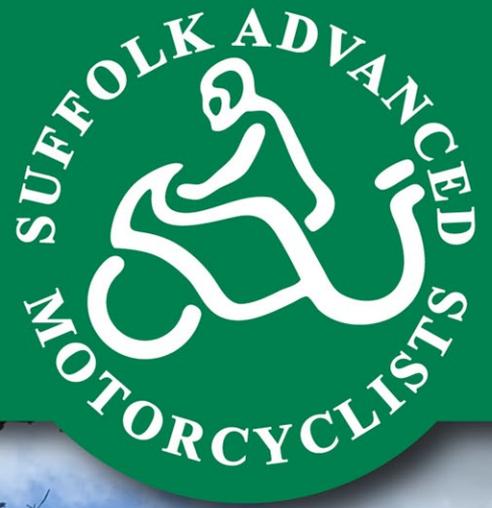


The SAM Observer

August 2019



Registered Charity No. 1067800



IAM Group No. 7219



The cover picture was submitted by Derek Barker and was taken in Scotland at Loch Rannoch. Mike Roberts did the digital editing.



Blythburgh, Taken by Mike Roberts on Day 2 of his Chief's Challenge ride.

YOUR COMMITTEE

No Calls After 21:00 Please

OFFICERS

Chairman	Richard Ockelton	07872 925532
Vice Chairman	Martin Drury	07595 277831
Secretary	Les Steggles	01359 245898
Treasurer	Bryan Duncan	07879 654122

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chief Observer	Derek Barker	01473 327555
Caring SAM	Brian Ellis	07740 564097
Charity Co-ordinator	Brian Ellis	07740 564097
Events	Rob Baker	07710 537844
Publicity Co-ordinator	Glyn Hill	07986 319163
Publicity	Dean Harris	07956 339112
Publicity	Trevor Read	07525 724002
Chief Ride Leader	Dean Harris	07956 339112
Webmaster	Mike Roberts	01473 718915
Communications	Les Smith	07792 273334
Magazine Editor	Felix Oliver	07712 649860

COMMITTEE SUPPORT MEMBERS

Membership Secretary	Linda Barker	01473 327555
Associate Co-ordinator	Susan Smith	07791 595048
Admin Support	Sara Hale	01359 241552
Buddy Co-ordinator	Vicky Smith	01255 830352

NATIONAL OBSERVERS

Mike Roberts	01473 718915	David Rudland	01473 401362
Richard Toll	07855 838347	Ross Mckinlay	07986 838028
Geoff Scott	07983 939998	André Castle	07730 526674
Paul Newman	01473 620450	Ruth Acworth	07783 007100
Paul Ballard	07850 715063	Tony Chyc	01206 231782
Kevin Brendish	07854 494041		

LOCAL OBSERVERS

Steve Gocher	01473 430643	Richard Ockelton	07872 925532
Dean Harris	07956 339112	Rob Baker	07710 537844
John Rudland	07740 874300	Matthew Barker	07931 700725
Phil Sayer	07990 565451	Glyn Hill	07986 319163
Terry Fellowes	07870 764187	Graham Parker	07905 468995
Ian Bishop	07775 920661		

I.A.M. EXAMINER

Ian Maxwell	07974 941545	Neale McConnell	07899 714136
-------------	--------------	-----------------	--------------

CONTENTS

Blythburgh	by Mike Roberts	2
Committee		3
Chairman's Chat	by Richard Ockelton	5
Latest Associates		6
SAM Promotion dates	by Glyn Hill	7
Motorcycle Dexterity & Control	by Derek Barker	8
New Observer Training	by Derek Barker	10
Video Clips	by Les Smith	11
Black Forest & Vosges Mountains	by Les Smith	12
SAM Theory Evening	by Derek Barker	15
Holiday in Wales	by Sonnie Westley	17
SAM's Breakfast Run		19
Ride Co-Ordinator and leaders	by Sara Hale	21
Saturday Jaunt		22
Tour to Northern Spain	by Karl Grimwade	23
Editorial	by Editor	32
Advertise Here	by Committee	33
Members Information	by Mike Roberts	34
SAM Dates for you Diary		35
Pictures from Wales	by Sonnie Westley`	39
Our Venue		40

NEXT ISSUE

Closing date for copy – **Friday after club night**. Send via e-mail or on a USB memory stick (which will be returned) or even hand-written, not a problem. The Editor reserves the right to edit, amend or omit as he feels fit.

WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com>

SAM is a registered Charity ~ No. 1067800

All Official Correspondence to:

The Secretary, Les Steggle,
1 Apple Grove, Wetherden, Suffolk, IP14 3RB

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

A very warm welcome to the August's edition of the SAM Observer. Hope you are all making the best of the (very hot) summer months riding out.

As you may or may not be aware. The Observer team is continuing to develop and grow. Currently we have in the region of 270 members. Of this number we now have twenty two Observers plus 3 in training), a mixture of National and Local Observers; this is a very good ratio of one Observer to approximately ten members. Every year the Chief, Derek Barker, asks for volunteers, who might have the attributes necessary to become an Observer. The event is normally held in the latter part of the year from September onwards, so if you are interested in becoming an Observer, please keep an eye out on the forum or magazine. Or speak to Derek Barker directly. This shows quite clearly the dedication of all those involved in the team from the Observers to Linda, Susan and Sara in being able to train and assist members of the club to achieve the IAM test pass and further develop their own riding with dexterity and hints and tips. Something new the IAM have been rolling out are new qualifications such as the Fellowship membership/test and the Masters test. Have you given any consideration to these new tests? Would you be interested in developing your riding skills even further? If so please speak to Derek Barker for further details.

Recently twelve members of Observer team went on an IAM skills day at Thruxton. It was quite a challenging day, mainly due to the changing weather conditions. The morning session started off quite dry followed by light drizzle to rain. Personally I learnt a great deal more about my own bike, such as a much clearer understanding of the tyre performance to grip in these conditions. Being used to a different manufacture of tyre previously, I was surprised on the current set of tyres and their overall grip and performance, so I will stay with this manufacture of tyre.

Volunteers are requested to assist the Copdock Motorcycle Show marshalling for their Charity Ride 25th of this month. If you can assist in any way please contact Rob Baker and see the SAM calendar for more details.

