

SOUTH EAST SECTION NEWS

March is upon us already and hopefully you have all now had a chance to look at your copy of the Diary of Events for 2014. Our Midweek Run from Coopers is a popular ride out and all members (who are at a loose end on Wednesdays) are more than welcome. As I have said before the members who regularly attend the Club Nights at The Bull and Friday night meets at The Golden Cross Inn, The Kings Arms and The Monument would be only too pleased to see and welcome new and old members alike to join them. At club night on the 19th I will be testing your geographical knowledge (nothing too taxing) just a bit of fun! Cliff and Julie Cakebread are taking a run over to Maldon Park on the 23rd. Maldon (Promenade) Park was originally created on the sloping banks of the River Blackwater over 100 years ago. It is famous for the Hythe which is home to many of the remaining Thames Barges. Maldon itself is one of the oldest recorded towns in Essex and its oldest part sits on a hill overlooking the Blackwater Estuary. Last but not least is our lunchtime meet at Brookside Garden Centre, East Peckham followed by a run at 2pm.

I would now like to bring to your attention a couple of forthcoming events, which I would not like you to miss and will require some organisation. They are:-

WEEKEND IN HONFLEUR WITH CHRIS & ANGELA COFFILL 23RD-26TH MAY

For details regarding this weekend please see our website or contact Chris (01634 251299) or me. Those of you who have the details please note that the Hotel Campanile, Honfleur's address has changed. It is now **823** rue Saint Clair **not** 96. This was recently altered by the local 'municipality'.

Honfleur is an old, beautiful, picturesque port located on the southern bank of the Seine estuary across from Le Harve. It is the home of the Sainte Catherine Church which is the largest church in France made of wood. The first written mention of Honfleur is a reference made by Richard III, Duke of Normandy in 1027. Honfleur has been occupied by the English on a couple of occasions, 1357 and from 1419-1450. When under French control in the 1450's raiding parties often set out from the port to ransack the English coast, partially destroying Sandwich. Ironically, Honfleur and Sandwich are now "Twin Towns".

DISPLAY YOUR BIKE AT RAF NORTHOLT WITH ALAN & LINDA THOMAS ON 14TH JUNE

Anyone wishing to join Alan and Linda and display their bike at the "Fun Day" RAF Northolt on Saturday 14th June **must register with Linda (01227 366827) by the 30th April** as she needs to clear riders/pillions/bikes with base security. These events are normally restricted to RAF personnel so this gives us a unique opportunity to enjoy a great day out. Those registering will be informed of where and when we are meeting for the run to Northolt.

An impressive 14 bikes arrived at Coopers on the 8th January for our first Midweek Run of the year. This was a window of opportunity not to be missed as there was a break from the atrocious weather we have all had to endure for several weeks. Fortunately, it occurred at the right time, being a club run. Keith took us on a short jaunt through Ashdown Forest to the Llama Farm near Forest Row for lunch. The Tea Room was very busy with “ladies who lunch”, obviously also taking advantage of the sunshine, so space was limited. The Manager made us most welcome and opened their Conference Room for our use. Afterwards, we made tracks to Hawkhurst Fish Farm led once again by Keith passing on the way a great deal of waterlogged fields and full ditches.

Our New Year Party was held on the 11th at Poulton Wood Golf Centre, this was well attended and I hope enjoyed by all. Once again the management and staff did us proud.

Shaun (Jack Frost) Mulligan took the first Sunday run on the 12th. 8 bikes set off from the lay-by opposite the Oakdene Cafe (perhaps a run straight after the party was too much for some!). We took a scenic route through the Kent countryside to Headcorn Aerodrome, where we thought it would be quiet being the time of year – **wrong!!** the cafe was absolutely heaving (standing room only) with people waiting to do parachute jumps and their families and friends. It was at this point the blue sky and sunshine disappeared and it became grey and dismal. Undefeated, we rode on via Rye to an equally busy Wessons Cafe, Horam, Sussex (managed to get a table) for a much needed hot drink.

Nine of us enjoyed lunch and a chat at The White Horse, Chilham sitting next to a roaring open fire.

Debbie Morris

0208 301 1600

Southeast.social@bmwclub.com