

The SAM Observer



Your Committee

No Calls After 9pm Please

Officers

Chairman	Richard Toll	01473 401363
Secretary	Martin Andrew	01473 614057
Treasurer	David Rudland	01473 401362

Committee Members

Vice Chairman	Vacant	
Associate Co-ordinator	Susan Smith	01206 251946
Membership Secretary	Beverley Rudland	01473 401362
Chief Observer	Derek Barker	01473 327555
Editor	Steve Gocher	01473 430643
Webmaster	Mike Roberts	01473 718915
Buddy Co-ordinator	John Morgan	01473 711699
Publicity Co-ordinator	Sara Hale	01359 241552
Events	Chris Smith	01206 251946
Events	John Sillett	01473 219488
Events	Ray Spreadbury	01449 736664
RideNet Liaison	Rob Day	01449 737551

Senior Observers

Derek Barker	01473 327555	Bob McGeady	01728 832595
Rob Day	01449 737551	Mike Roberts	01473 718915
John Goodwin	01394 277650	David Rudland	01473 401362
Karl Hale	01359 241552	Richard Toll	01473 401363
Chris Jackson	01787 315628		
Observer Support		Mrs Terry Brooker	01255 425558

Observers

Carolyn Barnes	07802 725093	Simon Phillips	01473 830671
Mr Terry Brooker	01255 425558	David Schofield	01449 741762
Paul Bryden	01992 577719	Mark Selwyn	01255 674174
Dave Bunn	01394 270044	Chris Smith	01206 251946
Tony Chyc	01206 231782	Ray Spreadbury	01449 736664
Matthew Cullum	07825 528519	John Van-Eyk	01449 722081
Steve Gower	01473 410251	Stuart Young	07931 350799
Martin Leach	01473 717713		

I.A.M. Examiners

Bob Gosden	01473 716873	Kevin Stark	01473 310504
------------	--------------	-------------	--------------

Contents

Chairman's Chat	4
Secretary's Scribbles	5
New Members	6
Speed and it's Power	8
Caption Competition	11
January Breakfast Run	12
Social Rides	13
SAM's Regalia	15
So You Think You Know?	16
Look in the Classifieds	18
Trip to WW1 Battle Fields	20
November's Group Night	23
Oradour Sur Glane	24
SAM Membership Renewal 2009	25
Our Venue	27
Ed's Soapbox	29
Benefits of BMF Membership	29
Events Diary	30
Membership Fees for 2009	30

To see 'The SAM Observer' in it's full colour glory, visit the website
WEBSITE ADDRESS

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

SAM is a registered charity – No. 1067800

Editor

Steve Gocher
75 Chatsworth Crescent
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP2 9BY
Tel: 01473 430643
Email: sam.editor@hotmail.co.uk

Printed By

Sharward Services
Westerfield Business Centre
Main Road
Westerfield
Ipswich
IP6 9AB
Tel: 01473 212113

Next Issue

Closing date for copy - 1st Monday of the month. Send via e-mail or on 3.5" disk (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.

All Official Correspondence to:

Martin Andrew
Lieblings
Through Jollys
Kesgrave
Ipswich
IP5 2XT

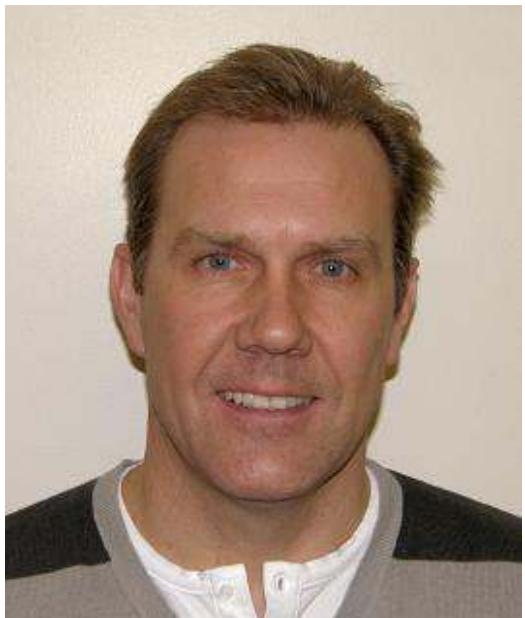
Annual Advertising Rates:

£50 for half page and £75 for full page. Advertise on the SAM website for an additional £25.

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.

Chairman's Chat



If the current weather is anything to go by you would think that being on two wheels is not very appealing. However, the club seems to be as busy as ever. We have had over 30 new members join since September and almost half of these have been under 25. This is no coincidence because, as I mentioned last month, we have used the money donated by Linklaters of Colchester to help sponsor many young riders with a contribution towards a "Skill for Life". This promotion has been so successful that the fund has now been exhausted. We are however looking for further funding to continue the Young Riders promotion in the New Year so please continue to bring guests that fall into that category.

I would also like to thank all those Observers who have offered an "assessment ride with breakfast" in aid of Operation Santa Claus. All ten rides were snapped up on SGR FM and as such local charities will benefit whilst at the same time giving us the opportunity to show new riders the benefits of joining SAM.

The promotions and events team have been very busy and have already secured most of the guest speakers for next year as well as a Summer BBQ, quiz night and other ideas to ensure a varied agenda for Group Nights. You will also be able to find all the dates and destinations for next year's Breakfast Runs on the web site and, as I hinted last month, there may be more added during the summer months such as Full Member Only and Associate Only rides.

As usual there will be many other trips organised and following last month's presentation by Keith Gilbert and Ray Spreadbury many have booked for the 5 day trip to the Haute Vienne area of France that includes a visit to the town of Oradour which is also a National Monument. There are still places available and so please contact either Keith or Ray if interested. Full details can be found on page 24 and on the SAM website.

Of course, to be sure not to miss out on any of the above you will need to renew your membership and you will find the form at the back of this Observer magazine or you can download it from the web site.