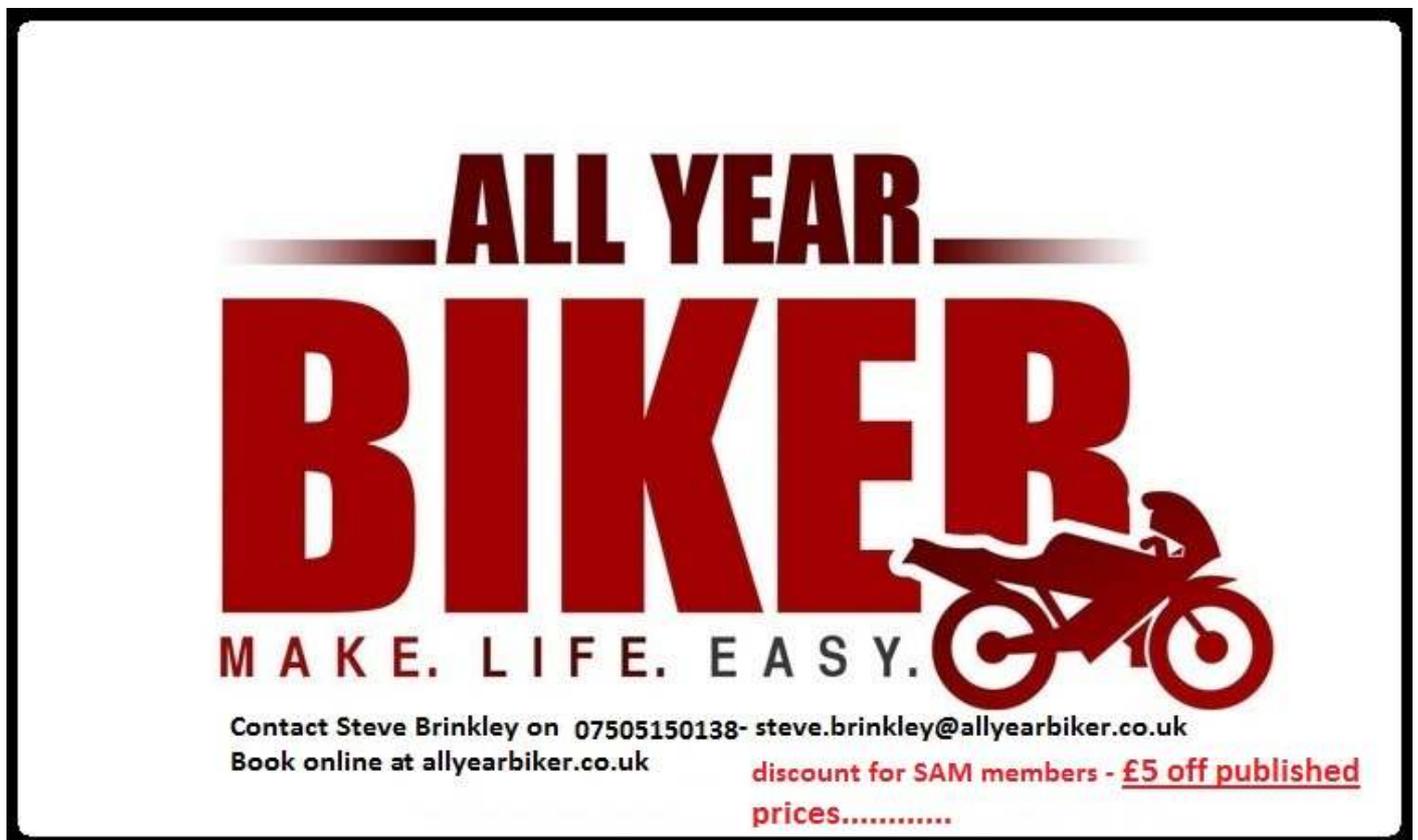
If you have not yet registered, or are still considering, it is not too late for taking part in this year's Chief's Challenge. It is still open, though you only have until the end of August to complete it. You may wish to do it as an individual as a pair, or even a small group. To enter is free; all you need to do is email karlsarahale@btinternet.com.

I would like to Thank July's guest speaker Andy Wray, for his talk on the East Anglia Air Ambulance and their roles. August's Guest Speaker is Phil Paxton, on the topic of, "Sorry didn't see you", this meeting will be held in the normal room at Gresham's.

Our editor Felix is always looking for new photographs and adventures that you may have been on recently for the magazine, thank you.

Cheers

Richard



ALL YEAR
BIKER
MAKE. LIFE. EASY.

Contact Steve Brinkley on 07505150138- steve.brinkley@allyearbiker.co.uk
Book online at allyearbiker.co.uk **discount for SAM members - £5 off published prices.....**

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our most recent Associate members:

Kevin Bolt Matthew Watkins Joseph Bishop

If anyone else has joined us and not had a mention yet, let the Editor know and he will put your name in the next Issue



SUFFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS PROMO DATES 2019

These are the dates your promotions team are attending this year, if you would like to help at any of these events contact **Glyn Hill** 07986319163. Come and join us for a day to see how we get people to sign up to SAM, it's a good day out and great fun. I look forward to hearing from you.

 August	31 st	Lings Honda & Triumph Demo Day
 September	7 th	Safe Rider
 September	14 th	Orwells Demo Day
 October	5 th	Safe Rider Police Headquarters
 October	6 th	Copdock Bike Show

MOTORCYCLE DEXTERITY & CONTROL 2019

Motorcycle Dexterity & Control Days (a.k.a. Slow Riding Days)

The Observer team in 2019 will again be running Motorcycle Dexterity & Control Days just for associates (plus a training event for Observers).

For every motorcycle spill that makes the local papers, there are many more which never get much publicity. How many of you in your time riding have never struggled to keep your bike upright while manoeuvring in a parking area, or had to take a big dab with either foot while negotiating queues of commuter traffic? Not many (if any).

Very often in these situations the rider grabs a handful of front brake, shortly followed by the resulting sound of expensive plastic and metal making contact with the ground. Motorcycle Dexterity & Control Days give you the opportunity to practice the art of riding a motorcycle slowly, and to learn the techniques that will help you do it.

The remaining dates this year are:

	Sunday	18 th August	Associates Only
	Saturday	14 th September	Associates Only
	Sunday	27 th October	Associates Only

All events start at **09:00 SHARP** and the venue will be the playground of Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Lane, Ipswich. **IP4 4JD**

It is strongly recommended before you attend one of SAM's Dexterity days, you inform your Insurance Company that you intend to practise slow speed machine control in a school playground off road on tarmac, ask them to confirm that you will have full cover for this activity.

Numbers are limited to these events to 10 per session so please book early by Email to karlsarahale@btinternet.com to guarantee a space.

NB. Please bring a drink/snack with you as there are no refreshment facilities on site.



YOUR VOLVO CAR UK AFFINITY OFFERS ARE WAITING...



The Volvo Car UK Affinity Programme gives you exclusive access to a variety of benefits and savings across the Volvo Cars range – so you can experience all of the luxury and subtle Swedish craftsmanship of our models for less.

CALL M.R. KING & SONS ON **01986 874464**
OR VISIT **M.R. KING & SONS,**
46 QUAY STREET, HALESWORTH, IP19 8EY
VOLVOCARSHALESWORTH.CO.UK



AFFINITY MEMBER DISCOUNTS

As a member of the Affinity Programme, you can enjoy a range of exclusive benefits with Volvo.



VOLVO DISCOUNT

Take advantage of hugely valuable offers across the Volvo Cars range and secure a brand-new Volvo for what feels like the cost of a second-hand car.



FREE METALLIC PAINT

The Affinity offer includes the option of Metallic Paint completely free of charge – saving you up to £700.



FINANCE OFFERS

Enjoy great finance deals, including 0% APR (when available) and deposit contributions, giving you the chance to spread your purchasing costs and keep interest payments to a minimum.



ACCESSORY OFFERS

Want to personalise your Volvo? You can get a selection of accessories at discounted prices with our tailored accessory offers – including roof bars, cycle racks, interior mats and dog guards.



