



Cleveland Bay, Yarm. Second Wednesday of the month

<http://www.freewebs.com/yarmmcc>

Tel: 07517 605614

CLUB NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011

They say time seems to go faster when you get older, and that sure seems to be the case with the Newsletter deadlines (which I make up myself anyway!). This month we have a few news items and a report from Norman Simpson on his recent trip to the Ensignbus Company that restores classics. It's not often that Norman gets 'dewy-eyed' but this nostalgic trip came up trumps for him. At the end of this newsletter you will find copies of the entry/regs and nok forms for the Santa Run on Sat. 3rd December in aid of Zoe's Place.

Committee Meeting
Club Night

Wednesday 2nd November
Wednesday 12 October

Forthcoming Events (latest additions in Bold). Let me know of any event you would like to be publicised.

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|---------------|---|
| Oct 7 to 9 | Weston Beach Races, Weston-Super-Mare – well, near there! |
| Oct 15 | Tan Hill Motorbike Club and Darlo MAG present the Great North Air Raid Bike show and live music. Starting at 1pm. Admission £8 includes camping. |
| Oct 15/16 | Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show, Staffor Showground. |
| Nov 19 to 27 | Motorcycle Live, NEC Birmingham. The UKs premier two-wheel exhibition.
NB,NEC Coach: the list is now open to non-members. |
| Dec 3 | Zoe's Place Santa Ride. |
| Dec 17 | Zoe's Place Santa Ride – Standby day. |
| Dec 27 | Christmas Party at the Cleveland Bay |

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| Jan 7/8 2012 | Classic Bike Guide Winter Show, Newark County Showground. Meet Steve Plater. |
| Feb 18/19 | 32 nd Carole Nash Bristol Classic Motorcycle show |
| Apr 28/29 | International Classic Motorcycle show, Stafford Showground |
| May 12/13 | The Great Scottish Bike Show, The Lanark Agricultural Centre |
| Dec 1/2 | The Scottish Dirt Bike Show, The Lanark Agricultural Centre |
| May 18-20 | BMF Show, Peterborough |
| July 6-8 | BMF Kelso Bikefest |
| Sep 14-16 | BMF Tailend, Lincoln Showground |

The Club Website. Visit the Club Website at www.freewebs.com/yarmmcc/. If you have stuff for sale or an event to promote then this is the place to put it for wide coverage. Send your material to Steve Watts on swatts@ntlworld.com. Check out via the Guestbook when you have finished your comments.

The BMF. Why not join the BMF as an individual member and save yourself and the Club money? In order to strengthen the membership base of the BMF and thus give it more clout in working for riders' rights, the

Club Member Conversion Scheme has been introduced. As an Affiliate Member of the BMF through the club, you can convert to Full Membership at a £5 reduction in the normal fee AND make a further £5 for the Club. The joining fee will be £21, reduced from £26, and the club will receive a payback of £5 for every member recruited. The payback to the club will be in the form of a credit note to be cashed in exchange for part of their affiliation fee for the forthcoming year. Speak to the Club Secretary for details and Application forms.

The Yarm Motorcycling Club is affiliated to the BMF. For details of the BMF go to www.bmf.co.uk

Table of Designated-Leader Rideouts. Just one ride left for the year. Don't be disappointed. Meet at Yarm Town Hall for departure at 10am prompt. The last ride with the Club Chairman as leader took us north past Kielder into Scotland and back via Alston and Middleton in Teesdale. It was a good run, with many a winding, climbing and diving turn to keep the gear box stirring! I guess Steve Laughton must have got his new Yamaha Tenere pretty well run in after that. I was lost most of the time!

DESIGNATED LEADER RIDEOUTS 2011		
DATE	LEADER	COMMENTS
October 16	J Angus	

MCIA Backs Security Campaign. Following pressure from a number of motorcycle groups, the Motorcycle Industry Association is now backing the campaign for manufacturers and insurers to put theft-prevention security marking on customers' bikes. Statistics show that around 40% of motorcycle theft victims never return to biking, and this is a great loss to the biking community. Always lock up your bike when left unattended.

A Visit to Ensignbus at Purfleet story by *David Hunter.* Images by *D. Hunter & N. Simpson*

Norman Simpson has driven many vehicles in his long working life, ranging from AEC Dump Trucks, underground at the I.C.I. Anhydrite mine at Billingham to the most modern of buses in his present job at Arriva Teesside. One vehicle dear to his heart is the ex London Transport RT class, which he drove in the 1970s at OK Motor Services from their Bishop Auckland depot. His one time manager, Charles Marshall, knew of his admiration for the type and suggested that he contact Ensignbus at Purfleet, Essex, to try to arrange a drive on a preserved example. The Company, which as well as being a modern day bus operator, with a group of services around south Essex, is one of the countries foremost bus and coach dealers.

