his home made uniform with its pattern of prison arrows. The thing about Fred was he did not care if you wore a helmet and had a man walk in front of you with a red flag; if you wanted that it was ok. It was the compulsory bit he did not care for. He was no fan of the 'nanny' state.

The demos continued for me in the 1970's: Newton Abbot, Southampton, Huddersfield (again), London, Torquay and other places all involved riding through the centre of the towns to put our point across.

The second Huddersfield demo was a bit of an 'interesting' experience! It had been and gone, a sleeping place was sorted for me and the few others who had come up from 'down south' and early evening found us riding out to a remote pub. That was ok, but on the ride back late at night we spotted a police road block up ahead and some of the riders had had a decent number of pints, some had been smoking something or other in the pubs back room and some of the bikes were not 100% legal (no police ANR those days!). However, there was no turning back



so like all good little boys and girls we stopped at the road block. It turned out that they only wanted our names and addresses as they were looking for the Yorkshire Ripper. A close call indeed that night!

During the late '70's and into the early '80's the now defunct 'Motorcycle Weekly' was a big help to MAG with one writer, Dave Richmond, very keen on MAG, which he gave a lot of coverage. MCN, on the other hand, was not really any help at all. They just wanted to report on the racing side of motorcycling and did not want to know about riders' rights.

In the mid '80's, due to police pressure, most of MAG's demos went from the edge of one town to the edge of another, so neither town centre got visited. I saw no point in that. Then the bad news came: 'Motorcycle Weekly' had gone broke and MAG's biggest friend in the motorcycle media was no more. MCN did have a guy called Terry Snelling who covered some of MAG's news but a Dave Richmond he was not!

The mainstream national daily newspapers had covered a few of the demos but the best coverage in the non-motorcycle press was always in the local papers of which ever town the demo was held. Looking back at the few old copies I still have, it's nice to see headlines like 'Thunderous Roar as 3,500 bikers defy helmet Law' (Newton Abbot Herald) and 'Motorcycle Demo Noisy but Peaceful' (Huddersfield Daily Examiner) rather than the old and tired 'Sun' type sensational headlines. The Examiner also had a decent picture of a demo rider who was always known as 'Chief' due to the rather fine Red Indian headdress he always wore. He was seen at many a demo but then he disappeared: I think he came from the East Sussex area.

I don't remember much about many of the demos as they were more or less the same, ride into town, gather at a prearranged spot for the speeches, ride out of town, and then disperse, but the overnight camping was always well sorted and always well worth taking your tent to. One of the best ever Saturday-night-after-the-demo pubs was the Knights Arms in Porthcawl, (think the demo was in Cardiff) which was, a quote 'a legendary pub'. Alas it has, I believe, now been closed for some considerable time. It was a true 'hippy' biker' and 'surfer' pub; check out the 'Knights Arms Porthcawl Final Night 1981' web site. It was one of the best pubs around in those days and much missed.

Do I miss those demos and the party's afterwards? Of course I do, but things change and to be honest I don't think any demo these days would get as many riders as back then. It's hard enough to get some riders to join MAG in the first place, never mind get them out on a demo. Yes there would be those who would be happy to stand up and be counted and for that I am grateful. So while the days of the 3,000+ riders' demos might never return, they did help mould MAG into what it is today. So if you were there then, give yourself a pat on the back, or even buy yourself a pint!

North West Motorcycle Alliance

As mentioned last month, this is not a MAG organisation but a monthly meet for all bike clubs, organisations and interested bikers anywhere from Cheshire up to Lancaster. The next meeting is on **29th April at 8.00pm**, hosted by **Avernus MCC** at **The Minstral pub, Eaves Green Lane, Chorley**.

Here is the latest list of biker events this summer which the Alliance has put together, which includes a few changes from last month.

Regular monthly events

HAMC Open night last Saturday of month, open 7.30 'til late.

Mid-Life Crisis Meet'n'greet, last Wednesday of each month, starting April for sure.

Sutton Rockers Band Night, 1st Saturday of each month.

Black Diamonds open night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley

Last Friday of each Month - Open Night, Ribble Valley Chop Club

1st and 3rd Friday every month – Born of Chaos MCC meeting everyone welcome - Warrington WA4 6RS – restarts in May

1st and 3rd Tuesday every month – Brickies Bike Club meeting everyone welcome - Atherton, M46 0QA

1st Wednesday April – Sept – Rising Moon MCC Ride In, Hyde

Salford MAG meeting 8pm Last Thursday every month

One off events

29th March – But Why MCC Rock Nite

6th April – Blood Bike Recruitment Drive, Florifield Centre, Spring Gardens, Hyde

12th April – MAG National AGM in Blackpool (Ashley Club, Thornton) with Rock nite (Blackpool Rugby Club).

12th April Black Diamonds MC Open Night – clubhouse, Hindley

13th April – Preston Posse Egg Run, Shawes Arms, London Road, Preston 12noon.

19th April - Scavengers 15th Anniversary St Georges Day Birthday bash at the Roundhouse Bolton BL1 3TZ free entry

2nd May 2014 - Rising Moon's "Totally Tartan" Rally, at Witton Albion F.C

9th May – NABD 23 at Chelford.

10th May – Gypsy Divas Rock Nite at the Kershaw House, Luddenden Foot, free food and camping.

16-18th May – Leyland Eagles Rally, Catterall Memorial Hall, nr Garstang

23rd May – Warrington Wheels Kids Custom Show.

