

November Nattering's

(Novembers edition of Nacelle)

Again, I have a poor attendance record regarding this month's club activity. This is in no small part due to myself and 5/6 others trekking up to Hinckley to visit the factory. I hope that our editor sees fit to include my piece on the visit in the Branching Out section of this issue, which leaves only the final run of the season to report on.

As is traditional for the final pub run of the year, in this case to The Ship in West Hanningfield, it took place in a gathering darkness.

To back track a little, we assembled a little earlier than usual to take advantage of what light was left. There were 12 motorcycles and 13 people our ranks were swelled by 2 Triumph enthusiasts from Brentwood (Dave and Chris, see I can remember names), who had attended thinking it was a One Green Bottle evening and they wished to challenge the dominance of the Harley D owners.

We set off together and made our way towards The Hanningfield's by the conventional route, but soon left the main roads and encountered the twisty stuff on route to West Hanningfield. After the bends there is a long straight that runs alongside the reservoir. This is, I have to admit, is a point where I suffer a rush of blood to the head and see three figures, but when in a group wiser councils prevailed and we kept to about 60 mph. Otherwise the only observation of any note was that we encountered a bus coming towards us on a country road after dark!!! This reminded John Stone of his days as a bus driver and how he routinely drove the people of Essex home well into the night.

There was one other activity I attended and that was The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (DGR). Though, not really a club event, there were several of our members playing a part in this worthwhile and relevant cause in aid of men's health issues particularly Prostrate Cancer, Men's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Those attending were Mika and partner Ann, Ryan on his soon to be erstwhile bobber. He is considering changing it for a new model Rocket 3, plus a couple on a Triumph America, apologies to them but I did not catch their names and myself.

The run itself was sadly a little depleted due to a horrendous weather forecast, but still over 100 hundred bikes took part with many on Triumphs some Harley D's many probably been put off by the threat of rain. There were also Ducatis, AJS's a few Matchless's, several BSA's a really cute little Mash, a brave gent on an Ariel Square Four and somebody on one of those ridiculously huge KTM's. Fortunately the gods smiled on us and it did not actually rain until it was time to return home. I like to wear the kilt to this event, but was persuaded by the good offices of Mrs O'May to wear over trousers under the kilt to ward off the threat of double pneumonia. I was though shamed by another gentleman who was wearing a kilt without protection. The ride itself took the usual meandering route along the seafront and through the centre of both Southend and Leigh ending up in the Woodman's pub in Rayleigh/Hadleigh borders. It gladdens the heart to see so many people come out along the

route to smile at us, wave, take photos and generally help increase the profile of the cause; which is predicted to raise over £20,000 from Southend alone, and worldwide the total will reach several million

I will be making it my business to increase our clubs participation in next year's event, should anyone want further convincing of the good of the cause and the fun we have raising the money just Google DGR to see the pictures of the event. So put the last Sunday of September into diaries and get those tweeds repaired and cleaned for 2020 DGR.

A quick update, I have succeeded in collecting £130 for this years run. Next year I hope to collect double that amount in aid of Prostate Cancer, men's mental health and suicide prevention.

Chris O'