



North West Newsletter

September 2017

Home Office anti-moped crime talks 'a promising start'



MAG has welcomed the first meeting dedicated to dealing with the current moped-related crime epidemic as a promising start towards finding a multi-agency solution to an escalating problem. The summit, held at Home Office headquarters in Westminster, was chaired by two Ministers – Sarah Newton MP and Nick Hurd MP – both of whom hold crime and policing responsibilities in the Government. MAG was represented by Colin Brown (who also attends the Motorcycle

Crime Reduction Group for the organisation), and Lembit Öpik, MAG's Director of Communications & Public Affairs. Colin commented *'the importance of the issue nationally was underlined by the people in attendance. Tony Campbell, the new chief of the Motorcycle Industry Association, was present, as were top brass from the police, Home Office and other interest groups including the Motorcycle Crime Prevention Community, as well as insurance companies. It could have been a talking shop but actually it wasn't. The Home Office official summed up the next steps very well, and it sounded to me like the makings of an action plan.'*

The figures for crimes involving mopeds are high, with 16,180 recorded crimes of this nature across the last 12 months. Four out of five of these crimes involved attempts at property theft and just about all of them involved stolen mopeds being driven illegally, for example on pavements. Colin asked about the ring-fencing of cycling budgets. Given that 0.24% of all pedal cycles in the West Midlands were stolen in 2016 as opposed to 3.24% of motorcycles, he proposed a rethink on the disproportionate spending on cycle security and suggested a dual-use solution for motorbikes and cycles, using Sustrans funding. *'Colin said that riders are around 16 times more at risk of falling victim to bike theft in the West Midlands, versus car theft,'* notes Lembit. *'The figures are staggering and I hope they were taken on board by the Home Office representatives.'*

Colin added, *'the solutions discussed ranged from better motorcycle security from manufacturers to more secure parking options for riders, especially in urban areas. It was also noted that if the authorities don't act then vigilantism will inevitably increase; a point noted by the ministers. Let's hope it doesn't come to that, though it seems that in some parts of London, we're already there.'*

This Month – MAG National AGC Saturday 30th September

This year's National AGC will be held at the **Royal British Legion, East St, Manea, (nr. March) Cambridgeshire PE15 0JJ**. Signing in will be from **10am** and the meeting will start at **12pm**. As we all know MAG is a democratic organisation and democracies work best when people get involved. MAG is the voice for bikers so make sure MAG hears your voice. It's a bit of a schlep down there but hopefully the weather will be OK and MAG will make sure you're fed once there. Don't forget your membership card as it's a long way to go only to be unable to vote! There are more details below.



This Month – Jesters MCC Rally 15-17th September

One of the friendliest little rallies around, Jesters MCC's Cum 'N' Dribble int' Ribble was another triumph again this year. A long time MAG supporting club, Jesters can be relied on to put on a great party and make sure everybody has a good time. Here's looking forward to next year!



Welcome to Whittingham



MAG were there in force as usual

This Month – 12th Spat Out of Hull Rally 15-17th September



The 12th Spat Out of Hull rally (or the 3rd "Little Farmyard", if you prefer) continues to go from strength to strength. They seem to have got the mixture just right – right size, right bands, right comedy, right real ales and right price for the real ales. The weather was a pleasing mixture of sunshine and torrential downpour, which is very popular around Helmsley if memory serves. Of course, many old hands love simply being back on the old Farmyard site (and who wouldn't?).

To cut a long 'un, it was a great weekend with hopefully a shed load of dosh raised for the MAG fighting fund. Tickets for next year will be on sale at the Farmyard Party in June.



The real ale bar catered for bikers of all sizes – thoughtful, that is!

Some folk were getting a bit concerned about the rising level of the River Rye – it's got previous, you know.

Don't forget the new motorbike glove law in France!

If you are one of the thousands of British bikers who each year head to the excellent French roads, glove law will have been introduced since your last trip. It is now against the law on France to ride any motorcycle or scooter without CE certified gloves. Passengers also have to wear gloves on a motorcycle. Approved gloves will have a label mentioning European directive 89/686 / EEC. It's unlikely that any biker is going to set off on a tour without a pair of gloves. However, the new motorbike glove law may catch out those doing a quick ride from the campsite to the beach or local shop. If you are caught riding without gloves you will be fined 68 euros. Your pillion will also be fined if they are without the correct motorcycle gloves. If you pay within 15 days, the fine is reduced to 45 euros.

