

# BEDS VMCC NEWS

**STILL KEEPING YOU INFORMED**



What a difference a month makes to the Winter Wandering

*IN THIS ISSUE:*

**SECTION  
NEWS**

**TAKE A  
STAND**

**HOW TO  
KNOW HOW**

**AUCTION  
WATCH**

**BRISTOL CLASSIC  
BIKE SHOW**

## EDITORIAL

It seems I always start the newsletter with an apology for it being late – this time is no exception, sorry. Of course, it would prompt me into action if I have lots of content to include. Why not occupy the odd dark, damp evening putting a few words and/or pictures together? Almost anything original would be welcome related to motorcycles, the people that ride them and the places they go on them.

With this issue I am attempting to make it easier to read on a mobile phone but, bearing in mind that I don't have much of a clue about such things, anything could happen. I've enlarged the text and reduced the page length, so fingers crossed.



This year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the VMCC, as commemorated by this questionable logo (downloadable from the members area of the VMCC website). Whilst we don't have a specific event to celebrate this momentous occasion, we will be participating in the Anglia Region Baton Relay. Look for further information somewhere in this newsletter.

Did you spot the error in the last issue? For some unknown reason I called the Francis Barnett inline twin at Stony Stratford a 'Bushman' instead of 'Pullman'. Not like me to have a Bantam on my mind.

Many thanks to the contributors to this issue: Martin, Nick, Sam, Tim & Will. Please submit your contributions to me on: [bryan.marsh@btinternet.com](mailto:bryan.marsh@btinternet.com) and please, if possible, use Word with any photographs separate, not embedded in the text, to make it easier for me. Don't worry about grammar or spelling, I can sort that out.

Bryan

## *Beds Section News*

### *Upcoming Events*

#### **CLUB NIGHT – INTER AND INTRA SECTION QUIZ, STMA, THURS 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026, 7.30 FOR 8.00PM**

Once again, Will has delved deeply into his extensive knowledge of vintage motorcycling to produce a quiz which is guaranteed to puzzle, amuse and entertain at the same time. Teams of up to four, no entry fee and free refreshments – what more could you wish for?

#### **MIDWEEK LUNCH – KEYSOE INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE, THURS 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, NOON**

One of my favourite locations but sadly I shall miss it as I'm going on a visit to the Norton factory in Solihull (report to follow in the next newsletter). This is the last midweek lunch of the season, April sees the first of Don's Midweek Runs in its place – which, of course, end with lunch; we'll never let you go hungry.

#### **BREAKFAST MEET – NUYARD GARDEN CENTRE, WESTONING, SUN 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 10AM**

Why not pick up a few hardy annuals and perennials whilst you're there – and quite a good farm shop as well.

By the way, the Shuttleworth restaurant is fully open again now.

### *Other events of possible interest*

#### **THE ROGER AND ARTHUR KING MEMORIAL RUN, STMA, SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

This is the section's premier event for Veteran Vintage and Post Vintage motorcycles and British bikes up to 250cc and no later than 1973.

The event will start at 10:30 am and comprise a navigation and road safety run of approx. 60 miles around Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Lunches will be available at Shefford Memorial Hall.

Entries should be received by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Entries may be accepted after this date by telephone arrangement to the event secretary but will not be included in the event programme.

The entry fee for Solo riders will be £15.00 inclusive of the

lunch provided. Pillion riders and sidecar passengers, the entry fee will be £7.00 inclusive of a prepared lunch.

The entry form can be found on the Beds VMCC website or Gemma is quite happy to send out printed copies to those who need it. Call her on 07931931308 to request them to be posted. Leave a voicemail or text message if necessary.



## **THE SUNBEAM MOTORCYCLE CLUB INVITES YOU TO THE WARWICKSHIRE WEEKEND 2026, 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

This is not a Sunbeam MCC Ltd. closed event. All welcome. For bikes, solo or with sidecar. Must be pre-1940, Veteran, Vintage or Post Vintage. All details can be viewed at:

<https://sunbeam-mcc.co.uk/event/warwickshire-weekend/>

Arrive Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, ride Saturday, Sunday & Monday and leave after breakfast Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. The riding consists of Saturday 90 miles, Sunday 98 Miles and Monday 87 miles, through glorious countryside with coffee, lunch and tea stops, and these refreshments are payable on the day.

