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issue 17

HISTORIC POLICE MOTORCYCLE GROUP NEWSLETTER

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## David's Page

Welcome everyone to 2012.

Yet another year has gone by and we seem to be still as busy as ever. This years events calendar is on the back page and could I urge as many of you to support the large number of charities who's events we attend, such as The Medway Festival of Transport at the Chatham Dockyards, the London Bus Museum Open Day, the Brooklands Museum Emergency Services Day to name but a few. They really do appreciate our showing up. It's still wonderful that after all these years that our motorcycles are still extremely popular with the general public. It's always the variety and colour of the old police bikes. Next year is our 20th anniversary of the HPMG, the first run was in Richmond Park and was held on the 13th March 1993. Perhaps we can get our thoughts together to see what we can do next year to honour this. Let me know what you think.

On another note, we had the sad duty of attending Robin Arnold's funeral back in December 2011. Robin had been with us from the very first run in 1993. His funeral was very well represented by both members of the HPMG and PC-UK and our thanks must go to Surrey Police who provided the escort. Rest in Peace, Robin.

See our full events diary on the back page for 2012.

Hope to see you at the events through the year - Remember, Enjoy Yourselves.

*David Bragg*

### Pictures from our archive - Buckingham Palace Photoshoot



In the late 1990's, David Smith arranged a photo shoot with the Royal Parks Constabulary one Sunday morning outside Buckingham Palace. The American section represented our Group together with the RPC Motorcycle Wing and Thames Valley Police also joined in.





From the Archive - Special Escort Group, Metropolitan Police



The pictures show the Special Escort Group (SEG) of the Metropolitan Police, London, precision team performing at an open day in June 1989. They are riding on the old BMW R80s' which were replaced with the BMW K100 (see right hand picture).



## Yamaha FJR1300A Police



Yamaha Motor UK kindly agreed to lend me one of their new FJR1300 for the Hampshire Constabulary Families Day back at the beginning of June. I found myself on the Friday morning, the day before the event going on my Honda Pan European to pick it the FJR from Ian Kerr's house who works for the Police Division at Yamaha. To my surprise, it was 11 registered and only 300 miles on the clock, fully battenburged and with all the police 'toys'. It was marked with the words Demonstrator front and back rather than the words Police. However, one slight problem, it had a flat rear tyre and I needed to get back quickly to pack the van with the other police bikes for our trip to Hampshire. We managed to 'bodge' a repair which allowed me to travel back to the tyre shop for a new tyre. It's very difficult to run on dual carriage roads at a steady 50 mph for safety, I wanted to open it up and see how it performed and I had to cover 30 miles.

Tyre repaired, van loaded, time to pack the panniers. Originally I was going to run down to Netley on my Moto Guzzi but Yamaha wanted some mileage put on the FJR, so how could I say no. Going from Ruislip, via the M40 and onto the M25 southbound, the usual Friday afternoon traffic, stationary with 40 limits showing although the traffic was hardly moving. Time for some filtering and to get know the motorcycle. First impressions, seat was a bit hard but I suspect because it was new, however, the mirrors are higher up than the Pan European, so it makes filtering between traffic a lot easier. I had forgotten what an effect a marked vehicle has on traffic, people do see you coming. Down to the M3 and still stationary traffic on the M25. Heading southbound, I can finally open the bike up. What an engine, it has 20bhp more than the Honda ST1300P at 145bhp on tap, goes like a jet engine. Get the bike into 5th gear as soon as possible and it will pull from as little as 25mph, no other gear changing necessary. The trip down the M3 and then onto the M27 and then onto the HQ at Netley was super, with the FJR being a true sports tourer. Suspension is some of the best I have ever had on a bike, it just absorbs every bump. The electric windscreen had been replaced with the optional larger one and together with larger hand guards over the mirrors, gave excellent protection from the elements.



