

South East Moped Enthusiasts



November 2016 Newsletter

The Horseshoe Pub Warlingham last Wednesday of the month 8.pm.

The South East Moped Enthusiasts are a section of the EACC. www.autocycle.org.uk

News.

Welcome to the 29th and indeed the last South East newsletter that I shall be compiling. As you will read later on in this edition, we are moving on to an interesting and hopefully, to you, the readers, an exciting new future. More details of the changes further on in the newsletter.

You will note that this newsletter is issued a little later than usual, the reason being that I wanted to wait until the outcome of the EACC AGM which was held on 13th November following the Kneels Wheels Run.

It's been a busy couple of months since our last edition, so here is a quick rundown on what has been occurring.

We had perfect weather and a great turnout for The Edenbridge Motor Show. About 24 bikes on display. Our thanks to all those who attended.

Mike Follows has been holding a number of midweek runs which have all been reasonably attended. He has sent in numerous reports for you to peruse.

Please do remember if you are in possession of a dating certificate for your prized machine, get on and get the registration completed because the DVLA have taken to rejecting applications where the dating certificate is over a year old.



Steeple Morden Run at the American Fighter Group Memorial

I attended the Steeple Morden Run on my own and rode Sharon's Honda C90 all the way there and back! I did about 140 miles that day. A very pleasant run and met some nice guys. Well done David Osborn for organising.

You may remember a picture in the last Newsletter of my old mate Neil Catling's motor house under construction. Well it's now completed. What a splendid building it's turned out to be. Enough room for 5 cars, workshop area and space for many bikes. He has 7 at the moment.



Mr Catling's Motor House.

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Now the construction of the motor house is complete he has started the process of registering his Honda Dream 50. He is the proud owner of a dating certificate from Honda UK.

Ken Brown now qualifies for a free TV license so with the spare cash he had he's gone out and bought himself a brand new Mazda MX5!

Ken managed to unsieze the handlebar post that had rooted itself nearly solidly to the forks of Luke Booth's Vespa Ciao. So there is now no excuse not to get the Ciao back on the road, is there Luke?



Peter on his Vespa In France.

Peter Olbrich rode his 50cc Vespa to Valmont in France and entered the 4hr Valmont time trial around the closed street in the town. He won his class and was voted the most entertaining rider of the event. Well done Peter.

Maurice Smith took this picture of a weird looking Honda Motra whilst in Belgium. It does surprise me how many wacky small engine bikes Honda produce for its own home market. This one won't win any prizes for good looks in my book, but there again, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.



A bit of an ugly duckling I think, but what do I know.

Did you know that as from 20th November in France it is illegal to ride or be a passenger on any type of motorcycle, quad bike or anything else without wearing gloves. Failing to do so puts you at risk of a 68 euro fine. I wonder what will happen at the Velo Solex convention that is held at Cap d Agde in the south of France. It is a naturist town where at this meeting Solex riders often ride au naturel. Well I suppose as long as they are wearing gloves all will be ok!

We had a good reasonable turnout at Staplefield Green on 6th November. The weather was fine but very cold. Sharon and I rode there and back which was to say the least

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a numbing experience. There was a good attendance of classic cars, micro cars and bikes and loads of people watching the veteran cars pass by on their way to Brighton.

A lot has been going on in my shed lately, loads of projects etc. Read about it further on in the newsletter.

It's come to my notice that some runs held by the West Anglia Section of The EACC may not take place unless someone steps up to organize. Apparently it would not be too difficult a job as all these routes are already done, it just needs someone to book the village hall and organize the signing on etc. I do hope that these problems can be resolved, as the runs are great over very flat countryside, and good turnouts are always achieved.

The South East Moped Enthusiasts Christmas Dinner will be held at the Horseshoe Pub in Warlingham on 21st December. Please do register your interest and come and join us for this festive occasion. A menu will be sent to all those interested.

As this is the last newsletter there is a brief roundup and summary of what we have achieved in the last 3 years. Read on.

Late news: At the EACC AGM Sharon stepped forward and offered her services to be the clubs treasurer, which was duly accepted. I have to say I was very surprised as we had never even discussed anything like this before. I am sure however she will do a good job as she has a good head for figures. I must point out this is all Sharon's thing. I will be concentrating on my position of editor of the MAC only.

All Change For 2017.