Accommodation is at the Kings Court Hotel, Kings Coughton, B49 5QQ who provide excellent accommodation, good food plus a good range of drinks at the bar, and plenty of parking. Dinner each evening will be in a private room and we are assured of friendly and good service.

These rides are suitable for sporting veterans, vintage and post vintage machines up to and including 1939.

The hotel cost is £760 for two sharing a double room, breakfast and three course evening meal for the period, and £576 for singles.

Book your own rooms as required, directly with the Hotel,

Phone: +44 (0)1789 763111 using the arranged code SUNBEAM to get the group discount that has been negotiated, 20% deposit is required when booking. Balance to be paid 45 days before arrival.

Entry forms and regs, are available on the events/calendar section of the Sunbeam MCC website:

<https://sunbeam-mcc.co.uk/event/warwickshire-weekend/>

If you need any help, such as, don't do web sites or having any other issues, contact Martin Staple on 07771 520450.

## **BANBURY RUN, BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM, GAYDON, 7TH JUNE 2026.**

All details are online at <https://www.banbury-run.co.uk>

Entries for the 2026 Banbury Run opened on 1st January. Over 100 entries were received in the first month, but the rate has now slowed. This year entries are online, and the organisers hope that family, friends or other Section members will help those who are less comfortable with online systems or payments. Sections are also asked to spread the word that the organisers will ensure that the new system excludes no-one, and will make an entry for anyone who cannot do it alone or get help. Anyone who needs this should write to Allen House giving their name and a phone number, and someone will be in touch by phone, to assist.

This year we are strongly encouraging Team entries from Sections, one-make clubs and the motorcycle industry – a Team is any three Timed riders. The members of “sponsored” Teams receive a discount on their entry fees. Section officials are asked to encourage and enable Team entries.

More volunteer event staff are needed: details of the roles available and how to register interest are at <https://www.banbury-run.co.uk/Volunteers> . It may seem strange, but volunteers to help run the event are even more important than riders! Sections are asked to encourage interest in this from members who do not own or cannot borrow a pre-1931 bike, or who for whatever reason cannot participate as a rider.

There is a new arrangement for the Autojumble. Member who are not regular autojumble traders are being encouraged to clear out pre-1960 spares, etc in long-term storage. Where a member could not fill a whole pitch on their own, the organisers will on request pair them up with someone else in the same situation. Details and booking forms are at <https://www.banbury-run.co.uk/Autojumble>.

All enquiries to [banbury@vmcc.net](mailto:banbury@vmcc.net).

Nick Kotarski draws our attention to some other upcoming events:

## DUNSTABLE CLASSIC MOTOR RALLY, SATURDAY 13 JUNE, 10 AM – 4 PM, PRIORY GARDENS



A static display of motorcycles and cars held at Priory Gardens Dunstable hosted by Dunstable Town Council. There is no cost. It's an opportunity to show off one of your motorbikes usually on a sunny day to an admiring public. There is a variety of stalls and entertainment to amuse people during the day.

If you are interested in entering your vehicle into this year's show, you can now register via the website:

<https://www.dunstable.gov.uk/event/dunstable-classic-motor-rally/>

Please note that Priory Gardens is a public park therefore exhibitors must be on site by 9.30 am. Entry will not be permitted after 9.30 am. No vehicles may leave the site before 4.30 pm, and only when the Event Manager deems it is safe due to crowd control.

## THE ACU NATIONAL ROAD RALLIES

The English, Welsh and Scottish Road Rallies return on 4-5 July, 9 May and 12-13 September, respectively. Great excuses for a ride. For details see the ACU website.

