



THE VISOR

ISSUE 001

May 2018

Welcome to our 'new' Thames Valley Group!

Hello to you all !

You may well be aware by now that, following the demise of the West Middlesex Group, a Meeting was held on the evening of Thursday 8th March at Pinewood in Crowthorne, Berkshire at which a new local 'boundless by CSMA Club' group was formed ! Nick Hoath from our Brighton Office 'chaired' the meeting & three Officers plus a full Committee were duly elected.

The Committee had its first formal meeting on 27th March & a very positive one it was too! We plan to continue with all the good things we've enjoyed in the past along with some exciting new events & activities, both 'socially' and on two & four wheels. Our new quarterly newsletter, 'The Visor', will endeavour to keep you abreast of all we're planning over the coming months.

So, on behalf of our Committee, may I offer you all a very warm 'welcome' to our new Thames Valley Group which will aim to continue with all the good things we've enjoyed in the past, and I hope we'll have the pleasure of welcoming you to a Group event very soon.

Good luck to us all!

AG

The Thames Valley Group Committee : elected Tuesday 27th March 2018

***Nick Palumbo : Secretary
Christine Hiscock : Treasurer
Allan Goddard : Chairman
Hugh Johnstone : Committee member
Graham Butler : Committee member
Albert Jones : Committee member
Colin Hiscock : Editor***

"CALLING ALL OUR BIKERS"! - re: "WhatsApp"

Currently we have a Thames Valley Group "WhatsApp" page. If your phone will allow you to download this, it is a great way for us to communicate & let you know what is happening - "LIVE"
!!

So please let me know as soon as you have downloaded it & I can then add you to the Group.

Contact Nick Palumbo: Mob: 07753619042 or e mail: n.palumbo@btinternet.com

**boundless by CSMA: Thames Valley Group
..... plans & details for some of our 2018 activities and adventures !**

Please note : There are some Start venue changes from our last bulletin

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Mid-week Ride Outs

- ❖ **Ride-Outs will take place on the last Tuesday of every month from March until October And each second Thursday of each month from March & Oct. ; plus**

Our next few events :

- **Sat. 19th May : Ride the County ~ Annual **Charity event** for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance (Yes I know this is the big Royal Wedding day – but if you don't get an 'invite' to Windsor why not come an' join us ??)**
- **Tues 29th May : mid-week Ride Out ...start at Ryka's Cafe, Box Hill, Dorking (postcode RH5 6BY) gather from 9.30 ready to 'ride at 10.30am**

A few other 'notable' dates: Can you also add the following to your diaries please;

- ❖ **Our own mini-French Tour : (7th) 8th ~ 11th (12th) June ... (& midweek Ride out around Kent on the 12th following our return on 11th !).**

This Tour has proved to be very popular and is now 'Full' with 2 Reserves !!!

- ❖ **Sat/Sun 7th-8th July ... The National Road Rally – we'll be there for the 32nd time with a boundless by CSMA Club team...**
- ❖ **20th ~ 22nd July : Silverstone Classic weekend – I'll need half a dozen neat & tidy 'bikes to display along with the CVG on each day please – and it's always a great weekend ! I have just one room left in our 'digs' so be quick !!!**

- ❖ **Sunday 29th July – The Cream Tea Caper ! : 'Bikes, Classics & Moderns; I'll be leading the 'bikes and the cars will all have a detailed Roadbook to find their way to our traditional Cream Tea at a beautiful private location in the middle of Windsor Great Park in Ascot ...**
- ❖ **Sun 12th Aug. ... **VOLUNTEERS' required ASAP please** for the West Berkshire Classic Show at Newbury – I'd like support from you & your Classic &/or 'bike on our Club Stand when we'll be raising funds for Leukaemia Research & their **BloodWise Charity** throughout the day ...**
- ❖ **Fri - Tues : 14th/18th Sept. – The Devon Dawdle motorcycling Tour – a new plan (and some new surprises!) for this year, but you'll like it !!!**
- ❖ **12th – 14th Oct. ~ The Autumn Social which I shall organise for the Motorcycle Committee – an extra day this time to allow for a more 'relaxed' weekend for those travelling from afar details go 'public' very soon**
- ❖ **13th November : Thames Valley Group Skittles Night : Always a popular pre-Christmas event, we hope to plan a Skittles evening for our Group – more details very soon.**

Hope you can join us on all of it !!!!

