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**2018**

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**HISTORIC POLICE MOTORCYCLE GROUP NEWSLETTER**

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## David's Page

First of all welcome to everyone to 2018 and a big thank you to all of you who attended the events and shows in 2017. As always they put on a super display. We celebrate our 25th anniversary this year having had our first run in March 1993 and I think our old friend Ian Kerr's article printed below sums up what we have achieved over the years. In the newsletter there are 4 pages of pictures from the last 25 years to remind us of what we have done in the past. As ever it's great that you give the public a chance to get up close and personal with our police motorcycles, some of which are rare and unusual. Lot's happening again this year, so please see the back page for a full list of events and shows.

Have a great summer and see you all at the events.

Remember, Enjoy Yourselves.

*David Bragg*

### Historic Police Motorcycle Group - 25 Years

## Silver Jubilee Year for Historic Police Motorcycle Group

**Ian Kerr** tells the story of a growing group that was set up for the owners of former police and other service motorcycles after a six-bike ride organised by a Royal Parks Police officer in 1993

Nobody, whether riding a motorcycle or driving a car wants to see a police motorcycle appear in the mirror, yet park up a police bike at a show, be it a two or four-wheeled event, and a crowd will quickly gather to inspect it and ask questions of the rider, because it is popularly assumed that the bikes differ from their civilian equivalents.

In fact there is still a belief that all police vehicles are 'souped-up' to enable officers to do their job and catch any speeding offender, but nothing is further from the truth, and the best you'll find is a lower first gear for convoy work to enable the clutch to go home without the need for it to be constantly slipped.

Although a trawl of YouTube on the world-wide web will show many superb precision police riding displays from around the world, it was the British police who started precision escorts of royalty and dignitaries and the Metropolitan Police escort of the Japanese Emperor after the war started a longstanding arrangement for Japanese police motorcyclists to be trained each year at the Metropolitan Police Driving School at Hendon.

That is now somewhat ironic when the best police motorcycle is now a Yamaha hailing from Japan!

But, when you look back in time, the list of manufacturers who have supplied marked bikes for the forces of law and order reads like a who's who of manufacturers, from the humble mount right up to a Brough Superior.

As most readers know, the LE Velocette got its 'Noddy' nickname through police use, with the riders not being able to salute senior officers while riding and being told to nod instead!

Nowadays there is quite a demand for ex-police vehicles, especially those that manage to retain their original police equipment, but this was not always so.

It was as recently as 1992 when, with the help of the British Two-Stroke Club and an excellent article in *Motor Cycle News* that a Royal Parks police officer by the name of David Bragg organised a run for six ex-police motorcycles in close-to-original service condition that were known to exist. From the interest shown from this at the time and a little canvassing of other motorcycle clubs, it was found that there were many more such machines hiding away in garages and museums, and by the end of the year it was decided to have a much longer run for these service motorcycles.

In March 1993, 55 'retired' police bikes turned up for a run from Richmond Park through the Surrey countryside to Box Hill and back, and so started the Historic Police Motorcycle Group (HPMG) to cater for the owners of these machines from all over the world.



## Historic Police Motorcycle Group - 25 Years

From that relatively small beginning, the group celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and now has more than 200 members, including serving and ex-police motorcyclists among its membership, which is recognised by police forces up and down the UK as well as in Europe.

The UK members regularly attend runs in Holland, joining other European enthusiasts where more than 100 machines take part in runs escorted by serving officers. Although this was a feature practised in the UK in the early days of the group, with cutbacks this is not always possible and the machines are normally used only as part of static displays at police open days. Just occasionally, though, under controlled conditions, they do get opportunities to ride the warning equipment. In fact the group is asked to attend many police force shows each year and the number has increased to over 25 regular bookings each year.

The HPMG has been recognised as being a responsible asset by the police themselves and regularly receives donations of old obsolete equipment from forces, and manufacturers like Honda and Yamaha have donated police demonstrators to the group to be used for static displays.

In addition to building up a spares supply for members the group also has a massive library of period police bike photos to help with restorations, or when someone is trying to return a civilianised machine back into service trim.

Attendance at events like the Stafford Classic Bike Shows often result in a few more machines coming out of the woodwork to add to the group's register of 20 different manufacturers with more than 50 different models on the database.

You don't actually have to own a bike, but if you do the only qualification is that the machines were once built for police use, or to police specification, anywhere in the world, or were in fire, ambulance or military use.

The group aims to unite owners of such machines so they can still be seen by fellow enthusiasts and members of the public, or to assist film or TV companies looking for period vehicles.

