



MOJACAR MOTORCYCLE TOURING CLUB

bulletin

A Club for Touring Motorcyclists founded by the late Ken Craven.
www.mojacarmtc.org.uk

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SECRETARIES BIT

Very sad news; as many will know we have lost Nick Bishop, he was involved in a fatal accident. I have written an obituary below. If any member wishes to publish their own thoughts about Nick please post or email for inclusion in the next bulletin.

Well, we have all returned from the tour to Italy with no reported incidents - a first? Our weather was a bit of a mixed bag - very hot outward - getting colder as we approached the Stelvio pass in Italy then very hot on the run down to Lake D'Isèo. Our host at the Villa Bredina by the Lake was a gem; he provided endless wine during dinner with endless food - always four courses - too much even for Vince. Add in glorious weather and a swimming pool; what more could you want.

When we arrived at our final destination near La Spezia the weather showed signs that not all was going to continue well. The morning we all departed, going up and over the alps into France the weather went decidedly down hill, with much rain and rather cold at times to say the least.

Chris and I joined Maureen and Tony Street with Chas Pearson on an extended ride back to port (Dieppe). Our ride through Italy was wet at times but fine over the Col de Maddalena to Barcelonnette in France, from there to the Puy's was ok but riding on to La Cherite on the Loire the next day was very wet and cold, Chas asking the question - was it January. Anyway, all went very well on the organising front with everyone enjoying themselves.

I know our chairman Dave Boon won't like me saying this, as he told me, "it's all in a days ride", but many of us admired his ability and stamina in riding his combination complete with Sue through-out the whole tour, especially as Dave is not getting any younger (like many of us). Especially riding the combination up and over the Stelvio Pass which many an experienced member were heard to say was the most difficult pass they had ever ridden. The number of hairpin bends (tormentes in Italian) seemed to beggar belief - you could see them climbing what seemed endlessly up the side of the mountain, the fear was that something else was coming down around your bend as you were going up on

the wrong side of the road (unavoidable due to sharpness of turns), anyway Dave's vintage BM did him proud this time, I believe it did not miss a beat.

It will very shortly be the Bungay weekend event, Colin Purches has just informed me that for those camping the cost are as follows: Tent and 1 person £10 per night, Tent and 2 persons £13 per night, a motor caravan £13 per night plus electric if required.

All correspondence on subjects other than events to:

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NICK BISHOP

Many members will already know that Nick Bishop was involved in a fatal accident with another motorcyclist near Avebury Wiltshire on 23 May 2010.

Nick the brother of member Andy was well liked by all who new him, he and his wife Angela have been on many tours and weekend events since joining the club in January 2000.

Christine and I had the pleasure of their company on one of our tours to central Germany, we found Nick quiet spoken, undemanding and easy going, accepting what was on offer at any time without a fuss. He had a very dry sense of humour and could be quite cutting in a light hearted way always with an old fashioned smile on his face.

He joined the "Essex" boys on many a ride and occasionally rode to Andorra for long weekends with brother Andy, Maurice Jones and Colin Purches. He also joined all of the "Essex" boys on the week long autumn rides to a B&B in Normandy organised by Colin Purches.

A card of condolence and a bouquet of flowers from all club members has been sent to Angela, all members send their heart felt sorrow to Angela in her time of grief - Nick will be missed by us all.

Tony Maidens.

**PROVISIONAL OFFERS FOR TOURS AND
EVENTS IN 2011.**

*Any ideas or offers you have will be inserted in this box.
Hon Sec*

Following the Secretary's request for ideas for events in 2011, I would be glad to hear from club members about a proposal of mine to tour through parts of Belgium, Switzerland and France using International Youth Hostels for accommodation. I have no experience of using hostels on the Continent; however images and details on the websites are encouraging. The average price per day for bed and breakfast in the nine hostels, based on a shared room basis is from 18 Euros. Evening meals are offered at all of hostels.

The hostels considered would be at Bouillon, Saverne, Belfort, Grindelwald, Clusaz, Guillestre, Tarascon, Le Puy en Velay and Vezelay.

If you go to: www.hihostels.com you can see slideshows for most of the hostels.

To make group bookings we would need a minimum of ten participants. If there is enough interest I will flesh out the above skeleton of a proposal.

