

An old mate of mine has just got himself a new bike. It's been a wee while since he had his last one – 36 years to be precise. I've managed to convince him that jumping straight back onto a GSX1400 without a refresher course, even if you did pass your test first time (in 1976), is not the best idea he's ever had, so he's making sure that he gets some retraining. But why get one now, after so long? The answer is simply "once a biker, always a biker" – you never lose the love for them. That's something that a lot of people can't understand, they just see a health risk that needs to be legislated away. Thank goodness we have MAG to fight our corner. I don't just mean the activists who are out there campaigning and fundraising week in, week out but also the "silent heroes" who put their hand in their pockets and maintain their MAG memberships year after year. MAG (and organisations like it around the world) could not exist without them and, perhaps, not GSX1400s either.

Last Month – Blackpool Classic and Custom Show – Sunday 6th July



NW MAG's magic weather spell worked yet again and the sun shone brightly on the Italian Gardens. This has become something of a regular fixture on the Blackpool calendar and, yet again, there was a cracking turn-out to enjoy the bikes, the sun and the laid-back vibe. Thanks to all of you who dropped in. Rest assured that your £2 donations will be going to a good cause.



Everybody loves a cruiser!

Looking ahead—MAG National Demo Ride 23rd August



MAG works tirelessly behind the scenes, lobbying the great and good in the corridors of power on our behalf. However, it's always useful to take a bit of direct action now and then to remind those in power that we're still here and still not happy.

There will be a national demo ride, in nine cities nationwide on Saturday 23rd August. Our local demo ride in Manchester, has been postponed as it clashes with the Lee Rigby Memorial Ride (we know that many of us want to attend this event). The nearest demo ride to the NW will be in Sheffield, details will be available on national and regional MAG websites.

North West MAG are planning a future demo in Manchester at which we will be protesting the imposition of the dangerous "armadillos" in Salford and the crazy new roundabout in Irlam (see below). This could be the thin end of the wedge for the entire country and we could soon all enjoy a little obstacle course every time we go for a ride.

Update - Is this the way to Armadillo?



The pilot for segregated cycle lanes along Liverpool Street and Middlewood in Salford using Zicla Zebra traffic separators – known as 'armadillos' – has been run and feedback has been gathered. It is the first time they are being used in the UK outside of London. The trial is over now, but these dangerous 'armadillos' and their partners the Bollards are still there. One problem is that the cycle lane is not a full width lane - for one thing the road is too narrow. There is a reason why France, Spain & the USA have these in use – their roads are at least twice as wide as ours. Nobody seems to have thought about this.

From Mike Yarwood:

“Just seen all these people inspecting the armadillos - asked them who they were, to which I got blanked. I told them that they are a danger to bikes and to other road users. Also told them the difficulty the driver had yesterday when he was cleaning the road half on the pavement and half on the cycle path. Still got blanked, typical. Looks like they have made their minds up already.”

According to the council this is the result of the feedback:

*“1) 46 people took the opportunity to provide feedback through cyclesalford@urbanvision.org.uk. Whilst most responses were received from cyclists, other road users also provided their views.
2) The majority of responses received were in support of the efforts to increase road safety for cyclists and the segregation approach was viewed by many as a positive step forward. A number of cyclists felt that the physical measures used to segregate cyclists from traffic could have gone further and provided information of more expensive and wide-ranging approaches taken, predominately, in European countries.
3) Following some initial problems with damage to the armadillos, which were supplied free of charge for the trial, the armadillos were replaced by the supplier with new units and a more robust fixing detail.
4) Some cyclists and motorists also raised concerns regarding the placement of the Armadillos on the Highway and the potential negative impact this could have on manoeuvres.
Overall, the consultation found that there is broad support for the principle of segregated cycle lanes. Urban Vision and Salford City Council have collated the comments received during the consultation and made amendments to the scheme, based upon the feedback received, where it was considered feasible, both financially and from a road safety perspective.”*

So there you have it. I assume that we are included in the “some...motorists..(who)..raised concerns” although those concerns seem to have been disregarded. If you're unhappy about this then join the proposed demo run or alternatively, you can get involved with Salford Area Motorcycle Action Group, which meets 8pm the last Thursday of every month at Henley's Bar, Barton Lane, Eccles M30 OFR, or contact Blayz at salford-rep@mag-uk.org

Irlam o'th' Height Roundabout Cycle Improvement Scheme

There are also plans to make drastic changes to the Irlam of the Heights Roundabout in Salford, a drop-in consultation was held on Thursday 14th August and both the Salford MAG Rep Blayz and Manchester MAG rep Jimmy attended. It was reported back that no one at the consultation was in favour of the planned modifications, even the cyclists! The consultation is due to end on the on the 8th September and we need to get this extended so that MAG has a chance to challenge these modifications that will increase the risk to powered two wheeler riders who use this roundabout. MAG are urging all members to e-mail cyclesalford@urbanvision.org.uk asking for an extension to this consultation, a typical e-mail might read:

“I wish to officially add my voice objecting to the Salford cycling scheme. I object to the very blinkered view of protecting one set of road users whilst increasing the risk to another. The planned separation methods of segregating the cycle path from the main carriageway WILL increase the risk to powered two wheelers (PTWs) using the main carriageway. The consultation period needs extending and the effect on PTWs need to be considered. No council should be creating an accident black spot by design.”