SERVICE OFFERS

Plan your running costs with our up-front servicing packages. Enjoy three years' servicing at a Volvo dealer for £399, or five for £599.

Official fuel consumption for the Volvo Cars range in MPG (l/100 km): Urban 28.0 (10.1) – 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 40.9 (6.9) – 85.6 (3.3), Combined 34.9 (8.1) – 155.2 (1.8). CO₂ emissions 184 – 48/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW OBSERVERS TO JOIN THE TEAM.

Observers are a valuable asset to the club and give of their time freely in the interests of improving Motorcycle Road Safety. To ensure we continue with the fantastic work of the current team I am organising an assessment day, for those members who are interested in trying out for this demanding role, on Saturday 28th September 2019

Before you send that email or grab the phone and call, let me give you some of the facts. The assessment day will be long and tiring, you will be assessed by a number of our current observers throughout that time and after the festivities have ceased you will be told if you are ready or not to commence SAM observer training. Being an Observer for SAM requires the following qualities, you need to be;

Committed to improving the standard of riding for both yourself and others. Have very good communication skills and be contactable. Have a good knowledge of Roadcraft and be able to put over the concepts of it to people from all backgrounds and abilities. Be riding at least the standard of the IAM test and have enough concentration left to observe another rider. Be a fully paid up member of SAM and the IAM. Have loads of patience. Be able to give freely of your time to observe, attend regular refresher training sessions with other Observers, support organised events and share your skills onto others.

So the training process; Following successful selection on 28th September 2019 assessment day, you will need to commit to attending at least three evening classroom training sessions of around 2 hours each, these will be done towards the end of the year / New Year. There will then be a number of practical assessments concentrating on your riding, communications and teaching each of which will be driven by you. You would be expected to have completed all of this by the end of Spring 2020 so that we can use your new found skills. I make no apologies, the process is tough, however there is a minimum national standard required and this has to be verified by the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) where upon success you will have earned an external qualification endorsed by them. The programme is designed not only to get the right people with the right skills but also the right attitude.

If I have not put you off by now and you are now even keener then give me a call on 01473327555 or book your place email Sara at karlsarahale@btinternet.com
Closing date for applications will be **14th September 2019**.

Regards

Derek Barker
01473 327555
07885 108445

Chief Observer
Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclists

DO YOU HAVE RECENT VIDEO CLIPS FROM SAM EVENTS?

Calling all SAM members who use Action Camera's on their ride outs – do you have short video clips of SAM events in 2019?

We have decided that it's time to update our SAM promotional video – starting with some mock up's of what we are trying to achieve, before we commission a professional to create our new video.

Les Smith our Communications Officer has volunteered to take the lead on the project – and is looking for video clips of the following:-

-  Observed ride in progress – follow up over coffee at the end
-  Club Night
-  Group meet for run
-  Breakfast
-  Group riding – with ride leader
-  Coffee & Cake – Saturday Jaunt
-  Chip Night
-  Chiefs Challenge

If you have suitable video clips please contact Les by e-mail at – communications@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com – he will then send you a link to online storage for the video clips.

We are also looking for some “willing” volunteers to take part in the official video shoot – which we hope will be some time this autumn – please e-mail Les if you are interested in joining the fun.

BLACK FOREST & VOSGES MOUNTAINS WITH FREEDOM MOTORCYCLE TOURS

While I have done some touring in Europe in the past, this is the first time I have ventured out with an organised tour, so I was not totally sure what to expect, that being said I met Mike (aka Face) and Dee Prentice when they presented at the SAM meeting in December, so I was quietly confident all would be OK.

I decided to start gently, with the 4 night/5 day tour to the Black Forest, via the Vosges mountains in France, which looked like it would have plenty of “interesting” biking roads along the way, and have to say I would heartily recommend this to any fellow SAM members who have either not toured in Europe before, or have not visited this (easy to get to) part of the world.

Organisation was excellent, train booking and advance information done, GPX files e-mailed in advance so I could get the Sat Nav loaded up and tested before departure, and clear instructions on what to pack, where to meet and what to expect.

So early on the morning of Saturday 25th May I found myself at the Eurotunnel terminal, looking (among quite a crowd of bikes) for the Freedom Motorcycle group, which proved not be an issue at all as Face promptly found me, along with everyone else, which set the scene for the rest of the trip.

We all made our way down to the train as closely together as we could, but given the delays in getting through passports etc. a couple of the guys ended up not making the train, but as usual, Face had planned for this eventuality so we regrouped at the fuel station on the French side and waited until they caught us up.

After a quick reminder about the marking system, which was used throughout the trip, we set off along the A26 to get some miles under our belt before getting off the motorway at Cambrai and heading across country and into the hills via Verdun to our first overnight stop in Metz.

Day one demonstrated that I was the slowest rider in the group, and that this was actually a pretty fast group, mainly riding high powered sports bikes, so I volunteered to take the back marker role, which suited me perfectly, and gave the

rest of the group the opportunity to stretch their legs, as someone had to wait for me at every junction or route change, and ride a little faster as they then caught up with everyone else. This system suited everyone so well that we adopted it for the rest of the trip. The really positive thing was that I never felt under any pressure to go faster, or to try to keep up, so I could enjoy my own ride at my own pace.

Day two is when the roads started to get more “interesting” as we got into the Vosges mountains and found our first real twisties and hairpins of the trip, biking heaven, once through the Vosges and on into Germany Face had planned a route to get us onto the famous B500.

The B500 is one of those roads that every biker should ride, although some people have more optimism than experience, as this road delivers its share of accidents and incidents – including a couple of fatalities on the day we were there.

At the start of the B500 Face gave everyone a pep talk about safety, the route, what to expect and where to regroup at the other end, and we stopped the marking system, allowing everyone to make stops as and when they liked, and to ride the road however the fancy took them, some much faster than others, everyone faster than me, a great ride, lots of sweeping bends, good road surface and views.

Once everyone made it to the meeting point we made our way to our hotel for the next 2 nights in Freiburg.

Day 3 was pretty much all in the hills and mountains, making a figure of 8 from Freiburg via a couple of lakes, to a lunch stop at the Rhinefalls (just taking in a corner of Switzerland) before looping back, via a whole lot more hills, to Freiburg. This route took in some really technical roads, single lane, very tight hairpins, first gear and a lot of leaning to get round, great fun for everyone.

Day 4 saw us all getting the wet weather kit out for the first time in the trip, not great, but Face had planned a route on some main roads to get us to the next set of hills, back into the Vosges, by the time we got there the rain had pretty much stopped.

The D430 proved to be nearly as much fun as the B500, yet more hairpins as we rode almost the length of the Vosges from South to North before coming down from the hills and making our way cross country back to Metz for our last night.

Day 5, back to Calais for half the group, the other half had decided to take an additional day, so farewells after breakfast before we went our separate ways.

As usual Face had planned a route with plenty of interest, even if it was missing the dramatics of the mountains. Across the Lorraine Regional Natural Park and into the Champagne region, lots of long straights and open roads, plenty of overtaking practice, and a pretty fast ride to our lunch stop in Epernay, via the Avenue de Champagne, (perhaps) the most expensive street in the world.