Current models are not overlooked, because within a few years they will be 'retired' - so if you have one tucked away and would like more information about it, or help in getting it back on the road, you can find out more at [www.policebikes.org.uk](http://www.policebikes.org.uk)

**Our thanks go to Ian Kerr and Mortons Media for use of their article published in the Old Bike Mart in January 2018**





# Historic Police Motorcycle Group - 25 Years



I have put some picture at random on the next four pages for you to look at from our 25 years as an example of what we have done and been to. It's just an small selection as we have attended hundreds of events over the years. See how many you recognise.

Paul H





## Historic Police Motorcycle Group - 25 Years





## Historic Police Motorcycle Group - 25 Years





## Historic Police Motorcycle Group - 25 Years





## Daventry Museum Law Enforcement Display



In 2017, we were invited twice to the Daventry Museum for a show devoted to Law Enforcement in the local area. Mid January was the first event and Terry and I took up the Honda ST1300 and Moto Guzzi. Super local museum with a large range of interesting artefacts and information about law enforcement through the ages. The weather was atrocious with snow and sleet on and off all day. Thank heavens we didn't have to travel far to the museum to keep warm. Even Eric felt the cold, see picture bottom right. The next visit was in April and thankfully the weather was better and we showed Terrys Kawasaki 'Dave' KZ1000P and the Dutch Honda ST1100. Our thanks to Sophie and her colleagues for looking after us.





## Southern Classic Bike Show, Kempton Park - 20th May 2017



Kempton Park and the annual Southern Classic Bike Show. This was our 19th year of doing this show and sadly the organiser Eric Patterson has finally retired. However, the event is now under the running of Mortons, so we wish them well. So Friday afternoon, setup time, David Smith kindly helped with the build up. Problem was when we arrived, the space allocated to us was a bit too small. However, all was resolved and we occupied the area where the stage was. Ray Attwell very kindly supplied his Dad's ex-Metropolitan Triumph Thunderbird resplendent in its black police livery. Terry once again showed 'Dave', his Kawasaki KZ1000P. Bob Hennessy brought along the saved Yamaha XJ6 Police demonstrator. Lights up, pictures up, ready for our adoring public.

As always it was busy with lots of questions being asked. Weather wise, apart from some showers it wasn't too bad to walk around the outside Autojumble. Competition from stands to win prizes was fierce as always and I am sad to say we didn't win a prize this year.





## Hampshire Constabulary Families Open Day - 3rd June 2017



Saturday 3rd June 2017 - Hampshire Constabulary Families Open Day. Terry Nelhams on his Kawasaki KZ1000P LAPD and I (Paul H) on the Moto Guzzi 850T3PA ex-Carabinieri rode down from London to their Police HQ at Netley near Portsmouth to join Tony Johnson with his BMW K100 SEG ex-Metropolitan Police and Rickman Zundapp 125 ex-Hampshire Police, Trevor Wood with his LE Velocette ex-Hampshire Police. Dave Porter came on his new R100RT. We were joined by regulars with old British Police cars and of course the Americans and their very glizzy HUGE Police cars. Hampshire Police provided an array of current operational vehicles for the public to jump in and explore. The Fire Brigade were in attendance together with the Ambulance Service and several other agencies. Nice warm sunny day and lot's of families. Always very busy event. In the grounds behind the HQ were many stalls devoted to raising money for both police charities and other organisations. A hot lunch was very kindly provided by Hampshire Police. A super day out was had by all. Enjoy the pictures. The Families Day is on again this year - please see events listings.





## London Buses Summer Open Day Brooklands - 25th June 2017



Sunday 25th June saw us going back to the Brooklands Museum in Surry for the London Bus Summer Open Day. With the help of David, Terry and Brian, we took along four of our collection. The usual suspects were put out to display, the Police Honda ST1300P, the Politie Honda ST1100P, the Police Yamaha FJR1300P, my Carabinieri Moto Guzzi T3 PA and of course Eric our friendly policeman. Tony from Hampshire very kindly brought along his BMW K100, formerly in service with the Metropolitan Police Special Escort Group. Pitched up in our usual corner of the car park, we put up the gazebo and put the show on. From the very start it was steady business with surprisingly lots of families coming in to look around. The buses were parked up all over the site. In front of the club house were a trio of Green Line buses, who remembers travelling around the country in these. Nearby there were also some school buses dressed up in the style of their American counterparts. Afternoon we jumped on to a Routemaster double decker bus for a jolly around the local area. No charge, completely free service put on by the Bus Museum. Brought back many memories of travelling to school in London on these fabulous double deckers. Had to travel on the top deck. Like being a kid again. Amazing what you see from up there. Great day was had by all. The Bus Museum are having this event again this year - please see events listing.





