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TRAIL

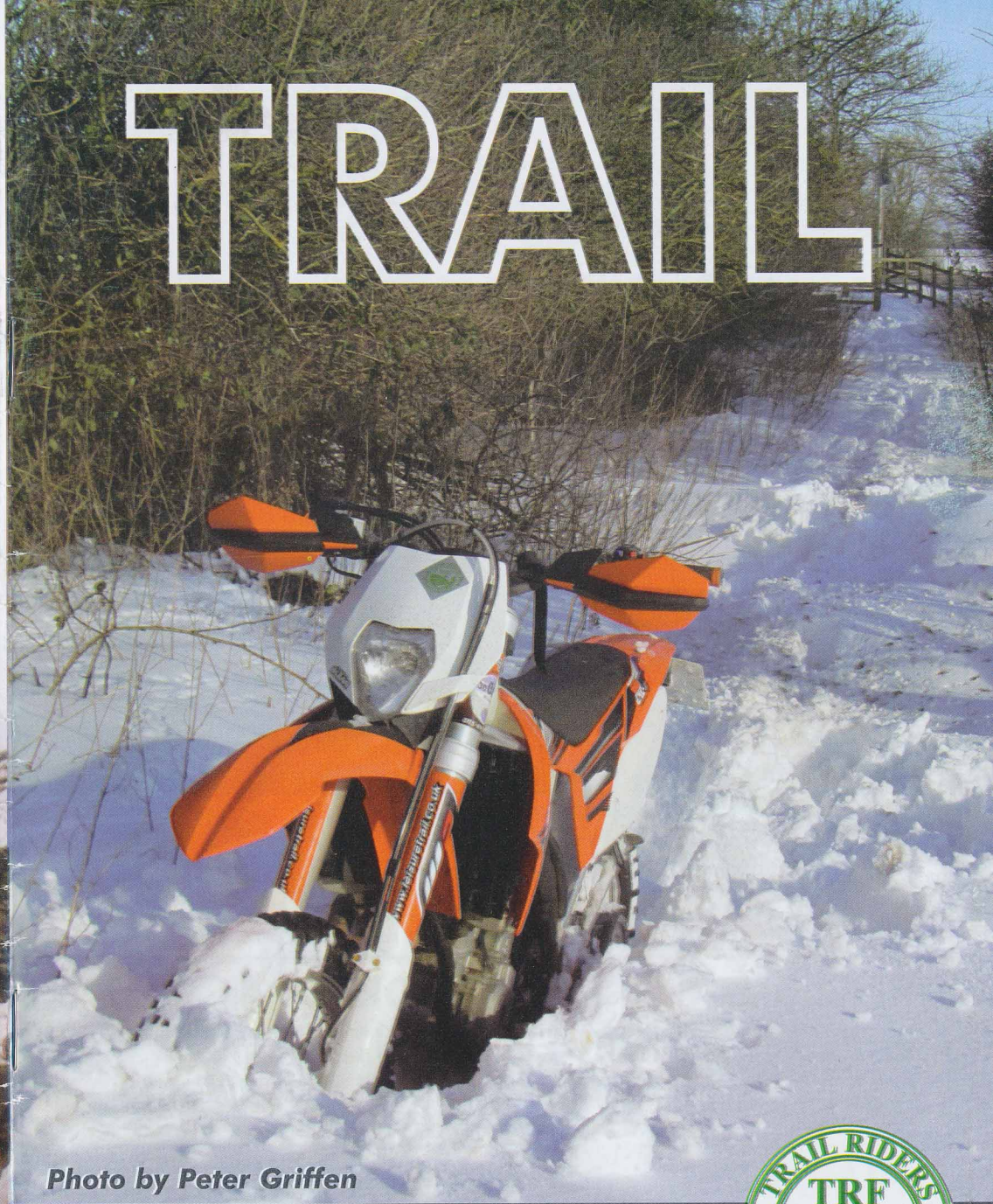


Photo by Peter Griffen

The magazine of the TRF, the National Club for all who wish to ride Legal Motorcycles on Legal Carriageways

FEBRUARY 2013 No. 414 EDITOR: FRED ELLISON



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EDITOR

Welcome to the penultimate printed copy of TRAIL. This is for reasons you will find outlined by Mike Irving, the TRF's Director of Communications, on page 2. However this is not the end of the magazine. TRAIL will continue to be published in digital format.