Approaches were made to the Company and on Tuesday 30th August we made a long journey south to visit their Purfleet premises on Wednesday 31st. We easily found the imposing buildings which are the operational base of the Newman family owned business. Although it was early in the morning there was a steady stream of nicely presented buses in a bright blue and silver livery leaving the depot for services around Romford and Dagenham. We reported to the controller's office; we were due to meet their special Projects Manager Mike Botton. He had not yet arrived, being delayed in organising a rail replacement service all through the night. We made our way a mile down the road to an excellent clean and inexpensive establishment to fortify ourselves for the day ahead. On leaving to return to the depot, Mike arrived in a service van to find us. He is a very amiable fellow, knowledgeable and competent. Returning to the modern office and workshop blocks, they were a hive of activity. After the formalities of licence checks etc we went down through a most modern workshop and MOT preparation area to the main "garage" areas.

There are four "barns", one time grain storage warehouses, but now full of buses of all types and hues, many for sale. but many are part of their fleet of preserved buses which are used for special projects. The special project buses were most interesting; many are ex London Routemasters, Ensignbus being the principal sellers involved in the disposal of these venerable buses following their retirement from front line service.



Most are now restored to an extremely high standard, typical of which is FXT183 RT8, a 1939 built example, which was repatriated from the USA with great care and now holding pride of place in the collection. It really is magnificent, resplendent in its World War II era London livery, complete with high visibility white mudguard edges. Many others are extremely rare, and undergoing careful restoration by a dedicated team of workers of all skills. Notable was a Guy GS used on outer London suburban and country services and a recently acquired Bristol LS/ECW coach once operated by Western National as Royal Blue 2206 from 1957.

A rare Cravens-bodied AEC engined 1947 example had been prepared for us to ride in and drive. It was to be used for filming an episode of 'The Midwife' for Channel Four on the afternoon, complete with driver resplendent in period uniform. After a brief re-familiarisation inspection Norman was ready to go. Mike drove the bus onto the industrial estate service road and invited Norman to take his seat in the cab, carefully checking that he knew what he was about. After one circuit of the block he was "passed out" and Mike joined me in the lower saloon to operate the bell as signals for directions on the preferred route.



Norman drove the venerable and valuable RT up onto the dual carriage way, through the industrial Essex landscape for about five miles and then crossing the new Channel Tunnel high speed rail line via an imposing bridge we gained a road which ran alongside the wide Thames heading east towards Thurrock on the A1090. All too soon, after a forty minute drive we had to return to the depot and park the bus to be prepared for its filming duty. We took coffee in the outside smoking area, chatting to enthusiastic employees. The Company is obviously a happy working environment. A nice bunch of people with interest in their work.

The rare Craven bodied RT, JXC194 RT1431 purring like a kitten, its AEC engine warming up for the duty in the "Heritage Barn"



After the break we were taken up stairs to the office block and introduced to the several of the office staff.

To our delight, Peter Newman, the Managing Director made a point of coming out of his office to welcome us personally to the Company. In recognition of his generosity I had taken a copy of the Stockton Corporation book, which we recently published, as a gift, which he gladly accepted.

We had a further productive hour at the premises in which we were allowed free access to all the vehicles, with due deference of course to health and safety, particularly in the workshop area. One area in which the Company is very active is the conversion of double deck buses to open top and single door configuration for operators of the "City Sightseeing" franchises. City Sightseeing is now Spanish owned but originally an Ensignbus operation.

Eventually we said farewell to our genial host for the day, Mike, and made our way happily northwards home. The whole Company is obviously well run and a credit to the Newman Family and their staff. They have kindly invited us down to the South East again to take part in their Winter Running day on Saturday 4th December. We are eagerly looking forward to that.



Norman gets his hands on a classic Craven-bodied RT bus.

New Online BMW Motorrad UK Website. If you own a BMW and want to know anything about your bike then the new website is the site for you. It caters for all models up to 10 years old. The website is connected to the central computer network at BMW HQ in Munich and so is bang up-to-date. Data on servicing, spare parts lists and manuals can all be viewed and downloaded. Just enter the VIN number for your bike and you can get information on every part of your machine.

Go to: www.bmw-motorrad.co.uk/sercvice-and-maintenance.