25th May – Sons of Hell MC's STOCK DOVE BIKE SHOW, 94 Compstall Road, Stockport, SK6 4DE

30th May 2014 – Rorkes Drift Rally, Brecon, Wales.

13th June 2014 – Trikers With Attitude Terror Squad, TWATS get together, Torksay Lock nr Lincoln.

14th June – Road Slayers Brotherhood Rocknite, Brown Cow, Eccles (prov)

13/14th June – Lancashire Satan's Slaves Rock and Bike at Coast Riders Cafe (as was), Blackpool.

21st June – Born of Chaos MCC, 1st Birthday bash/Summer Solstice poker run, Saracens Head, Wilderspool Causeway Warrington

27/29th June - Blackpool MAG Rally Blackpool Rugby Club

27/29th June 2014 – NCC Ribble Valley Annual Field Party, HMS Nightjar, Inskip, Preston

6th July- Blackpool Bike Show, Stanley Park

4-6th July – Mid-Life Crisis Bike Show, Ship Inn, Irlam

10-13th July - Millennium Caveman Bash, Canberra Club, Salmesbury nr Preston.

18th July – Photo shoot, 12pm (noon) at the pond, Faro Rally site

18-20th July, Billing Biker Bash, Billing Aerodrome, Northampton.

25-27th July - MT Heads Rally, Rochdale

2nd August – Rogue Riders Bike Show, Wheatsheaf, Lymn WA13 0TR (Band – Deathwish)

22nd August – Avernus MCC Rally, Hamilton House Farm, Tarnacre farm, St. Michaels PR3 0TB (tickets currently available)

23rd August – Lee Rigby Charity Bike Show and family day, Boarshaw Working Mens' Club.

30th August – Millennium Bike Show

6th September Scavengers rocknight at the Roundhouse Bolton BL1 3TZ £5 to get in

12th-14th Sept – Jesters MCC Rally Whittingham nr Preston, **Autumn NABDness** Enstone Airfield, **Lone Wolf Full Moon Rally**.

20th – 21st Sept - But Why AVVA Laugh Rock night and Bike show.

26th – 28th Sept – CAT MCC Rally

28th September – North West Custom and Classic Show – Ramsbottom Cricket Club

4th Oct – Millennium Rock Night
11th October – Mid-Life Crisis MCC Birthday Bash
24/25th October - Brickies rally

Thought for the Month



“The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum”

Noam Chomsky

Take care and I'll hopefully see you at the AGC.
Bill
NW Political Rep

Small Ads

Gallus are a rock covers band based in the Northwest. We are always looking for different places to play, having played a couple of rallies for Jesters MCC we have been advised to make ourselves known to you guys. We hope you can spare a moment to check out the link below to our website which details what we do.
thanks for your time!

Rik - 07866 855667 www.nwb.co/gallus



Morecambe Bay Classic Bike Club Bikers' Gatherings

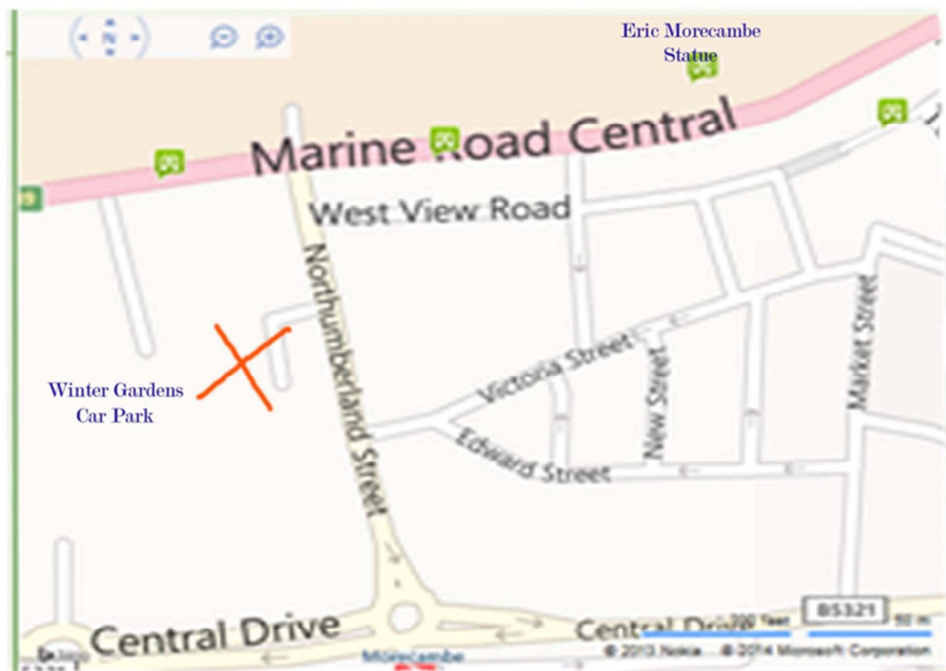
The **Morecambe Bay Classic Bike Club** is affiliated to MAG. This year from April to the end of September we are running bikers' gatherings at Morecambe, every Tuesday at 6 pm in the car park behind the Winter Gardens in the area near the Bath Hotel.



Bikers' Gathering

Every Tuesday Evening at 6 pm

April to September
in Sunny Morecambe



Meet fellow riders and talk bikes.
cafes, chippy and a biker friendly pub close by
Bring your own suntan lotion

Use the car park gate behind the Bath Hotel in Northumberland Street