

## Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness?

We're past the "autumnal equinox" now and the "fall" is upon us again but, as is often the case, we often get some of the best riding weather this month. I've come to the conclusion that if you're holding any type of outdoor event then September is your safest bet weather-wise. Hope you've had a good month – make the most of it before it's time for the old ACF-50 to come out again!

# This Month – Spat out of Hull – 16-18th September



Last year saw the one-off 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary " Spat out the Tsunami" rally on the old farmyard site, which was a great success (helped in part by the fantastic weather). In fact it was so successful that Yorkshire MAG have moved the established Spat out of Hull rally onto the same site and same weekend. Again the weather was fantastic, again it was a brilliant weekend. Those of you who prefer the more chilled out, intimate atmosphere of smaller rallies will have appreciated the strict 500 limit. The excellent choice of bands made for a good night and the hand-pulled beers (£2 a pint from the local Helmsley brewery) made for a pretty good day as well. And all set in that beautiful little valley – what more could you want? Tickets this year were only available at the Farmyard Party – definitely worth grabbing some next year!



# This Month – Cum'n'Dribble in't Ribble Rally – 16-18th September

You wait for ages and then two great rallies come along on the same weekend! MAG-affiliated club Jesters MCC held their annual get-together at Whittingham on the same weekend and by all accounts it was a cracker. Jesters always make sure that everyone has a great time and that the MAG message gets out at the same time. So, if you don't fancy the traipse over to darkest Yorkshire next year, why not spend a fantastic weekend in the company of one of the friendliest clubs in the North-West?





## Hercules Charity Run, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017



This year's Hercules Charity Run will be taking a trip up to the Tan Hill Inn and will be leaving Preesall School, Mill Lane at 9am this Sunday 2nd October. Once again MAG will be helping out by road marshalling this event. If you would like to get involved, please go to the NW MAG website;

<u>http://north-west-region.mag-uk.org</u> to download an application form and view a map of the route. If you can assist with the marshalling please get in touch with the NW Rep Tony Cox at <u>north-west-region-rep@mag-uk.org</u>.

### **MAG in Parliament**

Earlier this month MAG Communications Tsar Lembit Opik made a point of getting in touch with Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn. As Lembit says, 'It would be enormously helpful to have the support of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament .... I do respect him and it would be marvellous to have his backing for some of our key campaigns'. Doubtless Jezza has had other more pressing matters to sort out recently but he was positive with Lembit and agreed to meet up in the near future to discuss MAG's campaigns in more detail. As we've said before, MAG is a non-political organisation and we're happy to work with all parties (within reason) to further our cause.

#### Government to double penalties for mobile phone offences



The penalty for using a hand held mobile phone while driving is to double from three points and a £100 fine to six points and a £200 fine. Although there has been no official government announcement, the move has been widely reported in the media across the weekend, with the new penalties expected to come into force in the first half of 2017. The increase in penalty points would mean an immediate ban for newly-qualified drivers who have a ceiling of six points for the first two years after passing the test. While the move has been broadly welcomed by road safety and motoring organisations, concerns have been voiced about the police's ability to enforce it.

Talking to BBC News, Louise Ellman, chair of the Transport Select Committee, said detection rates need to be higher. However, Jayne Willetts of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said: "Unfortunately, with fewer officers out on the roads, more of these offences are going undetected." The Guardian says the DfT is currently working on a new "hard hitting" THINK! campaign. The RAC says the increased penalties are in response to figures it published last week which suggest mobile phone use by drivers has reached "epidemic proportions". The RAC findings, published in the 2016 RAC Report on Motoring, suggest a significant worsening in both attitude and behaviour among drivers to using a mobile for making calls and checking social media. Pete Williams, RAC road safety spokesman, said: "The Government's swift action to the findings in the RAC Report on Motoring shows they understand just how dangerous it can be to use a handheld mobile phone at the wheel. "Increasing the fine from £100 to £200 and doubling the penalty points from three to six will help to deter people from doing it."

I'm sure we've all had experience of cars driving erratically only to spot the driver is more engrossed in his (or her) phone than watching the road. MAG will be supporting any moves to clamp down on this menace.

### 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 **DDMC** at **8pm** on **Wednesday 26th October** at the **clubhouse, Leverbridge Mill, Bolton BL3 1RU**. 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 – meet at Bird in Hand, Eccles, last Thursday of month. Red Rose MAG meet every 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Petre Arms, Langho nr Blackburn Anvil MCC meet every Wed 8pm - contact Ray 07747748946 Avernus MCC - open clubhouse - on hold Mid-Life Crisis Meet'n'greet, BBQ - over till next year Station Wanderers meet Station pub, Ashton under Lyne every Tuesday MT Heads Meet – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday, donations to "Hounds for Heroes" **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) **Road Reapers MCC** meet 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday & 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7.30 at the Doff Cocker pub, 780 Chorley Old Rd, Bolton Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite – Every Monday 7-9pm Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL Known upcoming events -1<sup>st</sup> October Last Bastion Open night - live music, booze and food at the clubhouse Liverpool 1<sup>st</sup> October NW Alliance Ride to the Wall - leave Lymm Truck Stop (M6) at 9.30am prompt. 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Hercules Run leaving Preesall School for Tan Hill 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Oct Rising Moon MCC Rally, Lowerhouse Cricket Club, Padiham 8<sup>th</sup> Oct Mid-Life Crisis Birthday Bash – Ship, Irlam – ticket only 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct DDMC Open Night at the clubhouse, Leverbridge Mill, Bolton BL3 1RU 29th Oct Millennium Rock Night – Canberra Club, Salmesbury £5 otd 5<sup>th</sup> Nov Blackpool MAG Hellfire Bonfire Party – fancy dress, Blackpool Rugby Club 11th Nov Leyland Eagles Rock Nite – Leyland& Farrington Social Club 19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Avernus Anti-Christmas Party – clubhouse, Coppull – "Bad Taste" fancy dress 19th March 2017 – BQRS Auto Jumble, Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL May 2017 - Ibiza Run - details to follow. 25-28<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – Big Barn Rally 23 rd-25th June 2017 – Blackpool MAG 20th Rally, Fleetwood RUFC. 18-20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – HAMC Bike Show, Rixton with camping and bands.

26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – Great North West Motorbike Festival, Winter Gardens, Blackpool

25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August 2017 - Avernus Underworld Rally

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 <u>billgreen@madasafish.com</u> and I'll put it into the newsletter next month. Bill

#### NW Political Rep



# At least I can get a seat on this!





# 7th WARRINGTON WHEELS YOUTH MOTOR CYCLE COMPETITION 2017

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MOTOR CYCLES?





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HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER A LOCAL MOTOR CYCLE (OR MOTOR CYCLE RELATED VEHICLE) BUILDING COMPETITION TO TAKE PLACE AT WOOLSTON BROOK SOHOOL, WARRINGTON, DIESHIBE, WAI 4JL ON FRIDAY 261% MAY 2017. (11.30am-2µm)

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) HELD IN LINCOLNSHIRE JUNE 2017

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT BOB TOWLER C/O WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, GREEN LANE, WARRINGTON, WAI 4JL 01925 818549

Or E-mail bobtowler57@hotmail.co.uk

HAPPY BUILDING



