

## **SOUTH EAST SECTION NEWS**

We start off a very busy June with Brunch on the 1<sup>st</sup> at Highgrove Garden Centre, Staplehurst (11am) to be followed by a run leaving at 1pm led by Kevin Goldfinch through picturesque Kent to his home for Tea & Cakes made by Denise. On the 8th Paul Ashby will be leading us down to Hawkinge WWII Museum. Hawkinge airfield was the nearest RAF station to enemy occupied France. It was only 10 minutes flying time away from the Luftwaffe fighter airfields in the Pas-de-Calais. The museum is totally self-supporting and is run by eight enthusiasts and volunteers. Midweek Run from Coopers is in the 11<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who have pre-arranged with Linda Thomas we have the Fun Day at RAF Northolt on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Chris Coffill is taking us up to Stoke Bruerne on the 15<sup>th</sup> for the Narrow Boat Festival. Stoke Bruerne is approx 10 miles north of Milton Keynes and is a small very pretty village set alongside the Grand Union Canal. The Canal Museum celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and is housed in a historic corn mill situated in the heart of the village. Jackie Lippiett will be testing your knowledge on Flags at Club Night on the 18<sup>th</sup> a subject I'm sure many of you will be familiar with! Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> is our BBQ at Matty's please book with me by the 4<sup>th</sup>. Lunch on the 29th is at the Coastguard Tea Room, Fairlight. Located close to Hastings Country Park it boasts a beautiful coastal view and France can be seen on a clear day.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April six bikes led by John and Jackie Lippiett left The Orchard Cafe at West Grinstead for a steady ride down to the Portsmouth. It was a damp and dismal morning but by mid-day it was sunshine and blue skies. On our arrival we were met by one of our long standing members Roy Carter who had travelled down from London on the National Express coach. We managed to see two of the attractions that the Historic Dockyard had to offer. The first, being the new Mary Rose Museum which opened a year ago. Absolutely amazing approx 900 exhibits including a hand held sundial (smaller than a golf ball). We then moved on to HMS Victory. Far too much to see in one day! We stopped again at The Orchard Cafe for tea and cake on our way home. A splendid day!

Sixteen bikes took part in the Midweek Run from Coopers on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We were joined by a new member and hopefully, another new member who came out with us to see what a run was like! Kevin Goldfinch once again took the lead and we made our merry way down to Dover. We lunched at the National Trust Cafe at White Cliffs overlooking the docks.

An impressive 17 bikes set off from Wrotham on the 13<sup>th</sup> led by Geoff Foxwell heading across country and arriving at Hand Cross at 9.30am in plenty of time to watch the veteran motorcycles pass by who were taking part in the Pioneer Run. The ladies of the village were doing a roaring trade serving tea, coffee and bacon rolls in the Village Hall. About 11am we continued our journey down to Brighton for the end of the run. The ride home included a tea stop at Wessons, Horam. Once again a glorious day!

Club night on the 16<sup>th</sup> was amusing with "What's in the Bag" with Brian Shears. Fifteen bags containing various household and bike related items all of which had to be determined by feel alone. Keith Morris won for the men and Brenda Gibson and I tied for the women.

The Easter Weekend in Oirschot, Holland was as usual a resounding success and enjoyed by all. Shaun Mulligan is in the process of writing an article, which will be placed on our Website in due course.

Sunday Lunch meet on the 27<sup>th</sup> was a small affair with 4 bikes and Shaun and Brenda's outfit. The afternoon run took them down to the Coastguard Tea Room at Fairlight, a popular stop for walkers and bikers alike.

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