I would like to finish off this year by thanking you all for supporting SAM via your membership and I sincerely hope you will continue to do so.

Have a great Christmas and a Prosperous and Safe 2009.

Richard

Secretary's Scribbles



Well I guess it must be almost winter, because I've just spent half an hour struggling to get the winter lining back into my motorcycle jacket. Why was it such a struggle? Well it took a long time before I realised that I was trying to push the zip on the lining into the zip holder on the main coat, rather than the smaller zip for the lining...Doh!

First, I must say a heartfelt thanks to Sam Watkins, Ruth Elmer, John (M) and Sonnie Westley for turning out on a freezing cold November night at Asda in Stowmarket, to help promote SAM. We've learnt our lessons and will do the next promotion when the weather is a bit warmer and perhaps on a Saturday or Sunday, rather than a Friday night when potential members will be more inclined to stop and chat about bikes and improving their skills. Please, if you want to take part in promoting SAM (however small a part you want to take) then see Sara Hale as soon as possible.

It looks as if the SAM Christmas dinner has not been a complete sell out. Which is a shame as it would have been lovely to completely fill the dining room of Fynn Valley Golf Club. However it's perhaps not such a surprise during the current financial upheavals. One suggestion was made to me, that perhaps in the New Year, the group could hold a social evening at a bowling alley. This would not need to be expensive and could get people mixing a bit more. What do you think? Please let me know and I'll see what can be arranged. It would be interesting to see who are the better bowlers, BMW GS owners or Suzuki GSXR pilots!

So I'm finally left to say....Please enjoy a warm, wonderful Christmas and have a safe and happy New Year.

Martin

P.S. Your Magazine Editor, Buddy Coordinator and Secretary have just returned from the Birmingham International Motorcycle show....

Here they are working out how to get three up on a Buell 1125CR!



New Members

A warm welcome is extended to our most recent new associate members:

Ryan Harris

Sean Judge

Glenn Newman

David Read

Mary Shuttleworth

Bernard Swann

If anyone else has joined us and not had a mention yet, let the Editor know and we will put that right.

Academy Of Motorcycling

DSA - Approved Motorcycle Training

CBT - Compulsory Basic Training

**DAS - Direct Access Scheme
Courses & Individual Lessons**

Standard Test Training

**Advanced Riding Techniques
(RoSPA Diploma Qualified Instructor)**

Excellent All Week Training Facilities

Prices Guaranteed to be Unbeatable

Check Prices & Availability then Book Online

www.AcademyOfMotorcycling.co.uk

Tel: 01449 775776

Calls Taken All Week 8 till 8

IPSWICH MOTORCYCLE ACCESSORIES

HELMETS: SHARK, AIROH, DAVIDA, VCAN.

**CLOTHING: RICHA, REVIT, SPARDA, RAYVEN,
DRAGGIN JEANS.**

BOOTS: TCX (OXTAR), SPARDA, DIORA, RED WING.

**LUGGAGE: GIVI, BUFFLO, RICHA, BIKE IT, OIL,
FILTERS, NGK, EBC, GOODRIDGE LOCKS, BATTERIES,
MANUALS, OPTIMATE, BAGLUX, CHAIN/SPROCKETS,
MIRRORS, ETC.**

01473 257515 www.ipswichmca.co.uk

41 UPPER ORWELL STREET, IPSWICH, IP4 1HP

Speed and it's Power to sometimes makes you think

Whilst trying not to create mental images of drugs, it's probably fairly safe to say that as motorcyclists we all like a bit of speed. People's individual perception of it will obviously vary, but pretty much all of us like at least the feeling of making what we call, "good progress" even if the reality may sometimes be somewhat different!

I firmly include myself in this speed fan group, and in fact some of the sports I've taken part in over the years have been picked in no small part due to their speed element. As well as a wish to become as good a rider and learn as much as I can (present tense – you're always learning!), making good, appropriate and safe use of the performance, acceleration and speed potential of modern motorbikes was also part of the reason I joined SAM.

Like many people probably do, I also take what I've learnt from SAM and apply it to driving a car. The theories are after all fundamentally the same. Little did I know that at 7am one clear, bright, dry and quiet, Saturday morning on a virtually straight and innocuous looking part of the A12, what I'd learnt from SAM whilst on a bike, would probably save me from a potentially big car accident.

Leaving the Foxhall road \ A12 roundabout going south towards Seven Hills interchange (A12 \ A14), the road was virtually empty aside from a gaggle of yellow road working trucks following me round the roundabout I'd just cleared, and a Renault Clio 400 - 500 yards ahead in the outside lane. As this distance reduced between the Clio and I, I moved from the inside to outside lane and held station behind the Clio at a generous safe following distance waiting to see if its driver would notice I was there and move over or not. I hasten to add that all this was genuinely happening at a very calm tempo and at legal speeds!

The Clio then started to drift from the outside towards the inside lane, excellent thought I, I've been spotted and am being allowed past. Wrong. The driver then seemed to over correct this drift left, by going back towards the right. A quick re-evaluation of IPSGA told me through observation that something, as yet unknown, was going on and that altering my speed by backing off a little more may be a good idea. Although not a problem in itself, this drifting rapidly and violently became one, as the turn rate on a right drift seemed to increase and the car hit the central reservation.

At this point things start to get a little hazy. Not that I had many options given the Clio was now in front of me systematically destroying itself on it's rolling journey from central reservation to grass verge, but due to drilled-in regular rear observation, I knew there was nothing close behind so braking was certainly one of the most favourable options. I braked. Hard! I'm lucky enough to have a new car, with good brakes and lots of electronics to keep everything under control in situations like this, and even though I was able to stop well before where the Clio came to rest (on it's roof in the gravel between the left hand lane and the grass bank), I was certainly closer than I had been prior to the Clio hitting the central reservation.

