

January's Jottings 2020

(included in February edition of Nacelle)

A happy new year to all from South Essex. Although the elements have mitigated against us getting out en masse on our motorcycles, we have managed a couple of social events. Firstly, we had our Christmas meal at the Royal Oak which was most enjoyable. Particularly successful was the raffle with all getting a memorable prize. I got Ian Falloon's Story of the Triumph Motorcycle Classic to Modern 1937-2019 which is an impressive tome and now disports itself on our coffee table. Mrs O'May got a sort of handbag-sized pair of mirrors. These look as though with a bit of engineering they could be modified and pressed into service as a pair of those round under slung handlebar ends mirrors so popular with the Bike Shed hipsters.

Secondly, 4 intrepid souls (Peter's D & H plus Paul H and myself) stepped out into beating heart of downtown Southend to look for a band for the coveted Saturday slot at next year's Treffen. Unfortunately, the venture was not blessed with success. The 1st band we saw was a covers band but, call me old fashioned, I feel that if you are covers band you do recognisable songs from other bands and not delve into their obscure back catalogue. Anyway, we quit after 3 tunes and went onto the Railway which is the top music venue in Southend and they were having a night of many local bands. The first we encountered 2 guitarists who harangued us for 45 minutes and then kindly left the stage. The second act was chap called Longy who punishes his acoustic guitar and is supported in this endeavour by a passably good trumpeter. Whilst these 2 were rather good, they are not the sort of act that would appeal to a crowd of lively motorcyclists on Saturday night. So we still continue our quest, but rest assured we will find an act that fits the bill and I know Chairman Peter has a fall back position that will fill the slot.

There was also an intention to visit The Pied Bull Farningham Kent on Boxing Day. Sadly this event was only patronised by Martin K and, on arrival at the designated meeting point, seeing as he found himself in splendid isolation he went home. Better luck next year.

Our next event will be our AGM, but this will have past by the time this goes to print. So keep on riding in the free world.

Chris O'