As you may have read in the last newsletter I had been asked if I was willing to take over as editor of the EACC's MAC newsletter. Well following a good discussion with Andrew Pattle and a discussion at the AGM where an agreement was made that the MAC newsletter would become a bi-monthly issue, I shall become the editor from 2017, my first edition will be out on 1st February and every other month from then on. I will have to say now that I am quite looking forward to the challenge although with a little trepidation. I will do my utmost to make a success of this, but I can't do this alone. Please remember any publication is only as good as what the editor receives. I need your continued support so please send me your comments, pictures, articles or just about anything to do with our type of small engine bikes. However irrelevant you might think it is. It's always interesting to someone. So what is exactly happening? Well, as I have already stated, this newsletter will cease as from this edition. It will then morph itself into the MAC publication. This will then be sent out to approximately 656 members. It will be printed and posted to about two thirds of them, the rest of the members will receive it by email. All EACC members will get the MAC exclusively on a bi-monthly basis. It will not be made available on the clubs website until the next edition is due out. So in other words February's edition will only appear on the website when April's edition is due out and so on, I hope you understand all this. The format it takes is pretty much up to me, but you must understand I shall be pitching it's content out to a much larger and more widely spread audience than before, so it will be less localised.

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All the regular features will still be there, news, events calendar and of course "In the shed" I also want to start a letters section, for short comments etc. Also, I want to develop a classified advert section for members who want to sell their bikes and bits. There will be feature articles regarding restoration and bike build offs. The calendar section will only be advertising EACC events and major national shows, no other events by other clubs or organisations will be included in the calendar.

So if you want to be part of this new venture that I am taking on you will have to be an EACC member which is now £6 a year for postal or £3 for Email membership. For this you will receive the bi-monthly MAC newsletter, the use of the clubs great website and registration process and as well as that you will be part of the friendly comraderie that is the EACC.

If you are already an EACC member, (and many are) nothing much will change except you will get a more regular MAC newsletter.

For those of you, who have no wish to join the EACC, than as far as the newsletter is concerned it is now a parting of the ways. You will, of course, always be welcome to take part in any EACC organised event.

You can, if you wish, follow our local activities on Facebook.

Sorry if this is all a bit long winded but I had to get these points across.

Summery of the S.E.M.E Newsletter.

I just thought that I would do a brief summary of the 29 editions of the South East Newsletter.

The East surrey section was formed at the end

of 2013 and I thought it might be a good idea to issue a news sheet from time to time to keep our little band of followers interested in the winter months. What followed were very amateurish bits of A4. This over the months progressed and as I got more confident . more and more readers came along. Whilst I can rattle out stuff on the keyboard I wondered if people would enjoy my ramblings. Whilst I have had an interest in all things mechanical since I got my first bicycle, my main interest really took off with my acquisition of my first model aeroplane engine. Whilst I know a lot about cars and bikes, I certainly am no knowledgeable historian. Being an eleven plus failer and not an O or A level to my name let alone an ology, I felt at a literary disadvantage.

Anyway, to cut a long story short, the newsletters started to flow and you guys seemed to enjoy what I put together. Then came 2015 and with all the rubbish that SOC threw at us, that's me and Sharon and latterly Clive and Ann Fletcher. Through all this the newsletter carried on and the demand seemed to soar. I certainly don't want to rake up old news here as it's now well and truly in the past. I mistakenly thought peace could be achieved, this thought came to an abrupt halt after an acrimonious meeting back in April. Since then we have settled into a much happier existence as a section of the EACC with the newsletter in full flow and being posted onto the clubs website.

So we are at this point where it is the end of the newsletter in this form but it will live on under another title. I do hope that all of you who enjoy reading it will carry on doing so in its new format as much as I get satisfaction from putting it together.

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If anyone wants to read old copies of the newsletter let me know and I will mail them to you. Could become collectable one day !!!!

Run and Event Reports by Mike Follows.

My apologies for the lack of reasonable photos to go with these reports. MW

Mole Valley 'Run' 20th July 2016

Maurice Smith and I rode to the rendezvous point in Horley on a really hot day to meet up with Ken Brown, Ian Clover and Bob Elson. We were soon underway through Horley and out around the edge of Gatwick Airport and stopped at our pre-planned coffee stop in Charlwood.