Saturday - Show Time. Along with all of our other old and new police motorcycles on display the Yamaha had a lot of attention. I think the word got around that it was a brand new model, the number of people with their families who came up to look at it, never stopped the whole day. The sun shone too, excellent. Sunday morning and I could finally get a chance to use the bike on some country roads rather than motorways. Decided to go via the A32, then on to the A272 eastbound to the A29 up to Box Hill in Surrey a popular meeting venue for motorcyclists. What an engine, it's just a super fast tourer, it's so strong in any gear. Cornering was excellent, thanks to the Metzeler Roadtec tyres with brakes to match. Riding along at just below the speed limit, I noticed behind me a gathering of some 12 motorcycles, no one wanted to come past despite the fact that all the blue lights were covered up, suspect it was probably the colour scheme. Eventually after some 20 miles I pulled up at a roundabout to let them all pass. Despite the weather being overcast and threatening rain, the FJR was growing on me.





## Yamaha FJR1300A Police



Wherever I stopped, people would come over and ask questions about the bike. Good PR exercise. In all I covered 400 plus miles, more than enough to get acquainted with it. Fuel consumption was around the 56mpg (12.3 miles per litre), which for a large touring model is very good and gives a tank range of approximately 300 miles. As a motorcycle it ticked all of the right boxes. It is a very powerful and very capable all rounder, equally at home in town or on the motorways and very easy to ride. I have to admit, when I returned it back to Yamaha on the following Saturday I was very sorry to give it back. However, Yamaha have very kindly lent me another one, a 2005 model with 4,600 miles, fully marked but with amber emergency lights on a long term loan for the group to show at events and I will let you know how it performs over the period of time.

As standard, the FJR1300 comes with a 1298cc four cylinder, 145bhp engine, 5 speed gearbox, ABS brakes, electric windscreen, 25 litre fuel tank, removable panniers. The Police model also gets heated grips, mirror covers for extra protection, solo seat, rear hump for the emergency lights electronics and radio systems.

The Yamaha FJR1300's are converted by Woodway Engineering near Coventry and I believe that some 300 units are now in service in the UK. Besides the battenburg covering the bike, the front blues are Whelen M4 LED's, left and right, just below and in front of the mirrors. Two Whelen Aerolite LED light heads are mounted each side of the upper fairing to give extra illumination to the side. Head light flashing is also available. To the rear, there is a carbon fibre pole light with a 'V' head blue light. At the back, just above the taillights is a Whelen M7 Super LED which splits from blue to red. We think these rear lights are simply the best we have ever seen on a bike, they are Bling to a police motorcycle as chrome is to a Honda Goldwing. The siren is a Whelen Alpha series 100W output, which is activated and controlled by the bikes original horn button. Runlock is also fitted to allow the rider to remove the keys, leaving the engine running while parked with all the emergency lights on. Stops the battery going flat. This feature also prevents someone trying to steal the motorcycle, as when a gear is selected the engine cuts out. The strobes and LED's are all operated by a large switchpad in the middle of the handlebars, there are also switches on the left hand side of the handlebars to allow the rider to operate the emergency lights without removing their hands from the grips.

My thanks go to Andy Pumfrey and Ian Kerr of Yamaha Motor UK for the loan of their demonstrator.

Paul H - Historic Police Motorcycle Group





## Cobham Bus Museum Open Day - 10th April 2011



For 2011, the annual gathering of Buses and coaches had transferred from Wisley to The Top Gear airfield/test track at Dunsfold Aerodrome. Weather was sunny. David Smith very kindly lent his LAPD Kawasaki and was joined by Geoff Reid with his BMW R80RT ex Manchester Police. Some 300 + buses and coaches turned up which must make this the largest gathering in Europe. Also on show were the other emergency services and lot's of classic car clubs. The museum has now moved to it's new home at Brooklands and this years event is on the 29th April and is to held back at the Wisley airfield. Please see events list for further details.





## Chatham Dockyard Transport Show - 24th April 2011



On Easter Sunday, we travelled to Chatham Dockyards for their annual Transport Extravaganza. We were located as always next to the Kent Police Museum and we had 14 motorcycles in attendance, a very good turnout. In the afternoon, we did our usual escort around the dockyard with all of the other motorcycle clubs in tow. The beauty of the Dockyard show is that it has a huge range of vehicles on display, from traction engines to military vehicles, through to lot's of early cars and motorbikes. The Dockyard itself has many attractions including ships and submarines you can explore. The event is on this year and I would ask all of you who can come to support this worthy charity.