## Event Reports

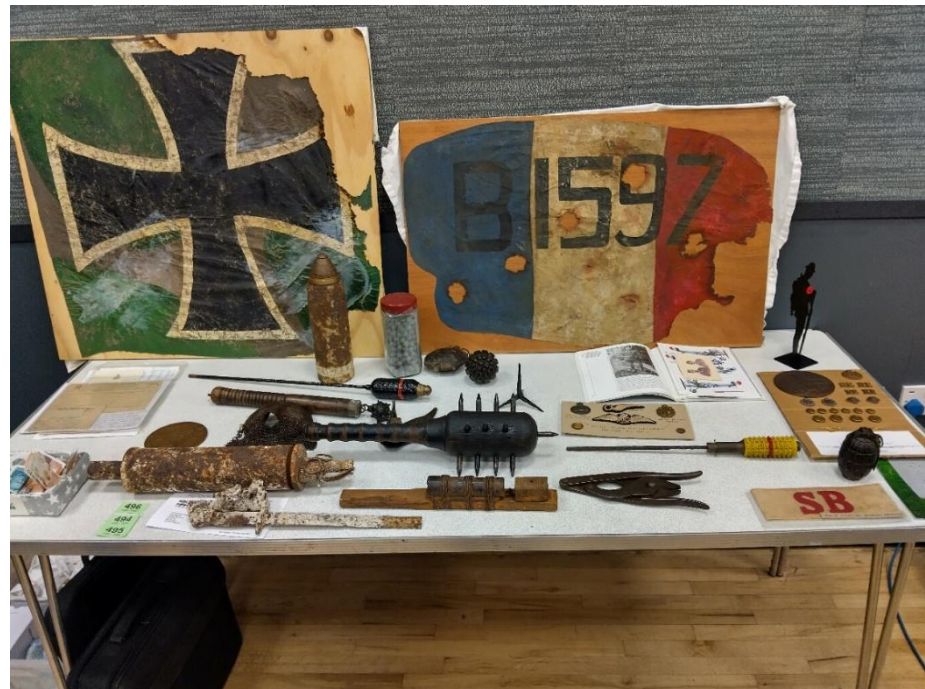
### FEBRUARY WINTER WANDERING

It rained and no-one else showed up (see picture on the front cover) so Billy No-Mates Bryan took his BSA T65 Thunderbolt on an indirect route to the planned lunch stop at the Dairy Café in Thorncote Green for coffee, cake and sympathy.

### FEBRUARY CLUB NIGHT

Section member, Norman Keightley, gave a highly entertaining and informative talk on his visits to the battlegrounds of the Great War and, in particular, the war

cemeteries, linking some of the graves to the story of the person there interred. A table full of artefacts proved to be of great interest to the excellent turnout of members.



### MARCH WINTER WANDERING

In contrast to the February washout, the March Winter Wandering fell on the warmest day of the year so far and set a new record of 15 + 1 bikes (+1 being Martin who met us at the lunch stop).

Setting off from the Shefford Memorial Association Hall, and

employing the drop-off system, we headed to the Giddy Goat Community Café at Riseley for coffee and cake, via Clifton, Bromham, Little Staunton and Swineshead.

Suitably refreshed, we headed to the Dairy Café at Franklins Farm in Thorncote Green for lunch, via Keysoe, Thurleigh, Renhold and Moggerhanger.



A thoroughly enjoyable outing on quiet scenic roads in great company on an interesting and varied selection of bikes – and the drop-off system worked surprisingly well. Looking back from the front to see the procession of bikes was truly impressive.

## *The Page 5 Girl*



Actress Sabrina Scharf (a lady of taste, as shown by her choice of bike) takes Georgie Fame to the premier of “The Wrong Box” in London in 1966.

## *A patently interesting device*

WILL CURRY

As has happened before, it was a picture in the previous Newsletter that sparked this article. The picture concerned was in Newsletter 89 on page 6 at the bottom of the right-hand column and showed a brace of Broughs.

As an aside, I should perhaps be more specific in naming the motorcycles concerned: they are Brough Superiors, product of George Brough's Nottingham works between the World Wars. Broughs without the superior were the work of William Brough, also of Nottingham and father of George, from 1908 until the mid '20s.

