

August Report (Included in September issue of Nacelle)

Another eventful month for South Essex. We started with the Battlesbridge Classic Motorcycle Show, where our stand was packed with some really outstanding Bikes of both Meriden and Hinckley vintage. We had much interest shown in the Triumph brand from the many hundreds at the show. Our expectation is that this will translate into increased membership and even better were it active membership.

On the following Sunday, we had a ride out to arguably the jewel in the Essex crown, The Tiptree Jam Factory and Farm. On the way there we spotted a poor soul having to push his BMW GS 1200 in the sweltering heat either home or to a garage. It occurred to me that as we flashed by, he may have wished he had bought the 800 Tiger instead. 5 of us then went on for a drink and a chat at the Hare & Hounds pub, another of the seemingly inexhaustible supply of quaint public houses in the county.

Next up was the wives weekend, which we combined with a visit to The Rabbit Rally. 11 of us had a splendid time sampling the pleasures of East Sussex based in the village of Maresfield. We indulged ourselves in plenty of entertaining chat, much of it around strategy for the future direction of the club plus good food and drink. We experienced some lovely sweeping and undulating roads, whilst also managing a trip on the Bluebell Railway and a ride and walk to visit Pooh Bridge in the lovely Ashdown Forest. This was a particular wish of Heidi and I with Malcolm and Tony humouring us. The Rabbit Rally part of the weekend went less well as Tony, Heidi, Malcolm and myself misjudged the times and missed the main ride out and also missing the alternative ride with Martin, Jim and Peter H. instead we paid £5 to sit in a pub garden and look out over a field of tents and bikes, admittedly a charming field of bikes and tents but, none the less, not great value. This was entirely a fault of our own making and only enlivened by the brief visit of a group of French Motorcyclists on Indians, one an Indian cruiser with a gigantic comic front wheel, and then by the return of Peter H, Jim and Martin who although enjoying the rally were less than positive about life under canvas. Peter threatened to burn his tent there and then but instead had a beer and later a little lie down to compose himself.

The club also managed to squeeze in a pub run to another favourite place the Huntsman & Hounds in Althorne, the group was made up of about 15 bikes and 17 people most of whom ate a hearty and very competitively priced meal at the pub. This is a pub that is worth a considerable detour for the food alone. It was also agreed that the roads around Althorne, Burnham-on Crouch and out to Bradwell-on-Sea are some of the best in the south of England.

Chris O'