After lunch we made a quick stop at the old Grandstand for the Reims, Gueux Race Circuit, which is along what was the finishing straight, but is a public road. We all managed to restrain ourselves from trying a flying run and carried on through the lanes until we got back onto the A26 for the final push back to Calais and the train home.

Once back in Folkestone we found the rain, and the traffic to welcome us home, for the final 140 mile back to Suffolk.

All in all a great trip, everyone was really friendly, and mixed well, with the usual drinks and dinners to discuss the fun of the days riding – some good natured banter around the group added to the enjoyment.

Face worked extremely hard to make sure everyone enjoyed themselves and dealt with a few incidents along the way remarkably well, using some local knowledge, and getting some help from Dee back at base.

We had one guy off on the first day, who broke his front brake lever and right foot peg, but fortunately nothing but his pride injured. Face managed to track down a local shop to get the bike fixed, and he was back with us by the end of the day.

On day 2 we had a radiator holed by a stone, which took a little more ingenuity to resolve, but with the application of an egg (don't ask) and some pliers, they managed to keep the bike going until we could get to a garage and apply something like radweld.

Having set out on this trip a little unsure if it was for me, I got home and virtually immediately started looking at the Freedom Motorcycle Tours website to work out where I can go next year, anyone who fancies joining in the fun let me know.

Les Smith

CHRIS SELF MOTORCYCLES LTD

SERVICING - MOT'S - PARTS - SALES

RING FOR BEST PRICES ON

TYRES-BATTERIES-BRAKE PADS

CHAINS & SPROCKETS

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO CLUB MEMBERS

UNIT 1A, HOLYWELLS ROAD, IPSWICH

Tel: 01473 225990

www.chrisselfmotorcycles.com

SAM THEORY EVENINGS

As most of you know, on the Thursday evening, directly after Group Nights, SAM holds its monthly Theory Evening. Based on an ever revolving subject list of important rider skills these nights are an informal evening of facts and lively banter all aimed at improving your ride based on the information in the Advanced Rider Course Logbook.

Each session covers one of the four main topic areas;

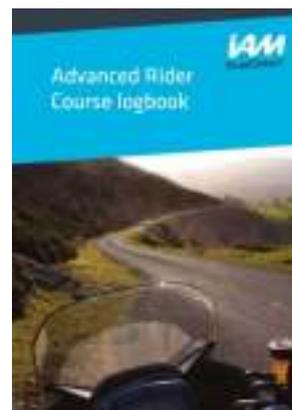
Overtaking	Planning & Positioning
Cornering	Gears & Acceleration

Mainly aimed at Associates going through the course, these evenings are also a good way for full members to brush up on their theory and add their experiences and questions to the session.

The great benefit of attending these sessions in the classroom means it saves time on the road, covering theory and has the added advantage of an opportunity to discuss any issues you may have generally on your Advanced Rider Course.

Derek Barker

SAM Chief Observer



HOLIDAY WALES MAY 2019

Thought maybe some of our readers may be interested in a holiday Jean and I had recently had with daughter Tracy.

We visited Mid Wales, obviously our more intrepid readers could source a more adventures route but we took the simplest as follows: A14, M6, M54, A458 and A486 to Newtown and on to Brinerion Lodge www.brinerion.com which was our accommodation for the week. The lodge is a Gothic styled house set in hotel grounds owned by the local Girl Guide movement, clean and comfortable, ideal as a base.

First day a visit to Powys Castle very interesting with lovely grounds and views, apparently reputed to be one of the most haunted castles in the country, fortunately not something that I can confirm. Sunday a drive to Welshpool and a trip on the Light Railway to Llanfair a lovely trip well worth taking with a pleasant lunch and a look round before returning to base.

Bank holiday Monday brought a trip to Oulton Park for the BSB meeting, good racing on an interesting track but crap weather did see the sun for a short time but it was cold.

Tuesday dawned dry but cool, a trip to the Elam Dam and visitor centre and then on to Gilgrin Farn to experience the Kite feeding, again places well worth a look situated on some very interesting roads.

Wednesday a visit to Abbey Cwin Hi now that is a trip worth making on some challenging roads even in a car, the house being quite unique and incredible inside and once again lovely grounds unfortunately we couldn't do them justice as we had spent to long inside the house and the weather again had turned rubbish but there is no such thing as a quick visit to the house, interested? www.abbeycwinhi.com.

Thursday there was a trip to Aberystwyth on the train giving our Tracy a break from driving and a chance to explore the seaside town, ride the vernacular tram to the top of the cliffs and down again which was

interesting in itself, fortunately the weather which had started pretty horrible cleared up and we did see some sun even if it was a bit chilly.



Friday an uneventful return trip home except for a detour on the M6 toll road due to an accident closing part of the M6. All in all an excellent break a lot of which I believe some of our more adventurous readers could convert to a motorcycle trip, most of the roads we experienced would be excellent biking roads and most of the places we visited there were bikers there too.

Sonnie Westley.

Footnote... Some of the more observant will have noticed that Mr Editor got a bit over enthusiastic with last month's magazine announcing that the holiday was in Ireland. Sorry for the disappointment. Jean and Sonnie have accepted the offer and will write up the report next year.

KRAZY HORSE

— GENUINE —

WILD RIDES



INTRODUCING THE NEW INDIAN SCOUT BOBBER

LONDON 020 8856 4273 krazyhorse.co.uk | BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 749645 krazyhorse.co.uk

BREAKFAST RUN

1st September 2019

Scotsdales Garden Centre – Sunflower Café
Cambridge Road
Great Shelford
CB22 5JT

Tel: 01223 842777

<https://scotsdalegardencentre.co.uk/sunflower-cafe/>

Meet at Stowmarket Tesco's, **IP14 5BE** in good time for a **09:00** Briefing and subsequent departure.

All riders must attend Briefing.

Ride Co-ordinator: David Wood

Exit the store to the **right** along Gun Cotton Way until reaching navigation Approach.

Turn left down the hill then **turn right** into Creeping Road then **right** and **left** onto the **B1113**, Newton Road.

After passing Finningham at the top of the twisty rise take the minor road straight ahead where the **B1113** turns sharp right.

Through Walsham le Willows to the **A143** at Ixworth.

Turn left and carry on to Great Barton.

Turn right on Mill Road just past the Bunberry Arms.

Carry on to the double mini roundabout at Fornham all Saints and join the **A1101** to the **right**.

At Lackford **turn left** into Ickniel Way, over two crossroads, under the **A14** and onto the **B1506** through Kentford into Newmarket.

Along the High Street to the racecourse roundabout.

2nd exit on the **A1303** to Cambridge.

Turn left at the airport roundabout, through Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford.

Turn right at the lights onto Tunwells Lane, **A1301**.

Scotsdales Garden Centre is about a mile along this road with the entrance on the **right hand** side to 2 huge tarmac car parks.



