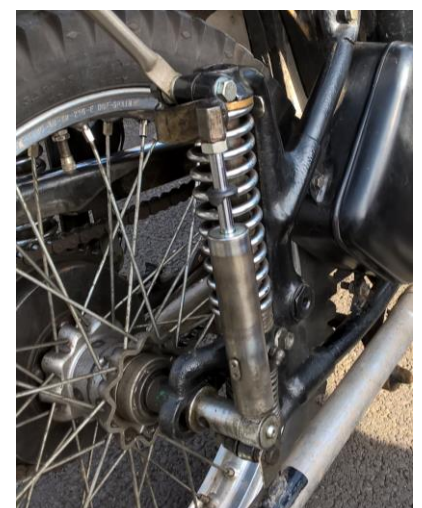


## Pauls North Birmingham 'Saints' Run – 25<sup>th</sup> March

This is the third year I have organized a Saturday run for the section, it was suggested to me by David, our Section Secretary, that it would be nice to have a run geographically north of Birmingham. This presented me with a challenge, as I do not know the area North and East of Birmingham very well. Time to get the Ordnance Survey maps out. The first task was to decide where to end the run, and then somewhere for refreshments. The internet came in useful for this task, and a couple of options needed to be checked out. Time to treat Mrs Raybould out for some food, we headed for The Sidings cafe at Chasewater. After sampling the bacon sandwiches and mugs of tea, we then asked the staff if we could finish the run here. The starting point was to be Louise Street Garage (my business premises), tea and coffee could be provided, and it had a forecourt where plenty of bikes could be parked.



Time to sit down, and study the maps, an arc was looked at, then detailed notes made and pondered over. It then came time to go and drive the route. The route was to head from the garage to Highgate common, then past Halfpenny Green Airport and then into Claverley. From here we followed the road to Worfield, taking a little detour through the village, on to Badger then Ryton, and then on to the village of Tong.



Above from Left: Bernie Cerrino and his plunger BSA A10, Bill Raybould's plunger A10, and one of the possibly unique shock absorbers fitted to Bill's machine.

On crossing the A5 we made our way through Wheaton Aston and on to Penkridge. I was now in unfamiliar territory, a route across Cannock Chase was then chosen to take us to Hednesford; then came a problem for me, how to get to our finish point, and to keep the mileage to fifty miles. I decided to draw a straight line to the finish through a built up area, unfortunately it did include traffic lights, islands and traffic. We then arrived at the A5 turning left, then left again into Chasewater and onto the Sidings cafe. I had to drive the route twice, due to the traffic and complexity of the roads from Hednesford to the cafe; this did not give me time to ask anyone to proof ride the route.

The day came and again my prayers were answered, we had a beautiful day with sunshine, and for the time of year mild temperature. In the end we had 25 riders sign on for the run. BSA's were out in force with six in attendance, followed by five Honda's, four Triumphs, two Velocette's and Ariel's, then one of each BMW, Moto Guzzi, Moto Morini, Norton, and Royal Enfield. It was nice to see Eric Loffman and Kevin Jones on their DMW (right) and BMW



to see us off. After fuelled up with tea and coffee courtesy of Annette my wife, we were off.



Well most of us were. Alan Bromwich on his recently acquired Moto Guzzi V50 (left) had a long struggle churning the engine over on the starter motor before realising that the handlebar kill switch was still set to Off. Well at least he now know that the switch works!

As I had themed my two previous runs, i.e. Two and four bridges, I decided I would call this the North Birmingham Saints Run, which

involved visiting six Churches named after Saint's. The run went well with one or two people getting lost or taking wrong turns, but it was all worth it when we arrived at our destination and sat down for food.

I do hope everyone enjoyed the day, and would like to thank all who attended and helped to make the day a success, Thank you.

Paul Raybould



Clockwise from above: Outside Badger Church; Bill Raybould; Ron, Dave and Eric recreating a scene from Robocop in Shropshire; and Bernie Cerrino somewhere up a lane. Late March really doesn't get much better than this.

