



Every cloud...

Lockdown gradually eases and one of the problems now arising is how to manage a mass transit system that also allows social distancing. Obviously the cycling lobby, never slow to miss a trick, are pushing the idea that we should all be pedalling to work each morning, something (I imagine) like Beijing circa 1965. The problem is that 21st century Britons have more of a choice about how they travel. Our major cities, especially the “Great Wen” (London), suck in millions of workers each day from a vast area. My brother-in-law toils away each day in Holborn but lives in Guildford. As trendy and right-on as he is, he isn't about to don the Lycra every day for that round trip. But he might if the bicycle had some sort of “independent drive”, such as an “engine”.

The end of lockdown could be an open goal for those who believe that motorbike transport is part of the future. Be assured that MAG is pulling out all the stops to ensure the biking option is on the table.

Ride to Work Day 15th June

Does what it says on the tin. Monday 15th June, those of us who still have a job make sure we use the bike that day and show everyone that bikes are a viable solution to the country's transport needs (see above). This is now a MAG-promoted event so please support it if you can!

The folly of youth

When you're young you think you're indestructible. When I was 18 this took the form of trying to achieve warp speed on a GT380 wherever I went. Nowadays young lads are more likely to be seen with their foot to the floor in a tiny car with a big exhaust. The principle is the same. Recently this has been highlighted by the fact that more than 11,000 new drivers were banned from the road last year after falling foul of motoring laws. That's an average of 30 novice motorists (those with less than two years' experience) every day, usually for driving without insurance and/or speeding. Remember, for new drivers it takes only six points before they lose their licence.

The Department for Transport outlined plans last



summer for a “graduated licence” system that would require youngsters to be subjected to an overnight curfew, limits on the number of young passengers that drivers can carry, limits on car engine sizes and a requirement for a minimum “learning period” before a test is taken. They're still thinking about it. Similar restrictions have been gradually introduced for bikers since the early 80s. One rule for some, eh?

Road are like rubbish tips

Highways England has been accused of breaching its legal duty to keep motorways and A-roads free of rubbish, leaving motorists to “drive through filth” every day. Complaints have been made about bags of rubbish, dead animals, old road signs and urine left in bottles on verges. In extreme cases discarded mattresses, sofas, chairs, tyres and bed frames are on the sides of roads.

In March, the government budgeted £6 billion for road maintenance, which is supposed to include litter clearance. Highways England is supposed to hit targets on the proportion of the network that is “predominately free of litter” and contractors could face financial penalties for failing to do so.

Sit on red and save the planet?

Soon you may be held up in traffic for even longer for no apparent reason. An Artificial Intelligence system that can analyse data on local pollution and traffic levels and use it to predict increases up to an hour ahead is being trialled. Traffic lights will then be used to hold motorists on red to delay their arrival in areas at risk. Drivers travelling towards the threatened area will be held on red for up to 20 seconds longer than normal while those travelling in other directions will benefit from extended green phases.

The system will be tested on Wolverhampton's ring road this year and several other councils are considering using it. However, critics have said that the technology could easily backfire by holding up traffic, prolonging idling and moving the problem elsewhere. For motorcycles, which can flow easily through traffic, a journey prolonged simply means more pollution produced. Perhaps this is another well-intentioned but flawed plan.

Oil at rock bottom for three years



Royal Dutch Shell has warned that oil demand and prices could stay low until 2023, which has forced it to cut its share dividend for the first time since the Second World War. Shell's expectations are for a deeper and longer recession rather than a quick recovery. Lockdown restrictions have caused a collapse in oil demand, leading to a supply glut. This in turn has led to a massive drop in price. A recession is bad news for everyone but cheaper petrol is always welcome.

E-scooters to be made legal

Britain is the last big country in Europe where E-scooters, the ones that look like kids toys only with an electric motor, are banned from public roads. That, however, doesn't stop many folk using them to zip round big cities, usually on the pavement. And after lockdown, with fears about using public transport, this will only increase.

