

## **Bikes Strike Back**

### **More 'commuter' motorcycles sold during 2015 than for the past 30 years**



*The best-selling motorcycle in the UK for 2015 is the Honda PCX-125, which manufacturers report does 133mpg.*

Figures to be released today will show that more 'commuter sized' motorcycles and scooters were sold during 2015 than for any other year since comparative records began in 1983. The Motorcycle Industry Association, which collates new registration data for the industry, also report that total registrations for bikes of all sizes were more than 12% up on 2014.

During 2015 more than 43,700 new motorcycles (including scooters) between 101-125cc were sold. This sized motorcycle is very popular for commuting and also includes the scooter style. Total registrations for 2015 for all sized motorcycles and mopeds will exceed 114,000, which is the highest annual total since 2008.

Steve Kenward, CEO of the MCIA, says news about sales of new motorcycles between 101-125cc is consistent with anecdotal evidence that commuting via motorcycle is becoming more popular: "We're seeing an increase in sales of new motorcycles of all sizes, but our records show that

we've never seen as many bikes of this size sold before. We think it is likely that they are being used for commuting, as they are economical to run and easy to park. Motorcycle dealers have been reporting an increase in families swapping a second car for a motorcycle, to beat the misery of sitting in traffic during rush hour. Motorcycles and scooters can filter through slow moving traffic and are tremendous fun, with riders tending to rate their commute more enjoyable than other transport users".

Sales of new motorcycles of all sizes fell dramatically during the recession, but recovery began during 2011, when the sale of small motorcycles began to rise along with petrol prices. The rise for new sales in 2015 builds on an increase of 10% for 2014. Steve Kenward predicts total sales will continue to increase:

"We anticipate 2016 will see further growth on 2015 numbers and predict sales of around 124,000, which we will refine further during the year."

MAG welcomes the good news that sales of commuter bikes and Powered Two Wheelers in general are on the rise. MAG Chair Selina Lavender said "It's great to see this increase in sales in 2015 which will result in more mopeds, motorcycles and scooters on our roads. We know this in turn sees other road users being more aware of us. We will continue to work hard to get local and national Government to see the benefits of two wheeled motorised transport which already has the recognition of many who are choosing to shift from log jamming four wheels. Riding is part of a flexible approach to transport policy and carries many benefits for all. MAG's long-standing campaign to open bus lanes to motorcycles is a major plank of our efforts on this front and we hope that many of the commuting riders recognise the value of our efforts and decide to support MAG by way of an individual membership."

Think how many small bikes could they have sold this year if the fantastic Cub was still available?

### **Ride a bike and stay chilled!**

The Office for National Statistics conducted a one-off survey examining the impact of commuting patterns on people's levels of anxiety, happiness and satisfaction. This has shown that for journeys up to 30 minutes there was no effect on levels of happiness or anxiety for those who rode a motorcycle, moped or scooters to work. In contrast – for journeys between 15 and 30 minutes - those who walk, cycle, drive a car or take the bus – all experience an adverse increase in some or all of the factors measured. Any biker could have told them that and saved them the effort.



## Next month – NW Fred Hill Run 14<sup>th</sup> Feb

This year's NW Fred Hill Run sees a change of venue after over a decade at the Sir Charles Napier pub in Blackburn, which has gone the way of many other old biker haunts and closed. The run will now set off from the Petre Arms, Langho, just off the A59 where it meets the A666. For those of you who've not been before, the Petre is a cracking pub with a large car park and very reasonably priced Sam Smith's ales. They do good food at a decent price as well.

The run will leave at 1pm prompt but we'll be meeting up from about noon. As ever, the run will be down to Blackburn Cathedral for a short ceremony, then a quick ride through the countryside and back to the Petre. The exact route will be very much weather dependent.

It's good to get together for no other reason than to commemorate Fred's life and re-commit ourselves to the cause of personal choice and freedom. Hope you can make it.