The road work chaps and I dialled 999 and did what we could until the professionals arrived a few minutes later. The car was a complete wreck, but the driver was extracted by the Fire Service and Paramedics and seemed virtually unscathed as the driver was braced and strapped to a stretcher. To my inexperienced eyes at least, it looked like they'd had a very lucky escape. Once the Police had taken names, addresses, photographs and other details I was able to continue on my way.

Looking back, and as an alternative to parts of a Renault Clio, there were a few things that struck me in terms of my riding and how I could use the experience to remind myself of a few things:

- No matter how quiet things may seem around me, I shall be careful of assumptions and make a renewed and regular conscious effort to remain fully prepared for something, in fact anything to happen.
- Again, no matter how quiet things may seem, regular mirror checks really are worth the (minimal) effort.
- The sheer amount of energy contained within even a small car doing under 70mph was astonishing. On an admittedly lesser scale, the same will be true for my bike, and should things ever go wrong, that's a lot of energy to try and stay in control of, so be prepared for it.
- Keep a good eye on stopping distances. Even though the good old faithful 2 second rule was more like a 4 second rule in this instance, it came in very useful as when a car is bouncing off central reservations, road side gravel traps and grass banks, it stops surprisingly quickly!

Take care out there – a S.A.M. Member.

WASHBROOK SERVICE STATION

FOR CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SERVICING AND REPAIRS MAIN DEALER FOR :-

**PIAGGIO, VESPA, GILERA, ROYAL ENFIELD AND
SUPERBYKE MOTORCYCLES AND SCOOTERS.**

PLUS CLASSIC MOTORCYCLES

SECOND HAND CARS

MOTORCYCLE M.O.T.'S CLASS 1 AND 2

CAR M.O.T. PREP

GULF FUELS INCLUDING 4 STAR PETROL AND PARAFFIN

CAR AND MOTORCYCLE TYRE FITTING SERVICE

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

WASBROOK SERVICE STATION

OLD LONDON RD, COPDOCK, IPSWICH IP8 3LA

TEL 01473 730282

FAX 01473 730225

Web: Washbrookmotorcycles.co.uk

E-mail: sales@washbrookmotorcycles.co.uk



PIAGGIO®

**ROYAL
ENFIELD**



Caption Competition

Come up with funniest caption for this photo tonight and win a bottle of wine.

Write your caption on a slip provided and post it in the competition box.

Good Luck!



Judging will be performed by the Editor, with help from the committee and the winning caption will be announced at the end of the evening.

November's caption was taken by me, as a car passenger, on the way to the Sammy Miller museum last year. Sandy Balls is a holiday centre, south of Salisbury on the A338.

The winner was Phil Parham with:

"This way for the naturist dune racing."



Please send your photos, electronic or hard copy (which will be returned) to the Editor for selection in next month's edition.

P.S. Please don't send images sourced from publications / the Internet, as they are Copyright protected and SAM can't afford the law suit!

January Breakfast Run

**Sunday 4th January – The Bennett Arms, Rougham
IP30 9HL 01359 270356**

Ride Coordinator - John Morgan

Start time 9.30am

Meet at Tescos car park, Copdock, Ipswich.

Leave the car park heading towards **Ipswich A1214**,

T/L on to the A1071

After approx **8 miles T/R on to the A1141 S/P**

Lavenham

At the T junction in **Lavenham T/R** continuing on the
A1141

At the junction with the **A143 T/R**

After approx 4 miles **T/R on to unclassified road
S/P Blackthorpe**

Follow this road for approx **3 miles T/L** into **Moat Lane**
after approx **½ mile T/L**

The Bennett Arms is on the right.

Check all routes with **your Road Map** (and/or see the route on a map by following the links in the Calendar on the SAM website, or the SAM Forum) before setting out, then maybe no one will get lost. Even better, take the route and a road map with you.

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 Motorcyclist 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 Committees guidelines as follows:

You will be expected to provide a suitable means of carrying a map / 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

K.R.F motorcycles

BMW specialists



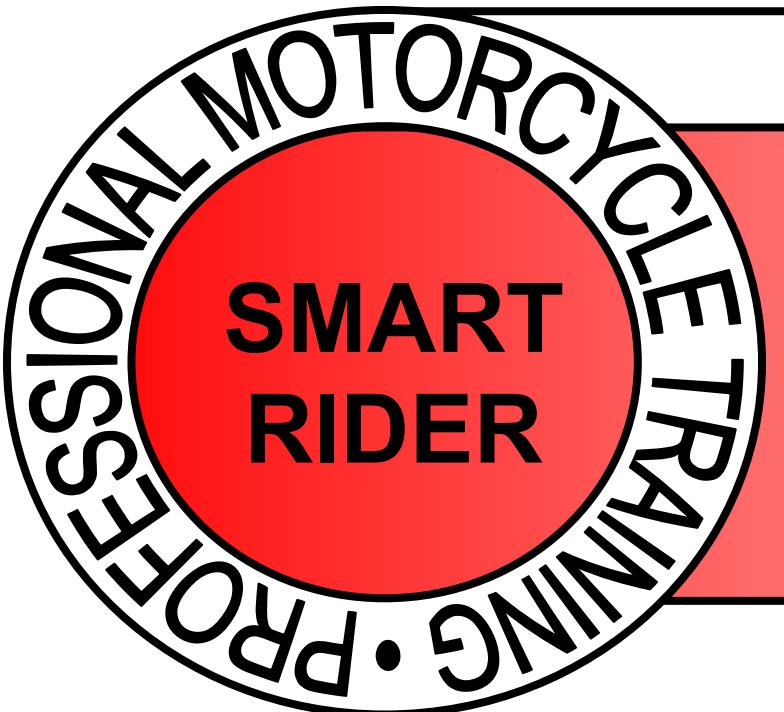
**Unit 3
Bessemer Road
Norwich
NR4 6DQ
Tel: 01603 629916**

Email: Bkrf9@aol.com



www.csensedt.co.uk

Contact Glen Mures
on 07748 195179



- **At work** driving assessments and training for car, van and LGV drivers
- **Consultancy** service to assist organisations to develop their road risk management policy and procedures
- **PassPlus** - £75 discount, see website for details
- **Driver MOT** – for older drivers and anyone with medical conditions that may affect their driving
- **Trailer towing** – if you passed your car test after 1st January 1997, you may need to pass an additional towing test, see website for details
- **Eco-Driving** – increase your mpg and reduce your motoring costs!