10 More Power Stations Needed for all those New Electric Vehicles?



You may have seen headlines recently suggesting that the move over to electric vehicles will require the building of ten extra power stations by 2050, each the size of "Hinkley Point C", just to keep up with demand. The implication here is that we simply don't have the infrastructure in this country to cope with the government's plans to phase out the sale of the internal combustion engine by 2040. This sounds worrying. The controversial Hinkley Point C station is about to be built in Somerset by the French energy company EDF at a cost of £18 billion using an unproven Chinese-designed reactor. Critics have

claimed that it is overpriced, overly complex and already obsolete. Are we really going to need ten more of these potential white elephants just so that we can meet our greenhouse targets?

The answer is probably not. All of this hoo-ha has come from a report, "Future Energy Scenarios", which the National Grid produced in July. As usual journalists have picked out the bit that made for the best copy, i.e. the worst possible case. At present the UK has a peak electrical demand of around 61GW (gigawatts). If by 2050 all vehicles are electric the National Grid predicts that peak demand may rise by 18GW. However they also predicted that if everyone decided to recharge their vehicles at the time of high demand (for example, teatime on a cold February) this could mean an extra demand of not 18GW but 30 GW. Once it is up and running, Hinkley Point C can produce 3.3GW. Journalists have simply divided 30 by 3.3 and, mysteriously, come up with ten extra reactors.

As you might guess, there are many reasons why this is unlikely to come about. Firstly, it is unlikely that all vehicles will be electric – it is widely predicted that electric vehicles are just a stop-gap and that hydrogen fuel cell technology will mainly replace them. Those that are electric will most likely be charged up "off peak", with the added capacity to feed electricity back into the grid if demand suddenly rises. Strangely, improved efficiency of vehicles is also ignored – something that history shows is inevitable. Secondly, nuclear power is not a good option for dealing with sudden peaks in demand – it is slow to start up and much better suited to providing a constant supply. Other "green" technologies such as wind, solar and wave are improving rapidly and are much more flexible. The development of "interconnectors"

between the UK and Europe also allows us to import electricity when it's needed as well as exporting it back when it's not. Thirdly, "peak demand events" happen much more rarely now. The days when the whole country would decide to make a cup of tea during the break in Coronation Street are gone. Whereas twenty years ago there might have been 500 such events a year, last year there were 12. So, it looks as if the lights won't be going out any time soon because of the move to electric. It also goes to show that you should always take "science stories", often written by scientifically illiterate journalists, with a hefty pinch of salt.

Hercules Charity Run 1st October 2017-"Getting lost on Bikes since 2002"

This year's Hercules Charity Run will be leaving Preesall Fleetwood Charity School, FY6 ONN at 9am Sunday the 1st October and will be heading in the general direction of Hartside Café at Alston, taking in over 100 miles of fantastic scenery as you ride through the Forest of Bowland, Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The cost to partake is £15 per bike or £25 if carrying a pillion. All profits from this year's run will be going to the Trinity Hospice in Blackpool. An entry form and proposed map of the route can be found at the NW MAG website;

<http://north-west-region.mag-uk.org> NW MAG members will be road marshalling the event and if you would like to get involved with this please drop the NW Regional Rep a line at north-west-region@mag-uk.org or call 07836519391.



8th Warrington Wheels Youth Motorcycle Competition May 2018



Looking for a winter project to keep you busy over those dark winter evenings? Don't mind spending a bit of time helping the kids, grandkids or local street urchins to develop an interest in biking? Then why not think about building an entry for next year's Warrington Wheels Youth Motorcycle Competition? Nobody expects professional standards – most entries are more Loch Ness than Arlen Ness. The important thing is that the kids (and you) have fun and get a sense of achievement that they'll keep for life. Details are in the poster below - you've got over seven months to build that dream bike!

Diary Date

Next year's annual NW **Fred Hill Run** and **Regional AGM** will take place on **Sunday 11th February 2018** at the **Petre Arms, Langho** near Blackburn. Details nearer the time.

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 **Allegiance MC** at the clubhouse **Long Lane Aintree, Liverpool L9 7BG** at **8pm** on **Wednesday 27th September**. Please check the NW Alliance website for any last minutes changes to venue/dates– they do happen! 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

Allegiance MC Open Night first Saturday of month at the clubhouse Aintree, (not Sat 2nd Sept)

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

Ecclestone Delph Bike Meet every Tuesday until end of season, café open till 9pm – last one 2nd Sept

MT Heads Meet – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday, donations to "Hounds for Heroes"

Gypsy Divas meet – 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

Road Reapers MCC - meet 1st Sunday 1pm & 2nd Wednesday at 7.30 at the Elsmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton

Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite – every Monday (except last in month) 7-9pm Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL

Bury the Hatchett MCC - meet at the Two Tubs pub Bury at 7.30 last Thursday of month

Ronin MCC - meet every Thursday at the Grey Horse Hotel, Glazebury, Warrington.

