

## Winter Wander - 5<sup>th</sup> November

### Southern Start

Once again Martyn Round chose to start from the Fig and Favour café as the Little Chef at Hagley is now known since it went upmarket to draw in smart locals for tiffin and nibbles. Martyn, on his Post Vintage Ariel, was joined by Jonathan Jinks (M20 BSA), Ian and Lesley Goodhall (Norton ES2), Peter Gray (Triumph twin), Mike Cutler (Moto Guzzi), Roger Slater on Bill Danks' Honda CX 500 and last and in some ways least, Bill Danks on the mighty Honda Camino moped.

There would have been an eighth starter in the form of Jim Plant, who set out to ride over from Solihull on his Velocette Venom. Sadly Jim didn't make it, and I can't describe it better than Jim did when he emailed me later: "My journey to Hagley was frustrated by a very greasy roundabout at the end of Clapgate Lane by the fire station where I took a tumble caused by diesel on the road, no doubt left by Birmingham's wonderful omnibus service. I'd managed to avoid the endless spillages up till then but a momentary lapse in concentration whilst I contemplated a diversion around road works right on the island was my undoing. Bent gear lever and footrest plus a squashed headlamp rim & mirror, but no damage to me except dented pride. Even had time to yell 'oh shit' at the top of my voice on the way to terra firma. Life's a bugger at times." By Tuesday afternoon the aches and pains had made themselves known.

The rest of them made their way to Tony's via the Lenchford for coffee, or would have done if they hadn't been told there would be a half hour wait for it. Peter Gray didn't get far though, having temporarily lost sparks he retired and went home while he could.

### Northern Start

In spite of a mixed weather forecast gathering at a new starting point at The Bradford Arms, Ivetsey Bank on the A5 seemed popular with 11 choosing to start from north for our last organised ride of 2017. It could have been 12 as we learned later that Keith Little's Ariel had



been reluctant to come out into the rain, however after a good talking it had eventually started but the late departure meant they arrived after we all had left.

Bill Harley, on a Triumph of course, led the way from the Bradford Arms on a route through the lanes of South Staffordshire into Shropshire. Autumn colours yes, but with precipitation persisting and plenty of lying water and mud to keeping your mind on the job there were no clear countryside views to enjoy until we crested the recently resurfaced Beacon Hill and could see across the vista of the Severn Valley.

Tony's as ever was very welcoming; plenty of hot drinks, and Cottage Pie seemed to be the main lunch choice of the day.

The 45 mile route was, apart from the odd slide, completed incident free by 3 Triumphs carrying Pat & Brian Empsall, Bill Harley and Ray Heap. 2 BSA's, Ron Higgins A10 and Maurice Hardy on the oldest machine of the day, his super 1933 250. Stuart Munroe represented Norton on his sedate ES2. David Gaffyne rode his Honda PCX, nice to have dry feet. Rod Todd's excellent CZ 471 was the only 2 stroke. Brian Jones on the Morini Kanguro, how can a four stroke v twin run so quietly? It was also good to see Trevor Shakespeare on his much travelled Velo MSS. Our 1984 Triking brought up the rear but perhaps we should have fitted the hood!

Paul & Chris Harris

