

2009

ISSUE 14

HISTORIC POLICE MOTORCYCLE GROUP NEWSLETTER

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David's Page

Following involvement in many events throughout 2008, we are looking forward to another busy year of shows and events in 2009. Check out the events list in this edition or contact either myself or Paul to get your bike on show.

Thanks to everyone who attended the shows in 2008 and to everyone who lent us their wonderful bikes to show to the public. Without your bikes and your help, we would have nothing to encourage others to restore their ex police bikes. What's great is the public do get great enjoyment out of seeing our displays, our motorcycles and our photographs and I think it is great that we promote what the police have used in the past and what they ride today. A sort of living museum.

One item of good news for all our efforts, we won the best club stand prize at the Festival of a Thousand Bikes back in July last year. Quite an achievement when you consider there were 60 odd clubs showing their models.

Keep up the good work on the ex police motorcycles.
Have a good year and ride those machines as often as you can.

David Bragg

A selection of some of the retired motorcycles in our group



Kawasaki KZ1000P Arizona Public Safety



Triumph Speedtwin Buckinghamshire Constabulary



1961 Ariel Arrow Police model



1969 BSA Fleetstar Gwynedd Constabulary

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A selection of some of the retired motorcycles in our group



1960 LE Velocette Kent Constabulary



1974 Norton Interpol Hampshire Constabulary



1998 Honda ST1100P Dutch Politie



1997 Harley Davidson FLHTP US police model



1976 Honda CB200 Kent Constabulary



1978 Moto Guzzi 850T3 US police model

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A selection of some of the retired motorcycles in our group



2001 Honda ST1300P - the first police pan produced



1990 Norton Interpol II London Ambulance Service



1981 Kawasaki Z200 Kent County Constabulary



2000 BMW F650 City of London Police



1994 Honda ST1100P Essex Police



1995 Suzuki GN250 Herefordshire Constabulary

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Chatham Dockyard – March 2008



Easter weekend arrived and Bill Fowler and his team invited us to the Chatham Dockyards for their annual Transport show. However, this year was different, it snowed. I couldn't make Sunday because of the bad weather. However, Monday the sun shone first thing and so off I went down to the dockyards. Upon arrival, I thought I would be alone in the display, but to my surprise, we had a display of some nine bikes, not bad considering the conditions. Even the general public turned up on mass and it was great that the weather had not put them off. Steve Mace brought his ex Kent Constabulary Honda CB200 and Kawasaki Z200. What's great is seeing some new smaller model appearing, not all police bikes were large capacity. He even managed to persuade his father to ride one. He used to ride them when he was in the 'Job'. Phil and Gerry braved the elements, bringing their US BMW R100RT and Kawasaki Z1000P both in Arizona colours. One newcomer was the ST1100 you see in the picture above which was originally in service with the Kent Ambulance Service.

John and his team from the Kent Police Museum very kindly gave everyone tea and shelter from the cold. Around 2pm, Bill and I were looking at the route for the parade of motorcycles when the sky became somewhat white in colour followed by a rather heavy fall of snow. Yet, when we did the parade around the dockyards, the sun started to shine and the surface dried out. A great day out and it is on again this year. Please see events list on the back page.

Paul H

Devon & Cornwall Bikesafe – May 2008



At the beginning of May, we were invited by Devon & Cornwall Police for their Bikesafe and road safety launch at Paignton in Devon at the BMAD Bike Festival. The 7.5ton truck, courtesy of HGB, was packed with our Honda ST1300 demonstrator, my Carabinieri Moto Guzzi 850T3 PA, a Kawasaki KZ1000C from the CHiPs period and a Hampshire Police BMW K100LT. David Smith drove the truck and I went down on a GL1500 Goldwing trike for a customer who lived near Paignton. The show was over two days and right beside the beach, what an excellent location. The organisers very kindly let us pitch up in their tent. I had found a B & B nearby and so the trike was useful for ferrying us and our gear to and from the showground.