## Salford MAG Mid-Summer Motorcycle Auto Jumble – 10th July

Finished your winter project? Got spare parts left over? Want to sell, buy more or swap? Get down to the Salford MAG Mid-Summer Motorcycle Auto Jumble at the Bird in Hand Eccles M30 ORY from 12.00 noon til' 5pm on Sunday 10th July. Private stalls are only a £10.00 donation towards the MAG fighting fund. And you get free live music all afternoon! Traders by appointment only please. Queries to Blayz on 07791794740 or Floyd 07763569438

## Next month – Red Rose MAG Rock Night 20<sup>th</sup> Feb

Red Rose MAG, East Lanc's very own MAG branch, is hosting its inaugural Rock Night on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Judge Walmsley pub, Whalley in the beautiful Ribble Valley. And what a good night it promises to be. The band on the night will be the fantastic Badger with extra music from DJ Davey P. As well as a fine selection of ales there will be free tea and coffee for any drivers (or general non-drinkers) and plenty of good grub available for a small donation to the fighting fund. And not forgetting great raffle prizes as well. Only £5 on the door. Be there or be square!



## Next month – North West AGM 28<sup>th</sup> Feb

The Petre Arms will also host this year's NW AGM, which will start at 1pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. As you well know, MAG is nothing if not a democratic organisation and it's that time of year when you can have your say on how it is run and who should represent your views. Don't forget your membership card though or you won't be voting for anything! Hope to see you there.

## Could this be John McGuinness Way?



Neil Morris has opened a Facebook campaign about the new Heysham M6 Link Road. He writes: "As you may be aware, the Heysham M6 Link Road is due to open this year and we believe there is only one man that should be given the job of cutting the tape. John McGuinness is Morecambe born and bred and celebrated 2015 with his 22nd and 23rd Isle of Man TT victories, taking his Honda Racing CBR1000RR Fireblade to his 7th Senior TT victory put him just 3 wins behind Honda TT Legend Joey Dunlop. McGuinness has shunned the tax haven lifestyle of the likes of Monaco and the Isle of Man. He has stayed true to his roots in his home in Bare, Morecambe with his wife Becky and two children Ewan and Maisie. He has selflessly helped champion road safety campaigns and charitable organisations both locally and further afield using his reputation to further worthy causes. He is the ultimate Man of the People who has not forgotten where he came from.

Back in 2007, McGuinness became the first sportsman to be given the highest honour that the city of Lancaster can bestow. John was made an Honorary Freeman of the City in a ceremony at Lancaster Town Hall. There have been many calls for McGuinness to be made an MBE, following in the footsteps of former World Superbike Champion Carl Fogarty and the likes of legendary TT racers Mike Hailwood, Phil Read and Jim Redman. Surely, the opening of one of the country's biggest investment projects is not beyond the realms of possibility for the "Morecambe Missile"?

North West Honda Lancaster have approached Lancashire County Council about the idea of McGuinness leading a charity ride out of local bikers in support of St John's Hospice to open the link road. The hospice in Lancaster is responsible for in-patient and palliative care for local elderly people, subsequently helping local families with bereavement support and counselling for the loss of elderly relatives.

Picture the scene! TT Legend John McGuinness leading over 500 bikers down the new link road on his Honda Racing CBR1000RR Fireblade. What a YouTube moment that would be and a statement of solidarity and community spirit from local bikers, showing all of us two wheeled enthusiasts at our very best.

What can you do? One or more of the following:

- Join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/johnmcguinness/> .
- Invite friends, relatives, colleagues to like this group so we can show Lancashire County Council the overwhelming desire we all have to make this happen
- Sign our e-petition to Lancashire County Council <http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx...>
- Get in touch with your local MP to encourage them to get behind the campaign
- Contact your local councillor and make your voice heard
- Write a letter or email to your local newspaper or Radio station

Here are some useful contacts:

- Cat Smith MP (Lancaster & Fylde) - [cat@catsmith.co.uk](mailto:cat@catsmith.co.uk)
- David Morris MP (Morecambe & Lunesdale) - [www.davidmorris.org.uk/contact](http://www.davidmorris.org.uk/contact)
- Ken Brown (County Councillor - Heysham) [ken.brown@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:ken.brown@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Susie Charles (County Councillor - Lancaster Rural East) [susie.charles@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:susie.charles@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Darren Clifford (County Councillor - Morecambe South) [darren.clifford@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:darren.clifford@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Gina Dowding (County Councillor - Lancaster Central Green) [gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:gina.dowding@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Janice Hanson (County Councillor - Morecambe West) [janice.hanson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:janice.hanson@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Chris Henig (County Councillor - Lancaster South East) [chris.henig@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.henig@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Alycia James (County Councillor - Lancaster Rural North) [alycia.james@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:alycia.james@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Tony Jones (County Councillor - Morecambe North) [tony.jones@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tony.jones@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Richard Newman-Thompson (County Councillor - Lancaster East) [richard.newman-thompson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.newman-thompson@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Niki Penney (County Councillor - Skerton) [niki.penney@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:niki.penney@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Bay Radio - <http://www.thebay.co.uk/contact-and-about-us/>
- Lancaster Guardian - [nick.lakin@jpress.co.uk](mailto:nick.lakin@jpress.co.uk)

## **Big Thanks from Bob**

Red Rose MAG member Bob Berwick of Great Harwood has sent his thanks for all the get well messages he has received since his collision with a bus at the end of November. Bob was in the north of Scotland when the crash took place and he spent several weeks in intensive care, hovering between life and death. Now, thankfully, he is on the slow road to recovery at Rake Head Rehabilitation Unit, Burnley Hospital. Speaking last weekend Bob said "I can't believe that I've received so many visits and almost 300 cards. Bikers really are great people" He hopes to be out and about by May, although it may be longer before he can straddle his beloved Moto Guzzi again. Despite this he plans to attend as many rallies and bike shows as he can this year. As they say, you can't keep a good man down!

## 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 hosted by **Avernus MCC** at the **Clubhouse, Coppull Mill** at **8pm on Thursday 28th January**. Here is the latest, up to date list of biker events this autumn which the Alliance has put together, which includes a few changes from the previous month.

### Regular monthly events

**HAMC Liverpool Open night 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month, open 7.30 'til late**

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

**Black Diamonds open night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley**

**Salford MAG meeting** – moved venue, no meets until Feb

**Red Rose MAG** meet every 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Petre Arms, Langho

**Anvil MCC** meet every Wed 8pm Smithy Bridge Pub, Littleborough, OL15 ODY Contact Ray 07747748946

**Avernus MCC – open clubhouse** 3rd Saturday night of month from 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Coppull Mill, Mill Lane PR7 5BW

**Mid-Life Crisis Meet'n'greet, BBQ - finished until April 2016**

**Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite** - every Monday Anchor in Hutton on A59

**MT Heads Meet** – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday

**Gypsy Divas meet** – 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Woolpack, Haslingden from 8.00pm.

**Rigby's Guardians meet** every Sunday 6.30-9.00 at the Gardener's Arms, Hollin Lane, Middleton M24 5LE (near Junc. 19 M62)

### Known upcoming events –

**10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Anvil MCC 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bash**, Smithy Bridge Pub, Littleborough, OL15 ODY Contact Ray 07747748946

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Annual NW Fred Hill Run** leaving Petre Arms, Langho at 1pm

**20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 – Red Rose MAG Rock Nite** – Judge Walmsley, Whalley, BB7 9NT £5 on door

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Brotherhood Quest Rock Night**, Vernon's Club, Factory Lane, Penwortham Preston PR1 9SN £5 OTD camping available.

**8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Feb Rising Moon MCC Rally**, Lowerhouse Cricket Club, Padiham

**Avernus trip to Ibiza 16<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> May 2016** – Rock festival, 1497miles – anyone interested contact Ant 07584098610 for details of discount. Itinerary, costs available for next meeting. £270 for 10 days, hotel inclusive.

**24-26<sup>th</sup> June – Blackpool MAG Rally** – the North-West's No.1 Riders' Rights Rally! – Fleetwood Rugby Club

**24-26<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Warrington MCC Rally** – Rylands Recreation Ground, Gorse Lane, Warrington WA2 7RZ £12 advance £16 OTG

**8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July Salford MAG Rally** – detail to be announced

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24th July 2016 – HAMC Manchester 81 Bike Show/Rally** (full weekend free camping – live bands & DJ all weekend, bars till late, pole dancers, trade stands, merchandise, food, cash prizes) – Rixton Green (1.5miles from M6 junc.21)

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24th July 2016 AAVMCC Not Forgotten Rally**, Bradford on Avon

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September Jesters MCC Rally** – Whittingham Social Club, Goosenargh

**7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Oct Rising Moon MCC Rally**, Lowerhouse Cricket Club, Padiham

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](mailto:billgreen@madasafish.com) and I'll put it into the newsletter next month.