I am looking forward to the opportunities offered by the new format. However, your support for the new venture is crucial so please continue to submit your reports, reviews and views.

Thanks in anticipation,

Fred Ellison

Editor

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WANTED:

RUN REPORTS
RIGHTS OF WAY • NOTICES
BIKE & RIDING GEAR REVIEWS
COVER PHOTOS
YOUR VIEWS ON TRAIL RIDING RELATED TOPICS
or anything you feel would be interesting

COVER PHOTO:

Photo by Peter Griffen

COPY DEADLINE:
1st Tuesday of the Month

All contributions to THE EDITOR
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TRAIL

For some years now TRAIL has been in the spotlight, mainly because of its production costs in relationship to our total income. TRAIL is part of the fabric of the TRF and most members look forward to reading it each month. It is edited and produced by Fred Ellison, largely alone and rarely with help. Even contributions from members cannot always be relied upon but every month an edition comes out. Thank you Fred for all that you do and have done for the organization which is not restricted just to TRAIL and long may you continue.

A lot of discussions have been had at meetings about the cost and whether TRAIL should be stopped, converted to PDF, farmed out to someone cheaper or membership fees increased to cover it. At the last AGM I agreed to look into TRAIL and see if I could sort something out.

With effect from April 2013 TRAIL will be distributed in a similar format as a PDF only direct to the membership and via the website. This will save the TRF approximately 60 to 70% of its total cost and the money saved will go to the fighting fund. Approximately £16000 in this financial year to August.

February and March editions will be as they are now so this will give those who are unable to receive Trail two months to notify Fred or I so we can make alternative arrangements. TRAIL will be an Agenda item at the next AGM so the board's decision can be ratified. At that meeting it is hoped that we will be able to present to you a new version of TRAIL that is Glossy and interesting and most importantly self-supporting through advertising and sponsorship.

Not all the corners are yet covered but if you would like to ask any questions you can do so by contacting me through email, by writing to the editor or posting on the National Forum.

Thank you

Mike Irving

Communications Director TRF
communications@trf.org.uk

NOTICE BOARD

SOUTH LONDON & SURREY TRF

New Time & Venue:

8.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m., 4th Tuesday of each month,
Ripley British Legion, 25 Rose Lane, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6NE.

GATESGARTH & LONGSLEDDALE

Repair work is underway on Garburn Pass and Longsleddale Pass. No Gatesgarth permits are being issued for February and March, but should be available for the next date, April 5th. To allow the repairs to bed in, The Lake District National Park Authority have requested voluntary restraint on Longsleddale Pass for February and March. Cumbria TRF Group have erected LARA notices, so please do not use the route.

Steve Pighills

LANCASHIRE GROUP

New Venue:

Farmer's Arms, Bispham, Parbold.

