



North West Newsletter

March 2018

Spring has sprung!

I always know that spring is with us when I start writing about events with camping involved - soon it'll be rally time again (for those who are inclined that way). All the same, MAG has been out and about around the region, supporting our rights as bikers. Onwards and upwards!

This month – Ghost Bikes Grand Opening Saturday 10th March



It would take more than a bit of drizzle to put a damper on Ghost Bike of Preston's Grand Opening celebration. There was no expense spared on the day, with stunt shows from Steve Colley and Two Brothers, a custom show and a personal appearance from TT ace John McGuinness amongst many other attractions. MAG is always happy to support anything that benefits the biking community, and the fact the day ran so smoothly was due in no small part to the assistance of the volunteer MAG marshals who were there from early morning to the day's end. It looks like Ghost Bikes is developing into a real asset for bikers in the region – if you've not been it's definitely worth a look.

This Month – Manchester Bike Show 24th&25th March

It's billed as "the number one bike show in the north", and for once they're probably right. This is the seventh solid year that the Manchester Bike Show has taken place at Event City and MAG has not missed a show. Once again MAG volunteers gave up their free time to get the message out about defending riders' rights. MAG's North West Regional Rep, Tony Cox, said "MAG is very pleased to be supporting this event, which attracts bikers from all quarters, and we'll be celebrating all that's good about biking". Thanks to everyone who called by the MAG stand to say hello.



Next Month – St. George's Rock Knight 28th April

Red Rose MAG's 2nd fundraiser rock night is almost here and what better way to celebrate the start of the "biking season". Entertainment will be provided by the excellent DnL Function Band as well as the usual raffles and draws. Combine all that with a well-stocked bar and you've got the recipe for a great night out. Hot food is available, as is camping and hook-ups for campervans for those who want to make a proper night of it. Tickets are only £5 on the door and all profits go to the MAG fighting fund (for details see below).



The End is (more) Nigh?



As you're aware, we're now into the long wind-down for the petrol engine motorcycle in this country. The government announced in July 2017 that sales of new diesel and petrol vehicles would be banned from 2040, but in reality this date will just be a final farewell to the bikes we know and love. Sales of "green" vehicles will increase over the next twenty years as internal combustion sales decline and 2040 may merely see a clearing out of the last old stock. Many of us may be of an age where it won't concern us personally but at least we've all got a date to work towards. Or have we? A House of Commons joint committee report has now accused the government of failing to take adequate measures to reduce air pollution and has urged them to "bring forward the date

by which manufacturers must end the sale of conventional petrol and diesel cars, in line with more ambitious commitments from around the world." Given the popular mood at the moment who is to say that this won't be seen as a vote winner? Germany, India and Holland, who also announced a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel-powered cars in 2017, all plan to start these restrictions by 2030, ten years ahead of the UK.

The same report called our current situation a "national health emergency", which led to 40,000 premature deaths each year and is linked to health problems including asthma, heart disease and even dementia. This, they claim, is costing Britain about £20 billion. Of course these numbers are challenged by many but that isn't what grabs the headlines. The report also noted that north of the border the Scottish government, ever keen to outdo the English, has pledged to phase out sales of new diesel and petrol cars by 2032. Some have even suggested that the model we should be copying is Norway, which wants to phase out sales of new petrol and diesel cars by 2025, just seven years away! Could we fall in line with them?

Norway plans to achieve this using a 'polluter pays' tax system, designed to make the purchase of low and zero emission vehicles more attractive as it penalizes those with conventional vehicles. This strengthened "green tax system", including zero emission zone charges, would encourage people to opt for clean transport over fossil fuel-powered vehicles. However Norway does not plan to introduce a total ban on petrol and diesel vehicles but rather imagines them dying off naturally.

A major obstacle holding back electric and other "green" vehicles at present is the lack of infrastructure, for example recharging points. Just as in the very early days of the petrol engine you had to buy fuel in bottles from chemist shops, "refuelling" electric vehicles can be a problem. Norway has therefore planned for there to be one public available charging point for every 10 electric cars by 2020. Electric car sales represented 22% of Norway's market in 2015, and it expects that number to grow to 30% within the next three years. That would bring the number of electric cars running in Norway to 250,000, meaning the country will have to have 25,000 public charging points, many operating for free. That won't be cheap - so how will they afford it?