On both days, the promenade was stuffed with visitors and their motorcycles. It was a very busy show over the whole weekend. One of the Inspectors brought along their fully marked Harley Davidson Road King to add to the display. Even Tim Watkin turned up on his Kawasaki KZ1000P.



Brooklands Emergency Services Day - May 2008

On May Day bank holiday, Brooklands Motor Museum had their annual show organised by the Brooklands Fire Brigade. Our bikes were displayed alongside PC-UK and their cars. Weather wise, it was sunshine and an excellent day. Lot's of emergency vehicles, both new and old turned up and it was nice to see Surrey Police with their fleet. There were perhaps two highlights of the day, the first being the hill climb which everyone seems to enjoy with lights and sirens blaring. The second was a new thing, an organised parade of vehicles around Brooklands much to the pleasure of the visiting public, although it was a bit bewildering for the average motorist when faced with so many emergency vehicles on the road. A great day was had by all. The event is on for this year, please see the back page for further details.



Hampshire Constabulary Families Day - June 2008



Hampshire Constabulary Families Day - June 2008



On Saturday 7th June, Hampshire Police held their annual families open day at their HQ in Netley. Geoff very kindly drove the truck down to the HQ with seven bikes in the back. The London Motorcycle Museum lent us their Metropolitan Police Triumph Thunderbird, Geoff his BSA Fleestar and Terry his Moto Guzzi 850T3 police model. We had a slight addition with the wall of police crash helmets throughout the ages together with our picture boards. Some 20 odd bikes turned up, what an excellent sight, all sizes and colours. It was very busy with 'customers' throughout the day. The day was rounded off with the usual barbeque in the evening. My thanks go to Steve Woodward and his crew for the excellent organisation as always. See back page for details of this years event.

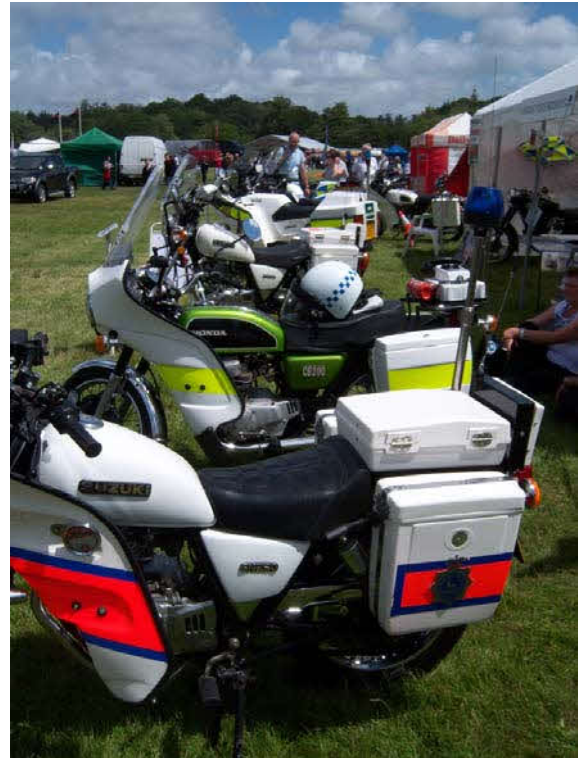
Beaulieu Motorcycle World - July 2008

The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu invited us again for the weekend to join in with the club stands at the Motorcycle World show. Friday was set up and we were given a large pitch for both our tents. Fortunately, this year the weather was mostly dry as opposed to last years deluge. On display was the Honda ST1300, a Norton Rotary from The London Ambulance Service, a Triumph Thunderbird ex Metropolitan Police, care of the London Motorcycle Museum, a Triumph Saint ex Metropolitan Police, Suzuki GN250 ex Hertfordshire Constabulary, a Honda CB200 ex Hampshire Police, David's immaculate Kawasaki KZ1000P LAPD colours, another police spec GN250, BSA Fleetstar ex Gwynedd Constabulary together with an assortment of other machines. Beside us, we had the 'Hairy Bikers' from the BBC keeping everyone entertained with their cooking skills and also the luxury of a very large outside TV screen which we were able to watch the Grad Prix on Sunday afternoon.

