

## Bill's Blossom Run May - 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Forty years ago our loyal member of the North Birmingham Section Peter Ashen organised the section's annual Blossom Run. Traditionally this started from Noel Clark's garage at Bluntington, went through the Bulmer's apple orchards of Ockeridge and onto a coffee stop and mooch around the workshop of Lieutenant Colonel John Greenwood of Tedstone Wafer. Now despite his title John was a real gentleman, a great friend of our Chairman's father, John Round, and an avid collector and rider of vintage motorcycles. After a leisurely lunch at The Green Dragon at Bishops Frome we usually 'motored' on for an afternoon tea with Brian and Liz Clutterbuck at their cottage near Bosbury. Their cottage was originally owned by Clisset the world famous Herefordshire chairmaker. Brian was an early North Birmingham member, with a passion for Morgan three-wheelers, who eventually rose to the giddy heights of Chairman and President of The Morgan three-wheeler club. Sadly, most of these guys are no longer with us but happily their memory lingers on.

Fast forwarding forty years and a senior member of our section, one Ian Harris, proposed a reintroduction of this event with the criteria that the route where possible should follow the original. Now it just so happens that I am possibly the most southern member of the North Birmingham Section and just may have retained one of the original route sheets from 40 years ago and so the project dropped onto my doorstep.

It wasn't without its problems. Firstly blossom is a 'fickle thing' so timing was everything. I consulted a local expert on apple trees, who had 70 varieties in his orchard, who stated that his trees blossom anytime between late March and early May!!! So after such broad advice, Section Secretary David Spencer and I 'booked' the 17<sup>th</sup> of April with an alternative on 24<sup>th</sup>. I spent many hours whizzing around the route checking out the condition of said trees along the route and at one stage I contemplated a re-name to Bill's Hunt The Blossom Run. Fortunately for all concerned I'm pleased to report the trees 'did the biz' with a good showing of blossom on the day.



Our start venue was Tony's Diner Quatford and the 'Italian Jobs', Moto-Guzzis of Messrs. Parkes and Cutler, and the Moto-Morinis of Messrs. Trinder and Fisher were the first to

arrive closely followed by Ron Higgins on 'Black Beauty' his splendid BSA A10. Paul and Chris Harris were due to arrive in their Guzzi powered Triking three-wheeler but it suffered a fit of the sulks and Paul arrived solo on his Honda 500 XBR.

In the 'pairs' department we had the BMW's pair of Ian and Lesley Goodhall and Keith Little and the Norton Dominator of Tony and Chris Shaw and the Norton big-single combination



of Worcester Section member David Malcolmson (left), however we were all 'up staged' by the arrival of six immaculate Triumph Twins owned by Julian Edwards, Rob Todd, Bill Harley, Peter Gray, Neil Howells and Brian and Pat Empsall. Edward Turner they

done you proud! The main perpetrators of this 'stunt', Ian Harris and David Spencer were significant by their absence!!! (*I was on Grandad duty Bill, a distraction you are very familiar with! Ed.*) So off we motored, up the Bridgnorth by-pass to pick up the back road through Kinlet (*I heard you all going by, while I was at Rays Farm looking at the sheep and goats, Bah! Or should that be Baa? Ed.*), continuing almost to Cleobury Mortimer before heading for Clows Top, Pensax Church and onto Stockton on Teme to join the Bromyard road. By now we were into South Worcester and Herefordshire, the heart on Blossom Country. At Bromyard we headed south under the shadow of The Malvern Hills towards Hereford and Ledbury. We motored through Bishops Frome and started our return leg through Bosbury. It was here that David Malcolmson and his Norton combination decided to divert from the designated route and take to the hedgerow! (*A mishap on a left hander, David being without his usual passenger. Sidecarists will understand the situation...*) With no real damage done, except to David's pride, and with recovery on the way we continued on through Suckley, Alfrick, Lulsley, up Ankerdine Hill to Martley, along The Teme Valley to Shelsley Beauchamp through the orchards of Ockeridge and onto Wichenford for our lunch stop at The Masons Arms.

After our leisurely lunch we headed back into Martley, through Great Witley, Dunley to a well-deserved ice-cream stop in Bewdley and our final run back to Tony's Diner, a total of 99 miles with lots of sunshine and loads of blossom.

Ladies and gentlemen I thank you for your company and sincerely hope you enjoyed our day out. See you on the next one. Bill Danks