**JTC MOTORCYCLE
ENGINEERING
NEWS
WE HAVE MOVED**

To

**UNIT 6 SOUTHWOLD ROAD INDUSTRIAL PARK,
SOUTHWOLD ROAD, HOLTON ,
HALESWORTH , SUFFOLK, IP19 8PW**

01986 872001

*Call in and have a Cuppa
& see our new premises*



**JTC
MOTORCYCLE
ENGINEERING**

**BMW
SPECIALIST
BMW Factory
Trained
Technicians**

SERVICING & REPAIRS ALL MAKES
Serviced to and beyond manufacturers
Specifications (Warranty unaffected)
TYRES - MOT'S - PARTS
Diagnostics - Courtesy bike

Unit 6 Southwold Road Ind Park, Halesworth, IP19 8PW

01986 872001

www.jtc-motorcycle.co.uk

RIDE CO-ORDINATORS AND RIDE LEADERS



RIDE CO-ORDINATOR AND RIDE LEADER

🏍️ Chief Ride Leader Dean Harris

🏍️ David Wood

🏍️ Vini Evans

🏍️ Richard Ockelton

🏍️ Brian Ellis

🏍️ Robert Baker

🏍️ Karl Grimwade

🏍️ Glyn Hill

🏍️ Nick Braley

RIDE LEADERS

🏍️ Ken Beckinsale

🏍️ Mike Roberts

🏍️ Eric Aldridge

🏍️ Adrian Tadman

🏍️ Tim Wash

🏍️ Trevor Read

🏍️ Alex Jones

🏍️ Martin Drury

🏍️ Fred Sparrow

🏍️ Nigel Pye

Please check the SAM Calendar and SAM Forum on-line for last minute changes/cancellations. On the Forum you will also find the routes as text, route cards, and on Google Maps / Streetview, along with a photo of the destination, so you can familiarise yourself with the route before the day.

SATURDAY JAUNT

21st September 2019

Sunflower Café, Scotsdale Garden Centre, Horningsea, Cambridgeshire
CB25 9JG

Tel: 01223 860320

<https://scotsdalegardencentre.co.uk/store/horningsea/>

Meet at Beacon Hill Services on the junction of the **A140** and **A14**, **IP6 8LP** in good time for a **13:00** Briefing and subsequent departure.

All riders must attend Briefing.

Ride Co-ordinator Vini Evans.

Leave the services and take the **third** exit from the roundabout to Needham Market.

Turn left immediately after passing under the railway bridge.

Go across the staggered crossroads at 'The Lion' and feed into Barking Road.

Continue to Bildeston, **turning left** at the High Street then **turn right** to join the **A1141** at Monks Eleigh into Lavenham.

Turn left at the High Street then at the garage/car sales fork **right** on the Melford Road.

Turn right at Bull Lane with a staggered crossroads across the **A134** into Long Melford.

At the High Street **turn right** then fork **left** at the green onto the **A1092** through Cavendish into Clare.

Turn right at 'The Bull' onto the **B1063** and follow to Newmarket.

At the New Wellington pub **turn right** into Cheveley Road which comes out at the Clocktower roundabout at the end of the High Street.

Straight over, **2nd exit**, and **turn left** at the lights into Fred Archer Way, **B1103**.

Through Exning into Burwell and **turn left** at the T junction. (There is a corner cut but not easy to see).

Follow the **B1102** through Swaffham Bulbeck and Stow cum Quy over the **A14** and into the approach to Cambridge.

After passing the airport and cemetery **turn right** at Ditton Lane and on to Horningsea where Scotsdales is on the **right**.

TOUR TO NORTHERN SPAIN

Just last year I introduced Claire, my wife, to the joys of biking. Understandably she waited until I had (re) taken my IAM test before consenting to sit on the back of the BMW R1100RS. It's a bike that's fine for her on a long journey but I felt as if I needed a week in traction after 4 hours. So I was quite surprised when she showed interest in the idea of a tour to Northern Spain. And that's how I came to



buy a pukka touring bike, the Honda 1200 Crosstourer. After a lot of internet work and a few test drives I settled on the DCT version for its smooth power delivery and eventually picked up the '15 plate bike from Lings at Harleston at the end of February.

Initial pimping was the addition of a GPS bracket behind the screen along with a Bagster tank cover and bag but other than that it was almost ready to go. The only residual worry was that the seat had the consistency of a church pew but more of that later.

Options to reach Northern Spain are simple, ferry to Calais and drive, or Portsmouth-Santander and you're there. We both enjoy sailing so it was a no brainer, biking and sailing in one holiday! Tickets booked online in

February as the Brittany ferries on that route fill up fast for May, then arrange accommodation. Lots of choices on booking.com (others available etc) but first impressions were that the prices looked too good to be true so there was some trepidation about the places we chose.

It's been a busy year so far in the Grimwade household so there wasn't much chance to build up any anxiety about the logistics of what would be the first foreign bike tour for either of us. When the day arrived we were both pretty laid back and set off from Lavenham at a leisurely 10:00 towards Portsmouth.

Now more on the seat. This bike is renowned for its hard seat so there are other options around. I'd settled on memory foam inserts rather than gel and it just so

happened that Sussex Motorcycles was close to our route. We stopped for lunch at a nearby pub and then dropped off the bike for its prearranged appointment. Over two hours Chris stripped the seat back and added memory foam according to individual need based on height and weight. I was impressed, both seats are now far more comfortable and my posture has improved. Plus you can't tell it's been done! Onwards to Portsmouth where we spent the night in a local hotel ready for an early-ish start the next day.

Staying in Portsmouth has limited attractions so next time we'll go for something outside but within half an hour's drive.

So ferry check-in the next day at 07:30hrs ready for 08:45 departure. Everything's on time, bike strapped down carefully and professionally by the crew and we're quickly into our cabin (it's a 28 hour trip so no dossing down on



a chair) which is excellent with its own en suite. Food on the ship is good and not expensive.

The Bay of Biscay was calm so the crossing was a doddle, something everyone was grateful for and we were in good shape when we arrived at Santander. Bikes were unloaded first, a great help, and we were off!

We had made a conscious decision before going that we would avoid motorways where possible so we took the slow route alongside the AutoRoute to get to the village of Santillana del Mar with its ancient stone buildings and cobbled streets. Yes, cobbled, with two up and full baggage. That was interesting, and yes, we did stay upright! The Hotel Altamira is an ancient building, stone and wood with huge airy rooms and a great breakfast. The Spanish seem to like their breakfasts big!

By the morning all the Sunday trippers had vanished and peace reigned. We were off to visit a house in nearby Comillas that was built by the renowned architect, Gaudi. If you've ever visited La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona then the style would be instantly recognisable, 'Lego ice cream' sums it up for me, El Capricio de Gaudi is a fascinating building and really worth a visit. Then a waterside lunch at San Vicente de Barquera with its huge harbour and mediaeval walls. The view from these just begins to give an indication of the views to come, mountains stretching into the distance with occasional clouds interrupting.



On Tuesday morning the bike is packed for the next stage. Just five minutes away though are the world famous caves of Altamira. It's the site of some of the oldest cave paintings on the planet. When Picasso saw these he said 'After Altamira, all is decadence'. You can't go into the caves now, the moisture and heat of too many visitors was quickly degrading the paintings, but there is a fabulous re-creation to see. The paintings really are breathtaking, it's a must.

Leaving the caves the temperature was starting to climb so it was

relief to get back on the bike and move on.

Go South on the CA-180 and the hang a right onto the narrow, winding CA-182.