What caught my eye was the propstand attached to the footrest of the nearer Brough.



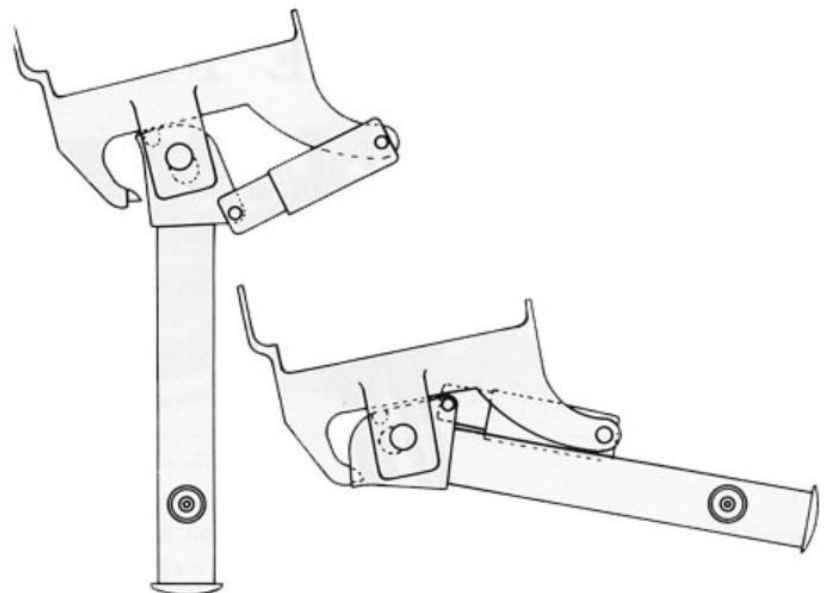
**A close-up of the propstand in question**

Now it's possible this is a home-brewed attachment but if it is, it is remarkably well done. Much more likely is that it is the genuine article.



**Not much more illustrative but the best available at the time**

The propstand was patented by 'Brough/Karslake' under number 16,389 in 1926 as 'Improvements in prop stands for cycles, motorcycles and the like'. The stand was marketed by the Castle Fork and Accessories Co. with the same address as the Brough Superior works. The price was 25 shillings.



**Line drawings of the stand, probably from the patent application**

The Karslake in the patent is of course Harold 'Oily' Karslake of Karbro Express and Vintage Club fame.



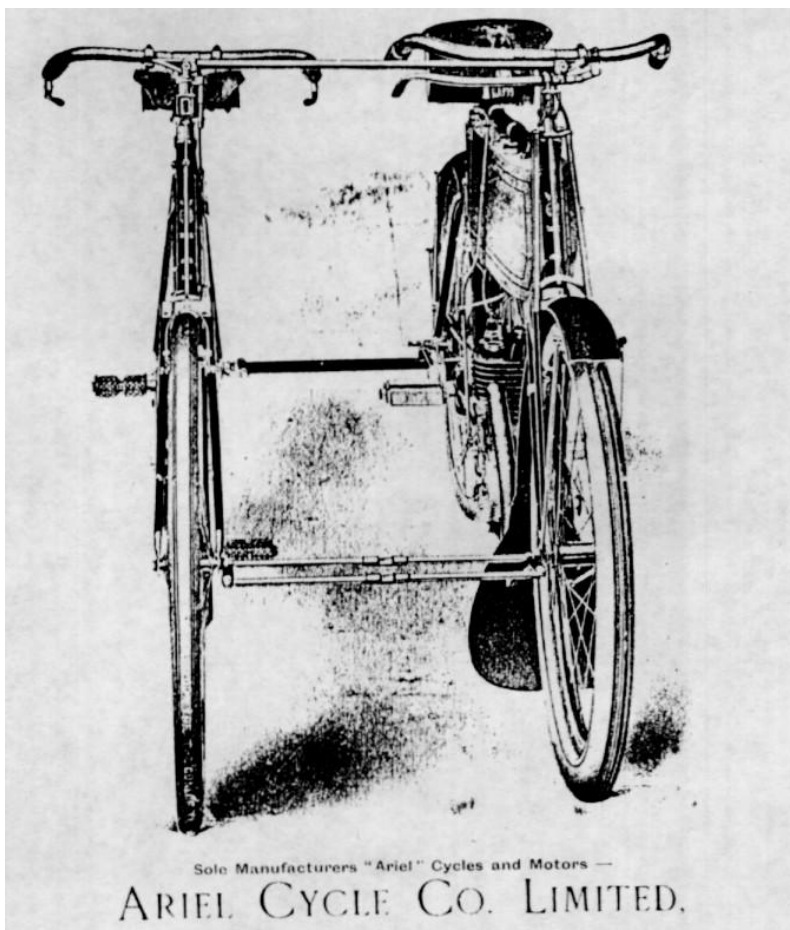
**The vintage Enfield V-twin. Wooden propstand just visible underneath the bike**