REGIONAL ROW ADVISERS

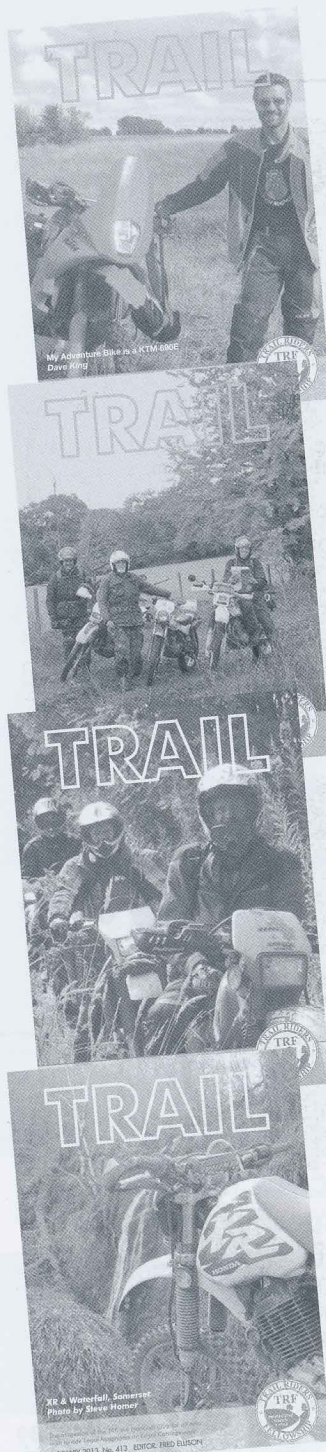
Interested in being a Regional RoW Adviser? I am happy to talk to anyone who wishes to help out on a regional basis to support and help our next generation of ROW officers.

Robin Hickin, row@trf.org.uk

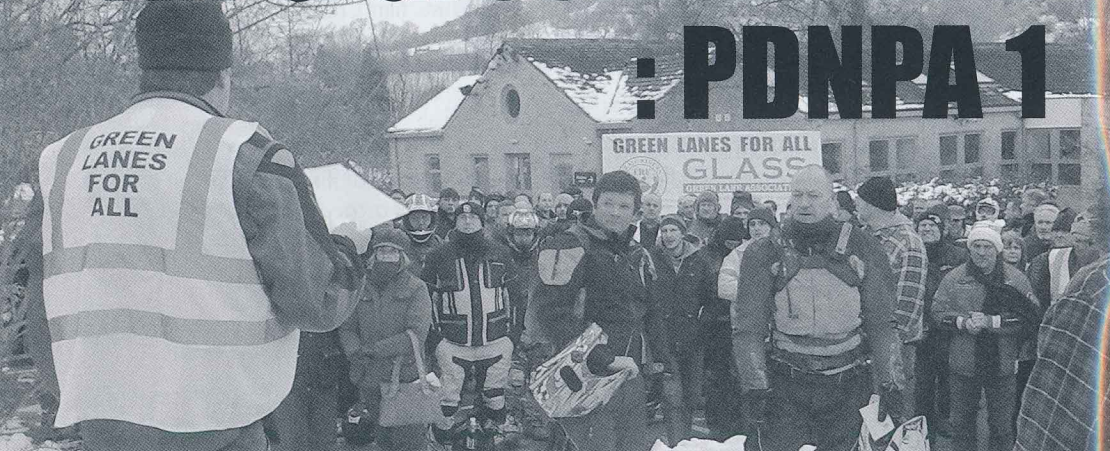
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Jack Knight is now the keeper of all leaflets and membership forms, please contact him should you require any.

Jack Knight, marketing@trf.org.uk, 07791 730294.



TRF & Greenlaners 3 : PDNPA 1



This was how I presented the "Score" to the members of the TRF and the Green Lane user groups prior to the ARP Meeting on January 25th in my appeal to you all to descend on the Park Offices to register your protest as to the way we are being banished from the lanes of the Peak District. So much so that Mr. Christopher Pennell, the Chairman of the Audit, Resource and Performance Committee took to his keyboard and fired off an "Outraged from Bakewell" email to me.

Dear Mike,
...Also the scorecard below hardly reflects the reality of our decisions in the Authority..., not because we were frightened of you being at Aldern House. ...You make an unworthy point about not trusting us enough to be confident that we won't slip in a TRO item on the 25th. Such chicanery is not in my nature and, in any case... Hardly CHECKMATE - it's not an adversarial game we (and I mean the Authority) are playing: we are making balanced decisions on evidence presented to us by all interested parties with our statutory purposes as our principal guide.

