



North West Newsletter

January 2017

Onwards and upwards!

Happy New Year to all NW MAG members! Hopefully you've been able to get out on the bike as we've had some pretty decent days this month. MAG (like rust) never sleeps, believing we can't ever take our eye off the ball. We continue to evolve into a leaner, meaner and more effective campaigning machine – in fact we've never been better. But we can achieve nothing without you. So please make sure that you remember to renew your membership this year. Also, why not give that mate of yours a bit of a push (you know, the one who should be a member but isn't). Us bikers need to stick together!

MAG urges 'joint approach' to anti-social behaviour involving bikes

MAG has called on Leeds City Council to take a measured approach, in partnership with local biking groups, to address the anti-social behaviour which occurred in October 2016.

"MAG is completely in agreement with the authorities about the need to deal with the hooligan behaviour of a disruptive element of individuals in the area," says MAG's spokesperson in Leeds, Richard Manton (Manny). "The fact that these irresponsible louts happened to be on motorcycles means that MAG needs to make sure their antics do not reflect badly on real bikers, who have no interest in causing alarm and inconvenience to the general public. We therefore offer our assistance in addressing these issues, and underline the importance of not penalising law-abiding citizens due to the idiocy of a small minority."



The Council has introduced an injunction outlawing certain behaviours which could cause alarm, nuisance, harassment of the public or property damage. *"While the principle of the injunction is understandable on the basis that the Council felt it had to act quickly," adds Manny, "we are nevertheless concerned that its very wide-reaching powers don't inhibit lawful riding in the city. The way it has been worded means it could end up being tested in court. We'd like to avoid that by ensuring terms of understanding between ourselves on behalf of the riding community and the police and Council representatives on behalf of the authorities. That's what I'm doing now – and I have to say we'd have done this even sooner if it had not been so hard to acquire a copy of the injunction and its wording – but we are where we are."*

MAG has been actively engaged nationwide with other local authorities to seek a lasting resolution to these issues. We also set to approach the body representing police chiefs to seek a nationwide solution which protects the public without discriminating against legitimate riders.

Death of Tev Fleming

It's with sadness that we pass on the news of the death of long-time NW MAG member Tev Fleming. Many of you will remember that Tev served as NW MAG rep for several years, which is both a difficult and thankless task. We would like to pass on our condolences to Tev's family.

This Month – Fred Hill Run – 19th Feb

It doesn't seem like a year since the last Fred Hill but next month North West MAG region will be holding its 13th consecutive commemorative run. It's always good to see the old stalwarts, those brave souls who turn out whatever the weather. And it's also great to see the new faces who won't let a little thing like February put them off a ride on the bike. For the second year we'll be meeting up at Red Rose MAG's new home, the **Petre Arms, Whalley Rd, Langho, Nr Blackburn BB6 8AB**. We'll be drifting in from noon onwards, ready to leave for Blackburn Cathedral at 1pm. Bishop Michael, chaplain to Leyland Eagles MCC, has agreed to officiate again. Remember, the pub have kindly offered to put on a brew and a bacon butty in the back room for just £2 and as the Petre is a Samuel Smith's pub (and one of the smartest) you'll be able to get a pint without taking out a bank loan first. We look forward to seeing you!



This Month – NW MAG AGM – 19th Feb



We're always determined to work smarter and make MAG an even more effective organisation. We appreciate that the NW region is large and members often have to travel long distances to attend meetings and events. So, this year we're going to run the Fred Hill Run and NW AGM back to back at the Petre Arms. The plan is to leave on the run at 1pm before returning to the pub for the AGM at 2.30pm. The AGM should be over by 4.30pm. Members who can't make the Fred Hill Run but want to attend the AGM can simply get to the pub by 2.30pm. We have exclusive use of the rear function room (see above) and there will be a range of well-cooked meals available at reasonable prices. Remember though, you need to bring your membership card if you want to vote!

Highways England 'streets ahead' on road planning for motorcycles

MAG attended the January meeting of the Highways England Motorcycle Working Group Communications Workshop, held on 16th January 2017 at the Highways England head offices in Central Manchester. In the meeting, MAG put forward the case for bikers and offered to support the work in three key ways:

- using key MAG events to showcase best practice in terms of the strategic roads network and motorcycle safety.
- discussing the main concerns of MAG in terms of the road safety agenda
- communicating messages through MAG's media outlets and its membership.

