

Things are starting to warm up a bit both with increasing activity and the slight improvement in our climate. So we have had a couple of well attended meetings, plus a cold but enjoyable first ride out.

Whilst on the subject of branch activity, it would be great if we were to see some fresh faces at runs or meetings we have a large number of individuals who are none participating members. So you aren't getting your moneys worth. Why not pop along for one of the Sunday runs or the Wednesday evening runs, just to see if the club is your thing or not and if it is get involved. Remember we are not an MC you have to prospect for you just dive right in.

As to the actual past months fun and frolic. We started with our informal meeting where we welcomed a new member (Dave) who rides a handsome Newchurch Bonneville.

The discussion ranged around plans for rides later in the year both national and international. The terrible deterioration of the Essex roads over the winter. We felt the pot holes had become so all prevailing that we would have to brush up on our Moto Cross skills. We also discussed the relative merits of Avon tyres over Metzler tyres concluding that the more reassuring rubber belonged to the former.

Our next event was a Sunday ride out to the Coalhouse Fort Tilbury. A cold but dry morning reduced those participating to 7 people with 6 motorcycles. We were led by Vince's great looking and fabulous sounding Meridian Trident. The show itself was maybe a little disappointing with only a sparse attendance with about 50 bikes 10 or so classic cars a bit of militaria and a few static engines. The most interesting bikes were a Rotary Norton, a Yamaha RD 400 in mint condition of which a few of us had had examples of during our misspent youth and Vince's afore mentioned Trident. We remained at the show for a couple of hours. Much of this time being taken up with Paul complaining he was still trying to get his bike clean after a January run that took place during a period of inclement weather.

Finally we had our more formal meeting at our HQ the Shepherd and Dog. The first part of the meeting was taken up with general chit chat, of which the most informative was with John Stone going into some detail about the fitment of rubber rings to Bonneville carbs and the fact that some parts are basically masquerading as genuine parts but need a little on site modification to be fit for purpose.

The formal part of the meeting had only 2 items on the agenda. The first our visit to The Bonneville celebrations and whether we should have our stand as a presences at the event. Peter W would probably be willing to drive it up there unless he has not recovered from a previous nasty motorcycle accident that has meant he has been unable to ride since. We thought on balance we probably would deliver the gazebo and adequate manpower to the show.

Secondly we have since our AGM been putting together a plan for a proposed Treffen during summer 2019. Sadly the only person to have looked into the possibility of a venue for this occasion was Chairman Tony. We have agreed all of us will cast around for a suitable venue in time to have a decent choice to consider prior to our next HQ meeting.

Chris O'