

Summer – what summer?

2016, so far, has had a proper English summer – generally crap. A few good days followed by lots more days of drizzle. You'd think I'd be used to it by now but I still feel a bit cheated when it's not "cracking the flags". I suppose it's because there's no feeling quite like riding your bike on a hot, sunny afternoon. It's one of the best experiences life offers. And because I want to keep it that way, I support MAG. Living on this island you learn to appreciate those days when the weather is decent. Not being able to ride your bike how you like, that would just spoil it!

This Month – NW MAG Bike Show – Sunday 3rd July



I'm not sure how Blackpool Area MAG do it but they always arrange a sunny day for their annual bike show in Stanley Park. And as you can see, even with the weather we've been having, this year was no exception. About 300 bikes attended the event and the Italian Gardens was ringed with bikes, all competing for one of the prizes. Thanks to the hard work of Blackpool MAG, this event is now firmly established on the NW biking calendar. Not only is it a great opportunity to get the MAG message out to bikers who haven't yet heard it (and there's surprisingly many of them) but it's also a massive PR exercise with the non-biking public, who seem to enjoy it as much as us!

I think that's what they call a win-win situation.



Harlow hassles update

You may have heard that Harlow Council have been setting a dangerous precedent lately by attempting to use a legal injunction (which affects the rights of all law-abiding bikers to ride together) in order to curb the anti-social behaviour of just a few low-lifes. Talk about sledge-hammers and nuts! Heaven forbid such actions spread up here. As ever, MAG has been on the case:

The Motorcycle Action Group (MAG), the UK's leading voice for riders' rights, is lobbying Harlow Council for a change in the terms of an injunction directed at preventing anti-social behaviour in the local area. MAG has already been in close communication with the Council, but the issue has yet to be fully resolved. MAG's Director of Communications & Public Affairs, Lembit Opik, has had two meeting arranged both of which were postponed at short notice by the authority. A new date has been arranged - on16th August - but MAG is concerned this is some time away.

MAG's Chair, Selina Lavender, has expressed worries that this delay could fuel unrest among the law abiding motorcycling community. Selina says "so far, MAG has been able to secure the patience of riders, on the basis of discussions taking place between MAG and the authority. This is a key reason why Lembit is very keen to have the meeting as soon as humanly possible is to secure meaningful progress in regard to the injunction and its wording so that the matter can be put to rest.'

Selina has written to the authority, asking for the meeting to occur well before the 16th August, more specifically in the week beginning the 25th July. Selina adds, "I am acutely aware of the level of unease the current situation is causing. I'd be very grateful for the local authority's assistance with resolving the matter as soon as possible."

MAG will keep the riding community updated on developments as they happen. Lembit says "this is a key priority for me, and I'm acutely aware that we simply have to separate the content of the injunction and what the authority is trying to do in terms of dealing with antisocial behavior. The problem isn't bikers, it's hooligans who just happen to be using bikes. It's unfortunate that the injunction appears to discriminate against powered two wheelers, which I know wasn't the intention. We'll get this fixed amicably. But it does need to be fixed.'

Salford MAG Fundraiser – Friday 9th September



Here's a date for your diary – NW stalwarts Salford MAG are having another fantastic night to raise ammunition (ie cash) for the fighting fund. The fun will occur at Wangies bar, Eccles and will feature the excellent Deathwish, widely acknowledged to be the best band in the world (for the money). Be there or cut your hair.



North West Motorcycle Alliance

This is not a MAG organisation but a monthly meet for all bike clubs, organisations and interested bikers anywhere from Cheshire up to Lancaster. The next meeting is hosted by **Road Reapers MCC** at the **Ellesmere Road Club, 24-26 Ellesmere Rd, Bolton BL3 3JT** at **8pm** on **Wednesday 24th August.** Here is the latest, up to date list of biker events this autumn which the Alliance has put together, which includes a few changes from the previous month.

Regular monthly events

HAMC Liverpool Open night 3rd Saturday of month, open 7.30 'til late

HAMC Manchester Open night last Saturday of month, open 7.30 'til late

Black Diamonds open night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley

Salford MAG meeting – meet at Bird in Hand, Eccles, last Thursday of month (not July).

Red Rose MAG meet every 1st&3rd Wednesday, Petre Arms, Langho nr Blackburn

Anvil MCC meet every Wed 8pm - contact Ray 07747748946

Avernus MCC – open clubhouse – on hold till September

Mid-Life Crisis Meet'n'greet, BBQ - 3rd Wed of month

Cogheads MCC meet every Thursday Black Bull Huncoat BB5 6LN Contact David 07480927399

MT Heads Meet - Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday

Gypsy Divas meet – 1st&3rd Wednesday, Woolpack, Haslingden from 8.00pm.

Rigby's Guardians meet every Sunday 6.30-9.00 at the Gardener's Arms, Hollin Lane, Middleton M24 5LE (near Junc. 19 M62)

Road Reapers MCC meet 1st Sunday & 2nd Wednesday at 7.30 at the Doff Cocker pub, 780 Chorley Old Rd, Bolton **Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite** – Every Monday 7-9pm Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL

Known upcoming events –

29th – 31st July Cumbria Custom & Classic Show – Kendal Rugby Club, LA9 6DL

6th August Black Diamonds Rock Night – at the clubhouse, Hindley

5th-7th August – Yorkshire Pudding Rally – Escrick Park near York

21st August Cogheads' Bike Show – rear of Arndale, Accrington 11am on

27th August NABD Fundraiser - CANCELLED

26th-29th August – Avernus Underworld Rally - Hamilton House Farm, St. Michaels on Wyre PR3 0TB

2nd- 4th September – Well Oiled MCC Rally, Colne Rugby Club

- 3rd September Preston Posse Custom Show Vernon Cricket Club, Penwortham
- 9th September Salford MAG Rock Night Fundraiser (with Deathwish) Wangies, Eccles, M30 0QN
- 11th September Millennium Custom Show Barons Rest, Astley Village, Chorley
- 16th-18th September Jesters MCC Rally Whittingham Social Club, Goosenargh
- 16th-18th September Spat Out of Hull the old Farmyard site
- $\textbf{17}^{th} \textbf{ September Brotherhood Quest Social Night} \textbf{Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton}$
- 25th September DDMC Ramsbottom Show
- 1st October Last Bastion Open night live music, booze and food at the clubhouse Liverpool
- 1st October NW Alliance Ride to the Wall
- 7th-9th Oct Rising Moon MCC Rally, Lowerhouse Cricket Club, Padiham
- 8th Oct Mid-Life Crisis Birthday Bash Ship, Irlam ticket only
- 29th Oct Millennium Rock Night –Canberra Club, Salmesbury £5 otd
- 5th Nov Blackpool MAG Hellfire Bonfire Party fancy dress, Blackpool Rugby Club
- 11th Nov Leyland Eagles Rock Nite Leyland& Farrington Social Club
- 19th Nov Avernus Anti-Christmas Party Red Herring, Coppull "Bad Taste" fancy dress
- 26th Nov Cogheads MCC Frightmare before Xmas Fancy dress, Poplar Social Club, Wellington St Accrington

As ever, if you would like to have your say on anything vaguely MAG-related, or sell something bike related, just drop me a line at <u>billgreen@madasafish.com</u> and I'll put it into the newsletter next month. Bill

NW Political Rep

Forget to renew my MAG membership?

The hell I won't!