## 4 Kingdoms Park 999 Weekend - 2nd July 2017



We were invited to join a 999 Day event at the 4 Kingdoms Adventure Park just south of the famous Greenham Common airbase (now an Industrial Park) near Newbury. So on Sunday 2nd July I popped down on our Yamaha FJR1300P demonstrator. Unfortunately for the organisers, the local Police and Ambulance Services were all busy and couldn't attend which left me the only motorcycle there. However, the local Fire Brigade Preservation Society brought along five tenders, 4 in red and one in dayglow orange. Add the two tenders owned by 4 kingdoms, a good turnout. Super for the families coming along. Who can resist getting up close to a fire engine. The day started overcast but soon became very hot and sunny, so much so that I have to admit I experienced my worst case of sunburn ever. Week later I was still suffering. They opened at 10am and families started arriving and it got busy very quickly. The Yamaha was as ever popular with no end of both kids and adults all wanting to have their picture taken on it. The Fire Brigade set up a pump by the lake and were showing off how the hoses work. Around about 5pm set off back to London. My thanks go to Amy and her staff for providing us with drinks and food all day. This event is on this year and is open to all emergency services vehicles, both operational and retired.



## Historic Police Motorcycle Group - 25 Years





## Chiltern Open Air Museum Transport Show - 23rd July 2017



The Chiltern Open Air Museum once again hosted their annual Transport Show over the weekend of July 22nd/23rd. We joined them on the Sunday with the help of Dave, Terry and Brian and displayed five of our collection of police bikes. Although overcast, the weather stayed dry. This year seemed to be much busier with vehicle entries in the main field opposite us which is great for the museum. As usual we were joined by lots of older and interesting civilian motorcycles. On the green, the Veteran Cycle Club had their display of the weird and wonderful bicycles through the ages complete with period costumes. One of our old friends, Dave Butler turned up with his beautifully restored Metropolitan Police Ford Transit from 1985. One forgets how basic the interior was compared to the current Police vehicles in use. No frills, just bench seats in the back. Busy day as always with lots of families enjoying their day. The museum is dedicated to preserving historic buildings and lifestyle from the very early days and is definitely worth a visit if you get a chance. The website is [www.coam.org.uk](http://www.coam.org.uk). The show is on again this year, please see the listings on the back page.





## Cops and Robbers Day at the Ace Cafe - 19th August 2017



Saturday 19th August, the world famous Ace Cafe had a Police Day. Last time we had an event here was back in 2008. Our friends from PC-UK (Police Car UK) organised the event in conjunction with the Ace Cafe. Some 25 plus police cars of all ages turned up to display along with Terry and I with his Honda CBX750P and my Carabinieri Moto Guzzi 850T3 PA. Fortunately the weather stayed dry but overcast. The Metropolitan Police very kindly showed off two vehicles from their historic fleet, a 1978 Traffic Land Rover and the quaint and cute 1973 Austin 1100, a police car from a bygone era and one of the original panda cars. PC-UK's range of cars as ever was excellent from the wonderful and rare 1953 Riley 2, the trio of Lotus Ford Cortinas', the Hampshire Police Volvo Amazon, the 3 super ex-Metropolitan Police Daimler Darts and to the rest of the colourful display of preserved Police vehicles. I think anyone driving past the car park would have to do double take at all of the varied police vehicles on display. Breakfast and lunch was consumed in the Cafe and the food is very good indeed. If you ever get a chance, the Ace Cafe is worth a trip. Once again, thanks to Steve Woodward and his crew for a splendid turnout.





# Transportfest - 23rd October 2016



The London Bus Museum at Brooklands Museum invited us along to their annual Transportfest Show. Weather was dry and sunny. We provided four police motorcycles plus Eric. They have such a varied range of buses and associated transport that turns up. The show is on again this year and if you fancy coming along, you get to see the whole of Brooklands Museum. Please see the events page for further details.





## Retired Police Motorcycle - BMW R60/2 (Australia)



I got the 1960s contemporary photo of the nine Victoria Police Mobile Traffic Section (MTS) solos off the internet. I think the site might have been the State Library of Victoria. The photo shows the funeral procession of Sir Dallas Brooks, a former Governor of Victoria, which dates it to March 1966. I was a 21 year-old Constable at the time. I must admit that the look of these bikes and uniforms, viewed as a teenager, played a significant part in enticing me into the job in 1964.

