



The Magazine of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

WELCOME...

To the newest edition of BikeBytes. The season is well underway and we've all been getting out there on the roads. Our first member has completed the Lighthouse Challenge (well done Steve Middleton!) and there are a few people off touring just now, so we can look forward to reading about those trips in future editions of BikeBytes. For now details of your editor's trip to the Outer Hebrides will have to suffice.

Classic Car Show

We have been sent details of a classic car and bike show taking place in August – details are as follows:

On the 21st of August, I have organised a new show: The Scottish Retro and Classic Car and Bike Show. The event takes place at Driftland, Lochgelly, and promises to be an exciting mix of retro and classic vehicles. There will also be track demonstrations from vehicles such as a Ford Escort WRC, a Dodge Coronet and a DMC DeLorean, with many more to be announced. There is also a static show arena, where any vehicle built pre-2000 can be shown at no additional cost to your entry ticket. Tickets are only £8 in advance (rising to £10 on the day) and can be purchased through the following link via 'Spectator Entry':

<http://www.driftlanduk.com/book/>

There is also a Facebook page for the event, for those on social media, and it can be found through this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1674212406199700/>

I would be thrilled if you were to attend with members of your club, and show off your bikes (and indeed any pre-2000 cars) at this event. You are free to advertise your club when allocated your position for the static show at the venue. Eventually, the aim is to expand this show into the best Retro and Classic car and bike show in the UK, and it would be great if

you were a part of it. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone number.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

Alistair Barr

Trip to the Lakes

Alan Hopper is organizing a trip to the Lakes later in the year and has sent over these details:

Forests and Lakes - just a gentle nudge if you fancy a great weekend's biking in the Autumn. Alan Hopper will lead this run which will take us down through the borders, Kielder Forest and Hartside Pass on the Saturday stopping off in Carlisle for the evening. On Sunday the route takes us around the Lake District with a short ferry ride across Windermere and a run over Kirkstone Pass amongst the delights on offer. The dates are 8/9th October. If interested, could you put your name on the calendar. You should book your own room and just pay direct - the hotel is the Premier Inn, Carlisle Central at Warwick Road. The scenery is quite stunning, the roads are great and the company of course will make it! Just have to hope for some sunshine as well to show off the autumn colours at their best.

Hebridean Adventure

After spending a day last year taking myself around Skye and quite enjoying the novelty of a solo trip, as well as feeling quite cocky about not having any problems, I decided to take myself away for a week a ride up the length of the Outer Hebrides.

Day 1

The ferry leaves Oban at 1.40 so in order to give myself plenty of time in case of unexpected delays, I left Dunblane at 8am. This turned out to be an extremely good idea as I don't think I have ever ridden through heavier rain. The waterproofs I got for my birthday last year were great at keeping out the rain, but the gloves and boots were extremely wet.

Reaching Tyndrum at around 10ish, I stopped for a roll and sausage and the opportunity put my gloves underneath the hand dryer for a little before bracing myself to go back out into the wet.

After another careful ride, I made it to Oban wet, but with the weather brightening up in time to meet the ferry to Barra.



The ferry to Barra last five hours, and some of that was spent trying to dry socks and gloves as much as possible using hand dryers. Arriving at around 5.30 in Castlebay, the B&B was a five minute ride away so I was organised and ready for a fantastic meal at Castlebay Hotel by 6.30.

Day 2

There are 3 ferries from Barra to Eriskay. I decided to aim for the last ferry to give me plenty time to explore the island, and also make a wee run over to Vatersay. Unfortunately, it was a Sunday so very few places were open. The castle in Castlebay was open, and quite an interesting attraction as a boat is needed to go to the castle.



I also managed to make it to the airport on time to see the plane landing on the beach runway, which seems to be one of the main tourist attractions.



With some time to kill before the ferry, a couple more laps around the island were done, with stop-offs in good photo spots before heading on the ferry that would take me to South Uist and my second night stop. I had been booked into the Lochboisdale Hotel but they had somehow not noted down my booking and I did not have a room for the night. Luckily the Borodale Hotel down the road had a free room and so I wasn't at a loss.