We soon set off again through the surprisingly busy back roads to Capel and Clarkes Green and out onto the A24 dual carriageway for a short distance and through some lovely lanes to Ockley and our lunch stop at the Scarlett Arms P.H. in Walliswood. The landlady made us extremely welcome and we enjoyed a great lunch in the shade in the pub garden, all very relaxed and leisurely.

We set off again at a relaxed pace through Rowhook, Warnham, Rusper and back to Charlwood and stopped at the bakers for afternoon tea and cake!! Sitting in the garden of the cafe and listening to the planes taking off from Gatwick makes you wonder whether the people making the decisions about additional capacity at London's airports live in the same world as the rest of us!

A short ride and we were back to our starting point on the outskirts of Horley. A really pleasant day.

Runners and riders: -

Ken Brown – Yamaha Cygnus, Ian Clover – Tomos Flexer, Bob Elson – Tomos Classic, Mike Follows – Honda C50, Maurice Smith – Garelli Eureka

Pevensey Levels 'Run' 6th July 2016

Maurice Smith and I had decided that as the weather forecast was good we would ride from home (near Sevenoaks) across the wonderful Ashdown Forest. A beautiful day but not too hot. When we arrived at the meeting point in Lower Horsebridge (Hailsham) we were delighted to find nine riders, machines and one pillion rider enjoying the sun.

We set off through Hailsham and out onto the 'Levels', wonderfully quiet rural roads and fairly unusual for S.E.M.E. flat!

Soon we climbed up onto the Herstmonceux escarpment to our coffee stop at the garden centre near Windmill Hill. All very civilised. Peter's Solex (yet another¹) was performing really well. On our way again we followed the lanes to our lunch stop at Wessons Cafe at Horam. It seemed to have become quite 'seedy' and several people suggested that if we do this run again, we find a suitable pub instead. A steady ride down to the 'Levels' again and back to our start north of Hailsham.

A lovely day out in excellent company. Maurice and I even managed an ice cream on the top of the Ashdown Forest on the way home!

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Runners and Riders: -

Miranda Barton – Peugeot Django, Luke Booth – Vespa Ciao, Ken Brown – Yamaha Cygmus, Neil Catling – NSU Quickly, Ian Clover – Tomos Flexer, Bob Elson – Honda PX, Clive and Ann Fletcher – Piaggio MP3, Mike Follows – Honda CT110, Peter Jones – Velosolex, Chris Mercer – Tomos Classic, Maurice Smith – Yamaha 80.

Edenbridge Motor Show, Gabriel's Farm, Sunday 11th. September.

Sunday morning dawned fine and dry, We set up our display easily by the time that public were allowed on site.

This year we utilised Ken Brown's campervan as our 'base' and using the two new splendid 'club' banners S.E.M.E. riders provided a display of 25 varied machines of the type we ride (and or collect!). Each machine had a board giving a brief description and history. Martin W was interviewed on 'local' radio about our club, thanks to the good offices of Richard Evans. The programme included a 'potted' history of the EACC,

conditions. Our display provided plenty of interest and provoked many conversations. The show is organised by the local chamber of commerce, the entrance fee is kept low, a family ticket is only £5 and most of the money collected goes to the local air ambulance and other charities.

There is always plenty to see and do, with rides for the young and not so young, helicopter flights, an off road course, live music, and stalls representing local businesses. Thanks to everyone who provided machines and helped on the stand. All in all a good day out

The Royal 'run' Thursday 29th. September.

Despite a few contrary predictions about the expected day's weather ranging from heavy rain and high winds to light showers with a fair afternoon, eight riders and one passenger gathered at the Crowborough Goldsmith's Leisure Centre in a mizzle.

Unfortunately part of the first few miles planned had to be quickly rerouted after Helen and I discovered, during a last minute check, that they were closed for 4 weeks for repairs.



A great turnout of bikes at the Edenbridge Motor Show.

We collected a trophy for the best 'bike club stand'. Motor cycles were in a minority, some of the cars etc on display were fabulous, all shapes, sizes and



All aboard ready to set off on the Royal Run.

We set off at a steady pace along the A26 for a couple of miles, before diving off along the hilly back roads past Eridge station through the Broadwater Forest onto the outskirts of Royal Tunbridge Wells, around the back of the historic Pantiles, before

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heading south using some very minor roads to the west of Wadhurst through Tidebrook and Coggins Mill to our lunch stop at the Rose and Crown PH on the edge of the pretty village of Mayfield.