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**Allan Goddard
Chairman**

boundless by CSMA : Thames Valley Group (THE Riding & Driving Group

April Ride out.

AN unedited tongue in cheek take on "The Rideout on the 12th April"

A grey but great day dawned and as always accompanied by like minded souls for an outing on our bikes.

12 bikes of all shapes, sizes and years, very similar to the riders... We meet at Flic's cafe possibly a transport cafe from a bygone age with a hint of "today" on the menu, i.e. goat stew!!

Most riders avoided this and tucked into bacon rolls which took me back to the Ace, Busy Bee and Johnson's.... From the 60's..

It could be that A.G. is turning the rideouts into culinary tours(which are carefully orchestrated to coincide with necessary breaks for older gentlemen).

I nearly forgot to mention Rosie's a tea shop with friendly ladies in attendance looking after our needs in the nicest possible way....

The only thing missing was the football machine at Flic's no doubt A.G. will find a cafe with one for a visit and organise a "competition" stop....

Motorcycles are always a test of our patience(especially Graham's B.S.A.). A Buell at the first petrol stop at Flic's with a flat battery, because Richard left the heated grips on, which started

eventually after a hefty push down hill by two members of the group. A spluttering B.S.A. which eventually decided even after a long lunch break, that it would prefer a lift home.

At Loomies a bikers cafe for a late lunch with more food we wouldn't be allowed to eat at home, great chips.... And a wood burning stove,

leather sofa and biker mags... of interesting bikes in the car

A.G.'s well planned bimbble was twisties and rural roads deepest Hampshire i think (you gathered that i don't really took us although i do seem to some alpaca and a pheasant for a few hundred yards but me on a rideout, which tested with a little dampness, gravel, pothole but no rain....

I left the group after lunch so afternoon stop and had rain, a temperature drop to near freezing before getting home safely after filtering on the M4, M25 and M1, should have followed A.G. to the finish!!!

Thanks A.G. Barry.



and of course lots park. on a route of somewhere in might have know where he remember passing which led the way this is the norm for our riding abilities and the ubiquitous

missed the

Secretary's Scribblings

Well, it has been a very busy and exciting start for me in our new Boundless by CSMA Club, "Thames Valley Group"!

Since our club inauguration on 8th March 2018, I have been on 4 of AG's excellent rideouts plus one of my own, taken part in raising almost £2000 for Mencap in riding from East to West of the country over 4 days between Lowestoft & St Davids in Wales and doing the Welsh Rally attaining a Silver & Dragon award in glorious sunshine. For us bikers, AG has also organised us to do the "Ride the County" event in aid of the Air Ambulance fund, a tour to France & a trip to Devon, the West Berkshire Classic Vehicle Show at Newbury in aid of Leukaemia Research and the 2018 "Cream Tea Caper" that is always fun for all of us & our partners - and that's to name but a few of the events that our Chairman, AG, has in store!

Nick P.

East to West Charity Run

[Boundless by CSMA Club, Thames Valley Group's Charity Run for Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap. Friday 27th April to Monday 30th April.](#)

Allan Goddard had set the challenge to ride East to West of England from Lowestoft to St. David's in Wales, which is 500 miles across. However, the total mileage including travelling to the start & going home amounted to around 1000 miles. Between us we had raised just under £2000 for the local Mencap group where Allan Goddard's Down's Syndrome daughter, Katie, has had considerable care & support.

Our journey started at South Mimms Services on the M25 for photos & coffee & the usual biker banter.

Before too long we were waved on our way taking the M25, M11, A11 & A47 with Hugh Johnstone soon proving to be an excellent lead rider & route planner and Nick Palumbo acting as Tail End Charlie. Cloudy skies overhead later on turned to heavy rain that continued to be with us for the next 2 days. As we passed through Snetterton & Thetford, we struggled with the spray from lorries, but finally arrived safely at our first stop, a Travelodge in Lowestoft, at around 5pm. After spreading our biker gear on radiators to dry, we adjourned to the nearby Harvester restaurant for a hearty meal together. Before retiring for the night, we were entertained by the Travel Lodge receptionist, Steven, who was a would-be stand up comedian who kept us & passing guests enthralled with some classic humour for over an hour!

