

VMCC – North Birmingham Section New Year's Day 2015

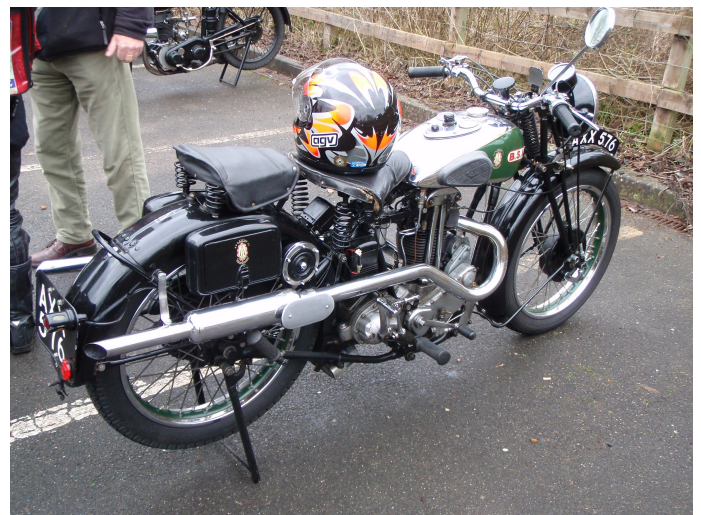
After a cold snap between Christmas and New Year with overnight frosts and ice, it warmed up on New Year's Eve and was positively balmy (or perhaps barmy) on New Year's Day morning. It was grey but, importantly, dry, and stayed that way until we had all got home (I hope), and then it poured down. So, a lucky start to the year, and we had a good turn-out at The Round Oak, Wombourne. In due course 14 riders signed on for the short social run, with a greater number coming along just to socialise, and there's nothing wrong with that!

The morning's excitement was provided by Trevor Bull who, on his way to the venue on the 1940 Triumph Tiger 100, hit a speed bump at greater speed than he would have chosen had he noticed it in time to slow down.

Fortunately Trevor wasn't dislodged but his girder fork spring was, and he arrived in the carpark needing to put it back in situ. This was achieved with assistance from Martyn Round and Alex Williams (right), involving some spanner work and levering while the front of the machine was held aloft on a pile of paving stone pieces.



It was good to see Jonathan Clarke out with us again on his 1958 BSA A10 (below left), he having been a bit scarce during 2014 because the bike had needed plenty of work doing. A misfire had entailed lots of expensive work to the cylinder head and so on, before finally being traced to a faulty and wrong cam ring in the allegedly rebuilt magneto. Hey-ho, but at least the top end will be sound now. We were also joined by Ray Salisbury, who brought a lovely 1934 BSA Blue Star 350 (below right).



In due course those who were riding set off to navigate the 23 mile route, which took them down to Kinver then up to Kinver Edge and along, eventually to Wolverley. There we turned left and made our way back along the other side of the Edge before turning right into Church Lane and dropping down into Kinver. Then we had a brief dalliance with the A roads around The Stewpony, before turning off along Greensforge Lane and back to Wombourne. From Wombourne centre we went along Giggetty Lane, turned left over the canal bridge, crossed the small ford and back to the Round Oak. Just far enough for a New Year trundle. There was still a friendly gathering in the car park and it was lunchtime, so those who wanted it migrated inside the pub for a warm, a drink and some food. A good start to the year, roll on April!

David Spencer



Left: Mike Garbutt with his 1926 Royal Enfield 350. Right: All are welcome – foreground Neil Allman's 1925 New Imperial; beyond that Eric Greenfield's 1972 Triumph Daytona; and beyond that a visitor's c.1980 Ducati Mike Hailwood Replica.