As I have said before, we are listening to all interests, including yours. I hope we can do it in a civilised way.

Regards, Christopher.

Naturally I couldn't let him have the last words

on the matter so I replied:

Dear Christopher,
You are completely correct and I accept that my language is calculated to inflame. Unfortunately, due to the generally very peaceful and law abiding nature of the majority of TRF riders and PDVUG members, it is extremely hard to motivate them to turn up, particularly on a working day, to demonstrate against the measures that you seem intent on pushing through in the Peak Park. A certain amount of hyperbole is, I hope, understandable and unavoidable.

I am pleased that you don't see it as an adversarial game but you must accept that that is very much the way it is bound to be seen given the amount of time and money that the Peak Park Authority is prepared to devote to preventing trail riders from using the very few routes that are open to them.

The whole purpose of the demonstrations is purely to persuade the Authority to listen to our concerns. We have repeatedly asked to be involved in discussions and have said that we are prepared to accept some compromises but the feeling is that the Authority is only playing lip service to this idea. Balanced decisions based on access to the Park to all users would be most welcome instead of, what currently appears to be, the overriding concern for the

wishes of a few Park residents.

We will be coming to your offices on Friday to show you the depth of our feelings. I will be looking to hand you a letter calling once again for you and your colleagues to sit down and discuss a management strategy lane by lane that is inclusive for all users. I will be there at 8.00am and I am prepared to sit with you before your meeting and agree a series of liaison meetings, which will ultimately lead to a satisfactory solution for everyone. You and I can stop this nonsense in one stroke and set precedence for all Peak Park ROW issues in the future that does not cost the authority thousands of pounds in money and time. I appreciate you have other parties to consider...they will have to be involved too and we are prepared for it. All we have to do is work together."

As you will know from Richard Simpson's article in last month's TRAIL, the PDNPA still want to bar us from using Chapel Gate and the proceedings started at a meeting of the ARP Committee on 25th January and we decided to protest. Well we have begun to get the hang of this protesting lark and it was clear a good number of us were going to be at the meeting so they decided to move to a bigger venue, so we changed our plans to suit. They then "realized" that they weren't ready so they took Chapel Gate off the menu, so we said we're still coming and by golly we did.

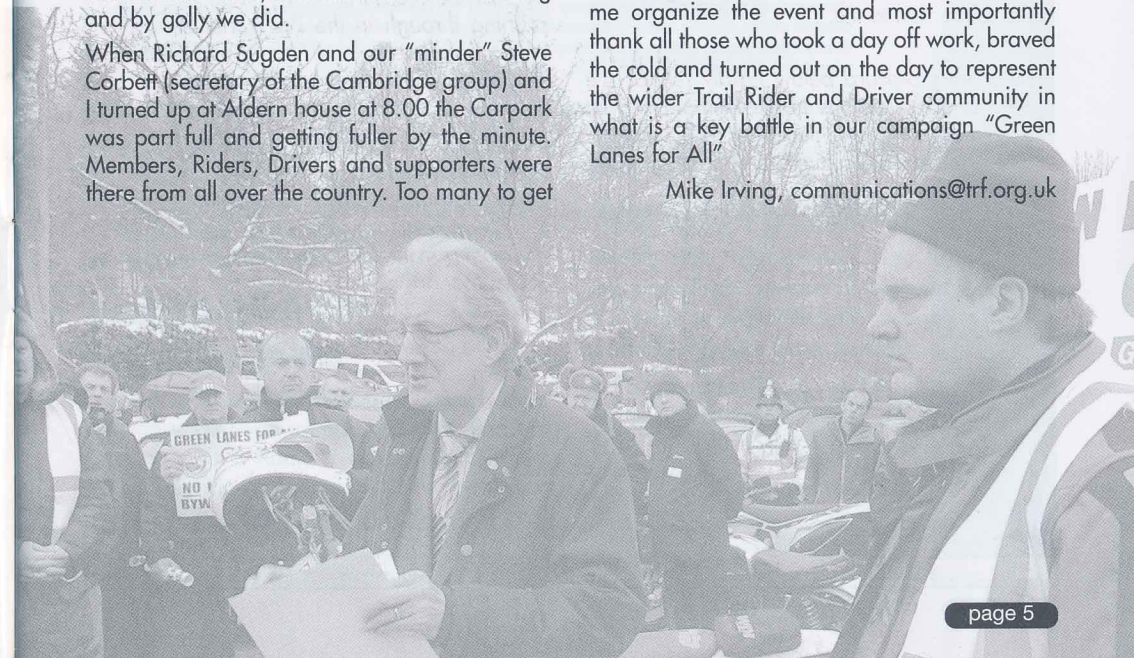
When Richard Sugden and our "minder" Steve Corbett (secretary of the Cambridge group) and I turned up at Aldern house at 8.00 the Carpark was part full and getting fuller by the minute. Members, Riders, Drivers and supporters were there from all over the country. Too many to get