The weather had varied from light drizzle to plain rain, the roads were in fair condition, some of the hills pretty steep, often with no chance of a 'run up'. We were joined for lunch by Mike Beauchamp on his brand new Triumph Bonneville, collected that very morning from Central London.

After a very pleasant lunch and chat, we set off through the village and along the old toll road to Butchers Cross and Skippers Hill. The weather had improved by now with glimpses of the sun and blue sky.

At this point whilst traversing the A267 we inadvertently split into two groups. depleted we continued back to our starting point in Crowborough only to find the 'others' had got back before us! Luke had a few issues with whiskering plugs on the Coventy Eagle Autocycle and Maurice on the Townmate had a 'slow' front wheel puncture, but everybody got back to the start ok. I was particularly impressed with Peter Brown's 'moby', plenty of speed and torque for climbing hills. No pedalling required! First time out on one of our runs.

Runners and Riders :- Luke Booth - Coventy Eagle ; Neil Catling - New Hudson ; Ian Clover - Tomos ; Clive & Ann Fletcher - Honda C90 ; Mike Follows - Honda C50 ; Peter Jones - Mobylette ; Maurice Smith - Yamaha Townmate and Martin Wikner - Honda C90.

The 'East of Eden' run 27th. October.

Thursday dawned misty in the Eden Valley. Maurice Smith and I arrived at the Edenbridge Leisure Centre to find a few friends already gathering and unloading their bikes, Neil Catling, on his very original and patinated 'Quickly', rode over from Hartfield to join us. Formalities over, 8 riders and 1 passenger set off in rapidly improving weather around the by-pass and up the long drag of a hill past Hever to the top of the ridge at Markbeece,

then sharply downhill again past Cowden Station and left into the twisty and undulating Moat lane and along a myriad of small lanes into the village of Speldhurst. Mike managed to miss the correct sharp left turn, so we had to 'about turn' in a convenient drive and turn back up the road past the village Post Office to the top of the ridge at Bidborough. By now we were enjoying a glorious sunny Autumn day, with some stunning views across the valleys. We then rode downhill to our lunch stop at the 'Fleur De Lis' PH in Leigh (pronounced Lye!).



A chat about the bikes before lunch at Leigh.

A really nice pub, interesting lunch menu, great food, a welcoming landlord and great company, What more could you want? We set off eastwards along the Eden valley to Hildenborough before turning north again along the lanes through the hamlet of Underriver and up the steep hill before turning west once more through Fawke Wood along the edge of Knole Park to the top of River Hill, across the main Severnoaks / Tonbridge road before diving into the wooded undulating road through Goathurst Common, around the back of Ide Hill village behind NT Emmetts Garden to the top of Toy's Hill, before diving down the hill through Four Elms and back to our start at the Leisure Centre in Edenbridge. A grand day out.

Runners and riders :- Neil Catling - NSU Quickly ; Ian Clover - Tomos Flexer ; Bob Elson - Tomos Classic ; Clive & Ann Fletcher - Piaggio MP3 ; Mike Follows - Honda CT110 ; Peter Jones - Mobylette ;

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Maurice Smith - Yamaha Townmate and Martin
Wikner - Honda C90.

In The Shed.

Whats been going on in the shed? I hear you cry. Well loads, pretty much since the beginning of August I've been at it seemingly every day. Sharon's 1952 James Superlux is now finished, well over a year behind schedule. The bike is now running fine although it took a bit of an effort to get there. The assembly went well, but once running the snag list was endless. It's strange you can build up some bikes and off they go, no problem. With others, the problems go on and on. They were all relatively minor, but irritating all the same. I must confess I prefer riding a New Hudson to the James, you seem to sit so much lower down on the James.



The 1952 James Superlux now completed.

I bought an old ex Post Office bicycle for next to no money. Initially I was going to build this up into an everyday usage cyclemotor, but since then my mind has been diverted onto

alternative sources of power. So this bike will form the testbed for all my strange ideas. The frame is away for powder coating at the moment. More news on this in future months.



Honda CB50J's are quite rare in the UK.

