

October Musings (Included in November edition of Nacelle)

Firstly an apology and correction, the lovely blue 1950's Thunderbird belongs to Jim not John as stated in last months Nacelle. I can only blame my own mental stubbornness for this oversight, as I have had it in my mind that I had seen John on it, it must be that funny little helmet he sometimes wears.

So on with the past months activities.

Firstly there was the Brighton Burn Up as organised by the Ace Café. This was only patronised by Darrin and myself, though Ian was considering riding with us but instead plumped for the Air Ambulance run to Harwich. I think what puts people off this event is the motorway slog down to Brighton, I have found the best way to ameliorate the boredom is to go into a semi meditative state and this has the effect of speeding up the chore and also. I have solved many of the world's problems by the time I arrive at the destination unfortunately I have forgotten the brilliance of these solutions before I get the chance to inform world governments of them. Anyway, Darrin and I enjoyed looking at some terrific bikes and scooters. We also enjoyed the people watching. As this event attracts all manner of motorcyclists from Hells Angels to hipsters and including Fifties style rockers and 60's mods. Next year I will try and follow Malcolm and Tony's example and find an A & B road route.

The next event on the calendar was the Bonneville at 60 event held Uttoxeter Racecourse. Again, maybe the motorway slog put folk off going up by motorcycle but only myself, Peter H and Darrin met at My Place Café for the journey with Martin taking his bikes up by car and Peter W going up by car with the club gazebo. We met Peter D and Keith up there; they were spending the week in the area and were having a fab time exploring the nearby Derbyshire Peak District. Some people have stated that the event was a bit dull and badly organised. I, on the other hand, rather enjoyed the experience, that is, with the exception of the tent aspect of it all. The bikes were great to look at and the opportunity to look at some of the fine examples of the Bonneville in detail was a privilege not to be missed. Plus the other people who were present were great to meet and chat to about bikes and I have come away with some great ideas for my own Bonneville (thanks to Andy from Bury St Edmunds). The other saving grace was that Keith and Peter D persuaded me to go a short ride out through the Peak District, we covered 194 miles including detours and missed turnings, but the scenery was breath taking, the roads that sweep through the area are an absolute hoot and the weather stayed mostly fine, a bit of an achievement for this part of the country. On the downside the band on Saturday were awful, a note to the lead singers Blitzkrieg bop is by The Ramones not the Clash and singing rock and roll flat is not a pretty sound. Also we needed more to do by way of distraction as looking at Motorbikes is only sustainable for about an hour, no matter how many bikes there are and the quality of them. Plus our stand was only saved by Martin K putting his none Bonneville bikes on it, Peter H putting his Bonneville on it and Lee and his wife putting their bikes on it. After a welcome breakfast at Martin & Peter's hotel it was back on the Motorway for a quick and uneventful ride back to Essex.

A few days later was our final ride out of the year and therefore in the dark to The White Hart in Margaretting Tye. Doing it in the dark had its pros and cons. The pros were the sight of 10 plus headlamps cutting through the Essex night is a sight to impress. The cons are that you only get a flavour of the countryside in the dark, and the other thing was the country roads had loose gravel on them and we were all concerned for the safe passage of Paul "gravel" Vincent he and Louise made it with only a couple of alarming twitches of which Paul managed to keep the partnership together.

The final activity was the Shepherd & Dog meeting. At which it was announced that despite a very low vote it was confirmed we would be preceding with next years Treffen so it is now up to our party people sub committee to make a success of the event, which will be held some time in June. We were also informed by Chairman Tony that the Christmas Meal would be held at the Royal Oak for the second year running. Our final Sunday ride out will be to the Copdock Motorcycle show on October 7, weather permitting.

Chris O'