From the outset, we were busy, and despite showers over the weekend, a lot of people came to visit and chat. We also had the usual run around the track showing off to the general public, lots of noise from the sirens. Great fun. The whole weekend was very enjoyable, although hard work and my thanks go to the National Motor Museum for inviting us, Honda UK, HGB Motorcycles, the London Motorcycle Museum and to our group members who helped. Sadly, this event has now been cancelled for this year.



Beaulieu Motorcycle World - July 2008



Festival of a Thousand Bikes - July 2008



The Festival of a Thousand Bikes beckoned and on the Friday, we made our way to Mallory Park race track. The truck luckily was loaded from last weeks event at Beaulieu so all we had to do was set up. However, yet again, the weather had been a problem and persistent rain had caused the organisers to rethink their arrangements. Finally the tent was erected and tea area arranged, most important. We now had an Avenue of club stands on both sides of the road and I think it worked well, rather than having stands all over the place. Once again, our picture boards together with Geoff's old police crash helmet display, which people tried on for size, proved as popular as ever with the general public. Perhaps the most looked at object on the stand was the cutaway Norton Rotary engine which you turned the handle to see how it worked. Just like the models they use to have at Science museum.

The track had it's weekend of club parades, machines of all ages and sizes running full pelt, trying to out perform each other. Annie from Morton's and the VMCC looked after us again in her usual style.

Over the weekend, the VMCC had been judging club stands to see which was the best and guess what, we won first prize (see picture on the right). What a result for our efforts. Time and time again we hear that people love to both look at the bikes as well as the pictures and information we put out.

Yet again, another pleasant weekend despite the weather. The event is planned for this year, so please see the events list on the back page.

Paul H

Festival of a Thousand Bikes - July 2008



Chiltern Open Air Museum - August 2008



A new event for us, we were invited to attend the Transport Show at the Chiltern Open Air Museum. The museum locates and rebuilds period houses from the very early days of building. On this day they also had arranged for people to dress up in period costumes relating to the period houses. The sight of a highwayman complete with flintlock pistols was quite amusing, together with girls dressed in period costume. They seem to have an awful lot of layers of clothing in the early days. Wandering around we came across an iron age house, you only ever see them on Time Team. Our display consisted mainly of Honda Pan Europeans but we did have one BMW R1200RTP courtesy of the Terry from National Grid. The picture boards proved popular as always. Our neighbours were the chaps from the London Motorcycle Museum in Greenford. An interesting venue, if a little bit different from the usual show we attend and it is on for this year.



Capel Motor Show - August 2008



Wiltshire Emergency Services Show - September 2008



Cheshire Police Open Day - September 2008



Once again we were invited to display at the Cheshire Police Show at their Winsford HQ. This was a multi-agency event with Cheshire Fire & rescue and the North West Ambulance Service also displaying.

This was the first time I had tried to arrange a display and now know how hard work it all is. After numerous telephone calls we had five bikes on display. Tony Roach brought along his ex-Liverpool City Police Triumph Speed Twin, Bill Hollis his Rickman Suzuki, Alan Shaw with his 1966 LE Velocette and my Honda ST100 Pan European. I had asked Moto-Guzzi to lend us their police Norge demonstrator for a bit of added interest and I received a call on the Friday beforehand to say that would be able to attend and PC John Ryden (Lincolnshire Police motorcycle instructor) rode it across from Lincolnshire on the Sunday morning in glorious weather.

The show was well attended with plenty of interest in the bikes and our photographic display. One to put in the calendar for 2009.