On Saturday we were up early ready to roll at 9am. It was dry but very overcast, so we donned our wet weather gear again bound for Redditch. Before long & somewhat amusingly we found ourselves circling a round-about several times as we couldn't find the petrol station attached to a nearby Tesco's - we of course blamed the very poor signs or I should say a total lack of signage in any way shape or form! We continued on the A1062 through Suffolk passing Beccles & Bungay, famous for its Otter centre, before stopping for morning coffee & bacon sarnies in a very quaint Tea Shop at Wortham on the A143. After experiencing some really great twisty B roads for us bikers we made a brief photo stop in Newmarket at a statue that was erected in memory of a certain Daniel Cooper Bart - well it was in fact a fountain, but looked great for the photo opportunity!



Rain, rain, rain all the way to St. Neots, passing punters on the river in Cambridge & then wending our way to Sandy in Bedfordshire with a lunch stop at Old Warden in the Shuttleworth aircraft collection. In the afternoon the roads were even better suited for motorcycle enjoyment with less rain through Stratford upon Avon. Taking mainly A & B roads we found ourselves looking down on the A1, M1 & M40 before finally reaching Redditch at about 6pm at "Meadow Farm", our hostelry for the night.

On Sunday morning we were joined by another fellow rider, Richard Ashcroft, before proceeding to Droitwich & Worcester & believe it or not it looked set to be a completely dry day - hooray! We stopped for morning coffee at a delightful little cafe called "Bringsty Cafe" before continuing on to the A44 to Rhayader. Hugh made another impromptu photo stop at an elaborate stone monument dated 1893 & inscribed with "Radnorshire in memory of Sir George Cornwall Lewis". We lunched at Crossgates and were then treated by Richard to the most exciting road of all, the A483 to Newtown. It was a truly fantastic road for biking enthusiasts with so many twists & turns & sweeping curves of all sorts of technical difficulty that we had to ride it twice! We then continued over the spectacular Elan Valley with all its dramatically high views & mountainous scenery taking in beautiful lakes & at the same time doing our best to concentrate on the potentially hazardous sheep scattered roads. Eventually we descended & made our way to the final overnight stop at Aberystwyth where a good night was had by all in a local hostelry & Greek restaurant on the seafront.



On Monday morning, we had glorious blue skies & sunshine to a final destination at St. David's. We took the A487 coast road to Aberaeron & Fishguard to get there and the views of the cobalt blue sea were magnificent. After taking our last photos at St. David's, we congratulated ourselves on completing the East to West challenge before running for home.

Welsh Rally - Saturday 5th May 2018 -
Thames Valley bikers achieve Silver & Dragon Awards!



It was glorious sunshine all the way with temperatures reaching 25 degrees odd - Wales has never looked so amazing!

6 of our bikers gathered initially at Frankie & Benny's at Woodley - 2 Pans, 2 BMWs, 1 VFR & 1 Yamaha. We welcomed a new friend of Andy's called Graham Dry - he had a personal number plate "G1 DRY" on a very impressive GT 1600 BMW. AG lead us to our first stop on our way to Wales at "Broadway Tower" for lunch and a very



memorable tea stop at an "OK Diner". It was an American style diner, you know the sort of thing, that served the most brilliant ice cream milkshakes to die for ! - a choice of a Top Dollar or Millionaire Dollar glass of heaven! - Graham waxed lyrical about them all weekend!



Eventually we arrived at the "Battlefields" Travelodge near Shrewsbury early Friday evening with dinner at "The Two Henry's" pub next door. We woke up early on Saturday for the rally and Hugh & Francis did a sterling job using Sat Navs & savvy to get us a Silver & Dragon award - however, Andy requested a Bronze award instead of a Silver as he said he already got a Silver - there was much consternation on the face of one of the administrators, who had never been asked for a demotion of award before, but was happy to oblige! It had certainly been a beautiful & brilliantly clear day and the scenery in Wales was spectacular especially over Snowdonia with fantastic biker roads. We did have to watch our speed at all times and some Sat Navs took us down some pretty treacherous gravelly farm tracks that looked as though they had only been used by farm animals, we thought - some horribly slippy mucky stuff on them! At one point we encountered a wooden slatted bridge between Harlech & one of those unpronounceable Welsh town names - it rattled unnervingly as we traversed the wooden slats quite gingerly. The beach at Harlech looked amazing with its impenetrable castle sitting high above us. We all arrived safely back at the finishing point in Welshpool & the following day AG lead us home on some more great roads again with free drinks at the end, believe it or not at Frankie & Benny's in Woodley - don't ask - something to do with a mad but very kind manager there!

