



Thunderbird Times

JULY 2011

Newsletter of the Mighty South London branch of the **TRIUMPH** Owners Motor Cycle Club

Isle of Wight

Unfortunately the trip organised by Bob had to be called off due to the adverse weather forecasts put out. In the event, the weather wasn't so bad – another triumph (?) for the met office.

...In view of the heavy rain being forecast for our I O W camping trip I rang around those who were planning to go, the general consensus was that we make the trip later in the year, maybe September sometime. I know it was late in the day to make the decision so please accept my apology. On the brighter side an MSL member called Kevin Howlett who happens to live on the island contacted me and he has offered to take us on a tour using the less frequented roads and also take us to some of the best watering holes. Kevin tells me he and his wife who share a love of bikes have 12 from which to choose from. What a dilemma! When we can agree on the new dates I will let him know and maybe this time the sun may make an appearance. I contacted the campsite and they have agreed to keep the deposit on file so we tell them the revised dates and how many in our party and they will reserve our pitches.

The new dates are Friday 14th to Monday 17th October. Same location as before, Chine Farm Campsite. It would be helpful if we knew how many want to go so I can tell the owners. there will be a list on the notice board at the PoW, or ring me and let me know.

Bob

The Runs

Runs out during July to The White Horse, Alton: The Royal Oak, Newdigate: The Greyhound, Tinsley Green: & The Gate, Ifield. All went off well. While we were sitting in the sun at Alton, the only remaining flying Vulcan came over – something you don't see often. The Bullseye Scooter Club put on a do at the Greyhound – lots of old Vespas & Lambrettas ridden by people with lots of tattoos. A guy on a Lambretta rode in, unstrapped a holdall from the back seat which promptly fell to the ground. He picked it up, opened it, and brought out a real live raccoon... obviously not satisfied with just a tail on a pole as in the old days.

The Claygate Flower Show was a disaster due to the weather. Mog & I met up at Tolworth but decided to go home. Bob is made of much sterner stuff, however, and he went off to the show – his account....

... It was not the best day to go and stand in the middle of a field for 5 hours. I arrived at the show at about 1145 where I found John and Mike Smith standing in the judges gazebo. By now I was wet from the waist down, water resistant is not the same as waterproof, take it from me. The Gore-Tex jacket was fine, the trousers were another story. We counted about 5 cars on display, 4 dogs and some soggy farm animals. The best idea was to go to the pavilion and use our vouchers on tea and cakes, after tipping water from the chairs we sat under the canvas and wondered what time we should stay until. After an hour or so the rain eased and the sun started to shine, the crowd started to swell but sadly the bikes stayed at 3. Robin turned up, then Dave Lidbury. By then our thoughts, or at least mine, turned to dry clothes so the three of us set off home, at least it was a dry ride home.

Branch BBQ

During the day, it looked as if the BBQ would be a wash-out. Fortunately the rain dried up from late afternoon until later in the evening, so we had a pretty good turnout, and the branch made a few quid on the evening for a change. Trophies (plaques engraved by Ron Granger, locksmith to the gentry) were awarded to Pete Watkins (best pre-unit with his Tribsa), Fred Reavell (best unit, Thunderbird), best Hinckley went to a visitor, unfortunately we didn't get his name, and best in show went to Postman Pat (aka Paul Wood) with his ex-GPO telegram delivery Bantam, pictured below. Judging was by Barry Bryant, who unfortunately couldn't have his bike in the show as some scumbag had stolen his recently restored TR6 a couple of weeks previously.



Paul's Bantam – as found, & after nailing it together. Paul's interest in all things GPO comes from having worked for the post office, & for some time in the post office in Buckingham Palace.

EVENTS

Aug 7 th	Sunday Run to Horam (meet Godstone Ponds 1030)
Aug 20 th	Capel Car Show (meet Rykas 1100)
Aug 23 rd	Club Run to William IV, Little London
Aug 29 th	Merton Show (details to follow)

CLUB CONTACTS:

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