The bikes are all 600cc Earles Fork BMWs, but they are not all the same. The bike ridden by the Senior Constable leading the escort (CZ347) and CZ362 are R69S sports models, capable of 106mph. Two others whose number plates are readable in the photo (DE198 & DE422) are 96 mph R60/2 models. You can distinguish between the two models from the details visible in the photo: R69S have finned retainers on the exhaust pipe headers, as opposed to plain on the R60/2 and two fins on the rocker covers, instead of six on the R60/2. You can also tell by the alphabetic prefixes of the registration numbers that the R60/2s are newer. They all have blue lights mounted on the handlebar fairings. CZ362 doesn't have the lights. The Senior's bike does - they might have been retrofitted to the boss's bike when they started putting them on the new R60/2s. He no doubt would have wanted to keep his R69S, rather than "down grade to" a new R60/2. The bikes were personal issue to the members and they would keep them at home, riding them to and from work.



I don't know whether the change from R69S models to R60/2s was because, in milder tune, they were more tractable for escort duty, or because they were cheaper than the sports models. They were certainly that.

As it turned out I never did get onto a police bike. Just the point of being senior enough to get trained to ride one, a career opportunity opened in implementing the first police computer system in Victoria. I had at that stage though already, in the same uniform, had some fun hooning around in MTS Ford Falcon V8s. (The rest of the Force called us "Leather Legged Louts").



**Retired Police Motorcycle - BMW R60/2 (Australia)**

I bought the R50 BMW in rough shape in 2002. It already had the solo saddle, front and rear crash bars and leather panniers, though the latter were not properly attached. In the course of restoring the bike as a 'police solo' I unearthed a discarded fairing and used a very old siren, bought on eBay and modified to look the part. A bloke in country Victoria loaned me the pannier mounts from his genuine, but basket case, police bike to copy and then to fit nice new leather bags.

In the course of figuring out how to attach the fairing I contacted people who had been in the Police Transport Branch. They were able to advise me on making the necessary brackets and also passed on the information that Victoria Police, before selecting BMW as a supplier in about 1960 did have one R50 for evaluation. Predictably they deemed it under-powered, and went for the R69S.

Regards, Lawrie Bradly



Our thanks to Lawrie Bradly for the information about the BMW's used by Victoria Police in the 1960's



## Retired Police Motorcycle - Brough Superior 11.50 Model



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## Retired Police Motorcycle - Brough Superior 11.50 Model



Production of the Brough Superior 11.50 started in 1933. Powered by a 1096cc sidevalve V-twin (60 degree configuration), it was designed for big side valve enthusiasts who wanted more speed but with quiet smooth running. This particular 11.50 came out of the factory in 1933 as part of a batch with sidecars attached for the Police Service and is one of the motorcycles in the picture to the left leaving the factory with some very lucky police officers riding them. At some point the original sidecar was changed to the Brough Superior Alpine Grand Sports Sidecar manufactured by Brough. This fabulous example of the Brough Superior 11.50 can be seen at the world famous Brooklands Museum in Surrey.

**Engine:** four stroke, V-Twin  
**Capacity:** 1,096cc  
**Maximum Power:** 45bhp  
**Transmission:** 4 speed, chain final  
**Wheelbase:** n/a  
**Weight:** n/a  
**Speed:** 90mph (144kph) Solo



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## Retired Police Motorcycle - Rickman 125



The pictures show a 1972 Rickman 125 Police model which served with Hampshire Constabulary, England. The motorcycle was built by the Rickman Brothers based in New Milton, Hampshire and was based on their enduro model. The engine is a 125 Zundapp two stroke. They were fitted with a handle bar mounted fairing and lower leg shields for protection from the elements. They also had a fiberglass fuel tank but this was changed later to steel. A total of 110 were purchased by Hampshire Police and we believe this is the last surviving example in police trim.

**Engine:** two stroke, single cylinder  
**Capacity:** 123cc  
**Maximum Power:** 17bhp  
**Transmission:** 5 speed, chain final  
**Wheelbase:** n/a  
**Weight:** 372lb (172kg)  
**Speed:** 80mph (130kph)





## New Police Motorcycle - BMW R1200RT-P



The latest BMW R1200RT-P in service with the Metropolitan Police, London.