Norway has been described as "Qatar with fjords". Blessed with enormous oil reserves in their North Sea territorial waters, Norway has built up a "sovereign wealth fund" of \$1.1 trillion. Last year that fund alone earned £131 billion from investments. That's a lot of cash for a country with a population smaller than Scotland's (ironically after making all that money from exploiting fossil fuels Norway now proposes ditching its oil and gas investments on "environmental grounds". They will be keeping the money though). The UK, which has no equivalent nest egg, would struggle to fund such rapid infrastructure building so 2025 as a date probably won't be on the cards for us.

An important point to also remember is that electric vehicles are only as clean as the way you generate your electricity. In Norway over 99% of electricity production is from hydropower plants, which is about as clean as it comes. In France it would come mainly from nuclear energy but in Germany it would be mainly coal (in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, they decided to decommission all nuclear power plants by 2022). The UK still relies heavily on fossil fuels to generate most of our electricity. Time will tell which country has set the most realistic target for the move away from fossil fuel vehicles. However we can always comfort ourselves with the thought that, with the prevailing winds in this country, much of the nasty pollution from our power stations will end up in Norway.

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. Please check the NW Alliance website for any last minutes changes to venue/dates– they do happen!

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 3rd 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

Allegiance MC Open Night first Saturday of month at the clubhouse Aintree

Hell's Belles WMC Open Night last Monday of month at clubhouse Radcliffe – Everyone welcome - The Cauldron, Globe Industrial Estate, Derbyshire St, Radcliffe, M26 2TA

Red Rose MAG - meet every 1st&3rd Wednesday, Petre Arms, Langho nr Blackburn

Ecclestone Delph Bike Meet every Tuesday until end of season, café open till 9pm – **ended till the spring**

MT Heads Meet – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday

Road Reapers MCC - meet 1st Sunday 1pm & 2nd Wednesday at 7.30 at the Ellsmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton

Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite – every Monday (except last in month) 7-9pm Anchor pub, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL

Bury the Hatchett MCC - meet at the Two Tubs pub Bury at 7.30 third Thursday of month

Ronin MCC - meet every Thursday at the Greyhound pub, 44 Leigh Rd, Worsley M2 1LR - open night every 3rd Thursday

Cogheads MCC meet every Thursday (except 1st) at 8pm, Forts Arms, Clayton-le-Moors

Road Slayers Brotherhood meet every 2nd Friday at Rock Hotel pub, Peel Green Rd, Barton M30 7AY

Accrington MCC meet at Poplar Club, Wellington St. Accrington every other Sunday at 8pm.

Chorley Wildhartz MCC – meet first Thursday of month at Seaview Inn, Preston Rd, Chorley – postponed til March

British Bulldogs MCC – every Wednesday at the Balcarres Arms, Wigan WN2 1PA

Spartan MCC meet every Thursday at Railway Linnet pub Middleton, M24 1GQ

Antagonist MCC meet every Wednesday, 8pm Ring O' Bells, St Leonards Sq, Middleton M24 6DJ

Brigantia Rebels MCC meet at the Old Springs, Spring Rd, Wigan WN5 0JJ 1st Saturday at 7pm & 3rd Sunday at 3pm

Leyland Eagles MCC meet 3rd Mondays at Leyland & Farrington Club

Avernus MCC – meet at the Red Herring, Coppull, please check www.avernus-mcc.co.uk for dates

RBLR meet 2nd Mondays at St.Chads Club, Whittle-le-Woods

Life Behind Bars MCC meet Thursdays at the Two Tubs, Bury

Crisis Crew MC Wednesday BBQ – Ship Irlam, the week after each Alliance meeting

Known upcoming events –

31st March - Avernus Rock Night at the Red Herring pub, Coppull, live band & DJ £3 otd

7th April – Rising Moon – Ashton Cricket club – One Nighter Party £5 per ticket, band and food – POSTPONED

7th April – Spartan MCC Chairman's Birthday Party – 8 pm, Railway Linnet pub Middleton, M24 1GQ

14th April – Hells Belles WMC Open Night at the Cauldron, Globe Industrial Estate, Darbyshire St, Radcliffe, M26 2TA

28th April – Red Rose MAG 2nd St.George's Rock Knight, Whittingham & Goosnargh Social Club

23rd June – Pop Club (with Accrington MCC & B.A.D. MCC) Childrens' Cancer Fundraiser

29th June – 1st July – Blackpool MAG 21st Seaside Rally, Fleetwood Rugby Club FY7 8AY

29th June – 1st July - HAMC Manchester Rally

27-29th July – MT Heads Runnin' on MT Rally – Panto 9 – Collop Gate Farm, Heywood

24-27th August - Avernus Underworld Rally – Hamilton House Farm PR3 0TB, tickets £20 on sale 1st Feb

26th – 28th October - Rising Moon Rally – £12.00 per ticket bands food raffle etc

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.