Current Police Motorcycle - Moto Guzzi Norge



Moto Guzzi have been supplying police bikes for many years and the Norge is the newest model to arrive. Similar to a Honda Pan European, it gives the rider full protection from the elements together with the comfort of the solo seat. The radio hump behind the rider to store all the electronics to run all the emergency lights and radio on board. Latest LED lights are at the front and are now the standard for emergency vehicles.

The model you see in the pictures was kindly supplied by Moto Guzzi UK and is German Police colours.

FEATURES AND EQUIPMENT

Full fairing, front and rear crash bars,
solo seat, panniers,
front LED blue warning lights,
rear telescopic blue pole light,
Electronic sirens

Engine: four stroke v-Twin

Capacity: 1151cc

Maximum power: 95bhp

Transmission: 6 speed, shaft final

Wheelbase: 1495mm

Weight: 541lb (246kg)



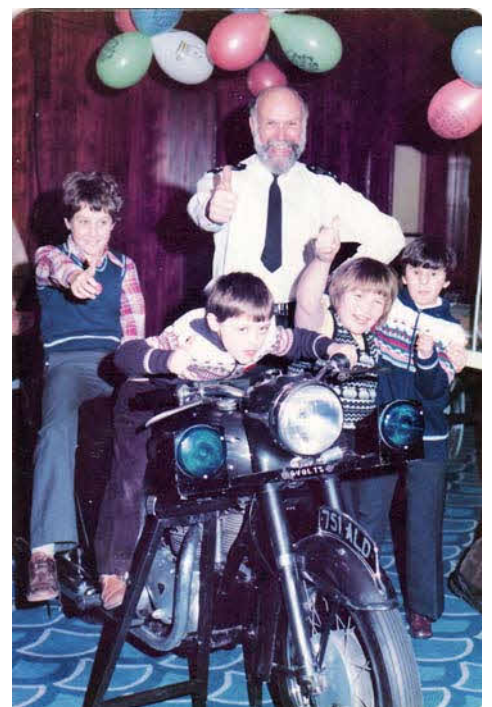
Retired Police Motorcycle - Triumph Thunderbird



Engine: four stroke, twin cylinder
Capacity: 649cc
Maximum Power: 34bhp
Transmission: 4 speed, chain final
Wheelbase: 1500mm
Weight: 385lb (175kg)
Speed: 106mph (171kph)

FEATURES AND EQUIPMENT

Leg shields, crash bars,
optional solo seat and panniers,
blue halogen warning lights,
electric two tone horns,
fire extinguisher, optional radio system



Retired Police Motorcycle - Triumph Thunderbird



TRIUMPH THUNDERBIRD 751 ALD

The new Triumph Thunderbird 650's were introduced to the Police Traffic patrol Fleet in early 1960. No 2064 T, pictured here, was one of the first two issued to DT6 at Hendon in March 1960 as a non-R/T bike. This actual model was first used by a young PC Bert Oxford on duty at the Hampstead Heath Easter fair in North London.

In 1961 the bike was taken out of service on several occasions for use as a demonstration exhibit in the newly formed "ROADCRAFT EXHIBITION". Eventually, in late 1962 it was withdrawn for permanent use in the exhibition. It remained on this duty as part of the "Motor-cyclists reaction tester" travelling all over London until replaced by a newer model in 1973. Its' show business career was not over however, as it was kept for use as a static exhibit in small shows and police station open-days etc.

In 1982 the elderly machine was purchased by an even older Police Sgt. Bert Oxford on his retirement. It was kept in a well greased state until mid 1992 when complete restoration work was started. The job was finished in 1993, after a complete strip-down to the last nut & bolt and a meticulous rebuild with all worn parts renewed. The bike was unfortunately never ridden again as Bert Oxford kept it in exhibition condition & at nearly 70 years old, did not feel up to "biking" again.

Unfortunately my father Bert Oxford lost his battle to cancer diagnosed in July 2008, he died on 9th December 2008 just 1 day before the year's anniversary of his wife's death.