Contact Tony Fuller on

07763 018027 or 01440 786928

www.smartrider.co.uk



S.A.M'S Regalia

This Internet shop allows you to purchase regalia of the Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclists group. All profits will go to SAM's charity which is the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

<http://sam.spreadshirt.net>

NB. This is just a small selection of the items available. There are over 90 items in various colour combinations. If you want something with different colour combinations, just ask and we will see what we can do.

So You Think You Know?

John Sillett



Clearly, one of the most fascinating aspects about motorcycling is its ability to attract people from varied backgrounds with diverse interests and talents.

I first met John (seen in profile in the photo), and his wife Annie at a SAM club night, and subsequently at ride-outs and this year's Gliding evening at Wormingford airfield. John is very much local to the area being "Ipswich born and bred". He has run his own printing business in Ipswich for 30 years. The Company prints anything from small stickers, posters, and banners to the graphics on the sides of vans and trucks.

So how did John decide to join SAM? Well it was quite simple really. John already knew Bob McGeady fairly well back in 2001, and the story goes each

persuaded the other to join! It's fair to say that neither has looked back since. John has graduated to the SAM Committee and is part of the SAM Events team.

John has certainly owned his fair share of bikes starting on a Honda CB125 before upgrading to a CB250, CB450, then on to a BSA 650 which met an untimely end embedded in the front of a Ford Escort after a head on collision. John remembers laying on the ground in a daze hearing the engine still running. Now that's what I call spirit, good old British bikes! After this unfortunate incident (John recovered fully by the way but considers himself lucky to be here), he purchased a Norton Commando 750, then on to a Honda 750 before quitting biking for 20 years. However the urge to resume riding eventually led him to another Honda CB750, a 1979 American import, then a Yamaha FJ1200 and Kawasaki ZZR1100 that he still owns. The Kawasaki ZZR was joined earlier this year in June by a Honda Blackbird which has already achieved over 4000 miles. Annie his wife of 26 years likes to ride pillion.

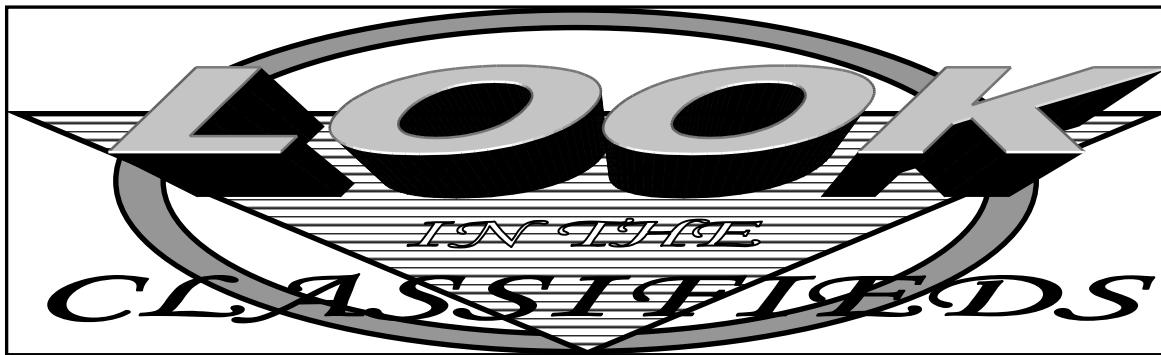
John's main passion outside motorcycling took me completely by surprise when he told me. This is making and repairing stained glass and from small self-taught beginnings as a hobby John and a friend are in the process of turning it into a small business, already selling to shops in East Anglia, craft fairs and commissions for friends. John said he finds it very relaxing hand making something using a process which has hardly changed for hundreds of years. When I asked him if he repaired or renovated church windows, he stressed his work falls firmly within the domestic category.

John's other interest is firmly in the horticultural category, he would love to grow vegetables and more, but at times it's difficult to fit in everything he wants to do with other activities so most of the gardening is left to Annie.

SAM members should now view stained glass and craft fairs very much in a different light. Please do look out for and support John if you attend!

Finally, on behalf of SAM, I would like to thank Nigel Hydes for his immense contribution towards this article over the past three years.

Words by Neil Morley



FOR SALE – Ladies leather jacket (padded), medium, little used.

Excellent condition. £35 ono

Call Sonnie Westley on Home – 01473 745630 Mobile – 07769 808963

FOR SALE – Mans padded one piece over suit (SIDI), large, little used.

£25 ono Call Sonnie Westley as above.

FOR SALE - BMW K1200RS, reg 2004, 14k miles, 130bhp model, silver + red, ABS, panniers, taxed and MOT to Aug 09 £3,500 o.n.o.

Call Peter Chrisp on 01284 810427

FOR SALE – Honda VFR750 FK, RC24

First registered: 1989, Colour: Black

Mileage: 34360, MOT: till November

2009, Tax: currently under SORN.

Price £750 ovno

For more details phone Alan Vickers on
01473 403762



FOR SALE – Alpine Star motorcycle boots, short version, waterproof, fitted with sliders and heel protection and ankle brace, size 46 (UK 12). £30 ono

Call 01473 401714 (eve) or 07983 480425 for more details.

FOR SALE – Brilliant Learner Legal Bike, Yamaha YBR 125cc, 56 plate (06), only 3,339 miles, six months road tax, no MOT required (yet) and 50-60 MPG.

