



2020 vision for MAG

The end of the decade sees MAG in a stronger than ever position to protect the freedoms of bikers in the UK. Now firmly established as the premier riders' rights organisation in this country, we are in the best position to affect the future of biking post-Brexit. So, here's wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year as well as many thanks your continued MAG membership. Together we can keep biking free!

MAG asks what's happening about bike theft.



On 4th December Merseyside Police Inspector Matthew Moscrop agreed to meet with MAG's Campaigns director Colin Brown, accompanied by Paul Beacall and Dave Pearson from Wirral MAG at Marsh Lane Police Station in Bootle to discuss action on bike theft.

The Inspector has recently been appointed to lead on vehicle crime for Merseyside Police and as such welcomes our ideas on fighting bike theft. The force now operates on a Merseyside-wide basis and not just as Wirral division, City division etc. as used to be the case. This means that resources are sent to wherever they are needed at the time. He also assured us that the Police do check recovered bikes or parts for Smartwater security.

Colin Brown told him that MAG can provide training to police on reading VIN numbers on bikes and can advise on what secure bike parking looks like. Colin will also provide info for Wirral MAG to educate the council regarding secure parking. For example, the chain ideally needs to be off the ground to make it more difficult to cut.

When asked, Inspector Moscrop was unsure if figures exist on how many bikes get stolen from car parks as against how many stolen from homes. We discussed the different types of bike thefts – opportunist theft for joyriding, for example, or planned thefts of high value bikes to be shipped abroad, possibly for spares.

Merseyside Police website has a section for informants. The info gathered there, including hearsay, is used to build up a picture of intelligence on vehicle theft. The inspector asked us to tell the police anything we have seen or heard about bike theft.

On social media there are Facebook pages '**Stolen Motorbikes Wirral**' and '**Wirral Bikers against bike theft**'; Inspector Moscrop wasn't aware of these but said social media can be a good source of intelligence. There have even been social media pages where bike thieves bragged of their exploits.

Paul asked what the police thought about bikers gathering to ride round and look for stolen bikes. Inspector Moscrop replied that we could do what we liked as long as it is within the law. Any information should be passed onto the police, including any helmet cam or dash cam footage.

After a productive meeting, Colin Brown said he would be keeping in touch with Inspector Moscrop and copying in Wirral MAG as to latest developments.

Trouble ahead in the Lake District?

The National Trust is considering plans to turn Seathwaite into the first "car-free zone" in the Lakes, with other locations in the national park to follow. Whether this would also affect motorcycles is unclear.

The move is inspired by schemes run in the Alps by ski resorts. The Lake District national park authority (LDNPA) confirmed that it is working with the National Trust to explore "traffic management in Seathwaite" and looking at "other locations" where car-free zones may work.

"We need to address traffic issues in the national park," said Thomas Burditt, National Trust general manager for the North Lakes. "Car-free zones are an option we are considering. We are in discussions

with residents, the Highways Agency and the parish council.” The National Trust, which owns about 20% of the Lake District, has considered research on car-free zones. Residents of Seathwaite would be able to use their vehicles inside the proposed zone. *“The Lake District’s car problem has reached breaking point. Congestion is horrendous and getting much worse. There was a fire in one of the houses near us and the fire engine couldn’t get down, there were so many cars parked,”* said a local farmer. *“Right now, today, there are dozens of cars parked from our entrance right down the road. That’s a normal Friday. I would love this to be a car-free zone.”*



In 2012 there were 14.8m visitors to the Lakes, according to the LDNPA. By 2015 that had risen to 17.3m. Of these, 14.4m used cars to arrive at the park and 10m continued to use their cars to drive around the Lakes. Last year the Lakes had 19.4m visitors. Kate Willshaw, officer for the Friends of the Lake District, said: *“The Lakes are such an amazing place, but parts of it are being loved to death... It’s not just the Lakes with this problem. Cornwall and Devon are experiencing it too, as well as the North York Moors and Snowdonia.”* It looks like the Lake District maybe the start of something bigger.