On the subject of home-made propstands the vintage Enfield V-twin which was a regular visitor for a while had an ingenious example. This consisted of a piece of wood some half-inch thick and some three or so inches wide and somewhat over a foot long. This had a hole just large enough for the end of the footrest to fit through. On parking, the rider reached for this stand, slipped it over the footrest, carefully leaned the bike over so that the stand took the weight and once happy all was secure, climbed off.



**A rather minimalist sidecar, possibly with a pedal cycle in its ancestry**

Going further off-topic, a sidecar works as well although taking considerably more space. The one in the picture above is also from the Newsletter, in this case issue 88, page 7.



**... and finally a pedal cycle attached to a motorbike, both Ariels naturally and protected by patent too**

## *A source of know how*

**TIM KINGHAM**

I am not a fan of Facebook, apart from all the privacy issues, the pain of finding a previous gem of information or following a technical thread is, to say the least, frustrating. There is, however, one place on the internet that is a source of vintage & classic knowledge of mechanical, electrical and VMCC events, it is the VMCC Forum.

You would have a job finding it from the VMCC web site – it's tucked away in the **members area** (you need to log in as a member) and then scroll down to find the link under **FORUM** and then I even have to reduce my PC screen to find the link as it's at the very bottom. Finally, when you do click on it there is a screen that tells you all about it and another link to the forum itself.

That seems a lot of faff, so you will find this direct link works <https://forum.vmcc.net>

It's not difficult to log in there directly as a member. Once in, my method is to scroll down to the section called "newest posts" but, if you are looking for something specific, the search box is in the top RH corner. And save the direct link to your browser.

## *A real rarity*

**ANDREW (SAM) SAMWAYS**

Sam's latest acquisition:



**Honda MVF250X (V3 two-stroke)**

The Honda MVX250F is a Honda motorcycle with a water-cooled two-stroke V3 engine. New Zealand and Switzerland are two of the few countries in the world outside Japan where the MVX 250 was sold brand new through Honda motorcycle dealerships. The engine is mounted in the frame with the two outer cylinders facing horizontally forward and the central cylinder vertical.

## *Bristol Classic Bike Show*



**1929 Francis Barnett Model 9 Super Sports (172cc Villiers)**



**1903 Ariel Model No. 2 (2hp) – rescued from a scrap yard in the 1950s**



**1968 Raleigh Ultramatic RM9+1 – rare dualseat model with more powerful engine and variator transmission**



**c1950 FMR moped – one of only three known survivors**



**1977 Cotton Prototype – one of three (road, Army, Police versions) made in Leckhampton, Cheltenham with 250cc Rotax engine**



**Benelli 650s**



**BSA 500cc Special – JAP engine from a 1929 French Terrot fitted in a 1939 BSA WM20 frame left behind at Dunkirk**



**1952 New Hudson Autocycle – 98cc Villiers 2F**



**Rare 1972 Triumph-engined BSA T65 Thunderbolt, just like mine – originally shipped to Hong Kong**



**Greeves and Grumph**



**1933 Douglas Bantam – their only two-stroke (150cc Villiers)**

## *Auction Watch*



The Val Page designed 6/1 650cc Triumph twins are seldom seen but there are two 1936 models coming up for auction – one at H&H on 25<sup>th</sup> March (no reserve) and another at Dore and Rees on 14<sup>th</sup> March (estimate £7-12k) – hmm, tempting.