In good condition, £1,300

Call 01473 401714 (eve) or 07983 480425 for more details.



Send your classified items to the Editor, contact details on page 3.

Price for non-member classifieds is £5

Discover the heart of Central Europe by Bike

Flyride to the Bavarian Forest



Escorted Motorbike Tours in Germany, Austria and Czech Republic

www.bikebavaria.com

BikeBavaria 0049 9922 502534

Trip to WW1 Battle Fields

In summary: a great trip to the Belgian cemeteries, battlefields and museums. Add terrific weather, awesome company, good food and good rides and you can see we all had a great time.

Friday – Shipping Out

When I woke up at 5am on Friday, I was thrilled to see a clear sky and loaded my luggage on to the bike having checked the weather forecast - no rain and it was still 2008! I was to be a continental rider in a matter of hours. In my excitement, I dressed and left to get to Tesco's an hour and a quarter later having ridden through a patchy fog: I was way too early, especially as I'd bought petrol the evening before. By 6:30 everyone had turned up and we promptly set off for Dover. This was the part of the trip I'd been dreading but being with a group always helps pass the time better and the fog cleared as we approached Dover. Getting the passports and details out, we all boarded the ferry and the crew and more experienced helped secure the bikes down. A good breakfast and a clear sky made for a lovely trip.



Dave's group at Cassel

An hour and a half after boarding, eating and much talking, we departed and grouped together to ride from Dunkerque to [Poperinge](#). We stopped for lunch
The SAM Observer December 2008

in Burques before heading through to Cassel in two groups. I rode in Dave Rudland's group to [Cassel](#). Cassel has a "panoramic view" which was found after asking directions and Dave Rudland's group then set off for Poperinge via [Mont des Cats](#) and a few diversions (Lille was a feature for Rob Day's group!). The hotel was easy to find, and we had ample parking round the back.

We checked in and had a small break before having a meal later that evening. All agreed the hotel was very welcoming, clean and the food was superb. We agreed during the evening meal that we'd use the Marker System the next day instead so everyone could benefit from Rob's "local" knowledge. This is a great system for larger groups. It works by having one leader (let's say someone called Rob) who knows the way and a sweeper rider (let's call him Dave R) who takes the last position in the group. A cross junction is just ridden through unless a right or left turn is taken: in this case the rider behind Rob will stay before the junction signalling that the right needs to be taken, if the left turn is taken then the rider will make the turn and remain opposite the entry. In the case of a roundabout, the rider behind Rob stays just after the exit (in plain view) as required. When the last rider comes to the junction or exit, they allow the marker to join the queue in front. This was used to great effect for the rest of the journey; even when the group got separated for fuel stops. During the delicious and entertaining meal we decided on a reasonable (not too early nor too late) breakfast time and start.

Saturday



Visiting Ray's Relatives

10 soldier's names on them, some nearer 25. It was much darker than the

We stopped off at [Colne Valley Cemetery](#) to visit Ray's relative, a Rifleman of Rifle Brigade 8th Bn. It's a small, beautiful cemetery near Poperinge. While full of graves of named and unnamed soldiers it didn't really prepare us for the chill of the [Langemark German Cemetery](#): there were many grave stones but each, on closer inspection, had at least

allied cemetery we'd visited not 40 minutes earlier. Apparently the land had been obtained relatively recently and was built using German red stone. The [Tyne Cot Cemetery](#) was next, very solemn even in the brilliant sunshine. Like most allied cemeteries, it was built of white stone and each grave was personalised. It made me feel quite choked as there were just so many gravestones each marked with the soldier's name or some small detail of an unknown soldier. There were few French names here, but many New Zealand, Australian, British, Chinese, Indian and Irish soldiers. Nearly 12,000 soldiers of the Commonwealth Forces are remembered here and the words:

“1914 - HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ARMIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WHO FELL IN YPRES SALIENT, BUT TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED THE KNOWN AND HONOURED BURIAL GIVEN TO THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH – 1918”.

Next was [Hill 60](#) and the memorial to the Australian Tunnelling Company. The picture shows us on the bunker by the crater.



us at Hill 60 bunker

of war had changed and so many lives were lost through failure to observe this. We also looked at the 3D photos and other museum pieces including bullets, mortars, what we later realised were mortar trigger mechanisms (they look a bit like sawn off shot-guns only more so!) and some kit packs and other clothing.

Next came lunch at [Hill 62](#) which was more than welcome, and our first glimpse of a trench in the museum. Some of us managed to hear an army soldier training group being taught about trench warfare: parapet was the front of the trench and the para dorm was the back, comrades helping each other in terms of getting kit on and off, the lack of room, trench rot etc. The fact that while the British army was trained, the art

We left to allow us an hour before heading to the ceremony: Poperinge to Ypres was a forty minute ride yet we were keen to do this before it got too dark on the outward run. We got there and found many of the young soldiers from Hill 62 were there in best bib and tucker waiting for the “Meenenpoorte” or the Menin gate which is at the former “eastern exit of Ypres (Ieper) was considered a fitting place for one of the two Memorials to the Missing for the thousands of British and Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave in the Ypres Salient battlefields.”

Every evening at 20:00 the last post is played, we attended ceremony 27524 since the first one held in 1928 on the 1st July. The ceremonial participants were the Royal British Legion Scotland, Stevenage Sea Cadets and Col. Hayward New Zealand. At the beginning of the ceremony the audience were asked to remain respectively quiet yet during the bagpipe playing “Abide with me” was hummed by many in the audience in a beautiful harmony. The thing that got me about the gate was again the shear number of names written on it and the 56,000 who had no known grave. We rode back home to another feast at the restaurant opposite the hotel.

Sam Watkins

Part 2 in next month's edition.

November's Group Night

Thank you to Massimo Di Franco of Wurth Motorcycle Products for speaking at our November Group Night.

