

# September's story

(included in September edition of Nacelle)

The “new normal” is with us and we, in South Essex, are making the best of it whilst observing due physical distance but we are socialising much as before. We have had 3 or 4 successful ride outs all well attended and hugely enjoyable. Plus we are now able to convene our various pub meetings and pub runs. The one held at the Royal Oak was a complete smash hit with more new and seldom seen faces and bikes turning up than I am able to name check (if I were to, this piece would just be along list of names.) The star of that particular evening was Martin K's newly restored T110 which borders on a work of art and does immense credit to Martin's attention to detail, determination, mechanical abilities and ability to identify craftsmen where necessary.

The pub run was, for this month was poorly attended, largely due to the overcast evening, though the rain did hold off. Those present were Martin & Jenna R, Paul & Louise V and myself, there is one thing to be said for having only 3 bikes on a run and that is the leader does not have to keep his eyes on the mirrors to check the other 17 are still with us and can therefore enjoy the run. Anyway, Martin took us to the Huntsman & Hounds in Althorne and we were treated to a route that covered some of those roads that you always promise yourself that you will explore but never quite get round to.

Elsewhere the Sunday runs have been well-attended and great fun. The first of the month was to that Essex gem Mersea Island we were 6 in number and were ably and briskly led by Keith B we were quite a diverse band with 4 Triumphs Peter H on his Beemer Graham F on his immense Moto Guzzi Stevlio this bike has the best rear indicators I have encountered they must surely be visible from the International Space Station. On our route home, we stopped off at Heybridge Yacht Basin where Chairman Peter treated us all to an ice cream (he can be generous on less well attended runs).

The second run of the month was to Wivenhoe on the coast next to Colchester. We were delighted to welcome new member Ray H on his imposing camouflaged Tiger, plus all the way from France, Karine sans Bonneville but with her tough little Honda 250 off roader. John S ably led us at a pace that suited all, though we still managed to lose several members going through Colchester, this though meant we had at least paid lip service to Governmental guidance. But all were reunited at the waterside pub, which was patronised by one of those self elected policemen with the ready catchphrase of “you can't park there” eventually we found a few spots that meet with his approval and settled down for a well earned pint.

The third run of the month was to Stapelford Airfield led by Martin R and by what seemed an impossible to contrive route that had me lost after we passed through Stock. Martin stated though that it had only taken him 20 minutes to compose. It was a great run, enjoyed greatly by all and an interesting destination with much aircraft activity to watch. We were also treated to some rather salty reminiscences of life with a Reliant Regal by Paul V and Peter D, not suitable for retelling. So hoping we can all survive and prosper despite all this wretched virus can throw at us

Chris O'