Bill

NW Political Rep

**Lancashire biker undeterred  
by flooding – swears by  
WD40.**



# RED ROSE MAG FREEDOM & CHOICE




**Red Rose MAG Rock Night February 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
 Judge Walmsley Hotel, Whalley Rd, Billington, Lancashire BB7 9NT  
 8.00pm till late top rock band  
 £5.00 on the door all proceeds to the MAG fighting fund

# Manchester

BIKE SHOW 2016

THE NUMBER ONE MOTORCYCLE SHOW IN THE NORTH



**2ND & 3RD  
APRIL 2016**  
9:30AM - 5:00PM

**EventCity**

NEXT TO THE INTU TRAFFORD CENTRE, MANCHESTER, M41 7TB  
 ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM [WWW.MANCHESTERBIKESHOW.COM](http://WWW.MANCHESTERBIKESHOW.COM)  
 INFO@MANCHESTERBIKESHOW.COM | 01484 867776

SPONSORED BY:  



## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fred Hill Run

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Meeting at  
**The Petre Arms, Whalley Rd, Blackburn BB6 8AB**  
 leaving at 1 pm.

Details of run dependant on the weather.  
 All riders welcome.

Fred Hill died in prison, still fighting for his beliefs that bikers should have the freedom to ride. Each year we remember him, and continue the struggle.

**"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance!"**

Contact Bill on 07754891485

# North West MAG

the heart & soul of biking



## Pet food run

17<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Departing at 11.30pm from The Black Bull  
 Lower Gate Road, Huncoot, BB5 6LN



**PLEASE DONATE ANY  
PET FOODS,  
PET SUPPLIES OR MONEY  
ALL COLLECTED ON THE DAY**

Supporting RSPCA, Altham  
 &  
 Blackhall Animal Sanctuary



Please contact **STREAK**  
 Vice Chairman / Rally inc.  
 ON 07584 092388  
 For further details

## 6th WARRINGTON WHEELS YOUTH MOTOR CYCLE COMPETITION 2016

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MOTOR CYCLES?



HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER A LOCAL MOTOR CYCLE  
 (OR MOTOR CYCLE RELATED VEHICLE) BUILDING COMPETITION  
 TO TAKE PLACE AT WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE, WA1 4TL  
 ON FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016 (10am-2pm)

ENTRANTS CAN BE TEAMS OR INDIVIDUALS AGED 18 YEARS OR UNDER.

ENTER AS MANY VEHICLES AS YOU CAN BUILD.  
 (Any type of bike, running or not)

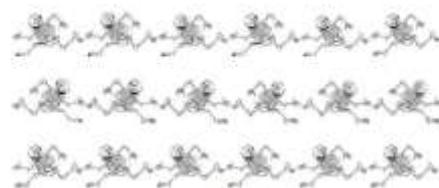
ENTRANTS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER THEIR  
 EXHIBITS IN THE NATIONAL YOUTHBIKE COMPETITION  
 ([www.youthbike.com](http://www.youthbike.com)) HELD IN LINCOLNSHIRE 24-26 JUNE 2016

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BOB TOWLER  
 C/O WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, GREEN LANE, WARRINGTON, WA1 4TL  
 01925 338549  
 Or E-mail [bob.towler57@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.towler57@btinternet.com)

HAPPY BUILDING!



[www.bobsbikeclub.co.uk](http://www.bobsbikeclub.co.uk)



## Everybody is racing to the Salford Mid-Summer Motorcycle Auto Jumble

Finished your winter project?

Got spare parts left over?

Want to sell, buy more or swap?

Private stalls: £10.00 upfront buys you a plot from  
 12.00 noon til 5pm on SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at  
 the Bird in Hand Eccles M30 ORY

Traders by appointment Only apply to Blayz for price

Quenes to Blayz 07791794740 or Floyd 07763569438

Free live music all afternoon