FOR SALE
TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE SE 2010,
BLUE/WHITE £5,250 ONO
537 dry miles, fitted with
alarm/immobiliser, longhaul screen,
centre stand, rack, heated grips,
(knee grips, fork gaitors & hand
guards) added after photo taken.
Garaged, balance of Triumph
warranty. Tel: 07906479116

Need Help with Your Computer. Quick, efficient service at very competitive prices assured. Contact Steve on 07765881062. Alternatively you can email Steve at swatts@ntlworld.com

Bloody Handguards. With winter around the corner I decided to fit a pair of handguards to the 'BM' to keep my pinkies a little warmer. So, I got the right bits from a well known 3rd-party supplier and set about fitting them. It looked straightforward enough; probably take half an hour with 2 tea breaks. Ha! I didn't know that the instructions had been translated from German to Japanese then Czech then Spanish and finally American English! Silly me tried to follow the instructions word-for-word and fell at the first fence. I should have trusted my instincts but no, it said that the clutch feed must go through the centre of the handlebar bracket and it 'must be so'. I ended up hacking a piece off as the darn thing kept fouling the clutch lever – the angle was all wrong. A sticking-plaster later I had cut out a good piece to fit round the clutch line, but after forcing a 'fit' I managed to cross-thread a screw and the thing fouled the clutch lever anyway. AAArrrgghh! In the end I decided to ignore the instructions and 1 and a half hours after starting I got the first one fitted; I needn't have cut any off or cross-threaded the thing! Anyhow, the right hand one was fitted in 4 minutes (no tea break)! Bugger.

Free Alert Service for Stolen Bikes. A free service has been launched in response to the growing numbers of bikes being stolen. Called 'Tweetathief', the service wants to build a network of riders, who the system will automatically alert whenever or wherever a bike, gear or trailer goes missing. It works by broadcasting who wants to help by receiving the alerts, whether they are bikers or simply members of the system. To find out more go to: www.tweetathief.com.

Take Your Hat Off to Morrisons. According to Morrisons Supermarkets bikers have been responsible for assaulting petrol station staff, buying fuel while underage and 'passing out' with petrol fumes getting into helmets! It's all a load of twaddle but they seem to be persistent in requiring bikers to remove helmets. Being happy (not) to oblige I filled up the other day, and took my time. I purposely went in the longest queue and by the time I had removed my helmet, topped the tank to the nearest millionth of a 'cc', paid the cashier and got back, the queue was much bigger, and by the time I had put my helmet and gloves on it was colossal. The guy behind me was looking very irate but I told him of the situation, and that I couldn't push the bike on after fuelling but before paying as it would be classed as a 'drive off'. (I did once push the bike to the side before paying and when I walked into the shop the staff said they were about to call the police). Anyhow, play the game and if you wind up enough motorists maybe there will be sufficient complaints for Morrisons to change their minds. Happy Gassing.

THE END GAME. Theme for this month is FLATULENCE!

"How dare you break wind before my wife," says the host to his dinner guest. "I'm sorry," replies the guest. "I didn't realise it was her turn."

How do you tell if a girl is wearing pantyhose? Her ankles swell when she farts.

How does a man make a bubble bath? He eats beans for dinner.

Ted goes to the doctor, suffering from continual flatulence. The doctor asks him to take off his trousers and lie down on the couch. Ted is horrified when the doctor produces a six-foot pole. "What are you going to do with that?" asks Ted. "I'm going to open a window," says the doctor.

A male fly and a female fly are feeding on a cow pat when the male fly farts. The female fly says, "Do you mind. I'm eating!"

Fart in church and you'll sit in your own pew!

A wife is just fed up with her husband's continual flatulence in the morning and warns her husband that one day he'll 'fart out his guts!' After several more days of his disgusting flatulence she decides to sneak down to the refrigerator and get a bag of chicken giblets. While her husband is sleeping she slips the giblets under the sheets, between his legs. The next morning she wakes up and asks her husband how he slept. "Fine until this morning. You were right, I did fart my guts out." "Do you think you ought to see a doctor" she asks. "No" he replies, "it took a while but I've managed to pole them back up again."

Two old ladies are discussing the merits of stockings and tights. "I much prefer stockings," says one. "Do you find them more elegant?" says the other. "Oh yes" she replies. "If I fart with tights on I blow my slippers off!"

"Doctor, I have this terrible problem with silent farts. Yesterday I let three off at work and last night another ten in the cinema. And just now I let three off in your waiting room. As a matter of fact I've just let two off while talking to you." "Well," replies the doctor. "The first thing I'm going to do is test your hearing."

Wot! Not Got a Computer? This newsletter contains quite a few references to web sites and email addresses. Where there are alternatives such as phone numbers or mailing addresses I will publish them. Get advice from Steve Watts if you are planning to go 'digital'.

And it's 'Goodnight' from him. Please call me if you would like something putting in the newsletter. There is no deadline...you either make the next issue or you don't! My email address: brian.burke2@btopenworld.com or phone me – 01325 721669 (Answerphone on). Mobile 07517 605614.