Here is the list of local Wurth product distributors:

Orwell Motorcycles, Ipswich

Lings Motorcycles, Ipswich

Ipswich Motorcycles Accessories

Mototechniks, Stowmarket

Oradour Sur Glane

For members who missed the presentation at last group night November, the idea was to make a six day trip (5 nights) down to the Haute Vienne area of France, probably over a long weekend in May 2009 (maybe over a Bank Holiday).

The timetable would perhaps be as follows:

1st night stop somewhere halfway between Calais and Oradour

2, 3 and 4 night stay in the Oradour area

5th night stay somewhere halfway between Oradour and Calais.

Keith Gilbert's original interest in the area was sparked by an article he saw in the Sunday Times in 1989 about the Nazi massacre of 600+ residents of Oradour on 10 June 1944. The reason for the massacre is a bit obscure, possibly in reprisal for some act(s) of the local French Resistance AKA the Maquis. The village was then burnt and destroyed by the Nazis and after the war, General De Gaulle made Oradour a national monument to be left untouched as a memorial to the tragedy.

Whilst in the area we intend to visit the village which will take a morning or an afternoon. Therefore there will be ample opportunity for exploring the region (Limoges, Bergerac etc) or for us to organise local tours or rideouts led by Keith Gilbert/Ray Spreadbury.

This is a great opportunity to visit France for a few days in good company. We will make all ferry and hotel reservations.

For further information on Oradour there are various websites under Oradour Sur Glane and also a link on the SAM website.

If you are interested in this trip please contact either Keith or Ray by telephone or e-mail before end of December 2008 or see us at the Christmas Party tonight. We can only supply costs when we know roughly the size of the party.

It is 420 miles from Calais to Limoges over 2 days. Ipswich to Dover is approximately 126 miles.

Keith Gilbert

e-mail: keith@kgilbert11.freeserve.co.uk

Tel: 01449 675614

Ray Spreadbury

ray.s@dsl.pipex.com

01449 736664

SAM Membership Renewal 2009

SUFFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS' GROUP
Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists
Grp. No 7219 – SAM is a registered Charity No. 1067800

First Name..... Surname.....

Address.....

.....
Post Code.....

Motorcycle Make..... Model.....

Phone (Home)..... Work.....

Mobile.....

Email address.....

I enclose my fee for annual renewal for membership type:

Full Member £20:00 Associate Member £20:00 Joint Member £23:00
Friend of Group £6:00 Lapsed £23:00 (delete as appropriate)

Are you a motorcycling member of the IAM? Yes/No

IAM Membership No..... Expiry date.....

Signature..... Date.....

Please make cheques payable to:

SUFFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Data Protection Act:-

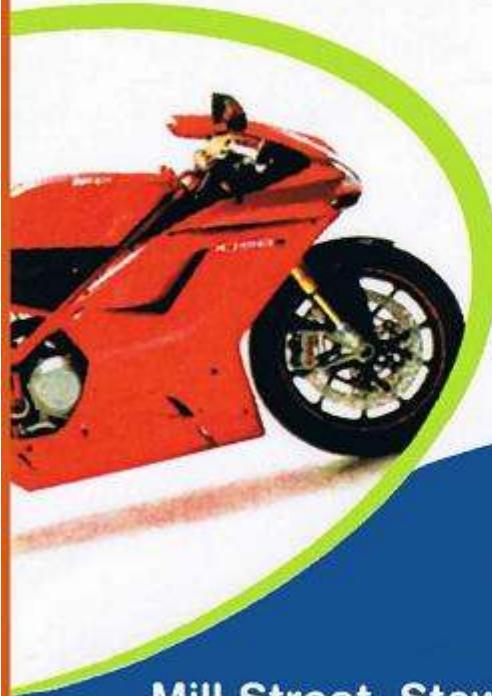
I have no objection to the above details being held on computer I understand such information will be kept strictly confidential to relevant officers of the SAM committee. Only Name, Post town & motorcycle is published in the group magazine.

Signature..... Date.....

Please remember membership runs from January to January

Membership Secretary
Beverley Rudland
36 Sherborne Ave
Ipswich
IP4 3DR

MOTO TECHNIKS



- Peugeot Dealership
- Used Bike Sales
- Specialists in Superbike Servicing
- Repairs & Servicing
- Tyres & MOT's
- Full Diagnostic Facilities
- Spares & Accessories
- Clothing & Helmets