Now the Department for Transport has proposed that e-scooters be allowed on public roads and in cycle lanes but not on footpaths. A maximum speed of 12.5mph would put the devices roughly on a par with cyclists in built-up areas. The proposals form part of a DfT consultation on trials of e-scooter rental schemes in large cities. Riders taking part in the trials will need to hold a provisional or full driving licence and the use of e-scooters would initially be restricted to people aged 16 or over. However, it is unlikely that a driving licence would be required beyond the trial period.

In the future, the DfT may look to amend the law to treat e-scooters like electric bicycles, whose riders do not require a licence. The wearing of cycle helmets will not be compulsory.



The DVLA's nice little earner

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has made nearly £3million over four years by charging callers to use premium rate lines. These phone lines cost 51 pence per minute to ring – or more than three times the standard 01 and 02 numbers cost. The income is making a tidy profit for the Treasury. The majority of calls to the DVLA's premium-rate lines were made by car-hire and insurance companies to check their customers' driving licence details. However those costs will be passed on to consumers in terms of higher insurance premiums and car-hire costs.

Profits from phone calls are nothing compared to what the DVLA brings in from other sources. Roughly £17million a year is made through the sale of motorists' details to private parking firms and its personalised number plate operation has earned around £2billion since it started thirty years ago.

The DVLA says that its phone lines for private motorists are 0300 numbers, which are charged at the same rate as 01 or 02 dialing codes. However, premium rate costs ultimately end up being paid by the consumer.

North West Motorcycle Alliance

Meetings of the Alliance are obviously suspended at the moment in accordance with government guidelines. Likewise many of the events listed will be subject to cancellation.

Regular monthly events – in normal times!

HAMC Liverpool Open night 3rd Saturday of month, open 7.30 'til late

HAMC Manchester Open night last Saturday of month - free entry, great bands, food available, open 7.30 'til late

Red Devils MC Manchester Open Night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley

Red Rose MAG – meetings suspended until new venue found

MT Heads Meet – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday

Road Reapers MCC - meet 1st Sunday 1pm & 2nd Wednesday at 7.30 at the Ellesmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton
Ronin MCC – every Saturday night @ the Plough, Hazel Grove
Road Slayers Brotherhood every 2nd Friday at the Veterans’ Garage Barton
British Bulldogs MCC – every Wednesday at the Balcarres Arms, Wigan WN2 1PA
Spartan MCC meet every Thursday at Railway & Linnet pub Middleton, M24 1GQ
Brigantia Rebels MCC meet at the George, Southport 1st Saturday at 7pm & 3rd Sunday at 3pm
Leyland Eagles MCC meet 3rd Mondays at Leyland RAFA Club
Avernus MCC – meet at the Red Herring, Mill Lane, Coppull PR7 5AN every other Friday
RBLR meet 2nd Mondays at St.Chad’s Club, Whittle-le-Woods
Life Behind Bars MCC meet every other Sunday – Hare & Hounds, 170 Outwood Rd, Radcliffe
Lioness MCC 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ Hope View farm, Astley M29 7LH – free food!
Throttle Twisters MCC every Monday – North Chadderton Social& Bowling Club, open night every 3rd Monday
Veterans Garage open at Barton Aerodrome every Monday 6pm onwards
Accrington MCC meet every other Sunday at the Poplar Club, Accrington
Boggarts MCC meet every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Hope View Farm, Astley M29 7LH
Hell’s Belles WMC meet last Monday of the month at the Cauldron, Radcliffe
Phoenix Rising MCC meet 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm Tempest Arms, Chorley Old Rd, Bolton
Coyote MCC – meet every Tuesday Old Cock Inn Oldham Rd Middleton M24 2EB
Pist’N’Nuts MCC – meet every Thursday 8pm @ The Pear Tree, 431 Hadfield Rd, Hadfield SK13 1PY
The Sisterhood – meet first Tuesday of month @ 7pm at The Cart & Horses, Astley M29 7SD
Millennium 2000BC meet at Broadfield Arms, Leyland, every other Monday
Shieldmaidenz MCC meet at the clubhouse, 198 Liverpool Rd, M44 5DB 1st Friday of the month
Road Kill MCC meet at the clubhouse, Unit 10, M44 5AZ, Irlam every Monday evening about 6pm.
Rally Rebels RC meet at the Cock & Rabbit, Manchester Rd, Southport every other Sunday 3-5pm
Antagonist MCC meet every Wednesday at the Church Inn, Chadderton OL1 2RR
Union Riders MCC meets at the Malaga Drift, Eccles M30 0DY every 1st Friday from 8pm
Gawsworth Jesters MCC meet at the Harrington Arms, Church Lane. Gawsworth SK11 9RJ, Weds evenings from 7.00pm.
Heathens MCC – meet at the Top House, Oldham OL4 5TB first Wed of month @ 8pm
Wiccan Wolves MCC meet @ Radcliffe Cricket Club M26 3RF every other Friday

