

Coopers BMW Open day 9 March

Having been invited to attend their open day with a club stand /display and to partake in their kind offer of test riding many of the new 2013 models this offer was taken up by a good few members plus we also assisted them in reducing the large amounts of burgers and hot dogs being cooked. At this point I need to mention our display boarding which we usually take along to events. Due to their size this is normally done by 4 wheel transportation but as all members wishing to attend this event wanted to be on their bikes we had a small problem. This was mentioned at club night on the 6th and up stood our resident Blue Peter Expert "give me an egg carton and a squeezey bottle and I'll see what I can do!" Well come Saturday 9 we had brand new display boards that we can now carry to events on 2 wheels! A big thank you to Keith Morris for a cracking job. Also many joined in with the dealership's ride out to Ardingly on the Sunday where they kindly furnished members with complementary tickets to the classic bike show.
P.S. We didn't just eat their food, 4 members bought new Bikes.

Coopers 13 March

Well here we are another month on and the weather is still trying to spoil our fun somewhat but being Men of Kent and with that Dunkirk spirit, Five Hardy souls turned up for our Wednesday meeting at Coopers BMW. I guess we were all looking forward to better weather for our ride out but today was no exception. Wet, mucky and salty roads were the order of the day. So after copious cups of coffee and hot chocolate with Keith and Debbie supplying the biscuits our handful of intrepid riders set off for a ride to Redhill Aerodrome for a spot of lunch and maybe watch some activity on the airfield. This Airfield (RAF Redhill) was used extensively between May 1941 and January 1944. Numerous fighter Squadrons from many allied Countries were stationed here and flew Rodeo fighter sweeps over France most were equipped with Spitfires, 485 Squadron during their stay destroyed 14 enemy aircraft plus putting many more out of operation. The airfield soon became an important platform to build up supplies and equipment in preparation for D-Day. Prior to D-Day over two hundred fighter aircraft were based at RAF Redhill to support the invasion forces. If you're ever in this area pop in and have a good walk around. After a mixed nosebag we decided to organise a raiding party to Vines BMW Dealership at Salford just outside Redhill for more drinks and a chat about the merits of the new GS amongst other things with the sales staff. After watching a snow flurry from the warmth of the showroom we all went our separate ways home be it very cautiously due to the ever dropping temperature.
Thanks to Ron (The Run Master) for the above report.



75th Pioneer Run 17 March

This annual event was cancelled by the Sunbeam Motor cycle club at the last minute due to the adverse weather conditions and there being snow and ice on many roads in Surrey and Sussex.

The Bull East Farleigh March 20

Guess the photo night we were asked to bring along a picture or two from our early years. Well what a selection! Dave Deacon was in charge of this one cause we needed a responsible person as most of us were in fits as we all tried to work out who was that sweet little six month old in the pram was or who is that 2 year old having a little paddy! A great bit of fun for a cold Wednesday night. The winner being Joy Stuart who received an Easter egg for doing a lot better than most of us.

Oirschot Motorweekend 29 March-1st April

Like every year BMW Club Oirschot & Omstreken organises its International BMW Motor Weekend over the Easter Weekend (Friday 29th- Monday 1st April) for all BMW riders and their passengers. They had again decided to start this year's rally on Friday and like all 33 previous events they have arranged a very entertaining program for us. Starting on Friday afternoon by signing in at reception and receiving a very welcome cup of tea and cake. Our trip, nearly compromised by them French Dock Strikers, took place in very cold but dry conditions. We only had a few "gusts" of snow with a little still laying on our ride through Belgium and on to Oirschot in Holland using the "quick" route to give us as much time at the Oirschot BMW Clubs Motor weekend. They really do some GREAT work putting on wonderful buffet meals throughout the weekend. On the Saturday night we had a DJ playing some great tunes and a terrific Band on Sunday the run was organised with Sat Nav co-ordinates to allow small groups to enjoy some very challenging twisty roads with very little traffic and a hearty cream tea at the end. We met up with a few club members from other sections, many being rally regulars but maintained our monopoly of winning The Grootse Club (largest attending section) Our George Barlow won the Oldest Rider award, all awards being made by their club secretary Rob. Standing around the camp fire on the Sunday evening together is a tradition and a great time for reflecting on the event and the amount of work and energy they put into making it a great weekend. Arriving for breakfast on the Monday morning (1st April) we find that our host have been up very early to decorate the hall in full Christmas décor to totally confuse those of us struggling with a bit of a sore head. On the way home we stopped at Ypres for a tasty lunch, then a pleasant ride through the lanes to Calais. Thanks to the Oirschot club for a very enjoyable Easter and we look forward to 2014 when Easter is later and it will be warm and dry.

Thanks to Shaun for the above report.

Hunt the Hawk (Treasure Hunt) 31 March

Again the weather played a big part in our planned day with John Hawker's treasure hunt. The very cold and icy weather kept many at home but a few brave souls being Chris and Angela Coffell, Keith and Debbie Morris, Kevin Goldfinch, with Dave Deacon being the (I'll go and find them when they get lost Sheriff) and of course John Hawker these Hardy folk have said that be it very cold they had a great time and a lot fun. We have decided to re- run this event this date will be posted on our website soon.

The Roebuck Inn at Laughton, East Sussex closed its doors on 8th March '13. We have been using this venue for a good few years now but in these hard times this is a sight that happens all too frequently. We thank the proprietors for their past hospitality. John Burton, a long standing member from that area, has kindly found us a new (every 2nd Friday) venue. The details are as follows:

The Golden Cross, Golden Cross, Hailsham, BN27 4AW.
Tel 01825 872216
www.thegoldencrossinn.co.uk

The pub is located on the A22 between Uckfield and Eastbourne about 100 metres South of the junction with the B2124, and opposite the BP petrol station. There is plenty of parking and good varied food is available. Thanks to John for dealing with this so promptly.

Forward Planning:

5 May: Quex Park Birchington. Oakdene Lay-by A20/M26 depart 10am with John and Joy Stewart.

12May: Ace Café BMW bike day and Thames cable car ride. Oakdene Lay-by A20/M26 depart 10am with Phil and Sue Jones.

25th May-1st June: Dordogne Region, France
Hotel, Self catering apartments and camping. Full details from Phil and Sue Jones .

Non Diary Event:

BMF Rally Peterborough Saturday 18th May '13

Chris Coffell will lead a run from the Esso Service Station, 474 Princess Road, Dartford, DA1 1YT. It's easy to find and the petrol is cheaper than West Thurrock. You just need to come off at junction 2 of the M25 and head for Dartford which is the same for those coming up the A2 take the 2nd exit at the M25 junction and head for Dartford. It's just off the roundabout heading into Dartford. Ever so easy for joining the M25 and the Dartford crossing. Meet at 8.30 to leave at 8.45 sharp.

For full details of these and other Events please check Diary of Events or go to www.thebmwclubsoutheast.com

Please note Date Change:

French Day Trip will now be Sunday 30 June not 16 June as stated in April Journal. This is due to the day return ticket price not being available at the special deal price of £30 return. Eurotunnel say this is due to the large demand for tickets for that day (16th) as this is the beginning of Le Mans week all other details remain unchanged for this trip. Please Book your Eurotunnel Tickets ASAP

Please keep supporting your section events when you can.

Kelvin.

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