Tony Cox, North West MAG rep, says *"Lembit Öpik, MAG's Director of Communications & Public Affairs, at the meeting raised the issue of the impact of cycle-lane segregation, including orcas and armadillos, on biking road space and safety. He also covered infrastructure considerations affecting riders and debated how to raise awareness amongst other road users regarding the legality of 'filtering.' This was a mutually beneficial exchange and we're all working together to get these things right. Highways England has raised the game to a new level. I'm impressed by Highways England's approach – they're thinking like partners with us and others, and that's a very promising development for the riding community."*

This is another example of how MAG operates in the 21st century: getting involved early in order to shape decisions before they're made rather than just protesting after the event.

Driverless vehicles may actually increase congestion (for a while)

Initially at least, autonomous vehicles may actually increase congestion on motorways and A roads as computers take a more cautious approach amongst human drivers. Once, however, when they reach a 'tipping point', when there are more robots than people on the road, they will be able to respond more quickly and bunch up more closely, eventually reducing congestion by about 40%. This is contained in the latest proposals from the Department for Transport, which also envisages "platoons of autonomous trucks", driving just a few yards apart, communicating with each other. After a trial in Europe last year, the DfT will



A convoy of robot trucks on test in Holland last April

carry out their own trials on this in future. On the thorny issue of insurance and responsibility for mishaps, they propose a single policy to cover both the vehicle and the occupants. If a crash were shown to be caused by faulty software then the insurance would compensate both third parties and any injured passengers (including the "driver"). All of which, of course, will inevitably impact on bikers. It's certainly a "brave new world" and MAG is determined to have a voice in how policy develops.

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 **HAMC** at the **clubhouse, Cotton Street, Liverpool L3 7DY** at **8pm on Wednesday 22nd February**. 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.

4th Feb – Allegiance MC Patch Party at the clubhouse Aintree – live music, free entry and food

18th Feb – DDMC Northside Open Night – Hardman St Bury

19th Feb – NW Fred Hill Run & AGM – meet at Petre Arms, Langho for 1pm start

25th Feb - Millennium 2000BC 17th Anniversary Rock Night – Canberra club, camping available

17th March – Road Reapers St. Patrick's Rock Night for Air Ambulance – Ellesmere Club

19th March – BQRS Auto Jumble, Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL

8th April – BDMC Diamonds Night with Circus Freak at the clubhouse, Hindley – free entry and free food.

9th April Salford MAG Autojumble - Bird in Hand, Liverpool Road Eccles, M30 0RY 12-5pm
 14th April Westsiders Good Friday Party Banner pub, Hindley with Sin City, free entry, free food
 22nd April – Red Rose MAG St.George’s Rock Knight – Goosnargh & Whittingham Club, camping available
 28th-30th April - Into The Valley at new weatherproof site with inside area – pre-book only
 May – Ibiza Run – dates/details to follow.
 5th-7th May You’ve Been Nabbed – new site: Cheshire Show Ground, Flittogate Lane, Knutsford WA16 0HJ
 12-14th May Leyland Eagles Rally – the Showground, Wharles, Nr Kirkham
 25-28th May – Big Barn Rally.
 16th-18th June Farmyard Party – Helmsley, North Yorkshire
 23rd-25th June – Blackpool Area MAG 20th Seaside Rally
 30th June = Crisis Crew MC Rock Night
 2nd July – NW MAG Stanley Park Bike Show Blackpool
 1st-2nd July – Crisis Crew MC Bike Show
 8th July - Limefest
 13-16th July Millennium 2000BC Caveman Bash
 4th-6th August Yorkshire Pudding Rally Escrick Nr York – pre-book only
 18-20th August – HAMC Rock & Bike Fest, Rixton, Warrington WA3 6EA – custom show, camping and bands.
 25th-27th August - Avernus Underworld Rally
 25th – 27th August - Great North West Motorbike Festival, Winter Gardens, Blackpool
 15th-17th September – Jesters MCC “Cum Dribble In’t Ribble” Rally Whittingham & Goosnargh Social Club.

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 billgreen@madasafish.com and I’ll put it into the newsletter next month.

Bill

NW Political Rep



“Buying a second bike to use as a winter hack can make sound financial sense...”

Motorcycle News



13th Annual Fred Hill Run

Sunday 19th February 2017

Meeting at The Petre Arms, Whalley Rd,
Blackburn BB6 8AB

leaving at 1 pm.

Details of run dependant on the weather.

All riders welcome

Fred Hill died in prison, still fighting for his beliefs that bikers should have the freedom to ride. Each year we remember him, and continue the struggle.

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance!"