Known upcoming events – the further off they are, the more chance they’ll happen.

7th June - Gawsworth Jesters MCC Charity rideout
15th June – National Ride to Work day – cos bikes ain’t just toys.
~~**26th 28th June – Blackpool MAG Rally**, Fleetwood Rugby Union Club, Melbourne Ave, Fleetwood FY7 8AY Canceled~~
~~**5th July – NW MAG Stanley Park Motorcycle Show**, Italian Gardens, Stanley Park, Blackpool. FY3 9HU Canceled~~
19th July – 2nd HAMC Liverpool Ride in Bike Show at the clubhouse Cotton St L3 7DY – prizes, food, bar, music
25th July – 2nd HAMC Manchester 666 Thunder Run – leaving from the clubhouse, Cadishead at 1pm
29th July - Gawsworth Jesters MCC Bike Night
31st July - 2nd August - Yorkshire Pudding Rally
7-9th August Big Barn Rally – (see FB)
8th August – Invictus Summerfest- details to follow
14-16th August – Avernus MCC Back to the Underworld Rally – Park House Barn, Milnthorpe LA7 7EB.
4-6th September – Stormin the Castle – Witton Castle, Bishop Auckland DL14 0DE
11th-13th September - Jesters MCC Rally, Whittingham & Goosnargh Sports & Social Club, Preston PR3 2JE
18-19th September – Lioness MCC Rally – Hope View Farm, Astley M29 7LH
24th October- RDMC Manchester 2nd Anniversary Party at the clubhouse Hindley Green
25th-27th September – Farmyard Party – Helmsley, N. Yorkshire
31st October – Accrington MCC Halloween Night - Poplar Club, Accrington
28th November - Avernus Rock Night, Red Herring, Mill Lane, Coppull PR7 5AN
5th December – Coyote MCC Xmas Party Old Cock Inn Oldham Rd Middleton M24 2EB
 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@masafish.com and I’ll put it into the newsletter next month.
 Bill
 NW Political Rep





Free at last

RIDE  **TO WORK**

MAG are now the official UK promoters of
International
RIDE TO WORK DAY
15th June 2020

Save the date!



Stormin' the Castle Ltd Presents their 30th Fundraising event for the Motorcycle Action Group UK
Witton Castle, Witton le Wear, Co. Durham. DL14 0DE

4th - 6th
Sept 2020

30 YEARS OF STORMIN'

4th - 6th
Sept 2020



Bessie & the Zinc Buckets
Gerry Jablonski Band
Acoustica
3Fall



Bikers' Rally & Custom Bike Show

live bands on 2 stages
3 onsite bars
The Line Up So Far, more to follow



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Whumff
Auld Mans Baccie

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one day only, see below for regular pricing

www.storminthecastle.co.uk

adult weekend £35, otg £45, Prebook day ticket £25, kids £10

See website for full details of tickets including Prebook Disabled and (Limited) Prebook Car Passes

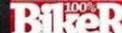
traders - food - camping - showers

Marshals wanted . come along and help us run this event. we feed you, give you a limited edition t-shirt, refund your entry fee .Work day time or night time with time off to play. See 'Marshals' area on website
As a condition of our licence, no colours to be worn on site.

Tickets
Include
Camping



storminthecastle



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