



## This Month – Hercules Run – 2<sup>nd</sup> October



Sunny weather plus a ride through the Yorkshire Dales – that sounds like a very pleasant day out. MAG members once again stepped up to the mark and helped marshall this year's Hercules Run (and reportedly very professionally and without major incidents). The ride started from Preesall, had a brief rest stop at Horton in Ribblesdale before cracking on to Swaledale and the Tan Hill Inn, the highest pub in Britain. The run raised raised £2000 for Preston Critical Care Unit as well!



## Next Month - Blackpool MAG Hellfire Bonfire Party – 5th Nov

November ain't the same without a good bonfire, especially when there's loads of live music and alcohol thrown into the mix. As those of you who've been before will know, Blackpool MAG organise some of the best Halloween Rock nights going, and this year should be a cracker.

It's once again at Blackpool Rugby Club, Fleetwood Rd, Blackpool FY5 1RN on 7th Nov., just £5 on the door and all profits made will go straight into the MAG fighting fund. If you're staying over, camping is available or there are one or two B&B's about or so I've been told. Fancy dress is optional but always advisable if you plan to make a fool of yourself and don't want to be recognised!



## Next Month - Salford MAG AGM – 19<sup>th</sup> Nov

MAG is a grassroots, democratic organisation in which the members hold the power (although they don't harass branch officials!) **Salford MAG** is holding its AGM on **Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>**, 12:30 registration for **1pm** start, at the **Bird in Hand, Liverpool Road Eccles, M30 0RY**. If this is your local branch, come along and make your voice heard. Remember though, no membership card, no vote!

**Date for your diary – Manchester Demo Ride Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
*Details in next month's newsletter*

## Next Month – MAG at the NEC Motorcycle Live – 19-27<sup>th</sup> Nov

It's a bit of a Marmite event this one, some folk never miss it, others give it a wide berth. Either way, it's one of the biggest on the biking calendar and a huge opportunity for MAG to connect not only with established bikers, but also with potential riders. Many are there out of curiosity, never having sat on a real bike but, hey, we were all there once! Every day there will be stunt riders, biking celebrities and more cheap gloves than you can shake a stick at. Strictly speaking this is nothing to do with the NW region but there will be NW volunteers on the stand so, as ever, if you're down there please be sure to stick your head in and say "Hi".



## The Great North West Motorbike Festival – 26-27<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Any major new biking event in our region is welcome and it's even better when MAG is helping out. The Great North West Motorbike Festival, a brand new family friendly event roars into Blackpool's famous Winter Gardens for the inaugural event over the August Bank Holiday Weekend 2017. Featuring a wide range of major exhibitions, traders both large and small plus demonstrations and Q&A's with industry experts and star guest Carl Fogarty. The event promises to offer something for the entire family with an interactive simulation zone, heritage collection, live music and much more across the stunning venue.

The event is on sale already at:

<http://www.wintergardensblackpool.co.uk/movies/the-great-north-west-motorbike-festival/#tickets>

## MAG and the Rise of the Robots



*BMW's "Next 100" self-balancing concept bike  
– not sure where you'd fit your top-box?*

The benefits to transport, in terms of capacity and safety, mean that driverless vehicles are an inevitability (OK, robots aren't perfect, but they don't get drunk, mess with their phones or doze off). All Tesla vehicles from now on will be "driverless-ready", with all the necessary hardware pre-installed ready to retro-fit the software when it becomes available. So where does all this leave us bikers? Well, according to BMW, it could trigger a biking revival!

Karl Viktor Schaller, Head of Development at BMW Motorrad, reckons that as roads become safer, drivers will start to crave the excitement of being in control. Autonomous cars and lorries will result in a "dramatic enhancement in safety for motorcyclists" as, for example, so called SMIDSY collisions at junctions are all

The future marches on, as it is wont to do, and every new day brings us closer to the world of autonomous vehicles. Despite what deniers may say, even within MAG, there seems to be an historic inevitability about the expansion of robotics into all areas of life. Over five million jobs will be lost in the 15 leading economies by 2020 as a result of developments in genetics, artificial intelligence, robotics and other technological change, according to the World Economic Forum. Foxconn, who supply Apple with components, shed 60,000 jobs in China this year alone as robots took over. Of course, it's been happening for years but now it's gathering momentum and no part of the workplace is immune.

but eliminated. A car loaded with sensors and radar will be much less likely to ignore any oncoming biker. Eventually, when vehicles can communicate with each other about their position and speed, bikes can have “an electronic safety cage” around them alerting any nearby vehicles to stay well clear. Meanwhile, the experience of travelling in such a car will have become really, really boring (much like a bus-ride but with fewer pensioners). Motorcycles, which have conveniently become much safer, will be very tempting. As with everything, however, there’s always a downside.