Santa Ride for Zoë's Baby Hospice.

Riders Name: Age:
Address:
.....
..... Post Code:
Blood Group: (If Known)
Motorcycle Make: Model: Reg No:
Tel No (home) Mobile:
E-Mail (please print)
Enclose Entry Fee of £6. (Cheques made payable to Boundary 500 Motorcycle Group)

Pillion Name: Age:
Address:
.....
..... Post Code:
Tel No (home) Mobile:
E-Mail (please print)
Blood Group: (If Known)

Enclose Entry Fee of £6. (Cheques made payable to Boundary 500 Motorcycle Group)

Declaration/Disclaimer.

I/We have read the rules/regulations for this event and agree to be bound by them. In acceptance of this entry I agree to save harmless and keep indemnified the organiser Brian Laverick, Zoë's Baby Hospice, John Simpson, Cleveland Fire Authority, Simon Bailes Ltd, Cleveland Advanced Motorcycle Group, and the owners or lessees of any land or properties used for this event and their respective officials, servants, representatives, agents or individuals, from and against all actions, claims, costs, expenses and demands in respect of death or injury to myself or passengers, or any damage or loss to any of my property, how so ever caused in this event, and not withstanding that the same may have been attributed to or occasioned by the negligence of the said bodies, officials, servants, representatives agents or individuals.

Riders Signature: Date:

Pillions Signature: Date:

Completed forms and monies send to;

The Secretary. Boundary500 Motorcycle Group, C/O Premier CAD.com Ltd. Belasis Business Centre, Belasis Tech Park, Billingham. Cleveland. TS23 4EA

The Santa Ride for Zoë's baby Hospice Next of Kin. (Attach to entry form)

Riders Name:
Next of Kin: Name:
Address:
.....

.....
Post Code:
Tel No:
Relationship:

Pillions Name:
Next of Kin: Name:
Address:
.....
.....
Post Code:
Tel No:
Relationship:

Additional Information:

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Santa Ride for Zoë's Baby Hospice.

Rules & Regulations.

1. All riders to meet in the rear car park of Thornaby Fire Station, Master Road, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 0BQ no later than 11am on Saturday 3rd December 2011.
2. The event will start at 11.30am and follow a route that will have been previously circulated. The pace and direction of the Ride will be under the control of Cleveland Police.

3. The event organiser is Brian Laverick. 40 Pembroke Drive, Ingleby Barwick, Stockton-on-Tees. TS17 5BB. Tel No 01642 751441 or 07968226148. brian.laverick@ntlworld.com
4. The event is open to all powered two wheelers and trikes. Motorcycles that have been adapted to carry a disabled rider will be accepted should the organiser be of the opinion that the machine is suitable for the purpose of the event.
5. All riders and machines must comply fully with all aspects of the law appertaining with its use on the public highway. The rider/machine must be correctly licensed, insured, and have a valid vehicle excise licence and test certificate where appropriate. The machine must also fully comply with The Construction and Use Regulations and other relevant legislation.
6. All speed limits and Traffic Regulations on any road that is being used must be complied with unless directed otherwise by a Police Officer in uniform. It cannot be over emphasised that this is not a race and the last thing we want is for someone to be injured or behave in such a manner to discredit the event.
7. Pillion must be at least 12 years of age on the date of the event. All riders and pillion taking part must pay an entrance fee of £6 and raise a minimum of £20 sponsorship money each. Every rider and pillion will be provided with a Santa suit which is to be worn during the ride.
8. All riders/pillion must agree to and accept the rules/regulations and sign the declaration/disclaimer on the entry form.
9. The closing date for entry to the event is Saturday 26th November 2011.
10. All sponsorship monies and forms must be returned before Wednesday 1st February 2012 to ;
The Secretary.
Boundary 500 Motorcycle Group.
C/O Premier CAD.com Ltd.
Belasis Business Centre.
Belasis Tech Park.
Billingham.
Cleveland.
TS23 4EA
Tel No, 01642 343479
11. All riders will follow the instructions/directions of any Police Officer/Marshall during the ride. All riders are asked to keep in close formation on order to provide the minimum of inconvenience to any other road user.
12. Any rider/pillion whose behaviour is likely to bring the event into disrepute will be excluded.
13. All riders/pillion are responsible for their own refreshments and costs associated with then event. Recovery of a rider's motorcycle in the event of a breakdown or other incident is the responsibility of the rider/owner and not the organisers of the event.
14. Any rider who is reported by the Police for any infringement of The Road Traffic Acts whilst taking part in the event must inform the event organisers as soon as practicable.
15. Any rider involved in a 'reportable' road traffic accident must inform the event organisers as soon as practicable.