

South East Moped Enthusiasts



January 2016 Newsletter

The Horseshoe Pub Warlingham last Wednesday of the month 8.pm.

News.

Welcome to our January 2016 edition of our newsletter. Sharon and I hope all our readers have enjoyed their festive break and new year celebrations. So now starts the New Year and we do hope that all the problems that we had to endure last year are well and truly behind us and we look forward to a good and well supported future. You will notice a slight name change in the title of the newsletter, this is the name we will operate under and there will be no further alterations.

This name will also be used as the title of our section within the EACC. Our runs and events will also be listed on the clubs website and their magazine site. We will be making every effort to send our news items in on a regular basis for posting on this site. We think it is an extremely well put together site which is regularly updated so we do urge all our readers and run participants to peruse the two sites to keep up to date. South East Moped Enthusiasts news will not appear on any other site. We will however make every effort to have our events published in some national motorcycle papers and journals.

The website addresses are:

www.autocycle.org.uk

www.icenicam.ukfsn.org

News Snippets

Our calendar on the back pages of this newsletter continues to grow and more of our own events will be added in due course. You will note we also publish other clubs events which are in reasonable striking distance of us.

Some people have contacted us regarding their own bike insurances if they choose not to renew

their membership with the old club. This is with regards to the discount offered by Footman James insurance for club members. There is in fact no problem with this at all as the EACC has the same type of agreement running.

A few of our readers state that they are not sure what they want to do as regards club membership. Well this is entirely up to you, for many years we have been members of both clubs. This will now no longer continue for us, we will just be EACC members. You pay your money and make your choice £15 for one club or £4 for the EACC and that can be even cheaper with online membership. You will continue to receive your South East newsletter anyway, which will list most events.

We had a good turnout at Staplefield Green on 1st November and this year it didn't rain although we had to endure some quite dense foggy conditions on the way down to Staplefield.

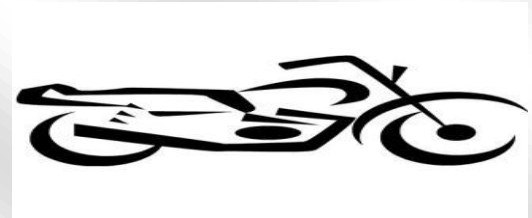


Our bikes caught some interest at Staplefield.

Sharon and I attended the EACC Kneels Wheels run in Suffolk this also included their AGM. A nice day, with good company with some 53 bikes turned out for the run. This was our first attendance to an EACC event for over

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two years (that should say something). We had a polite and warm reception from all, no triumphalism of any kind. The AGM was very civilised, held as we had tea and scones. All the minutes have now been published on the website. (take note other clubs)!

Dave Watson has been appointed the EACC publicity person, so he is the guy we will speak to as regards promoting our stuff.

The EACC will be making us up a promotional banner with our sections name on it. We shall be displaying it where appropriate.

The EACC will be supplying us with a pack of badges and things for us to sell as and when we can.

Our Christmas dinner on 16th December turned out to be a very pleasant evening. (read the report on this in our pages.

Mike Follows is experiencing one or two problems with the DVLA regarding the registering of his Honda CT 110 (Postie). He will probably have to resort to a SVA test. He will keep you updated on the registration saga once he has got it sorted.

Neil Catling has purchased a 1958 Norman Nippy. On initial inspection it seems a good purchase, it certainly is not a barn find, it does however require some work.

Mike has bought himself an electric powered bicycle so that he can enjoy cycle rides with Helen. Over the next few months I will be taking a detailed look at electrically assisted bicycles.



Neil's recently purchased Norman.

Neil also gave me his Honda Express, which hopefully Sharon will be using during the coming season. Unfortunately whilst delivering it to my house on the back of his trailer, the seat mysteriously disappeared. Thankfully we heard no reports of any injuries to anyone caused by a flying Honda Express seat!

We will be printing out a selection of promotional flyers. One will be an EACC information leaflet together with membership details and we will be doing our own one with information about our section. These in due course will be handed out together to whoever might be interested.

More Stuff Needed

I do really need more stuff from you guys to put into these pages. Anything can be interesting to other people you know. A lot of you out there are retired or semi retired so there is no excuse. Take a picture or find an old picture of what you have been doing or what you were doing some years ago, write a short article and send it in to

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me and I'll stick it in the next newsletter. If I don't receive anything it's just going to be about me, me, me, all the time.

So come on guys, that old excuse "I haven't got the time" is wearing a bit thin.

Wednesday 16th. December. S.E.M.E. Christmas Dinner

By Mike Follows.

Our 3rd. Annual Christmas dinner took place at the Horseshoe P.H. in Warlingham, our usual monthly watering hole. Illness took its toll, but fourteen of us sat down to eat, including a few new faces. Lovely to welcome Maurice and Patricia, Chris, Paul and Steve for the first time.



Helen, Mike & Bob get ready for their dinner.

Sharon did a brilliant job of supplying the newcomers with custom made REAL party hats. Don't forget to save them for next year!

We felt the food was good and value for money, the staff being their usual helpful selves.

