



# Newsletter

June 2018

Well the last newsletter left off in March – and the April meeting was looming large on the horizon. As the date approached it was clear that good weather was not going to grace Aberdeenshire with its presence – and so Crawford stepped up to the mark with an evenings entertainment.

His first presentation was a chat regarding how we should conduct ourselves when on our evening ride-outs. In the past people have got disconnected from the group, taken wrong turnings etc. etc. We were introduced to the Buddy system – details of which have already been sent out. It all made perfect sense – the leader goes at the pace of the slowest bike - keep an eye on your mirrors – stop if you can't see the person behind – help someone if they've stopped and you are the first to come across them – all common sense stuff that for some reason we seem unable to do !!!! (more on this later)

This took about ¾ of an hour – and was followed up by a fascinating talk on the Submarine Hunley – the first successful war time engagement by a submarine amazingly during the American Civil War. Can you imagine a tube with about 10 people inside – 8 of them hand cranking the propeller – the air must have been a little ripe !!!

**Many thanks to Crawford** for these brilliant talks.

Closely following this evening was the Large Lunch run to Deans cake shop at Huntly. There were about 8 of us who gathered at Oldmeldrum – all keen to put into practice what Crawford had explained to us just 5 days earlier. Michael turned up just as we were leaving. He had a slight problem in that he couldn't turn his engine off because his battery was not retaining its charge. I was the nominated last bike on the run so after a quick chat with Michael as he explained what his problem was. I knew there wouldn't be a problem catching up because we were riding to our newly learnt rules. If you can't see the guy behind in your mirrors, you stop and wait.

Alas – no one waited – so myself and Michael made our own way to Huntly – and actually got there before John and his entourage !!! hey ho – we'll keep trying I guess.

The May ride out was organised by Brian O – and started from his stamping ground near Torphins. The forecast looked ok ish and about 6 of us left Oldmeldrum about 6.30 for the trip to Torphins. This went without incident – no one got lost or separated so that was a plus !!!!

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**NEXT MEETING:**

**Ride Out Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July Oldmeldrum British Legion 19.30**

A further 3 or 4 bikes joined us at Torphins. As soon as we started off the rain started. Not too bad at first but it never really stopped. The route Brian had chosen was a real delight – it was good to use different roads from the ones we were used to centred around Oldmeldrum. After just over the hour we ended up at the GTM at Alford – in the dark. We all made our own ways carefully home.

**Thank you Brian** for this excellent evening.

THE following Sunday was the Cairn O'Mount run.

The weather forecast in the week leading up to it was OK – but as the day approached, it was not looking good. We were based this year at the Tor Na Coille Hotel just outside Banchory. As the bikes started to arrive leading up to the start time it became clear we were not going to get our normal attendance. By the time the checking in had been done we had about 35 bikes on the run (out of a paid up number of nearly 60). Once again the Aberdeenshire weather had played its part. There were virtually no onlookers – in the past years at the Feughside there have probably been about 60 or so bikes just turning up to have a look – but not this year. Anyway, despite this the run started off and by all accounts the weather slowly improved during the day. By the finish the sun had started to come out and those that went on the run thoroughly enjoyed the route. The “after run” refreshments provided by the hotel and included in the entry fee were excellent – as were the facilities they

provided. They weren't even phased by the 50 or so wet bikers strolling over their carpet !! I think we are all in agreement that we will be back there next year.

By popular agreement the June ride out on the first Tuesday had been substituted by the Whisky Galore run organised by Sandy.

WHISKY GALORE RIDE – **Thank you for this report Crawford**

Thankfully the weather was great all day so unusually everyone was warm and dry. Sandy had done a super job organising the event and working out the various stops, from the start at Rosehearty at 12 noon for lunch.

There was a group meeting point at Ellon earlier in the morning for the ride up plus several others made their own way. John Addison led the group from Ellon of about 10 bikes (less poor Nick whose bike decided it did not want to go north) and duly arrived in the square at Rosehearty with plenty time to spare – but nobody behind him. It seems that when he turned off on the Fraserburgh road, the rest of the group ignored him and stayed on the Peterhead road. Everyone did eventually arrive.

The hotel had given us a large table as there were about 20 people and a good lunch and chatter ensued.

The ride itself set off for the first stop at New Aberdour beach to see one of the locations where the film had been shot. Sandy was a mine of information, explaining where the old lorry had gone etc – turns out he was an extra on the

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film. We left for the second stop, except Sandy with wife on pillion for the first time in many years got a rear wheel puncture. As we all waited to see how he could be helped – the flock of sheep came down the road – do not ask, you needed to be there to understand.

Sandy got a nearby house to let him leave the bike for collection later while he and his wife got in to one of the following cars (Thank you Barry) which now became lead vehicle that we all followed.

There were then a number of other stops (Tarlair open air pool, Pennan, Crovie) until we finished at Portsoy harbour where much of the film had been set.

To finish, Sandy had arranged for us to go to the Salmon Bothy, a community facility in Portsoy where we got tea and biccies then sat down to watch the full film and see how many locations we could recognise – and whether we could spot the big lad in the background (Sandy is a big lad).

**Obvious thanks to Sandy** for a lot of organising and a really enjoyable day enjoyed by a good number of members.

Crawford

Editors Note:

I have some pictures of the events in this newsletter which I will endeavour to put on the web site this coming week

Ride Safe

Nick

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