CHRISTINE KNIGHT (nee Oxford)

Our thanks go to Christine for the information about the Thunderbird. The bike is on display at the London Motorcycle Museum in Greenford and we do hope to show it at some of the events this year.

www.london-motorcycle-museum.org



Stafford Shows - April & October 2008



Two regular exhibitors start the HPMG line up. That's Ken's Liverpool City Triumph Saint and Tim's Kawasaki KZ1000P CHIPS bike, almost hiding John Parks excellent BSA C15.



A rare but genuine 1960 Norman Nippy bought by the community for their local 'Village Bobbie' in Lincolnshire. A low mileage runner.



Alan's Velocette LE of Manchester City first appeared on the stand in 2007 and caused a lot of interest. Its been a regular at shows ever since.

On Our Stand

One location, two shows, four days and over 20,000 people per show. That's Stafford, where the weather can be as unpredictable as forecasting the bikes we finally have on display.

For those who don't know, we're talking about the International Classic Motorcycle Show in April and the Classic Motorcycle Show in October, both organised by Mortons Media and held at the Staffordshire County Showground, which is a huge indoor and outdoor venue for individuals, clubs and traders.

For both shows, we were in our usual location, in the Meat Hall. It's just right of centre of the main building, handy for the 'facilities' and just as handy to get some big bikes in and out. We have our regular visitors, too, and it's always nice to have a chat with old friends and make some new ones, when we're not trying to find a bargain!



Left. Gerry's 1982 BMW R80, ex-Merseyside. The 'Screenflow' radio box which would be correct up to 1981 is on its last outing as an original 'Home Office' one has been found and should on by the next show.

Right. Bill's ex-Hampshire Rickman Zundapp of 1972 is a rare beast. It now has a Yamaha engine. No blue lights on this one, just a blue haze behind it!



DMW Deemsters don't appear too often at shows. We've had some on our stand in the past and if you look back through past newsletters or on our web site you will find one or two in their police guise. On different stands, these fine examples caught the attention of the cameraman. Seen here in civilian trim, (below) it makes a fine contrast to a prize winner seen in the previous show (below left).



Seen
at the
Show



Outside, this Suzuki GSX750P import was priced at £995. We hope this gets restored in Police spec.

Stafford Shows - April & October 2008



The October Line-Up. 1970 Triumph Saint. 1963 Ariel Arrow. 1966 Velocette LE Mk3. 1972 Rickman Zundapp. 1982 BMW R80. 1964 Triumph 5TA Speed Twin and 1980 Kawasaki KZ1000p C3.

Another fine show at Stafford in October. We all had the feeling that there were less people attending the show, probably due to the recession, and certainly some traders had 'downsized'. But we enjoyed it.

(Right) Paul Read brought his ex-Buckinghamshire Speed Twin along. It's not been here for a while. Unlike some owners of ex-police bikes, Paul is happy to display its heritage, as the only major difference is the dual seat, although it may have carried a small sign over the headlight. The bike hasn't got a bad leak - its only the dust cover.

(Below) The R80 now with its correct radio box. The blue lights are an alternative to Bosch 'Bug Eyes'.

(Bottom Right) Roger's Ariel always gets admiring looks. Shortly before the show it appeared at the launch of the new 'Heartbeat' book in York. See Newsbeat on the groups web site - www.policebikes.org.uk



EVENTS 2009

5th April - Cobham Bus Museum Open Day

Wisley Airfield, Elm Lane, Elm Corner, Surrey.
Contact Paul H 01895 630442 policebike@hotmail.co.uk

12th/13th April - Medway Festival of Transport

Kent Constabulary Museum, Chatham Dockyard, Kent.
For booking forms and information, see www.chdt.org.uk

26th April - Bikers in Paradise Show

Hertfordshire Road Safety & Bikesafe.
Paradise Wildlife Park,
Broxbourne, Hertfordshire EN10 7QA
Contact Paul H 01895 630442 policebike@hotmail.co.uk