Get the idea!

Road Tax- what do you think?

Biker, wagon driver and NW MAG member Arf Fenton is unhappy with the way that the burden of road tax is shared out in the UK:

“Why do we have to tax motorcycles being as they don't do any damage to the roads whatsoever? This emissions tax on cars is a big con; car companies pushed for that one to sell more cars or else the Ministers wouldn't get onto the directors/non-directors “roll of money gravy train”. We have cars on the road that pay no road tax at all although they are four times heavier than any

bike just because of this emissions tax. Yet they cause damage to the road and we pay double when we hit a pot hole (or risk are lives trying to avoid one!). All road tax should be done on weight just like wagons, the more it weighs the more you pay, easy. I thought the the clue was in the name, ROAD TAX, to fix the roads and their upkeep.”

I take Arf's point. My missus has just re-taxed her Qashqai - £30 for that big lump! It don't seem fair.

North West Motorcycle Alliance

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 at **8pm Wednesday 27th August** hosted by **Jesters MCC** at the **Whittingham & Goosnargh Social Club, 990 Whittingham Lane Goosnargh, Preston PR3 2 AU.**

Here is the latest, up to date 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, BBQ - last Wednesday of each month, Ship Inn Irlam M44 6AJ

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

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, Henley's Bar, Barton Lane, Eccles

One-off Events

15th August – Bits and Tits Charity Bike Show and Rally, the Mill, East Rushton, Norfolk NR12 9HR

17th August – Cogheads MCC Bike Show, Accrington Arndale

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, Mayfield Rugby Club, Castleton.

24th Roughleys Bike Show Bottom Lane car park Stockport Town Centre

25th August – Preston Posse Custom Bike Show, Shawes Arms, London Rd, Preston.

30th August – Millennium Bike Show – The Bay Horse, Babylon Lane, Heath Charnock, North Chorley, PR6 9ER

6th September Scavengers Rocknight (with Rampage) 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 at Canberra Club (provisional) Bay Horse Heath charnock pr6 9ER

4th Oct British Bulldogs rock night same place

11th October – Mid-Life Crisis MCC Birthday Bash – Cheese Puff Death Squad at Ship Inn Irlam

24/25th October - Brickies rally

1st Nov – Blackpool MAG Halloween and Bonfire Party, Blackpool Rugby Club

22nd Nov – Avernus MCC Anti-Christmas Party at the Minstrel pub Chorley

As ever, if you would like to have your say on anything vaguely MAG-related, or sell something bike related, just drop me a line at billgreen@madasafish.com and I'll put it into the newsletter next month. See you at the Bike Show.

Bill

NW Political Rep



Events

MAG DEMO FOR JUSTICE!

How much is a life worth?
 All too often, a motorcyclist is killed or seriously injured on the road due to the actions of a driver who didn't pay attention, or even look out into the road. Nine times out of ten, the driver receives a pitiful sentence for careless driving, or worse still, nothing more than a driving ban; meanwhile, a family loses someone who cannot be replaced.

Sorry mate, I didn't see you!
 ...is the most common excuse for a driver when a rider has been knocked off. It doesn't matter if the rider is wearing hi-viz, with headlights on or not.

It's time that this changed!

**NINE RIDES!
 NINE CITIES!**

Check out www.mag-uk.org for more information and meeting points.

**Now you see us!
 AUGUST 23, 2014**
 The Motorcycle Action Group – www.mag-uk.org




For further details:
www.mag-uk.org
 Or the MAG Facebook event page:
tinyurl.com/kykbbkif

Blackpool MAG's Halloween & Bonfire Party

Live Music & DJ
 Camping, Food
 Beer!

**You know
 You want to!**



MAG
 Motorcycle Action Group

1st November 2014, 8pm till late, £5 OTD
Blackpool RUFC, Fleetwood Road. FY5 1RN
 For Details phone: 07836 519391
www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org

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CHEQUES TO:
 JESTERS MCC, 32A KING STREET, WHALLEY, BB7 9SL

LIMIT OF 350 TICKETS THIS YEAR
 NO CARS OR VANS; PARKING AVAILABLE FOR BLUE BADGE