Bill

NW Political Rep



Even a tent was a luxury in the '70s!



SATURDAY 28 TH APRIL	Whittingham & Goosburgh Social Club, Old Hospital Grounds, Whittingham, Preston PR3 3JF	£5 ON THE DOOR
RED ROSE MAG PRESENTS THE 2ND		
ST. GEORGE'S		
ROCK KNIGHT		
POPULAR MUSIC COMBO		
DNL		
FREE CAMPING	ALL PROFITS GO TO THE MOTORCYCLE ACTION GROUP	RAFFLE
FIGHTING FOR RIDERS' RIGHTS SINCE 1973		

Events in the Region

BLACKPOOL MAG

GOOD FOOD, REAL ALES, SUPERB CAMPSITE, LIVE MUSIC, REAL TENTS, SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS

21ST

RALLY

29TH JUNE - 1ST JULY 2018

£15 PRE-BOOK
PayPal via <http://north-west-region.mag-uk.org>
Cheque & BAE to 26, Lincoln Avenue, Cleveleys, FY6 2DT

£20 OTG
Fleetwood Rugby Club, Melbourne Avenue, Lanco, FY7 6AY

All profits to The Motorcycle Action Group Ltd
Protecting our "Right to Ride"

BLACKPOOL STANLEY PARK
BIKE SHOW 2018
SUNDAY 8TH JULY 11AM-4PM

MOTORCYCLE ACTION GROUP

LIVE MUSIC PERFORMED
IN THE BANDSTAND

£2 PER BIKE/TRIKE PARKING
WHICH GAINS ENTRY IN THE SHOW

FURTHER DETAILS AT:
[HTTP://NORTH-WEST-REGION.MAG-UK.ORG](http://north-west-region.mag-uk.org)

8th WARRINGTON WHEELS YOUTH MOTOR CYCLE COMPETITION 2018

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 4JL, ON FRIDAY 25th MAY 2018 (11.30am-2pm)

Presentation at 1.30 Bring a gazebo

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 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BOB TOWLER
C/O WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, GREEN LANE, WARRINGTON, WA1 4JL 01925 88549
Or E-mail bobtowler79@hotmail.co.uk
HAPPY BUILDING!

www.bobtownerclasses.co.uk

THE 7TH DEAD END RALLY

13-15TH JULY 2018

DALTON UNITED F.C
BECKSIDE ROAD
DALTON IN FURNESS
LA15 8DP

200 LIMIT
PRE-BOOK ONLY
NO CARS

LIVE MUSIC BOTH NIGHTS

CUM'N DRIBBLE IN'T RIBBLE 19
14TH-16TH SEPTEMBER 2018

DETAILS OR BOOK ONLINE:
WWW.JESTERSMCC.COM.UK
Mob: 07971530190

JESTERS M.C.C. PRESTON

FRIDAY SATURDAY

ALL THE USUAL PARTIES AND REBAGGERY YOU CAN TO EXPECT

LIVE BANDS
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

WHITTINGHAM CLUB
OLD WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL,
GROUNDS
WHITTINGHAM
PRESTON
PR3 3JE

£12.00
PREBOOK
OR
£15.00 OTG

CHEQUES TO: **£15.00 OTG**

Jesters MCC, 109 COLLEGE COURT PRESTON PR1 7RU

LIMIT OF 350 TICKETS THIS YEAR

NO CARS OR VANS: PARKING AVAILABLE FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS

BLUE BADGE PARKING BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT NO FIRES OR BBQ'S PLEASE

EMAIL: deadend.rally@gmail.com

TICKETS £15. PAYPAL DETAILS ON FACEBOOK PAGE. FOR MORE INFO AND POSTAL TICKETS CONTACT 07582001181