The run will be followed by the North West AGM

Starts 2:30pm at the Petre Arms. Food available all day

Contact Bill on 07754891486

North West
MAG
the heart & soul of biking



Red Rose MAG
presents the



St. George's
Rock Knight



Saturday 22nd April 2017

Whittingham & Goosnargh Social Club,
Old Hospital Grounds, Whittingham, Preston PR3 2JE

Live music from 5TH ELEMENT

Free Camping

Raffle

£5 on the door

All profits go to the Motorcycle Action Group Fighting Fund
Defending Riders' Rights!

MUSIC DRINKS


REAR OF THE BIRD IN HAND PUB
304 LIVERPOOL ROAD ECCLES
M30 0RY

SALFORD MAG PRESENTS
M/CYCLE AUTO-JUMBLE
SUNDAY APRIL 9TH
FROM 12 NOON - 5PM

PLOTS AVAILABLE FROM
£10.00. for more info contact
salford-rep@mag-uk.org

Manchester BIKE SHOW

THE NUMBER ONE MOTORCYCLE SHOW IN THE NORTH



25TH & 26TH MARCH 2017
9:30AM – 5:00PM

EVENTCITY, NEXT TO THE INTU TRAFFORD CENTRE, MANCHESTER, M41 7TB
 ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WWW.MANCHESTERBIKESHOW.COM
INFO@MANCHESTERBIKESHOW.COM | 01484 667776

EventCity An instant focus event

The National Association for Bikers with a Disability
 Invite you to attend their Nabbed Rally for 2017

YOU'VE BEEN NABBED 26

5-7TH MAY 2017

NEW SITE The Cheshire Show Ground
 Flittogate Lane, Tabley,
 Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0HJ

BIKE/TRIKE SHOW SPONSORED BY BACK STREET RIDERS

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM
 20+ GREAT BANDS IN THREE MARQUEES
 THE VERY BEST IN STAND-UP COMEDY
 THE FROG & BUCKET COMEDY CLUB ROADSHOW
 Bike/Trike Show Trophies - 3 DISCOS
 ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES
 REAL ALE BAR featuring 60 Ales & Ciders

ADVANCE TICKETS £30 (Before 29th April 2017) GATE PRICE £35
 CAR PARKING £10 (DISABLED DRIVERS FREE PARKING)
 CARAVAN & MOTORHOMES £20

STRICTLY NO DOGS (EXCEPT GUIDE DOGS) - NO FIRES - NO GLASS
 ADVANCE TICKETS FROM: NABD, UNIT 20, THE BRIDGEWATER CENTRE
 ROBSON AVENUE, URMSTON, MANCHESTER, M41 7TE.
 CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO NABD
 TICKET ORDERS BY CREDIT CARD (TEL: 0844 415 4849)
 OR VIA THE ONLINE SHOP AT WWW.NABD.ORG.UK

ALCOHOL WILL NOT BE PERMITTED THROUGH THE GATE AS WE WILL BE SELLING
 BEERS WINES AND SPIRITS AT CHEAP PRICES ON THE DAYS. ALL PROCEEDS
 FROM THIS EVENT GO TO HELP DISABLED PEOPLE
 TO ENJOY THE FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE OF MOTORCYCLING
 THE NABD IS A REGISTERED CHARITY (1010907)
 ALL ENQUIRIES 0844 415 4849 OR office@thenabd.org.uk



7th WARRINGTON WHEELS YOUTH MOTOR CYCLE COMPETITION 2017

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MOTOR CYCLES?



HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER A LOCAL MOTOR CYCLE
 (OR MOTOR CYCLE RELATED VEHICLE) BUILDING COMPETITION
 TO TAKE PLACE AT WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE, WA1 4JL
 ON FRIDAY 26th MAY 2017, (11.30am-2pm)

ENTRANTS CAN BE TEAMS OR INDIVIDUALS AGED 18 YEARS OR UNDER.

ENTER AS MANY VEHICLES AS YOU CAN BUILD.
 (Any type of bike, running or not)

ENTRANTS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER THEIR
 EXHIBITS IN THE NATIONAL YOUTHBKCOMPETITION
 (www.youthbike.com) HELD IN LINCOLNSHIRE JUNE 2017

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT BOB TOWLER
 C/O WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, GREEN LANE, WARRINGTON, WA1 4JL
 01925 818549

Or E-mail bobtowler57@hotmail.co.uk

HAPPY BUILDING!



www.bobsbikeclasses.co.uk

2017
 Previews 25th August 2017
 Opens 26th August & 27th August 2017

A BRAND NEW FAMILY FESTIVAL FOR 2017
CELEBRATING THE BEST OF BIKES

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