Dave Gilligan

SUMMER TOUR 2011

Prior to the May reunion another offer of a tour for next year was received from Laurie Shephard. As you all know we also have a tour on offer from Dave Gilligan detailed in "Provisional Offers". Both these offers were put forward at the reunion by Chairman Dave Boon. Both Laurie and Dave Gilligan had discussed their respective offers and, Dave was happy to run his offer as a September event subject to agreement at the AGM.

It was proposed from the floor and agreed that we accept Laurie Shephard's offer as the tour for 2011.

The basic framework of the tour is as follows:

4 June group meets around Chartres, ride down to Clermont Ferrand region, on to Millau, then to Cathar region for 2 nights stay at Quillan. Out to med. Along coast into Spain to Cadaques for 3 nights, back inland through France to Encamp in Andorra. Into Spain to Veilha, back into France and do Tour de France Cols to Arudy. Back into Spain then onto Atlantic coast (Hondarriba or back into France) to finish on Wednesday night.

Laurie says specific details will be available later in the year.

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EVENTS FOR 2010 in Date order with details where available.

Bungay Suffolk – Camping/B&B weekend. Date: 9th and 10th July. Organisers Colin Purches. & Colin Pegram.

We will be using the Outney meadow Caravan Park which is a 5 minute walk from the centre of Bungay. There is ample accommodation in the town at varying prices. The river Waveney runs through the campsite and, it is possible to hire Canadian Canoes by the day or half day. The run will be a ride along the Suffolk Coast stopping at the sunken village of Dunwich for coffee. Lunch will be by the river Deben on the south of the

county. The ride after lunch will be through the beautiful countryside of inland Suffolk. Distance, approx 130 miles. Anyone else wanting to come please let us know. We have around 40 people coming so far, half camping and half in accommodation. Outney Meadows Caravan Park is situated on A413 at the roundabout with A144 (there's a big sign) and all the accommodation is off the roundabout as well (250metres into town). The route is now sorted and copies will be available in advance to anyone who wants one. Friday evening will be eat where you like and Saturday we will all be eating at the Kings Head.

Malvern Worcester – B&B/Camping weekend. Date: 13th to 15th August. Organiser Martin Heuter.

There are now 21 members registered, thanks for everyone who put themselves at the mercy of my planning and the hotel in Bromyard. I am sure that there is space for some late bookings, so if anyone wants to join us, please let me know.

I will shortly be planning the route... Malvern Hills, rural Worcestershire going north (I drove a beautiful road from Stourport back to Worcester the other day and thought – this is one for the weekend... obviously the Morgan visitor centre and last but not least... good weather. So, if you're still dithering... don't!! give me a ring and book yourself on the weekend.

Tour of Britain – using Hostels. Dates: 3rd to 11th September. Organiser David Gilligan.

See details elsewhere in bulletin.

Autumn re-union and AGM weekend – B&B/camping. Date 2nd and 3rd October. Organiser Tony Maidens. Detail to follow.

Winter Closer weekend Coalport – Using Hostel. Date 22nd and 23rd October. Organiser Alan Simister.

The hostel is booked, no need for money yet. Lots to do and see, good pubs within walking distance, make that staggering for Mr Weston and an excellent hostel. There are only 4 DOUBLES AVAILABLE for couples, so its first come first served. If you intend to join us, let me know in plenty of time, it also insures that you have a bed. A run will be organised but I will be putting that out to tender not being native of the area.

AUTUMN TOUR 2010 September 3rd – 11th (UPDATE)

Some 15 club members will be participating in this nine day tour of Britain. The accommodation in both the English and Scottish hostels has been booked.

The eight suggested daily routes which will pass through twelve of our national Parks and total nearly 2000 miles have been completed. A paper copy of these will be posted to riders towards the end of May together with hostel information and a request for the outstanding balance. I will be using my Garmin GPS routes, if anyone wants a copy of these please let me know. Depending upon accommodation being available additional members to the group will be welcome.

Dave Gilligan

FOR SALE

2000 Suzuki 600 Bandit only 10,500 miles from new, pristine condition, new tyres, chain and battery, just had full service, handles passenger/luggage well, light, flexible and economical (60 mpg), ready for years of minimum cost motorcycling. A lot of motorcycle for only £1300. Available August.
Dave Bexley

Dave Bexley's 600 Bandit ..



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Pete Reynolds talking to Angela and Nick Bishop on tour

Photo courtesy of Phil Noad