# Brooklands Emergency Services Day - 2nd May 2011



The Annual Emergency Services Day at Brooklands Museum was held on the May Bank holiday. We have been attending this show from it's first in 1998 until now and it really has grown over the years with excellent support from both the Emergency Services and all of the other Clubs and Associations in attendance. Weather was sunny and dry and turnout from our bikes was super with about a dozen on show, dating from the early 1950's with the LE Velocettes right up to the present with the Honda Pan European. As usual we joined up with our friends from PC-UK and their police cars. Afternoon saw the now customary cavalcade of Emergency vehicles which travel around the periphery of the Brooklands Circuit. The sight of so many different colours and lights, police cars and motorcycles, fire engines, ambulances and other assorted vehicles is always a brilliant sight. Heaven knows what the poor motorist must think, but certainly the public who have come to visit the museum love it. The event is on this year and we ask that as many of you support this worthy museum.



Southern Bike Show, Kempton Park - 21st May 2011



Help for Heroes', Surrey Police - 29th May 2011





# Hampshire Constabulary Families Day - 4th June 2011







A close-up photograph of a motorcycle's instrument cluster. It features two circular analog gauges: a speedometer on the left with a scale up to 200 km/h, and a tachometer on the right with a scale up to 10,000 RPM. Below the gauges is a rectangular Motorola radio with a silver mesh grille and the Motorola logo. The gauges have black faces with white markings and red needles. The motorcycle's handlebars and various cables are visible around the instrument panel.





## Surrey Police Dog Trials & Family Day - 19th June 2011



## From the archive - Royal Parks Constabulary



Triumph 1978



Honda CB250J 1980



Honda CB250N 1982

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## Chiltern Open Air Museum Transport Show - 24th July 2011



The Chiltern Open Air Museum held their annual Transport Show over the weekend of the 23rd/24th July. We have been attending this event for a number of years and is well represented by other car and bike clubs. The museum is devoted to restoring and rebuilding old buildings and they range from the iron age right through to the fifties. Show is on again this year and it would be nice to get some more bikes to attend. Please see the events page for details.



## Thames Valley Police Open Day - 3rd September 2011





## Policing Through the Ages, Gunwharf Quays - 1st October 2011



Saturday 1st October saw Roger Gould and myself running down to Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth for their Policing Through the Ages Show in conjunction with Hampshire Constabulary and our friends from PC-UK. Bit foggy going down, but that soon broke to be one of the sunniest days of the year. As you can see from the pictures, it was very busy all day. There were retired and current police vehicles all over the shopping centre. To the left of us was a World War II Police Station complete with officers in period uniform and to keep us entertained, a group in 1940's costumes danced to period tunes in front. Lunch was provided by Gunwharf Quays in one of the local restaurants. A super day was had by all. Recommended.



Robin Arnolds Funeral - 5th December 2011



**Rest in Peace  
Robin**





## Retired Police Motorcycle - BMW R80RT

**1982 BMW R80RT - Greater Manchester Police**

This BMW R80RT was one of 56 bikes purchased in September 1982 from Vehicle Developments in Andover by Greater Manchester Police. Six of these, ANB 615Y to 620Y were used for 'Advanced Rider Training' by the Driving School and the other 50 were liveried for use as traffic patrol bikes.

Unusually the driving school bikes were fitted with dual seats. The panniers were removed in the early stages of rider training so that the instructors could see what the rider was doing with their feet.

The R80RT was retired from service in 1991.





## Retired Police Motorcycle - LE Velocette



The LE was first introduced in 1948 and had a 149cc water cooled boxer engine with shaft drive. Early models had a hand gear change, changed later to a foot change. From 1951 it went into police service and the engine was increased to 192cc. It was favoured because of its quiet running and low maintenance. It was never sold in great quantity to the general public. The LE was nicknamed the 'Noddy' bike. One suggestion for this name was that officers had to salute a senior officer when riding past them therefore having to remove a hand from the controls. On one occasion, a Sergeant saluted, lost control of his motorcycle and fell off. Afterwards, it was suggested that officers should nod their heads instead, thus keeping proper control of the vehicle.