26th April - Essex Police Bikesafe Launch

Millfields, Burnham, Essex.
Contact Adam Jenkins harleywolf@bluyonder.co.uk

25th/26th April - International Classic Bike Show

Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford. ST18 0BD
Contact Gerry Scott 07808177719
Email: w15mc-hpmg@yahoo.co.uk

4th May - Brooklands Emergency Services 'May Day'

Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey.
Contact Brooklands Museum Fire Service
brooklandsfire@aol.com www.brooklandsmuseum.com

9th May - Southern Bike Show

Kempton Park Race Course, Surrey.
Static bike show. We are having a stand again.
Contact David Bragg

6th June - Hampshire Constabulary Families Day

Police HQ, Netley, Hampshire.
Static show. Arranged by PCUK

20th June - Rock n' Roll Weekend

Fareham Town Centre, Fareham, Surrey
Contact Chris Linney 01329 232424

20th/21st June - The National Bikesafe Motorcycle Show

The Peel Centre, Aerodrome Road, Hendon NW9 5JE
Contact Paul H 01895 630442 policebike@hotmail.co.uk

20th/21st June - Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Show

Markeaton Park, Derby.
See their website for details.
www.derbyfireshow.co.uk

27th/28th June - Fire Engine & Historic Vehicle Rally

Preston Farm, Yarm Road, Stockton on Tees TS18 3RH
Contact events@stockton.gov.uk

11th July - RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day

RNAS, Yeovilton, Somerset.
Contact the organisers or download a form from
www.yeoviltonairday.co.uk

11th/12th July - 999 Emergency Services Display

Western lawns, Eastbourne, Sussex.
Fire Station, Whitley Road, Eastbourne BN22 8LA

10th/11th/12th July - Festival of a Thousand Bikes

Mallory Park, Leicestershire.
Contact Paul H 01895 630442 policebike@hotmail.co.uk

25th/26th July - Classic Vehicle Show

Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newlands Park,
Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4AB
Contact Paul H 01895 630442 policebike@hotmail.co.uk

22nd until 26th July - War and Peace Show

The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood,
Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6PY
Military show. Contact the organisers 01304 813445
www.thewarandpeaceshow.com

1st August - Blue Lamps & Z Cars

Ace Café, North Circular, London. Being run by PCUK.
Contact Steve Woodward
Email steve@policecaruk.com

2nd August - Emergency Vehicles Day

Crich Tramway Village, Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 5DP
Contact the organisers office
e-mail: enquiry@tramway.co.uk

8th August - Thames Valley Police Open Day

Sulhamstead Training Centre, Reading, Berkshire.
Being run by PCUK. Contact mark@policecaruk.com

15th August - Capel Classic Vehicle Show

Capel Recreation Ground, Capel, Surrey RH5 5LD
www.capelcarshow.com

16th August - Durham Police Bike Wise

Police HQ, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TT
Contact Bikesafe organiser Sgt Bob Brown
durham.police@bikesafe.co.uk

22nd/23rd August - Emergency Services & Military Show

Bentley Wildfowl & Motor Museum,
Halland, E. Sussex BN8 5AF
Contact David Bragg

13th September - Wiltshire Emergency Services Show

Hullavington Airfield, Wiltshire.
www.theemergencyservicesshow.com

20th September - Cheshire Police Open Day

Police HQ, Oakmere Road,
Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2UA. Static show.
Contact David Crowther davidjcrowther@hotmail.com

17th/18th October - Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show

Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford ST18 0BD
Contact Gerry Scott 07808177719
w15mc-hpmg@yahoo.co.uk

1st November - Military Day

London Motorcycle Museum, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9LB
Contact Paul H 01895 630442 policebike@hotmail.co.uk

If you have any more shows or events that might be of interest, please send details to HPMG
policebike@hotmail.co.uk