Day 3

Day 3 was a short run from South Uist to North Uist, stopping along the way at a couple of museums and monuments found along the way.



My B&B that night was a short distance away from the only pub on North Uist, but unfortunately they did not serve food on a Monday night. Luckily there was a shop near by and the owner of the B&B had a microwave I was allowed to use.

Day 4

A short ferry ride took me to Harris, and I rode up in the direction of Stornoway. The roads on Harris were an enormous amount of fun, some lovely sweeping bends, and beautiful beaches that were quite distracting when I was supposed to be watching the road.



Rather than just heading straight to my B&B in Stornoway, I decided to stop at the Callanish Stones and the Arnol Black House along the way. Unfortunately, most of Lewis seemed to be being resurfaced and there was a large amount of 'loose chipping' signs every couple of miles or so. Despite this, both places were reached without incident.



Once again, it was then time to head over to my B&B, a 10 minute walk from Stornoway town centre.

Day 5

I took a break from the bike to explore Stornoway. The local castle had very large grounds and the morning was spent wandering around and getting lost in them. The afternoon plan was to go and visit the museum, but unfortunately it had closed as it was being moved

from the town centre to the castle. The afternoon was therefore spent trying out various cafes and their goods.

Day 6

When planning the trip, the original idea had been to spend two days in Stornoway, but as there was only really enough to do for one day, it was back on the bike to explore other parts of the island. In the morning, I rode up to the Butt of Lewis, and bagged myself a bonus lighthouse.



On the way back down I found a fantastic little museum/café that had just completed a huge project putting together the First World War memories of people from the surrounding villages and had published a book collating all the memories. They also had some lovely looking cake.

Then it was down to the Blackhouse village and a Tweed making demonstration, along with lunch and some more cake.



On the way back to Stornoway at the end of the day, there was just time for a visit to a broch and a visit to one of the beaches.



Day 7

The last day of the trip was the ferry from Stornoway back to Ullapool and the mainland. The ferry got in around 4.00 and a steady ride took me down to Inverness and my final night stop around 6.00 where I discovered it's very difficult finding somewhere to eat in Inverness on a Friday night.

Day 8

Day 8 was the last stretch to home, most of the way down the A9, turning off at Dunkeld after I'd gotten a bit bored and heading home through Crieff, Braco etc. It was a fantastic week, after the rain on the first day, the weather cleared and although it was a bit windy, the sun shone the whole week I was there. I would recommend the Outer Hebrides to anyone who wanted to go, especially Lewis and Harris.

Sarah Eddie

Some Run Reports

There's been quite a few Club runs this season. Here are a few round-ups:

Stirlingshire Half Day Run

It was a lovely bright crisp morning when 8 of us set off from Stirling Services. John Hill leading, Alasdair Wood as TEC, together with new member Jim McKeeman, guest (prospective new member) Phil Fennell, and Ian Jones, John Nicol, Kenny Anderson, Frank Dolan. Taking some quiet roads towards Callander which we skirted round the back off, we were soon at Brig o'Turk and sitting outside the log cabin cafe in the pleasantly warm sunshine enjoying our coffees and other tasty eats.

Then we headed back along Loch Venachar stopping for some photos and on via Loch Lubnaig to Loch Earn where we had another brief stop for photos. As we didn't have any learners or novice riders with us we took the B827 road from Comrie over the top to Braco. Then on via Kinbuck on the B8033 to Dunblane where we finished with more refreshments at the M & S cafe.

An enjoyable relaxed ride to enjoy the views and company

Davidson Legacy Visit

Removing the thermal lining from my jacket before setting off to meet up with the group proved to be a good omen for the day ahead! The highlight of the run was to visit the Davidson Legacy Museum at Aberlemno in Angus. John Hill, Alex Muir, Alan Hopper and Joyce (pillion), Bill Pearson (on the only Harley Davidson in the group), Ian Jones, Peter Johnson, Alan Graham, Neil Johnston and Kenny Anderson set off from Dobbie's, Kinross on a lovely warm, sunny day. This run was organised and led by Alan Hopper, with Joyce as pillion and John Hill as TEC. The roads and area weren't too familiar to most of the group so Alan's route through the minor roads in Angus was a treat, as was the well-chosen coffee stop about an hour into the ride.

