

Septembers Musings (in the October edition of Nacelle)

I had to miss the first half of August due to a family holiday. No one has reported anything for that period so I assume nothing of earth shattering importance happened!

Anyway, on my return there was a Sunday ride out to Andrews Airfield, which was patronised, by 6 bikes and 7 people. Although we regularly go there we have never gone the same way so have covered a fair bit of the county and ended up in the same location, quite an achievement Malcolm. On our way there was a bit of drama in that Paul "gravel" Vincent hit a patch of loose dirt and went down the road ending up by ploughing up a bit of fresh soft verge. At first we feared the worst as Paul did not stir but after a few seconds he began to revive himself and was helped to his feet by ourselves and 2 rather attractive lady cyclists we had previously flown past but had still stopped to help. Paul was in some pain as he had damaged his shoulder and the bike had landed on his leg. As Paul's recovery progressed he returned to his old self and began to clean up the superficial dirt adhering to his bike. The bike had sustained little damage, apart from a broken mirror and some barely visible scratches to a side panel. So we went onto the airfield for refreshments and chat. Paul was most thankful that he had not got Louise riding pillion that day. We then escorted Paul back to Canvey. On consultation with the medical profession the following day it was ascertained he had been rewarded with a hairline fracture to his collarbone that it was thought would heal naturally given time.

The next trip out was to Maldon, held on another perfect summers night that this summer has unfailingly given us, this was attended by a large gathering of the club and when we left the Barge public house there were 19 bikes and 21 persons including Jim's lovely pristine blue classic 1950's Thunderbird. On our arrival we lined the bikes up along the quayside and proceeded to order food and drink, meanwhile the bikes were enticing quite a crowd of interested and impressed locals both on foot and on less celebrated Japanese motorcycles.

Our final meeting of the month was our branch meeting at the Shepherd and Dog pub. We had an attendance at this meeting of around 20 members. This was for the most part because we had to discuss the possibility and the practability of holding a weekend event next summer. Some such as Martin K, Peter D and myself were enthusiastic about an event but others such as Malcolm, Tony and Peter W less so. We therefore concluded the best plan was to put the idea to a branch wide vote and there by gauge the popularity of the idea. We should have an answer by the end of this month.

The next trip out in September is our participation in the Bonneville 60 celebrations. We expect several Peters to be up there plus a couple of Martins, a Chris, maybe a Tony and few others to make up a jolly bunch representing Essex.

Chris O'