Amidst much good natured banter, Martin produced gifts for everyone, not just one, but one for each course.

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Happy festive diners.

Thanks also to Ken for his very useful tool. No doubt he has watched, with some amusement, us struggling with ratchet straps with a 'mind of their own'.

A brilliant end to a difficult year for some in the group.

Let 2016 be a year when we again extend the hand of friendship to more small bike enthusiasts and spread the word that you are a great bunch of people.

Hearty thanks to Martin and Sharon for organising yet another wonderful evening.
Helen & Mike

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In Praise of the Norman Nippy.

I have always had a soft spot for the Norman Nippy, the reason for this I suppose is because it was the first motorised bike I ever owned. I purchased one for £24 at the tender age of fourteen with money I had been saving up from doing a paper round. Not for me was spending such hard earned money on things like the latest pop records that formed part of the "hit parade." I yearned for something, anything with an engine. So cunningly whilst my parents were away on holiday I made the purchase, knowing that by the time that they arrived home they would not be in a position to force me to take it back. I bought my Nippy from a used bike dealer in South Croydon with the promise that I would push it all the way home to Purley! Oh yeah, I pushed it around the corner, jumped on it and roared home exhilarating in its power, no helmet needed in those days. I can remember many happy days riding it around the then disused Croydon Airport. I took the mudguards off it to make it look cool and then when I removed the silencer it unleashed even more power! Obviously the silencer must have been coked up. I can't remember anyone ever complaining about the racket that I was making. Sadly no photograph exists of my first bike and I can't quite remember what happened to it, although I must have sold it when I moved on to scooters. I was quite mercenary in those days, everything had to have a value and it had to make way for the next upwards purchase. And that's how it all started, ever since I have always owned some form of motorised two wheeled transport.

The story continues however after meeting Sharon in December of 1994 I must have told her about my early motorised exploits and whilst looking through the Friday Ad she found an old Norman Nippy for sale (actually she found me in the Friday Ad too, but that is another story). So I went round and purchased this somewhat sad little bike which incidentally was exactly the same model and colour of my original bike. I restored this bike and got it running and indeed have only ridden it once since.



Factory workers enthusiastically test some Norman Nippy's around the factory site in Ashford circa 1958

It has remained in my possession for more than 20 years now; it will never be sold whilst I'm alive. So it was kind of good news when Neil informed me that he had bought a Nippy himself and yes it's the same model with the Villiers engine, (the best one I reckon) this bike will need some work, its reasonable and it certainly is not in barn find condition. Guess what readers, you will read all about its route back to the road via these pages. More on the history of the Norman Nippy in our next edition.

Foremost Coatings.

I thought that I would like to mention this small business. For many years I have used this firm for the preparation and the coatings that are applied to my many and varied projects. Foremost Coatings have been operating since 1988 I must say that under the current ownership I have had excellent results from them. The process of shot blasting and then powder coating lends itself very well to the restoration of motorbikes as well as many other things. There is no doubt about it the only way to effectively remove rust is for the item to be

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blasted and then be electronically coated and heat cured and dried. This way the coating etches itself to every nook and cranny of the item. I have just collected a whole bunch of stuff that I have had from them and the work done is superb. Chris the main man will always call you up if there is a problem and always explains clearly what the finished job will look like if the surface to be prepared and coated is poor. A prime example of this is the 1936 tandem frame that I had coated a couple of years ago. It was in a very poor state although very structurally sound. The rust pitting was so bad that the finished article had a somewhat rippled look about it, but at least it was explained to me in the first instance. Anyway I like my restored bikes to have a warts and all appearance to them and what's more I never go for a gloss because a satin finish looks so more of the period.



Some of the parts that have been blasted and coated.

Also Chris at Foremost Coatings always goes out of his way to protect all exposed threads from being coated, this of course is very important as removing the coating from thread surfaces is extremely difficult and can delay a rebuild.

If any of you lot are contemplating having this sort of work done I would thoroughly recommend the

services of Foremost Coatings for a strong chip and scratch resistant finish to your labour of love.

Foremost Coatings Ltd,
Unit 40,
Hobbs Industrial Estate,
Newchapel
Lingfield
Surrey,
RH7 6HN.
Tel: 01342 833455
info@foremostcoatings.com

In The Shed

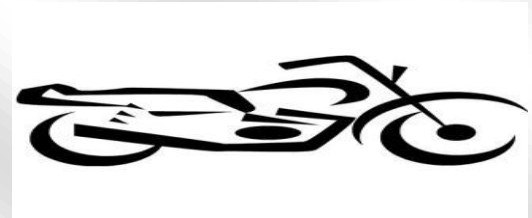
Spanners have been whirring away in the shed lately. I have just taken delivery of my latest batch of bits for indeed various bikes that have been powder coated. So it's time to start another rebuild of a bike. The bike that I'll be building up during the course of January to March is a 1954 New Hudson. This whole bike has so far been quite problematic for the simple reason the bike was never complete, it's going to be a bitsa.



The New Hudson frame now has its stand, spindle and forks installed.