Avernus MCC Open Night 2nd Saturday each month, at the clubhouse, Mill Lane, Coppull PR7 5BW – (not Sept)

Hell's Belles WMC Open Night last Monday of month at clubhouse Radcliffe – Everyone welcome - The Cauldron, Globe Industrial Estate, Darbyshire St, Radcliffe, M26 2TA

Cogheads MCC meet every Thursday (except 1st) at 8pm, Forts Arms, Clayton-le-Moors

Road Slayers Brotherhood meet every 2nd Friday at Rock Hotel pub, Peel Green Rd, Barton M30 7AY

Accrington MCC meet at Poplar Club, Wellington St. Accrington every other Sunday (after 16th April) at 8pm.

Chorley Wildhartz MCC – meet first Thursday of month at Seaview Inn, Preston Rd, Chorley

Known upcoming events –

2nd September Last Bastion MC Open Night at HA clubhouse, Cotton St. Liverpool – band, free food

3rd September Millennium 2000BC Bike Show Baron's Rest Chorley PR1XA (CANCELLED APOLOGIES)

9th September Farm Wars Festival – Hope View farm Astley M29 7LH

15-17th September Jesters Rally Whittington & Goosenargh Social Club

23rd-24th September Ramsbottom Motorcycle Show

7th October Allegiance MC Night of Fright – at the clubhouse Aintree

14th Oct Crisis Crew MC Party Night – Ship, Irlam, ticket only

28th October Accrington MCC Fright Night Poplar Club Wellington St, Accrington

28th October Millennium 2000BC Halloween Rock Night, Canberra Club

28th October Hells Belles Samhain Rock Night at the clubhouse, Radcliffe, Band, free entry & food

28th October Spartans MCC Halloween Rock Night Royton Band Club, OL2 5QP

4th November – Blackpool MAG Halloween Party Night at Blackpool Rugby Club

11th Nov British Bulldogs Rock Night – Balcarres Arms, Wigan

25th November Cogheads Frightmare Before Christmas Poplar Club, Wellington St, Accrington

16th March 2018 Road Reaper's St. Patrick's Rock Night, Ellesmere Club, Bolton

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



***Keep biking old
school –
support MAG!***

Blackpool MAG's Halloween & Bonfire Party Saturday 4th November 2017

£5 on the door

8pm Till Late

All Profits to
MAG's Fighting Fund



Blackpool Rugby Club,
Fleetwood Road. FY5 1RN

Featuring;
Live Music, Rock Disco,
Hot Food, Silly Games,
Fancy Dress Prizes,
Raffle, Free Camping !!!

Phone 07836-519391 or visit

www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org



AGC 2017 **30th September**

Main event

Saturday 30th September
Annual Group Conference

Starts 12:00 noon (Sign on from 10:00am)

Venue: The Royal British Legion, East Street, Manx, PE15 0JJ

You must be a MAG member or affiliated club delegate to attend

Lunch provided for all delegates – if you have special dietary requirements, let us know in advance.

After party

Band: 'Victims of Time'

On-site bar, barbecue & raffle

Free entry for AGC delegates, £5 for all others (inc. camping)

Venue: camping field, Station Road, Manx
approx. 1 mile from daytime venue - all outside event
Campsite opens 3pm Friday

Bikes, cars, and caravans allowed on camping field

You will need to be self-sufficient on Friday night, there will be coffee, tea & toilets on-site. The village has many amenities – chippy/Chinese, Indian, pub, shop.

If you want to help out as a volunteer, get in touch.

Questions / Inquiries
seinal@mag-uk.org 07870792227 rsar@btinternet.com

8th WARRINGTON WHEELS YOUTH MOTOR CYCLE COMPETITION 2018

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 25th MAY 2018. (11.30am-2pm)

Presentation at 1.30 Bring a gazebo

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 YOUTHBIKE COMPETITION (www.youthbike.com) HELD IN LINCOLNSHIRE JUNE 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BOB TOWLER
C/O WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, GREEN LANE, WARRINGTON,
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Or E-mail bobtowler57@hotmail.co.uk

HAPPY BUILDING!



www.bobsbikeclasses.co.uk