



This Month – NW Fred Hill Run 9th February



This used to be the River Ribble



End of the road - Sawley Abbey

It wasn't the best-timed event we've ever held but we didn't let it beat us. This year we were joined by Storm Ciara, who made it a bit difficult for many to even reach us. We rode into the teeth of a gale and much of our route was flooded out. Luckily it didn't reach above the sparkplugs. As you can imagine, it was a hoot. The fact that Yorkshire decided to cancel their run only made it sweeter. A big thanks to all who made the run (or tried their best but got driven back).

Next Month – Manchester Bike Show – 28-29th March



Almost time again for the Event City bike show and MAG will be there as usual. It's great that we have a decent bike show in the region and it's definitely worth supporting. The MAG stand will be staffed exclusively by NW volunteers, all eager to help - so swing by for a natter as you're passing. The price is still £18 on the door (£15 off if you're over 65), and a fiver for kids. Discounted advance tickets are £3 less if you buy in advance online. Parking is free for cars or bikes.

Many duped into buying fake insurance on social media

Thousands of motorists are driving without insurance after falling for multimillion-pound scams being promoted on Google, Instagram and Twitter. Britain's biggest insurance companies have warned that unwitting motorists are taking out cheap car cover from rogue firms that is invalid or does not exist. The scams could leave other road users at risk and are estimated to push up premiums by £50 for every

one insured, insurers say. They are now calling for tougher web advertising laws to tackle the problem.

The scale of the epidemic is not known as road users with fake insurance can go undetected for months. However, Aviva, Britain's largest insurer, detected 3,100 insurance applications linked to fake policies last year and is investigating a further 4,000. The company said that this was just the tip of the iceberg. Fraud investigators for the industry launched more than 2,300 cases last year, with victims losing £1,209 on average, according to police. Direct Line, another big insurer, has removed 500 fake insurance adverts in the past six months.

Ben Fletcher, director of the Insurance Fraud Bureau, said:

"The full scale of this problem is unknown. This activity is largely under-reported as many people fail to realise that they are being confronted with spoof online ads."

The scam typically snares those who search for cheap insurance using the internet. They either find adverts that pop up on Google, or are targeted by adverts on social media such as Instagram and Twitter. The adverts appear to be for genuine firms that operate as insurance brokers, selling policies from well-known companies. For this reason the scam is known as "ghost broking". When they take out the policy, they receive documents that look like the real thing. However the policy either does not exist, or has been registered to another part of the country that has very low-cost insurance. Those with the fake policies could receive a criminal conviction, have their vehicle impounded or have points on their licence. Police have secured an average of 81 convictions a year since 2006. In 2018, a 27-year-old ghost broker from Oldham was jailed over a £321,000 scam.

Unregulated claims management firms are also paying Google to appear at the top of searches. Representatives only reveal they are not part of genuine insurers when specifically asked. Insurers warn the claims managers can cost consumers hundreds of thousands of pounds when applications handled by them go wrong.

Last month Andrew Bailey, head of the Financial Conduct Authority, had called for web scams to be added to online harms legislation. Aviva said: *"We agree that legislation is needed to protect consumers from the growing risk of financial harm generated online."*

Facebook, which owns Instagram, said it does not tolerate fraudulent activity on its platforms, adding that it uses people and technology to remove harmful content. Twitter said: "We take strong enforcement action on accounts that are in violation of our dedicated financial scams policy." Google said it ensures its adverts are "from reputable organisations offering genuine services" and that it takes "immediate action to prevent misrepresentative ads". It said it has a tool for anyone to report misleading adverts.

How not to get caught out

- *If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.*
- *Insurance brokers are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, so they should be registered here: register.fca.org.uk*
- *Always use the official website of a reputable firm or comparison website when buying insurance or making a claim.*
- *Avoid policies sold via social media, or those advertised in motor repair shops, pubs and newsagents.*

Surveillance camera fears over green number plates



The introduction of green numberplates for electric cars is likely to lead to far more surveillance cameras on roads, ministers have been warned.