**Engine:** four stroke, twin cylinder  
**Capacity:** 243cc  
**Maximum Power:** 92 kW (125bhp) @ 7,750 rpm  
**Transmission:** 6 speed, shaft final  
**Length:** 2,222 mm  
**Weight:** 603lb (274kg) (without authorities equipment)  
**Speed:** 125mph (200kph)





## Events 2018

### 15th April - Spring Gathering

London Bus Museum, Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey.  
All preserved emergency vehicles are welcome.  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

### 21st/22nd April - International Classic Bike Show

Stafford County Showground, Staffordshire  
Static show. Contact Gerry Scott  
e-mail: [gerry.scott@btinternet.com](mailto:gerry.scott@btinternet.com)

### 7th May - Brooklands Emergency Services Day

Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0QN  
If you wish to join us, please Contact Donna Hopton  
[events@brooklandsmuseum.com](mailto:events@brooklandsmuseum.com)

### 2nd June - Hampshire Constabulary Families Day

Police HQ, Netley, Hampshire. Static show.  
e-mail: [antony.johnson37@ntlworld.com](mailto:antony.johnson37@ntlworld.com)

### 16th June - Surrey Norton Owners Club

In aid of the Joan Seeley Pain Relief Memorial Trust  
Stepping Stone Pub, West Humble Street, Dorking RH5 6BS  
Contact is [ken.rawlinson@googlemail.com](mailto:ken.rawlinson@googlemail.com)

### 23rd/24th June - Fire Engine & Vintage Vehicle Rally

Preston Hall Museum and Park, Yarm Road,  
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 3RH  
[www.fireenginerally.co.uk](http://www.fireenginerally.co.uk)

### 23rd/24th June - Emergency Services Weekend

Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre  
Station Road, Amberley, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9LT  
e-mail: [office@amberleymuseum.co.uk](mailto:office@amberleymuseum.co.uk)

### 24th June - On the Buses

London Bus Museum, Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey.  
All preserved emergency vehicles are welcome.  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

### 30th June/1st July - Emergency Services Display

4 Kingdoms Adventure Play & Family Farm  
Newbury Road, Headley, Hampshire RG19 8JY  
All current & preserved emergency vehicles are welcome.  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

### 7th/8th July - 999 Emergency Services Display

Western Lawns, Eastbourne, Sussex  
Website for details [www.999display.co.uk](http://www.999display.co.uk)

### 15th July - Alton Bus Rally & Running Day

Emergency Services vehicles are welcome  
Anstey Park, Anstey Lane, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 2NB  
[www.altonbusrally2015.com](http://www.altonbusrally2015.com)

### 21st/22nd July - Classic Vehicle Show

Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newlands Park,  
Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4AB  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

### 22nd July - Durham Police Bikewise

Police HQ, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TT  
Contact details [www.bikewise.org.uk](http://www.bikewise.org.uk)

### 12th August - Brackley Festival of Motorcycling

Brackley, Northamptonshire NN13 7EX  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

### 18th August - Capel Classic Vehicle Show

Capel Recreation Ground, Capel, Surrey RH5 5LD  
e-mail: [andrewforsyth@talk21.com](mailto:andrewforsyth@talk21.com)  
[www.capelcarshow.com](http://www.capelcarshow.com)

### 18th August - Classic Police Vehicles at the Ace Cafe

North Circular, London. Static show.  
For motorcycles only, contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

### 19th August - 999 Emergency Services Day

East Anglia Transport Museum  
Chapel Road, Carlton Colville, Lowestoff,  
Suffolk NR33 8BL  
Contact [admin@eatransportmuseum.co.uk](mailto:admin@eatransportmuseum.co.uk)

### 16th September - Emergency Services Show

Cotswold Airport, Cirencester GL7 6BQ  
All preserved emergency vehicles welcome.  
[www.emergencyservicesshow.com](http://www.emergencyservicesshow.com)

### 30th September - Sand and Motorcycles

Leighton Buzzard Railway, Pages Park,  
Billington Road LU7 4TN  
For details [www.buzzrail.co.uk](http://www.buzzrail.co.uk)  
E-mail: [n.cairns650@btinternet.com](mailto:n.cairns650@btinternet.com)

### 6th October - Policing Through the Ages

Westquay Shopping Centre, Southampton SO15 1QF  
Static show with Hampshire Police and PC UK  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

### 13th/14th October - Motorcycle Mechanics Show

Stafford County Showground, Staffordshire.  
Static show. Contact Gerry Scott  
e-mail: [gerry.scott@btinternet.com](mailto:gerry.scott@btinternet.com)

### 21st October - Transportfest 2016

London Bus Museum, Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey.  
All preserved emergency vehicles are welcome.  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

If you have any more shows or events that might be of interest, can you send the details to

e-mail: [policebike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:policebike@hotmail.co.uk)

And to [news@policebikes.org.uk](mailto:news@policebikes.org.uk)

Or by Post to -

Historic Police Motorcycle Group  
c/o HGB Motorcycles, 79 Park Way,  
Ruislip Manor, Middlesex HA4 8NS