Meanwhile a tense hearing about the use of two ‘green lanes’ in the Lake District has stopped just short of banning 4x4 drivers and motorbike trail riders. Two unclassified roads stretching between Coniston, Langdale and Skelwith in the national park have become a toxic battleground between walkers, horse riders, mountain bikers, 4x4 off-roaders and motorcyclists. The national park’s rights of way committee heard from opposing sides at a two-hour meeting in Kendal in October, attended by around 50 people.

Nick Thorne, the park’s countryside access advisor, called on the six-member panel to base its decision on evidence, not *‘emotion and rhetoric’*. At the centre of the argument was the 1.5-mile stretch of the U5001 Tilberthwaite Road between the A593 at Yewdale and Fell Foot, Little Langdale.

Also debated was the third-of-a-mile section of the U5004 which runs between the A683 near Colwith and Hodge Close, near Coniston. Charlie Shepherd, chairman of the Lake District area Ramblers, said *‘noise and fumes’* spoiled the *‘peace and tranquility’* of the area, while ‘minor’ roads were not made for ‘rallying’. Objector Diane Mallinson claimed the park’s report *‘cherry picked, distorted or ignored’* evidence and that a management solution would not control ‘off-roading’.

However, Steve Stout, for the Cumbria Trail Riders Fellowship, said he had been left ‘speechless’ by the *‘hate, bullying and discrimination’* of those campaigning for a traffic regulation order.

Geoff Wilson, of the Motoring Organisations’ Land and Access and Recreation Association, also accused the ‘expertly-orchestrated lobby group’ of *‘misrepresentations, exaggeration, half-truths, and fear. The Lake District should not and will not be saved from anything, if indeed it needs to be, by reacting hastily to this sort of harassment,’* he said. There were calls that conservation of the landscape should come first whenever there was a conflict between users, although the meeting heard the number of vehicles using the two lanes was ‘not exactly Piccadilly Circus’. After a 74-page assessment report into the issues by park officers, the committee voted five to one to agree to a management solution for the U5001 to bring key stakeholders together. The U5004 will be ‘monitored’. Peter Allen MBE, deputy chair of the LDNPA, who proposed the officer’s recommendation be agreed, said: *“We have conflicting arguments here and I always think when you get conflict the easiest way is to try and manage it.”*

Committee chairman Geoff Davies voted against the officer recommendation and had ‘considerable misgivings’ about the conflict being solved through a management plan. *“It’s essential for the various groups of conflicting opinions to try and sort this out, with goodwill on all sides, in a way that brings peace and harmony,”* he said. Commenting afterwards, Nick Fieldhouse, of off-road driving company Kankku, said: *“It’s now for us to deliver. We have to put a management plan in place. We may end up more restricted than we are now, but maybe that’s no bad thing. We are trying to keep the activity of an old Landrover rattling down a quarry road alive for future generations.”*

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 the **Union Riders MCC** at the **Malaga Drift, 1 Church Street, Salford M30 0DL** at **8pm on Wednesday 29th January 2020**. **Please check the NW Alliance FB page for any last minute 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 - free entry, great bands, food available, open 7.30 'til late

Red Devils MC Manchester Open Night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley

Red Rose MAG – meetings suspended until new venue found

MT Heads Meet – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday

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

Bury the Hatchett MCC - meet at the Two Tubs pub Bury at 7.30 every Thursday

Ronin MCC – every Saturday night @ the Plough, Hazel Grove

Road Slayers Brotherhood every 2nd Friday at the Veterans' Garage Barton

British Bulldogs MCC – every Wednesday at the Balcarres Arms, Wigan WN2 1PA

Spartan MCC meet every Thursday at Railway & Linnet pub Middleton, M24 1GQ

Brigantia Rebels MCC meet at the Old Springs, Spring Rd, Wigan WN5 0JJ 1st Saturday at 7pm & 3rd Sunday at 3pm

Leyland Eagles MCC meet 3rd Mondays at Leyland RAFA Club

Avernus MCC – meet at the Red Herring, Mill Lane Coppull PR7 5AN every other Friday

RBLR meet 2nd Mondays at St.Chad's Club, Whittle-le-Woods

Life Behind Bars MCC meet every other Sunday – Hare & Hounds, 170 Outwood Rd, Radcliffe

Lioness MCC 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ Hope View farm, Astley M29 7LH – free food!