A government watchdog said that the proposal from the Department for Transport would have serious privacy implications and may even be illegal. The Surveillance Camera Commissioner, which regulates the use of CCTV and similar technology, said there was "limited evidence" that the new plates were wanted or would provide benefits to society.

It raises questions over the plans that were unveiled

by the DfT last year in a move to encourage the purchase of zero-emission vehicles — pure electric and hydrogen vehicles. A consultation published last autumn said that green plates would "enable people to spot and differentiate vehicles based on their environmental impact", helping to "normalise the idea of

clean vehicles on our roads". Councils would be encouraged to give green plate holders "local incentives" including the ability to drive in bus lanes, access electric charging parking bays and free use of car parks. The document said that enforcement of the scheme "would likely be by the local authority reading vehicle plates" through automatic numberplate recognition (ANPR). The technology is already used by councils to monitor bus lanes, yellow box junctions and car parks. There are also an estimated 9,000 cameras used by police forces.

Under the proposals, numberplates for the cleanest vehicles would keep the traditional black-on-yellow design but a green stripe would appear on the left-hand side to mark them out. It said that a full green numberplate with black lettering would be difficult to read by ANPR camera. In its formal response to the DfT consultation, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner said it was concerned that green numberplates would trigger "an unqualified extension to the role of ANPR" on the road network, which may be illegal.

"Where is the evidence to prove that the extension to the ANPR function is justified?" the response said. *"Limited evidence was presented that car drivers want green numberplates or that it is for the benefit of society. Therefore, the legality was questioned."*

The response also warned of a possible increase in criminals attempting to clone plates to secure access to benefits such as driving in bus lanes.

"This leads to a greater risk to the national ANPR system regarding the potential of more cloned plates on the road," it said. *"The process of getting green numberplates should therefore be tightly controlled."*

It said that views had been taken from the ANPR "independent advisory group" — a panel chaired by the commissioner which includes representatives from the Home Office, police forces and the Information Commissioner's Office — to draft the response.

The DfT consultation closed last month. Plans are expected to be announced late this year, with the likelihood that legislation will be needed to bring in the green plate scheme. A DfT spokeswoman said: *"Green numberplates are a positive and exciting way to raise awareness and support the uptake of electric vehicles on our roads. The public consultation has now closed and we are analysing responses."*

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 **Shieldmaidenz MCC** at their clubhouse at **198 Liverpool Rd, M44 5DB** at **8pm on Wednesday 25th March 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

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 George, Southport 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 – North Chadderton Social& Bowling Club, open night every 3rd Monday

Veterans Garage open at Barton Aerodrome every Monday 6pm onwards

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

Boggarts MCC meet every 2nd & 4th 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 1st Friday of the month
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
Gawsworth Jesters MCC meet at the Harrington Arms, Church Lane. Gawsworth SK11 9RJ, Weds evenings from 7.00pm.
Heathens MCC – meet at the Top House, Oldham OL4 5TB first Wed of month @ 8pm
Wiccan Wolves MCC meet @ Radcliffe Cricket Club M26 3RF every other Friday