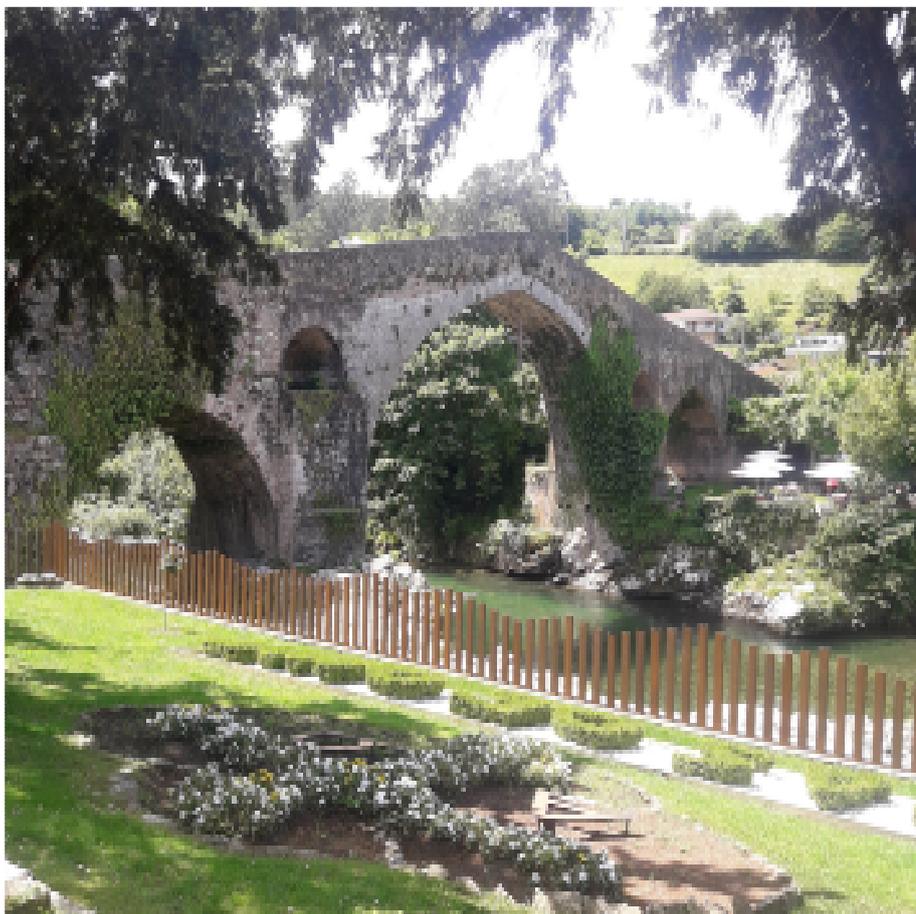
This is where the Picos roads begin! Twisting, turning, rising hairpins, falling hairpins and all on great tarmac without a pothole in sight; 46km and over an hour of incredible views later we turned left at La Hermida taking us South to Potes where we stopped for lunch.

Now a word on lunch, there is no such thing as a late lunch in Spain as far as I can tell. It seems to be illegal before 2pm so 3.30pm is around about average.

Potes is another lovely stone built village with winding streets and a crystal clear stream running under a couple of ancient bridges. In fact, that pretty much sums up the Picos de Europa.

Onwards now along the CA-185, another winding mountain road, to our lodging for the next couple of nights, Casona de Trevino near Cosgaya. This was reached up a steep, hairpin infested concrete track! Luckily that's just the kind of thing that the Crosstourer eats for breakfast so the online review that spoke of the horrors of the approach was ill-founded. And the end result really was worth it, an isolated farmhouse built in the 1700's, so original that the adze marks were still clearly visible on the floorboards, and with views across the mountains that were to die for. Waking up to the sound of cow bells and flinging open the shutters to the clear, sunlit mountains was wonderful.

Our day trip was to Fuente De, a mountain hotel and walking/climbing spot set up by the Franco regime when they were trying to encourage tourists. We took

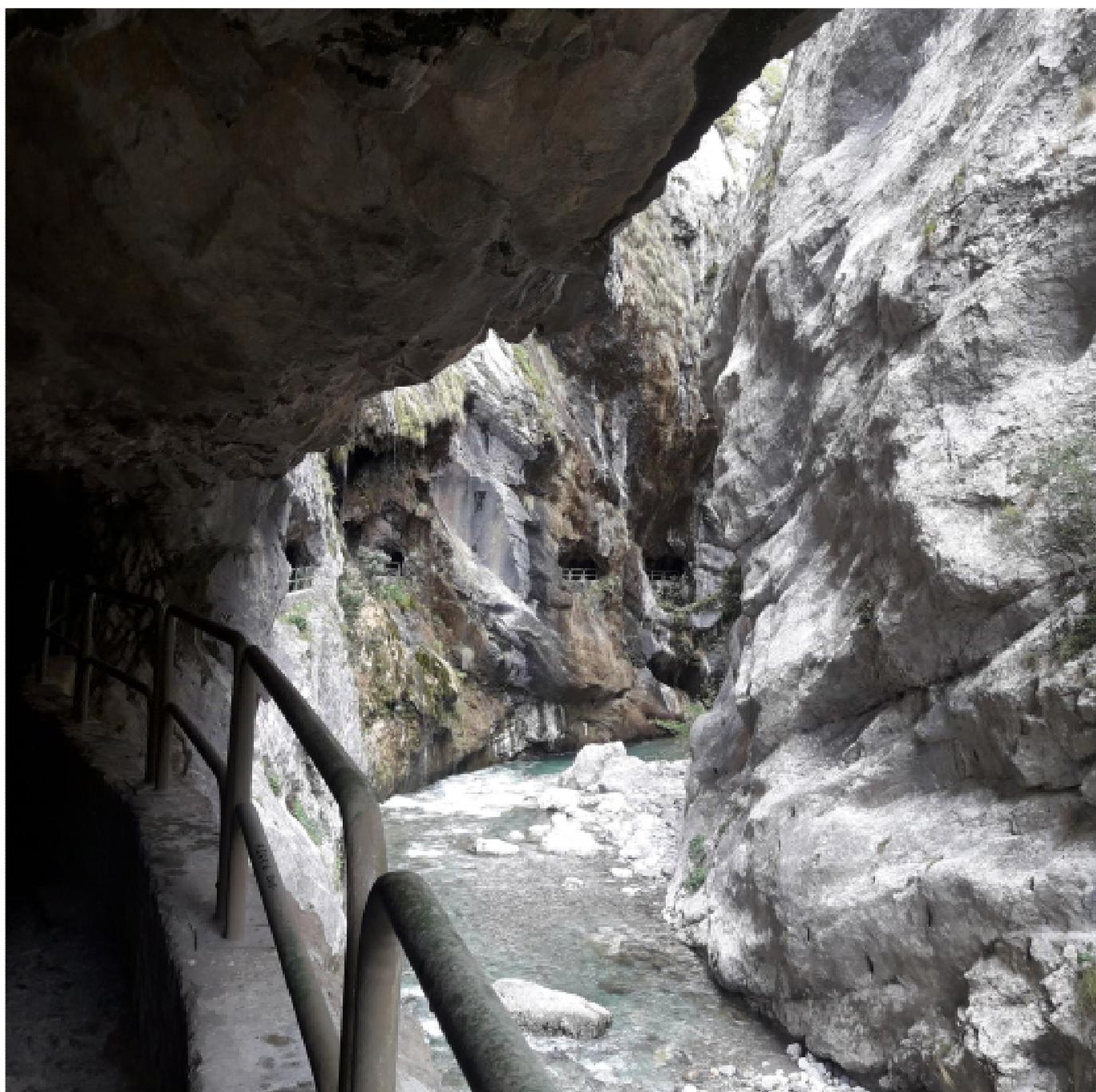


the cable car up into the mountains and walked a set route, about four hours through peaks dotted with alpine meadows covered with flowers, groups of Chamois deer and sunshine with snow patches lingering in the shadows. We slept well that night and refreshed with a generous breakfast (the lady didn't know the meaning of 'small' or 'stop') we re-packed the bike and set off towards Posada de Valdeon, stopping at various viewpoints and the small

town of Riano for petrol (the only reason to go there), and the Hotel Rural de Picos, a more modern small hotel than we'd been used to.

This village really is in the heart of the Picos and just a few km away at Cain De Valdeon is the Southern end of the Ruta Del Caras, a walk along a spectacular gorge running between limestone cliffs. Cut into the stone above is a fairly narrow path, about 11km of it, and just inches away are drops that seem endless. I'm not ashamed to admit that there were moments when I felt like clinging to the rock and shutting my eyes!

So after two nights in Posada we're off towards Cangas de Onis, yet another mediaeval town with a spectacular mediaeval bridge and crystal clear river, along the AS-114, the Northern bypass of the Picos. It's a broader, straighter (a relative



term) road, then South down to La Hermida and back again along the winding CA-282 to Cicera, a tiny village in the middle of nowhere. Two nights at the Posada Rural La Esquila de Cicera, a gloriously simple B and B run by Bruno and his dog, Rasta. Cicera is a village that time forgot, there aren't many young people and stress is not something that anyone would recognise there. Again, fabulous views, cowbells, a tiny Taberna serving really simple food. We went for a longish walk the next day and then chilled out. It was our last full day in Spain this trip because we had to make our way home the next day.

Now, here's where it gets more complicated and plans fall apart. A couple of days after we arrived I received an email from Brittany ferries telling us that the boat had stopped working, so we were very welcome to make our way to a French



port and get home that way. Er, that's it.

Well, thank heavens for smartphones. We managed to get booked onto a fast ferry from Cherbourg but it meant a 770 mile trip from Santander; 13 hours on the AutoRoute or over 20 hrs on slower roads! There's no way we were going to do that in one hit so we gave ourselves three days and took the auto route most of the way, stopping at Saintes and Rennes with leg stretches at La Rochelle and St-Mere-Eglise where preparations for the D-Day 75th Anniversary were ongoing. Anyone who has driven across France will know that most of it is pretty featureless so after the Picos the landscape was a bit of a come down but it passed soon enough and, if nothing else, it proved to both of us that we are up to 6 hour rides!

Cherbourg arrived in due course and, as if on cue, the rain began. We'd had fantastic weather in the mountains, they can get very misty and wet, but the Fates had smiled and it wasn't until the return trip that we had to don our rain proof onesies. We arrived back in Portsmouth at 1900 hrs and after three and a half hours of A3/M25/M11 etc we were back home.

And did it put anyone off? Well Claire, who until that trip had been on the back of the bike less than a dozen times, is now planning the next one! Roll on next spring.

Karl
Grimwade.



SOCIAL RIDES

Please note that it is you, the rider, who is deemed to be in control of the vehicle at all times during an Observed Run and during all other Group activities and that the Committee of Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclists cannot and do not accept any liability whatsoever for any injury to person or damage to vehicle occurring in the course of any rally or other event organised by the Group. Any member attending such an event does so entirely at his or her own risk and must maintain their own insurance to cover any said injury to person or damage to vehicle and must be riding a road legal vehicle, having valid road tax, insurance and MOT certificate (if applicable).

Participants on S.A.M social rides are advised of the Events Committee's guidelines as follows:

-  You will be expected to provide a suitable means of carrying a map of the route
-  If possible, have breakdown cover for your machine.
-  Be responsible for your own safety
-  Rides will commence promptly at the published departure time.
-  Have a FULL tank of fuel
-  No more than 5 in a group.

Please watch our light hearted video with a serious message explaining all of the above.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRMd-dQHZWg>



**THE ADVENTURE
BIKE SHOP**

Visit us at our showroom or online at
www.adventurebikeshop.co.uk

to see the **best selection of Adventure, Overland & Touring Bike accessories in England**

t: 01787 372901 e: info@adventurebikeshop.co.uk

Unit 19, Inca Business Park, Acton, Suffolk CO10 0BB

CLOTHING BOOTS HELMETS



PROTECTION FOR YOU AND YOUR BIKE



LUGGAGE AND ACCESSORIES

5 BRANDS
OF SOFT
LUGGAGE

6 BRANDS
OF HARD
LUGGAGE

CAMPING



EXHAUSTS

SUMP GUARDS



HANDGUARDS

SUSPENSION

INTERCOMS AND GPS

SCREENS

HORNS



CRASH BARS



**THOUSANDS OF PRODUCTS
ONLINE AND INSTORE**

**NOW AVAILABLE
0% FINANCE
on orders over £500**



f Adventure.Bike.Shop @Adventure_Bikes

EDITORIAL



Welcome to the season of boil in a bag... I had a meeting in Ipswich, All the liners removed and with shorts and tee shirt under my suit still ended up a soggy mess, Fortunately we only get this once a year for a few days so we don't have to suffer too much.

By the time you get this I would have skived off for a few days dragging a bikers

worst nightmare and the scourge of the roads, My caravan... Heading north. It's funny how different vehicles attract different behaviour from other road users. Towing the caravan, cars have to get in front, pulling out inches from my bumper so they are not stuck behind. That's fine as long as they get on with it, but others then trundle along at a neck braking 40 so I have to slow down... Coming back the other day I was half way through an over take, indicator on and half way cross the white line when a car roared past, he must have been over the side white line gave me a fright.

It's again different in my van, waiting at a junction other vans will let me out, car drivers rush past, On the bike it appears that everyone is trying to get out of the way, apart from the A14, drivers sort of sit in the outside lane not moving over almost if they expect me to undertake. Which of course I think is the worst thing to do. And I'll climb off my soap box...

Safe Riding **Felix..** Editor

Bowman's Barn, Back Street, Gislingham, Suffolk. IP23 8JH.

Tel: 07712649860

editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com

THANK YOU

To all the members who have contributed to this month's magazine. ☺

But..... what about the rest of you.... ☹

CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FRIDAY AFTER CLUB NIGHT

If you'd like to help save the Group on the printing and postage costs of your monthly 'hard copy' of the 'SAM Observer' by opting to receive an email notification instead, then please give me your email details on Group Night or send me an email.

I hope that you have been enjoying the reports that members who go on ride outs have written, and as you can see, it doesn't have to be a wordy passage, so feel free to scribble a few words down, a few pictures and next month you will have another great magazine to read

Don't forget to take your cameras and a notebook to record your trip then you can write a nice article about it for your favourite magazine. I have a word template if anyone would like it, email me and I'll send you a copy which has all the formatting re-set on it. Please remember that we use Times New Roman as the main font for the magazine at a size 16 so that when the printer converts the A4 pages down to A5 the font looks like a 12. I like pictures to be separate to your articles because I can make them bigger or small to fill the page

ADVERTISE IN OUR MAGAZINE

Annual Advertising Rates:

Advertise on the SAM website for an additional £25.

Contact Felix for more details 07712649860
editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com

£50 for ½ page

£75 for full page



NORFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

3rd Monday of the month, 19:30, at Dunston Hall, A140,
Norwich, NR14 8PQ

Chairman,	Rob Chandler,	01493 730409
Secretary,	Alex Mason,	01603 716735

MEMBER INFORMATION

A lot of useful information about SAM and its activities is available on our website. Below are some key links members will find useful.

CONTACTS

Contact details of SAM's Committee & Observers, complete with photographs so you can recognise everyone.

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/com>

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/obs>

CALENDAR

Our online calendar with relevant links which can also be linked to your smartphone. Contact: Mike Roberts

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/cal>

OBSERVER ASSOCIATE CHARTER

What is expected of the Observer and Associate while preparing for the IAM motorcycle test. Contact: Derek Baker

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/chart>

CARING SAM

Our customer service & complaints procedures. Contact: Brian Ellis

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/care>

DISCOUNT SCHEME

Proof of identity will be required to be shown. (e.g. Current IAM/SAM membership cards). Save your membership fee, and more, by using these retailers who give a discount to SAM members. Contact: Dean Harris

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/disc>

ADVERTS

Got something to sell? Want to see what other members are selling? See our online adverts section. Contact: Mike Roberts

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/ads>

SHOPS

T-shirts, sweatshirts, fleeces, hats, and more are available from SAM's two online shops. Contact: Mike Roberts

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/shop>

FORUM

All the latest news and discussion on all things SAM and motorcycle related. Have a read, and then register to join in. Contact: Mike Roberts

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/forum>

SAM EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST 2019

Sunday 18th M/C Dexterity & Control. Sidegate Primary School, 292 Sidegate Lane, Ipswich IP4 4JD.

Tuesday 20th SAM Group Night. Announcements at **19:30** followed by, Guest Speaker, Phil Paxton from sorrymate.com. Greshams, 312 Tuddenham Road, Ipswich IP4 3QJ Bar serving all types of drinks including teas and coffees.

Thursday 22nd Theory Evening. Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 1JF. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft. **19:30**. This month's topic: **Planning & Positioning**

Saturday 24th Chairman's Run 09:00 – 13:00 Social ride. More details soon. Contact: Richard Ockleton

Sunday, 25th Copdock Show Charity Ride, To Thorpness, we would much appreciate SAM's support in providing static marshals. Currently it looks like we will need **19** marshals. If you can help please see **Rob Barker**

Thursday 29th Chip ride, Codfather, CO10 2EQ Meet at Morrisons Hadleigh IP7 6LB, in good time for a **18:15** Briefing and subsequent departure **All riders must attend Briefing**

Saturday, 31st Lings Honda & Triumph Demo Day The SAM publicity team will be at this event. If you would like to help please contact: Dean Harris or Glyn Hill. 09:00 – 16:00

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday, 1st Breakfast Run, Scotsdales Garden Centre, Sunflower Café. CB22 5JT. Meet at Stowmarket Tesco's IP14 5BE in good time for a **09:00** Briefing and subsequent departure **All riders must attend Briefing.**

Wednesday 4th SAM Committee meeting 19:30. Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 1JF

Friday 6th ~ Saturday 7th Safe Rider is a joint initiative between Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies. If you can help the Publicity Team on the Saturday of this event, please contact **Glyn Hill** on 07986-319163

Saturday 7th Observer Team Ride. Team building ride to Deepest Darkest Essex. Contact: Andre Castle and Ross McKinlay

Saturday 14th Orwells Demo Day. The SAM publicity team will be at this event. If you would like to help please contact: Dean Harris or Glyn Hill.

Saturday 14th M/C Dexterity & Control. Sidegate Primary School, 292 Sidegate Lane, Ipswich IP4 4JD.

Tuesday 17th SAM Group Night. Announcements at **19:30** followed by, Guest Speaker, SULAR - Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue <https://www.sular.org.uk> Greshams, 312 Tuddenham Road, Ipswich IP4 3QJ Bar serving all types of drinks including teas and coffees.

Thursday 19th Theory Evening. Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 1JF. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft. **19:30.** This month's topic: **Cornering**

Saturday 21st Saturday Jaunt, Sunflower Café CB25 9JG Meet at Beacon Hill Services on the junction of the A140 and A14, IP6 8LP in good time for a **13:00** Briefing and subsequent departure **All riders must attend Briefing**

Saturday, 28th Observer Assessment Day A day for those wishing to train to become an Observer where their suitability will be assessed. Contact: Derek Barker, Exact times to be confirmed nearer the day.

OCTOBER 2019

Sunday 6th Copdock Show If you can help with motorcycle parking or on our promotion stand, please speak to a Committee member.

NOTE FROM EDITOR

Please check the SAM Calendar, Forum & Facebook page for further details and for any changes after going to press. Especially in winter months when the weather can be unpredictable

DISCLAIMER

The articles published herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists or the Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclist Group. They are the opinions of individual contributors and are published with a view that free expression promotes discussion and interests.

Any comments please email the editor.

MOTOTECHNIKS

SUFFOLK'S EXCLUSIVE PREMIER YAMAHA DEALER



YAMAHA

- Yamaha Premier Dealer
- Servicing (all makes)
- Specialists in BMW & Super Bike Servicing
- Approved Aprilia Servicing and Warranty
- Used Bike Sales
- Repairs
- Tyres and MOT's
- Clothing & Helmets
- Spares & Accessories
- Full Diagnostic Facilities
- Training School Located at Same Premises

YOU YAMAHA MOTOR
FACTORY
WARRANTY

YOU YAMAHA MOTOR **FINANCE**

YOU YAMAHA MOTOR
ROAD
ASSISTANCE

01449 775775



Find us on
Facebook

Mototechniks Motorcycle Centre
Tothill, Bury Road, Stowmarket
Suffolk IP14 3QQ
(Junction 49 off A14)

www.mototechniks.com
mototechniks@btconnect.com

ORWELL

Get on and Ride



 **SUZUKI**

Kawasaki



NEW BIKES



ACCESSORIES



SPARES



WORKSHOP



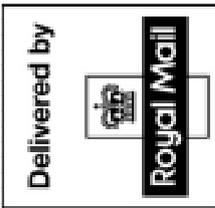
USED BIKES

200 Ranelagh Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 0AQ

01473 257401 | orwell.co.uk |   



Pictures from our holiday.
Sonnie and Jean Westley



2

Account Postage GB
AC09771890012



WHERE WE MEET



Greshams
IP4 3QJ
Approx 1/4 mile
after the
railway bridge
(not to scale)

Tuddenham Rd

NORTH IPSWICH RING ROAD