Autonomous vehicles will be asked to make instant life and death decisions to which there may be no ideal answer. For instance, a robot car can avoid a potentially lethal collision for its occupant but only by swerving into a bus queue full of people – what does it do? According to Christoph von Hugo, Head of the Mercedes Driverless Car unit, the answer is clear; “save the one in the car”, and let the philosophers worry about the rest. The same danger would also apply to a group of bikers riding together. The autonomous vehicles around them may be safer than at present but that doesn’t mean that you can trust them 100%. Given the choice between allowing the driver to be harmed or ploughing merrily through the bikes....?

MAG meanwhile has submitted its views on the development of autonomous vehicle technology to the House of Lords, which has commenced a major review of the science and operation of self-driving vehicles. In 2016, MAG has generated the most comprehensive perspective of any riders’ rights organisation in Europe on the question of self-driving vehicles. MAG’s Director of Communications & Public Affairs, Lembit Opik, believes that this technology has the capacity to improve road utilisation, but also to restrict road space and usage for manually controlled machines, including motorcycles. Self-driving technology is already a reality in many sectors, most notably on certain rail systems in the UK. There are also numerous tests of self-driving technology in progress in places such as Greenwich and Milton Keynes. So it’s right for the Lords committee to investigate this field.

MAG is very much in favour of technical progress “as long as it IS progress. In this context, any attempt to ring fence parts of the road space for autonomous vehicles would be strongly opposed by the movement.

This is in part because MAG has observed a worrying increase in congestion, and therefore quite possibly pollution, as a result of aspects of the segregated cycle schemes in London.

We want to work with the Government to make sure autonomous vehicles don’t add further problems to the road network. Calm discussion and the setting of parameters which properly define the relationship between autonomous vehicles and the rest of the traffic community are what’s called for here. These are the points we’ve made in our submission to the committee, and we hope we will be called as witnesses to their inquiry when the time comes.’



*BMW also seem to predict that crash helmets will be optional in the future – typical German devil-may-care attitude, eh?*

## 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 **Gypsy Divas MCC** at the **Woolpack, 488 Manchester Rd, Haslingden, Rossendale BB4 6LN** at **8pm** on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. 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

**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** – 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 1pm & 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7.30 at the Elsmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton

**Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite** – Every Monday 7-9pm Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL

**Bury the Hatchett MCC** meet at the Two Tubs pub Bury at 7.30 last Thursday of month

**Known upcoming events –**

**29<sup>th</sup> Oct – HAMC Liverpool Halloween Party** – fancy dress, clubhouse, Liverpool

**29<sup>th</sup> Oct - Millennium Rock Night** –Canberra Club, Salmsbury £5 otd

**5<sup>th</sup> Nov - Blackpool MAG Hellfire Bonfire Party** – fancy dress, Blackpool Rugby Club

**11<sup>th</sup> Nov - Leyland Eagles Rock Nite** – Leyland& Farrington Social Club

**19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Avernus Anti-Christmas Party** – clubhouse, Coppull – “Bad Taste” fancy dress £2 otd

**19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Salford MAG AGM** at the Bird in Hand, Liverpool Road Eccles, M30 ORY 12:30 registration for 1pm start

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – MAG Demo Ride Manchester**

**19<sup>th</sup> Feb – NW Fred Hill Run**

**25<sup>th</sup> Feb - Millennium MCC 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rock Night** – Canberra club

**19<sup>th</sup> March – BQRS Auto Jumble**, Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL

**9<sup>th</sup> April Salford MAG Autojumble** - Bird in Hand, Liverpool Road Eccles, M30 ORY 12-5pm

**22<sup>nd</sup> April – Red Rose MAG St.George’s Rock Knight**

**May – Ibiza Run** – dates/details to follow.

**25-28<sup>th</sup> May – Big Barn Rally.**

**23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June – Blackpool Area MAG Rally**

**13-16<sup>th</sup> July Millennium MCC Caveman Bash**

**18-20<sup>th</sup> August – HAMC Bike Show**, Rixton with camping and bands.

**25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August - Avernus Underworld Rally**

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

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



***Where  
Germany  
leads,  
China won't  
be far  
behind.***

# BLACKPOOL MAG'S HALLOWEEN & BONFIRE PARTY

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

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WWW.NORTH-WEST-REGION.MAG-UK.ORG

## Leyland Eagles Mcc Rocknight

11<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Admission by Donation

Live Band



and  
DJ Blim

7pm - 12am

Leyland and Farington  
Social Club  
1 Derby St, Leyland  
PR25 4NU

Contact Jason: 07393 412 265

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