I bought a lovely Honda CB50J for Sharon as a Christmas present, she knows about it. It's a very low mileage Japanese import bike that needs a lot of re-commissioning. It's a 1977 bike and thankfully it was never one that was produced to comply with the rather stupid British law of attaching some god awful pedals to it. Also, being a Japanese home market bike, it wasn't restricted either. I've got to get it ready by Christmas and there is a lot to do.

I also purchased a 1923 Villiers Mk6 C 147cc engine off some guy when I attended the Mike Hawthorn lunch with my mate Neil, he bought a lovely Mk2 Jaguar and I bought an old engine! It's real interesting, stripping down a very old engine.

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Note the extraordinary sized piston rings of this old Villiers engine.

Anyway this will be rebuilt and bench- run in stationary form, initially. Then when I finally get time, I want to build this engine into some sort of bike to resemble an original early 1920's flat tanker. This should be interesting.

At about Christmas time I will be taking delivery of an Excelsior Consort that's in quite a sad state, been in one ownership for the last 40 years. The rebuild of this bike will be a major feature in coming editions of the MAC newsletter. This will be a rebuild with a subtle difference. Not a route I've gone down before. More news and of course pictures of this in February.

Events Calendar.

All the South East Moped Enthusiasts events are in red, you will note that all club events are clearly marked showing which club is running the event. Please look at the EACC website for more runs and events, more are

added all the time. The abbreviation SOC means "Some other Club"

2016 Calendar.

13th November

EACC Kneels Wheels Run and the EACC AGM at Coddendam Village Hall Full refreshments available in the hall as well as the usual moped jumble Run starts at 11.00 am with the lunch stop at the Claydon Crown after lunch return to the hall for more moped jumble. The EACC AGM will be at 14.15pm for members only.

21st December

EACC South East Moped Enthusiasts Christmas Dinner at The Horseshoe a menu is now out Register your interest for this festive occasion with Martin or Sharon on 01883 626853 or 07774562085

27th December

ECP The Cold turkey Run starting from Framlingham contact Carl Squirrell on 01728 621096

2017.

8th January

The Mince Pie Run (34th of running) EACC biggest event Meet at the Orwell Yacht Club, Wherstead Road Ipswich IP2 8LR for tea coffee and mince pies. Run starts at 11.00am call David Evans on 01473 687820

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9th April

EACC South East Moped Enthusiasts North Downs Run. Meet at the Edenbridge Leisure Centre carpark Wellingtonia Way, Edenbridge TN8 5LU Run starts at 11.00 am enjoy 38 miles of the Kent and Surrey Countryside and a pleasant lunch stop at the Star Inn at Lingfield. For more details call Martin or Sharon on 01883 626853 or 07774562085

23rd April

EACC 13th Radar Run and Mopedjumble starts at Bromeswell village hall. A superb circuit around Bawdsey peninsula, with lots of historical interest. Jumble starts at 9.30am run sets off at 11.00am

7th May

EACC South East Moped Enthusiasts South Downs Run. Meet at the Civic Approach car park, High Street, Uckfield TN22 1AR starts at 11.00am enjoy 34 miles of Sussex countryside with a great lunch stop at 6 Bells biker friendly pub. For more details call Martin or Sharon on 01883 626853 or 07774562085

30th June -2nd July

The third EACC Camping Weekend in the Broadland village of Martham held in conjunction with Martham Carnival basic camping in pub grounds. Road runs taking in local attractions and the

Broadland scenery. Contact Dave Watson on 07843 210625

13th August

EACC North Hertfordshire Section the Periwinkle Run Cottered Village Hall SG9 9QL run starts at 11.00am the run stops for lunch at the Three Tuns PH. Contact Peter Smith on 07977 936123 for details.

20th August

EACC South East Moped Enthusiasts, The Bluebell Run. Meet at Horsted Keynes station car park Horsted Keynes Station, Station Approach, Horsted Keynes RH17 7BB enjoy 38 miles of Sussex countryside skirting the South downs with a lunch stop at The Sportsman PH at Goddards Green. for more details contact Martin or Sharon on 01883 626853 or 07774562085

14th September (Thursday)

The Steeple Morden Run starts and finishes at The Chequers public house in Queen Street, Stotfield, Bedfordshire SGT 4NX a 33 mile route through 3 counties. Departs at 11.00am and returns to the pub for lunch at about 1.30pm Contact David Osborn for details.