In September last year, Alan and John did a Route 66 trip on Harleys and had met three of the people responsible for refurbishing the Davidson's family cottage in Angus. Since 2008, Mike Sinclair, Maggie Sherrit and Keith Mackintosh have put a huge effort into saving the historic property from demolition and redevelopment. They treated us to a guided tour of the two story cottage, which has been restored sticking closely to the materials and construction style of the original. We were given a detailed history of the origins of the famous Harley Davidson motorcycle together with generous hospitality from their barbeque!

In the mid-19th century, Sandy Davidson (the local blacksmith) left Aberlemno with his wife Maggie and their six children to settle in America. In Milwaukee 1903, three of their grandsons, Arthur, Walter and William, along with an Englishman, Bill Harley, became founders of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. Although regarded as being as American as mom's apple pie, the famous brand has a very British pedigree!

After leaving a donation for the museum, the group split. Alan and Bill headed for home, leaving Alan and Joyce, with Neil, Ian and John deciding on a final coffee stop at Dobbies, Kinross, while Peter, Alex and I headed for the lighthouses at Montrose and Arbroath. Peter and I decided to go to the North Queensferry one as well (Alex had ticked that one off on his way to meet us in the morning) but road works meant that the access road for North Queensferry was missed and we ended up on the Forth Road Bridge. Since time was getting on and the weather was taking an abrupt turn for the worse, we decided to leave it for another time.

Thanks to Alan Hopper for organizing a very successful run!

Braemar Weekend

Another successful weekend at the Invercauld Arms saw John Hill with Jan, John Nicol with Moira, Peter Johnson arriving after a leisurely ride up in the sometimes torrential rain on Friday. Alex Muir arrived from the north after doing some lighthouse visits and Alasdair Wood got there in double quick time after work.

On the Saturday we were joined on a beautiful sunny morning by the early starters, Alan Graham, Ian Jones and David McWilliam who had ridden up for our 10.00am dept. Tommy Taylor had provided me with the route but at the last minute he unfortunately couldn't make it. So I decided I would have to get help from my SatNav which I had never bothered

to use before. The first part went as planned and after passing Alford without seeing a suitable place for a break we went on to Old Medrum where we found our perfect cafe right in the main square. The staff couldn't have been more helpful and the coffee and snacks were good. Due to navigational errors we then deviated from Tommy's suggested route but still made it to Fraserburgh ok and the Kinnaird Head lighthouse. There a local kindly opened the gate into the yard in front of the lighthouse for us to take the bikes in to let us take some better photos.

After getting dispersed around Fraserburgh while some went to take photos of the harbour etc and others went to Tesco's for petrol, where there wasn't a petrol station!! we finally made headway to Macduff and Banff in search of a late lunch. At the 2nd attempt we found an excellent cafe that had only opened that day. Sitting high above Macduff it gave us a great view across the bay to Banff. The food was good too (including my free take away sticky toffee pudding which I enjoyed this evening!!)

5th attempt to finish this article!!!!

The riding had been good on mainly dry and quiet roads, but the best was still to come. We had a blast riding back to Braemar on the A97 and others.

Last year we had 2 bad punctures in rear wheels which needed the recovery services. This year we also had 2 rear tyre problems. Alan got a puncture on the way back to Braemar which he managed to fix with a can of foam to get him home. I got what looked like a big nail in my new tyre in Alford (again!). I decided to leave it in as the tyre was still inflated and got home with it, where it turned out to be a very sharp piece of stone.

Thanks to Alex for being TEC and to everybody for their good company over the weekend.

Upcoming Events

10th July: Sail Doon the Trossachs

7th August: Pootle Down to Peebles

Remember, if you fancy leading a run, or even have an idea for a run, but don't fancy leading, let the Events Secretary know and it will be put in the calendar. Remember, the Committee is responsible for the running of the Club, but it can't do so without the valuable contribution from Members, particularly with regard to the organisation of runs.

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary: Gordon Robertson E-mail: secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk