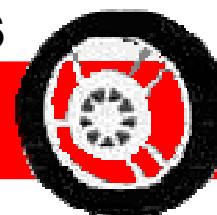


**01449
775775**

Mill Street, Stowupland IP14 5BJ Nr. A14

FOR YOUR MOTORCYCLE TYRES

AUTOFIT (Ipswich) Ltd



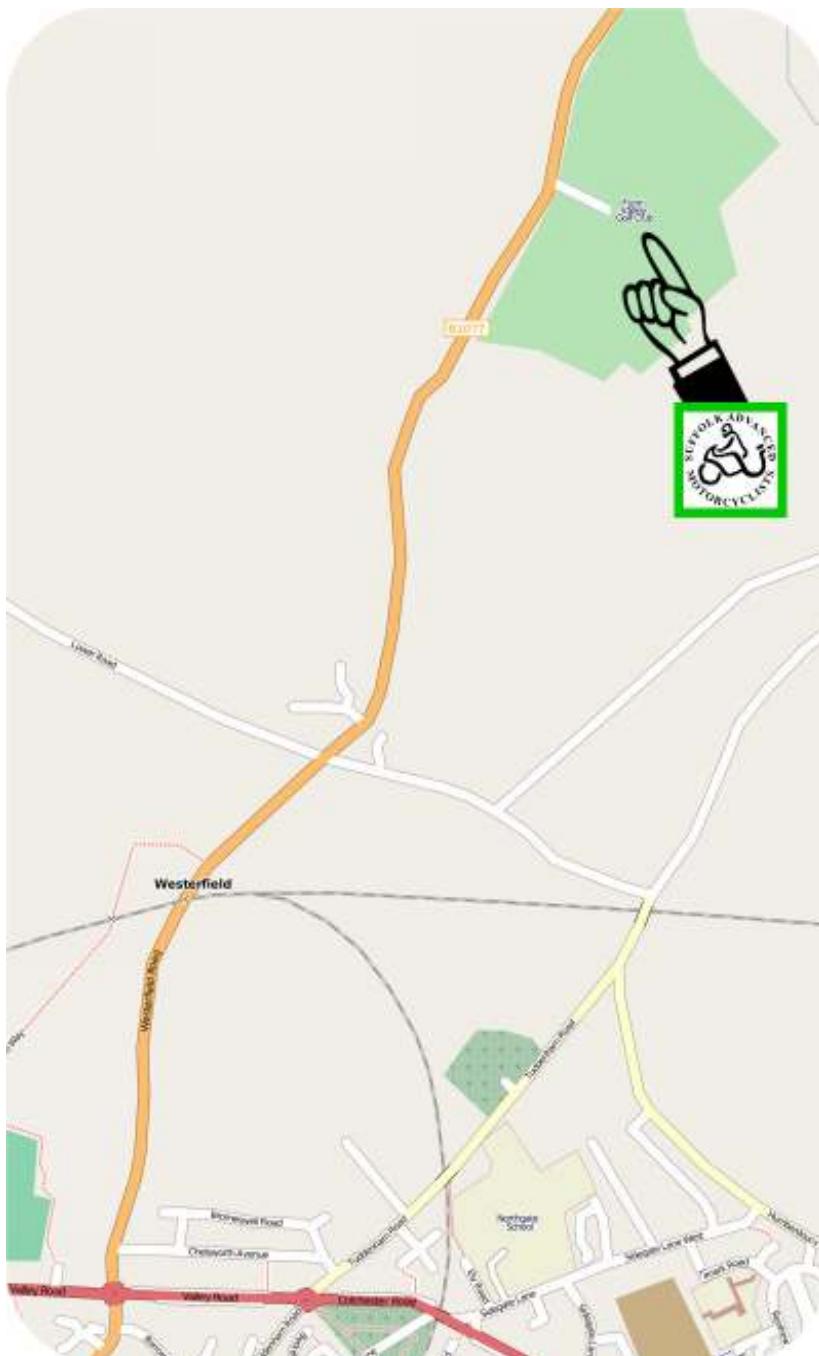
**OUT FOR A SCRATCH OR A LONG DISTANCE TOUR HAVE A WORD WITH ADRIAN
“GOOD ADVICE FOR SURE”
KEEN PRICES, HELPFUL ADVICE...**

**Autofit (Ipswich) Ltd
8-10 Britannia Rd., IPSWICH, IP4 4PE
Tel: 01473 723325 Fax: 01473 274966**

Our Venue

Group Nights start at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of every month at The Valley Restaurant, Fynn Valley Golf Club, Witnesham. IP6 9JA

All facilities, including bar and restaurant are available from 6pm.



Map courtesy of
www.openstreetmap.org
Creative Commons Licence



daytona

REV'IT!



Schuberth



LOCKHEED



THE MOTORCYCLE CLOTHING CENTRE

THE SPECIALIST FOR EAST ANGLIA

NEW LADIES
DEPARTMENT
NOW OPEN!

PROBABLY THE LARGEST
MOTORCYCLE CLOTHING
CENTRE IN EAST ANGLIA!

Ride - Out!
Well worth the

36 Norwich Road, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0NS. Tel: 01953 606922
www.motorcycle-clothing.co.uk

Ed's Soapbox

Welcome to the December edition of the SAM Observer. Many thanks to the anonymous SAM member for their ‘Speed and it’s Power’ article and Sam Watkins for the first instalment of her ‘Trip to WW1 Battle Fields’ article. Thanks also to Neil Morley for the first of hopefully many ‘So You Think You Know... ?’ articles.

During the coach trip to the Motorcycle Show at the NEC with Martin Andrew and John Morgan, organised by the Ipswich Triangle Club, I was on the lookout for a new helmet. My current helmet is four years old, the fit is now too loose and its structure may have been compromised by a previous bird strike. See my ‘Watch the Birdie’ article in the August 2008 edition. I decided on a Shoei Raid II as it fits my head really well, it has a four star SHARP rating and my ears have room to breathe! I decided on white as it provides high contrast, increasing visibility, costs less than a painted version and if I fit a dark visor (road legal of course) I’ll look like a Storm Trooper!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cheers
Steve

P.S. 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.

Benefits of BMF Membership

The British Motorcycle Federation (BMF) represents rider’s rights in the UK and their aim is to promote and protect the interests of motorcyclists.

The benefits of BMF membership to SAM and you as a member include discounted entry to the BMF shows, discounted ferry, breakdown cover, bike insurance, as well as increased public liability insurance for the SAM officers and European insurance cover for SAM organised trips.

Joining as an individual full member would cost £26 each whereas joining as a group costs £2 per affiliate member, which is included in your 2009 SAM membership fee. You’ll receive your BMF affiliate membership card along with your SAM membership card upon renewal.

Events Diary

Monday 15th December	Group Night – SAM Christmas Party Fynn Valley Golf Club 7:30 pm
Sunday 4th January	Breakfast Run – The Bennett Arms, Rougham
Tuesday 20 th January	Group Night – St John's Ambulance Fynn Valley Golf Club 7:30 pm
Thursday 22 nd January	Roadcraft Theory Night – Conference Room Fynn Valley Golf Club 7:30 pm

There is no Roadcraft Theory Night booked for December due to it being so close to the Christmas holiday period.

