

April's article in Nacelle

(sorry very unimaginative alliteration) – 02/03/19

Well the weather has done we motorcyclists a tremendous favor and we have embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm. Here in Essex we have had our usual 2 monthly meetings plus the RoFs have had a couple of ride outs. We have also had a further Treffen meeting. I managed to attend the first meeting which was well patronized and there were several lively exchanges of views around what activities were appropriate to feature on our Facebook page and what was not. The second meeting I could not attend as I had taken my wife to Broadmoor (they would not keep her as they risk assessed her as too dangerous, only joking my dear, she was there for the purposes of her work). As for the Treffen meeting we are now getting down to some detailed planning on how things should look. Weather we facilitate trade stands. Also, importantly what we should spend on food drink and merchandise. These decision still remain largely fluid.

Ride outs were firstly to the MCN show at the Excel Centre in East London. 6 of us rode down, John S, Paul "gravel" Vincent and I got separated from Peter B, Peter D, and Peter H when leaving the café on the A127 and were not reunited until just inside London on the A13. The show itself was quite impressive and we tackled it with long morning session. Then after a pleasant lunch we had a shorter session. We thought the Triumph, Norton and Indian stands were the best. I admired the Built magazines custom exhibits a great deal.

The second rideout was to Harlow, though Harlow doesn't sound to promising a destination it was a real lovely ride lead by John Stone along some great roads ending up at a lovely Pub just out side Harlow, The Horns and Horseshoes, 10 bikes went and the RoFs were swelled in number by a couple of skivers from their work. The lunch at the pub was very good and we chatted about our bikes past and present plus what other activities the club should pursue, we have decided we will participate in the 70 mile run for the clubs 70th anniversary later in the year probably taking in the aforementioned pub. The trip back, after we had cleared Chelmsford, was a speedier affair with myself and Paul V swapping places several times along the A130 Paul won but, of course, it wasn't a race.

As to my project bike. I have christened it Horrid Henry Honda. Little actual work has been done except I have taken the fairing to be recycled (on mature reflection it was the best thing for it). If I do put a fairing on it will be a bikini fairing. Other work attempted was frustrated by picking one of the few cold days of the month. As a consequence of the weather I was tempted inside by day time TV and was captured by Homes Under the Hammer and by the time Martin, Dion and Martel had finished telling me I should not waste my time on Horrid Henry Honda but should put my energies into property development there was little time until lunch so I just looked at the bike and made various design notes before scurrying inside to look up the notional cost of what I have envisaged might be. It comes out around four thousand pounds for remodeled seat, remodeled tank, new front forks, bikini fairing, new wheels plus tyers, new wiring, remodeled exhaust and new instrumentation. This is not a problem as I confidently predict the bike will be worth twelve thousand pounds on completion. Though my wife and other saner voices tend to dispute this figure, but hey, allow an old man his fantasies. That's all for now and keep on riding in the free world.

Chris O'