The pictures show a 1960 model that served with Kent Police.





## Events 2012

### 8th/9th April - Medway Festival of Transport

Kent Constabulary Museum, Chatham Dockyard, Kent.  
Contact 01634 823816 for booking forms.  
www.thedockyard.co.uk

### 22nd April - Ready to Ride

Haslemere Fire Station, West Street,  
Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2AP  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

### 29th April - London Bus Museum Open Day

Wisley Airfield, Surrey.  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

### 29th April - Surrey Police Open Day

Police HQ, Mount Browne,  
Sandy Lane, Guildford GU3 1HG  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

### 28th/29th April - International Classic Bike Show

Stafford County Showground, Staffordshire  
Contact Gerry Scott 0151 6301393  
e-mail: gerry.scott@btinternet.com

### 7th May - Brooklands Emergency Services 'May Day'

Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey.  
Contact Brooklands Museum Fire Service 01932 353189  
brooklandsfire@aol.com  
www.brooklandsmuseum.com

### 19th May - Southern Bike Show

Kempton Park Race Course, Surrey.  
Static bike show. We are having a stand again.  
Contact David Bragg 020 8393 4958

### 2nd June - Hampshire Constabulary Families Day

Police HQ, Netley, Hampshire. Static show.  
e-mail: steve@policecaruk.com  
www.policecaruk.com

### 3rd June - Festival of Transport

The Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations,  
Caistor, Lincolnshire  
Contact Alan Caine for further details  
01472 851674 e-mail: alncn@aol.com

### 16th/17th June - Derby Fire & Rescue Show

Markeaton Park, Derby. Contact the website for details.  
www.derbyfireshow.co.uk

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

Preston Hall Museum, Yarm Road, Stockton on Tees TS18 3RH  
Contact the museum 01642 527375  
www.stockton.gov.uk/events/fireenginevintagevehicles

### 1st July - Durham Police Bikewise

Police HQ, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TT  
Contact details www.bikewise.org.uk

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

Western lawns. Eastbourne, Sussex  
For entry details, please contact Bill.Pike@secamb.nhs.uk  
www.999display.co.uk

### 18th until 22nd July - War and Peace Show

The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6PY  
Contact the organisers 01304 813445  
www.warandpeaceshow.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

### 4th/5th August - Odiham Fire Show

Lodge Farm, North Warnborough, nr Odiham, Hampshire  
Contact the organisers for further details  
e-mail: wessexfireservices@fsmail.net  
www.odiham-fire-show.co.uk

### 5th August - Emergency Vehicles Day

Crich Tramway Village, Crich, Matlock,  
Derbyshire DE4 5DP  
Contact the organisers office 01773 854321  
e-mail: enquiry@tramway.co.uk

### 18th August - Capel Classic Vehicle Show

Capel Recreation Ground, Capel, Surrey RH5 5LD  
e-mail: andrewforsyth@talk21.com  
www.capelcarshow.com

### 18th/19th August - Emergency Services & Military Show

Bentley Wildfowl & Motor Museum,  
Halland, East Sussex BN8 5AF  
Phil Stevens, 44 West Beeches Road,  
Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2AG

### 15th/16th September - Blues & Twos Weekend

The Trolleybus Museum, Belton Road,  
Sandtoft, Doncaster DN8 5SX  
e-mail: trolleybusmuseum@sandtoft.org  
www.sandtoft.org.uk

### 6th October - Policing Through the Ages

Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3TZ  
Please note date is provisional  
Static show in conjunction with Hampshire Police and PC UK  
Contact Paul H 07767 651971  
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

### 20th/21st October - Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show

Stafford County Showground, Staffordshire.  
If you would like to exhibit your motorcycle, can  
you let us know. Contact Gerry Scott 0151 6301393  
e-mail: gerry.scott@btinternet.com

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

e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

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