Membership Fees for 2009

Full Member £20.00

Associate £109 - Skills for Life

(25 years and under Skills for Life discount £20)

Includes the current issue of "Pass your Advanced Motorcycle Test" and your IAM Test fee for new members

Expenses to Observer for observed rides is £10.00

Friend of the Group £6.00

For friend or colleague of a group member. The Newsletter is not included in this price

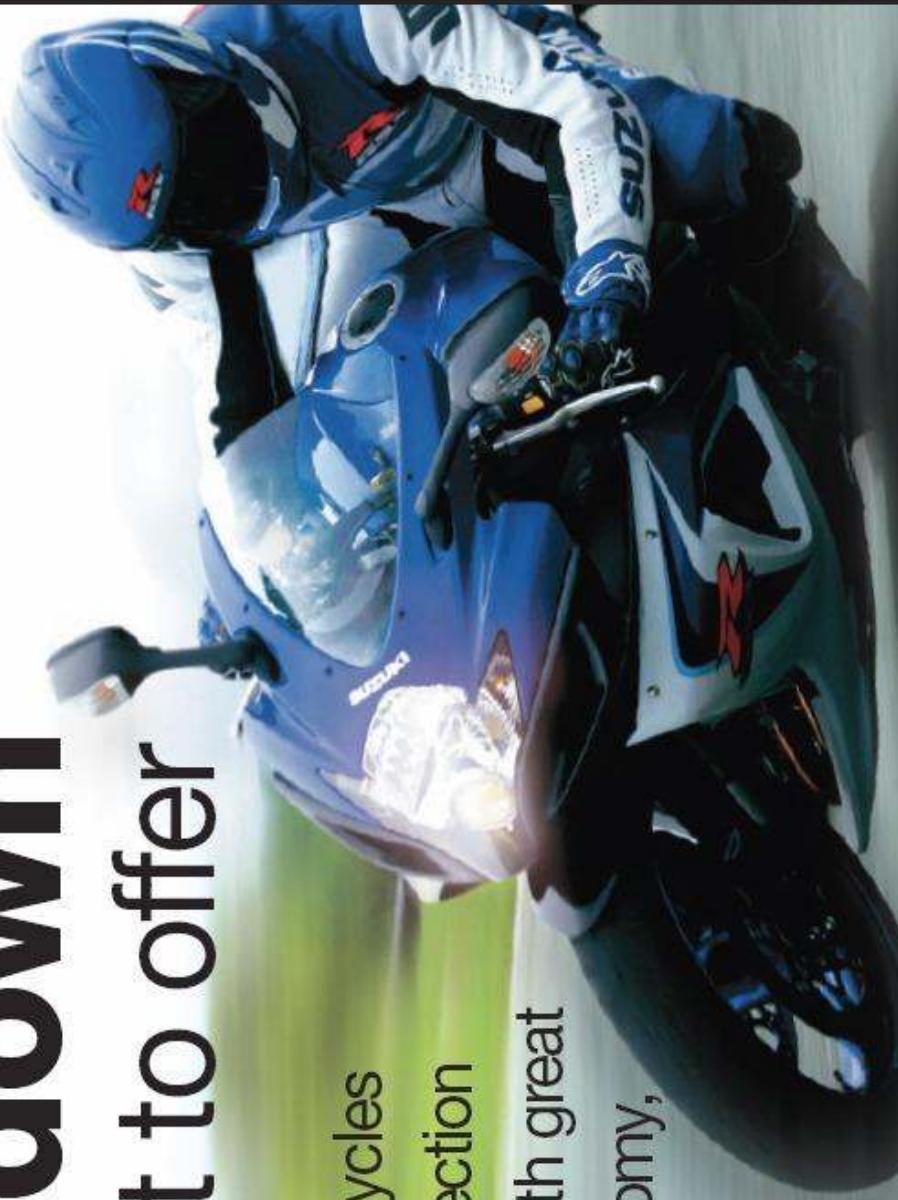
Joint Full Members £23.00

Membership entitles you to 1 Newsletter per couple and to attend monthly Group meetings which will encompass both riding and safety techniques, speaker on interesting and varied subject, Group rides at weekends and evenings and the fellowship of like-minded people.

Please support us by renewing and helping the Group to flourish in the cause of safer motorcycling.

come on down we've got a lot to offer

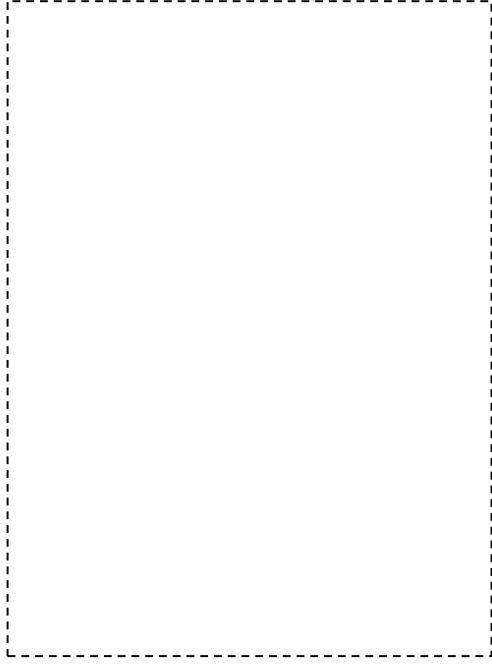
See the latest range of motorcycles and scooters and our vast selection of clothing and accessories with great names like Frank Thomas, Suomy, Arai and Alpine Stars.



Orwell Motorcycles Limited
200 Ranelagh Road • Ipswich • IP2 0AQ
Tel: 01473 257401 • www.orwell.co.uk





CHRIS SELF MOTORCYCLES LTD REPAIR SPECIALISTS

*** SALES * SERVICING * MOT'S
* TYRES * OFF ROAD ACCESSORIES**

UNIT 1B, HOLYWELLS ROAD, IPSWICH

Tel: 01473 225990

Mob: 07776 204332

www.chrisselfmotorcycles.com