Throttle Twisters MCC every Monday – The Rifle Range pub, Burnley lane, Chadderton

Veterans Garage open at Barton Aerodrome every Monday 6pm onwards

Norsemen MCC – every Wednesday of every month @ Irlam Social Club

Wild Bulls MCC meet every other Thursday at 7.30 in Speakeasy Bar, Preston.

Accrington MCC meet every other Sunday at the Poplar Club, Accrington

Boggarts MCC meet every 1st & 3rd Wednesday at Hope View Farm, Astley M29 7LH

Hell's Belles WMC meet last Monday of the month at the Cauldron, Radcliffe

Phoenix Rising MCC meet 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm Tempest Arms, Chorley Old Rd, Bolton

Coyote MCC – meet every Tuesday Old Cock Inn Oldham Rd Middleton M24 2EB

Pist'N'Nuts MCC – meet every Thursday 8pm @ The Pear Tree, 431 Hadfield Rd, Hadfield SK13 1PY

The Sisterhood – meet first Tuesday of month @ 7pm at The Cart & Horses, Astley M29 7SD

Millennium 2000BC meet at Broadfield Arms, Leyland, every other Monday

Shieldmaidenz MCC meet at the clubhouse, 198 Liverpool Rd, M44 5DB TBA

Road Kill MCC meet at the clubhouse, Unit 10, M44 5AZ, Irlam every Monday evening about 6pm.

Rally Rebels RC meet at the Cock & Rabbit, Manchester Rd, Southport every other Sunday 3-5pm

Antagonist MCC meet every Wednesday at the Church Inn, Chadderton OL1 2RR

Union Riders MCC meets at the Malaga Drift, Eccles M30 0DY every 1st Friday from 8pm

Known upcoming events

25th January 2020 – Spartan MCC Rock Night – Railway & Linnet, Middleton M24 1GQ

15th February 2020 – British Bulldogs MCC Valentine Rock Night at the Balcarres Arms

22nd February 2020 – Millennium 2000BC 20th Birthday Bash, Canberra Club, Salmesbury

13th March 2020 – Road Reapers MCC St. Patrick's Rock Night - Ellesmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton

4th April 2020 – Accrington MCC Rock Night - Poplar Club, Accrington

Spring 2020 – 2nd HAMC Manchester 666 Ride – details TBA

26th-28th June – Blackpool MAG Rally, Fleetwood Rugby Union Club, Melbourne Ave, Fleetwood FY7 8AY

5th July – NW MAG Stanley Park Motorcycle Show, Italian Gardens, Stanley Park, Blackpool. FY3 9HU

7-9th August 2020 Big Barn Rally – Early Bird tickets on sale until end of November (see FB)

14th-16th August 2020 – Avernus MCC Underworld Rally – Park House Barn, Milnthorpe LA7 7EB.

11th-13th September - Jesters MCC Rally, Whittingham & Goosnargh Sports & Social Club, Preston PR3 2JE

31st October 2020 – Accrington MCC Halloween Night - Poplar Club, 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 billgreen@madasafish.com and I'll put it into the newsletter next month.
Bill NW Political Rep



WARRINGTON WHEELS

10TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW!

UNDER 18'S BIKE BUILDING COMPETITION

22nd MAY 2020 11am - 2pm

BUILD A BIKE RELATED VEHICLE, RUNNING OR NOT, AND BRING IT ALONG TO THE ONE DAY SHOW. BUILD ALONE, WITH FRIENDS OR GET A TEAM TOGETHER FROM YOUR SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR YOUTH CLUB. IT'S COMPLETELY FREE TO ENTER!



TO BE HELD AT CHAIGELEY SCHOOL, 6 LYMM RD, WARRINGTON WA4 2TE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BOB TOWLER

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