The upcoming H&H and Bonhams auctions feature some very rare and exciting machines including, at the H&H event at the National Motorcycle Museum, the very first Triumph Trophy (frame number 001), a 1-mile 850 Norton Commando, the only surviving 1951 ISDT gold medal winning Royal Enfield 500 twin, and this Australian-built 1914 499cc Precision:



The Bonhams auction at the Stafford Classic Bike show has quite a few early Japanese bikes including rare Suzukis, a Marusho Magnum, Mitsubishi Silver Pigeon, Cabton RTF and two Lilacs. Other rarities include a Burney, 1912 Elswick, 1921 Autoglider Scooter, 1902 Bradbury, Ner-a-Car, 1902 Singer Motor Wheel, 1904 Ariel, c1902 Holden, 1904 Kynoch, 1913 Warnaby & Draper, 1912 Pierce Arrow, a Wilkinson project and a couple of ABCs. Grab that wallet!

## *At Shuttleworth*



The restoration of the French Marot-Gardon quadricycle has recently been completed and is on display just inside the main entrance.

## *Wanted ad*



Gerry Gibbins' new 1926 Royal Enfield arrived from Ireland recently but without its Carbide Rear Light Lens. If anyone has a spare acetylene rear lamp amongst their treasures, please contact him on 07769 730677.

**VMCC Bedfordshire Section Diary – 2026**

12 Mar	Club Night – Intersection Quiz, STMA
19 Mar	Midweek Lunch – Equestrian Centre, Keysoe
29 Mar	Breakfast Meet – Nuyard Garden Centre, Westoning
9 Apr	Club Night – Talk from Bonhams Auctions, STMA
16 Apr	Midweek Run - STMA
19 Apr	Spring Run – Jordans Mill, Broom start
26 Apr	Breakfast Meet – Danish Camp, Willington
10 May	Roger and Arthur King Memorial Run – STMA (pre-entry pref.)
14 May	Club Night – Ride a bike to Shefford, STMA
21 May	Midweek Run – STMA
27 May	Visit to Velo Club, Rose and Crown, Ridgmont
31 May	Breakfast Meet – Dairy Café, Franklins Farm, Thorncote Green
11 June	Club Night – Fish and Chip Van, STMA
18 June	Midweek Run to collect Baton from East Herts Section - STMA
21 June	Baton Run to deliver the Baton to Northants Section - STMA
28 June	Breakfast Meet – Jordans Mill, Broom
9 July	Club Night – Car Park Concours, STMA
16 July	Midweek Run – STMA
26 July	Breakfast Meet – Runway Café, Shuttleworth
26 July	Albert Brown Run – The Crown, Little Staunton (pre-entry)
13 Aug	Club Night – Noggin and Natter
20 Aug	Midweek Run – STMA
23 Aug	Summer Run – start location TBA
30 Aug	Breakfast Meet – Equestrian Centre, Keysoe
10 Sept	Club Night – Talk on Dan Albone, local inventor
17 Sept	Midweek Run – STMA
27 Sept	Autumn Run & Breakfast Meet – location TBA
1 Oct	Winter Wandering – Shuttleworth start
8 Oct	Club Night – Talk on the ISDT
15 Oct	Midweek Lunch – Musgrave Arms, Shillington
25 Oct	Breakfast Meet – Danish Camp, Willington
5 Nov	Winter Wandering – Shuttleworth start
12 Nov	Midweek Lunch – Nuyard Garden Centre, Westoning
19 Nov	Club Night – AGM and Photo Review of Year
29 Nov	Breakfast Meet – Jordans Mill, Broom
3 Dec	Winter Wandering – Shuttleworth start
10 Dec	Club Night – Charity Auction and Xmas Grub
17 Dec	Midweek Lunch – Toby Carvery, Goldington
27 Dec	Breakfast Meet - TBA