Known upcoming events

13th March 2020 – Road Reapers MCC St. Patrick’s Rock Night - Ellesmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton
13-15th March – Well Oiled Saddle N Sup Rally – Saddle Inn, Sidgreaves Lane, Lea Town, Preston PR4 0RS
20th March – The Sisterhood 1st Anniversary Bash at The Cart & Horses, Astley M29 7SD
21st March – Wiccan Wolves MCC “The Howling” Rock Night @ Radcliffe Cricket Club M26 3RF
28-29th March - Manchester Bike Show – Event City, Manchester
29th March – Millennium Motorcycles Ride to the Bike Show – free food, be there for 9am.
4th April 2020 – Accrington MCC Rock Night – CANCELLED
4th April 2020 – HAMC Liverpool Comedy Night – just £5
5th April 2020 – Southport Cruisers Easter Egg Run @ The Carousel, Southport Prom PR8 1QX
10-12th April DDMC Dancing with the Devil Rally – Radcliffe Cricket Club, M26 3RF
1-3rd May – Into the Valley
2nd May – Avernus Enchantment under the World Dance, Red Herring, Mill Lane, Coppull PR7 5AN
8th May – Veterans’ Garage VE Day Party – all day
8-10th May – NABD Rally – Royal Cheshire Showground, Knutsford, WA16 0HJ
20th May – Warrington Wheels 2020 – Chaigley School, Warrington WA4 2TE
23rd May – Manchester 22 Memorial Ride (for the Arena Bombing) leaves from J&S, M11 1AA @ 10am
24th May - Pist’N’Nuts MCC Bike Show/ Family Fun Day, The Pear Tree, 431 Hadfield Rd, Hadfield SK13 1PY
5-7th June - Leyland Eagles Tyred n Exhausted 2 Rally – Edge Hill Farm, Chorley PR6 8BS
7th June - Gawsworth Jesters MCC Charity rideout
15th June – National Ride to Work day – cos bikes ain’t just toys.
19-21st June – Farmyard Party – Helmsley, N. Yorkshire
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
19th July – 2nd HAMC Liverpool Ride in Bike Show at the clubhouse Cotton St L3 7DY – prizes, food, bar, music
25th July – 2nd HAMC Manchester 666 Thunder Run – leaving from the clubhouse, Cadishead at 1pm
29th July - Gawsworth Jesters MCC Bike Night
31st July - 2nd August - Yorkshire Pudding Rally
7-9th August Big Barn Rally – (see FB)
8th August – Invictus Summerfest- details to follow
14-16th August – Avernus MCC Back to the Underworld Rally – Park House Barn, Milnthorpe LA7 7EB.
4-6th September – Stormin the Castle – Witton Castle, Bishop Auckland DL14 0DE
11th-13th September - Jesters MCC Rally, Whittingham & Goosnargh Sports & Social Club, Preston PR3 2JE
18-19th September – Lioness MCC Rally – Hope View Farm, Astley M29 7LH
24th October- RDMC Manchester 2nd Anniversary Party at the clubhouse Hindley Green
31st October – Accrington MCC Halloween Night - Poplar Club, Accrington
28th November - Avernus Rock Night, Red Herring, Mill Lane, Coppull PR7 5AN
5th December – Coyote MCC Xmas Party Old Cock Inn Oldham Rd Middleton M24 2EB

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

Bill

NW Political Rep





***A typical Lancashire biker
out for a ride.***

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

07949 337508 Or E-mail bobtowler57@hotmail.co.uk

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TROPHIES AND MEDALS

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Fleetwood Rugby Club, Melbourne Avenue, Lancs. FY7 8AY

Paypal & further details at www.northwestregion.mag.org

All profits to The Motorcycle Action Group Ltd Protecting our "Right to Ride"



THE 9TH



DEAD END RALLY

10-12TH JULY 2020

DALTON UNITED F.C

BECKSIDE ROAD

DALTON IN FURNESS

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ALL GATE PROCEEDS TO THE N.A.G FIGHTING FUND

Blackpool Stanley Park Bike Show

Sunday July 5th 2020

11am - 4pm



**£2 Bike/Trike Parking
Entitles Entry to the Show**

**Live Music in the
Bandstand Featuring
Rupert Fabulous**

**Trophies for
Various Classes and
Best in Show**

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

All Profits to the MAG Foundation Registered Charity 1100274

Stormin' the Castle Ltd Presents their 30th Fundraising event for the Motorcycle Action Group UK
Witton Castle, Witton le Wear, Co. Durham. DL14 0DE

4th - 6th
Sept 2020

30 YEARS OF STORMIN'

4th - 6th
Sept 2020



Bessie & the Zinc Buckets
Gerry Jablonski Band
Acoustica
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live bands on 2 stages
3 onsite bars

The Line Up So Far, more to follow



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Auld Mans Beccie

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adult weekend £35, o/g £45, Prebook day ticket £25, kids £10

See website for full details of tickets including Prebook Disabled and Limited Prebook Car Passes

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As a condition of our license, no colours to be worn on site.

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