Over the last couple of years I have been accumulating bits and pieces for this bike and I have done rather well when you consider that it started

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with a frame and little else. What started with what I thought would be an easy project has turned out to be far from it. If you run with the idea that lots of bits from various autocycles of that era will fit, forget it. Mudguards, pedal cranks and particularly wheels have been my biggest problems. I had to pretty much dry build the bike to get everything to fit correctly before it went off to be blasted and coated. Anyway this is another bike that we will be featuring in the pages of the newsletter. Other bits I had powder coated were for the Burdin Deryn bike of mine. I want to get rid of the bodgy make shift mudguards that have been fitted up until now. I have a Mobylette one for the front and a NSU one for the back which in turn will be fitted with a James rear number plate and light holder. The net result will have it looking much more respectable for road use and less like some sort of hybrid that's been cobbled together.

I have also made up a couple of engine mountings for Nails Nippy, see photo.



The Nippy already proudly wears it's new engine mountings.

Ken in the meantime will be machining out by turning a 44 tooth rear sprocket I purchased so that it will fit the hub that I propose to use on the tandem. The Honda Express has had a pit of spannering, the engine was removed for a thorough cleanup and replacing the bodged up nuts and bolts that have been used over the years. A new headlamp was purchased to replace the horrible bit of plastic sheet that was being used as a lens. Neil bought me for a Christmas present a splendid brand new seat that replaced the one that had flown off into the wild blue yonder. It's now fitted and is now by far the smartest bit on the bike. I'm after a new fuel tank if anyone has got one for a Honda Express NC50. It's kind of strange, you can buy most spares for a Honda PC50 but it seems the only place you can get a range of second hand spares for an Express is the USA. One would have thought that it would have been the least likely bike to have been actively marketed in the States. More from the shed in the March issue.

Events Calendar.

All the South East Moped Enthusiasts events are in red, you will note that all club events are clearly marked showing which club is running the event.

2016

3rd January

EACC The Mince Pie Run, meet at the Orwell Yacht Club Werstead Road Ipswich IP2 8LR for tea coffee and mince pies. 11.00am departure to the shipwreck bar at Shotley

20th March

EACC The 13th Radar Run & moped jumble starts from Bromswell village hall website for details.

Suffolk see
20th March

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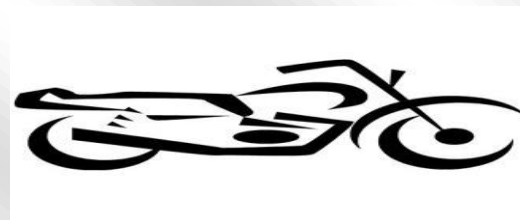


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- The Pioneer Run for veteran motorcycles from the Epsom Downs to Brighton Sea Front a great event to see and ride with some lovely old bikes.
- 3rd April EACC The Duloe Daffodil Dash from Duloe Village Hall Call Ralph on 01933 386841 or see website for details.
- 10th April **South East Moped Enthusiasts, The North Downs Run, Edenbridge Leisure Centre, Wellingtonia Way Edenbridge TN8 5LU. For more details call Martin or Sharon on 01883 626853 or 07774562085**
- 24th April EACC Norfolk Section "Drive it Day" ride out for details contact Dave Watson for details on 07766 780134 or email xdavwat@yahoo.co.uk
- 8th May **South East Moped Enthusiasts . The South Downs Run, Civic Approach carpark, High Street, Uckfield TN22 1AR, for more details call Martin or Sharon on 01883 626853 or 07774562085**
- 19th June NACC North Wilts section Swindon & Cricklade Railway Run, Tadpole Lane, Blunsdon SN25 2DA Contact Jeff Brooks on 01249 750743
- 25th June NACC As it Was Buzz, cylemotors only run from The Royal Oak public house, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5ES
- 25th June NACC East Coast Pedalers Melton Village Fete. Display at Melton Playing Fields, Melton IP12 1PD call Carl Squirrell on 01728 621096
- 26th June NACC The Odiham Run, from The Four Horseshoes PH, Long Sutton, Hampshire RG29 1TA
- 26th June NSU Quickly Annual get together at the Leighton Buzzard narrow gauge railway LU7 4TN vintage transport day. Call Roger Warton on 01908 562901 for info
- 1st-3rd July EACC Camping Weekend at the village of Martham Norfolk. Road runs throughout the weekend for details contact Dave Watson on 07766780134
- 14th August EACC North Hertfordshire Periwinkle Run from Cottered village hall. Hall opens from 0930 run starts at 11.00am. Moped jumble, for further details contact Peter Smith on 07977936123
- 21st August **South East Moped Enthusiasts. The Bluebell Run, Horsted Keynes Station, Station Approach, Horsted Keynes RH17 7BB, for more details call Martin or Sharon on 01883 626853 or 07774562085**
- 25th September

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NACC. The Silchester Saunter,
from The New Inn PH, Heckfield
RG27 0LE call Robin Cork for
details on 01252 624006

2nd October

EACC club stand at the 25
Copdock bike Show, Trinity Park,
Suffolk Show Ground, Ipswich for
details about displaying your
bikes contact Mark Daniels on
01473 659607