a head count but I would say more than 200 with their bikes and 4 x 4's. Banners and stickers. A big Advertising Trailer arranged by GLASS. BBC film Crew. Reporters from all the local papers. Even the Publicity people from the Park Authority. We all gathered together did a bit of shouting and generally made our presence felt. The Authority's Chief Executive, Jim Dixon was out with his "minder" talking to us and asking what the problem is as they are only looking at a couple of lanes and there are 100's of miles of Tarmac roads we could use.

At 9.30 I was filmed handing our letter of protest over to Chris Pennell and said a short piece about how we are being short changed and sold up the river and he did a longer reply about how the Authority had to do the right thing for everyone and that they really were listening to us and every consideration would be given to our presentations. Naomi Cornwell from the BBC interviewed Jim Dixon and myself and a couple of others and I then arranged for her and the cameraman to have a short ride up Chapel Gate, in a Landrover with an escort of 4 x 4's and a few Bikes. Regrettably this got out of hand because more than that turned up at Chapel Gate but the resulting film when shown on Telly that night was excellent.

I would just like to thank everyone that helped me organize the event and most importantly thank all those who took a day off work, braved the cold and turned out on the day to represent the wider Trail Rider and Driver community in what is a key battle in our campaign "Green Lanes for All"

Mike Irving, communications@trf.org.uk





TRAIL RIDERS FELLOWSHIP

Mr. Christopher Pennell,
Chairman,
Audit, Resource & Performance Committee,
Peak District National Park Authority,
Aldern House,
Baslow Road, Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1AE

Dear Mr Pennell,

Ref:- The Peak District Green Lanes and the continued Use by Recreational MPV's.

For several months now the Trail Riders Fellowship and the Peaks & Derbyshire Vehicle User Group have been lobbying your committee for open discussions on the future management of the remaining Peak Park Green Lanes with vehicular access. Thus far you have ignored us.

From the beginning you have insisted that you are listening to us by involving us in consultation as laid out in the statutory procedures and by following all the guidelines but in reality we are not seeing any compromise in your drive to remove motor vehicles (MPV's) from the major Green Lanes. You constantly remind us that fair and proper weight is being given to our suggestions, that we are only talking about 27 vehicular routes out of the limited number of lanes remaining to use. You know full well the total availability of those lanes only represent 1.5% of the Peak trails that are available to other users.

It appears to us that you are following and using the law to ensure that you are beyond reproach and in doing so riding roughshod over a small minority group to achieve your aims, even when your own officers suggest compromise you direct the committee to the contrary. It still appears to us that your mind is made up or if not, you are following a path laid by a others and in doing so you avoided the opportunity to employ the spirit of the law which give equal and fair rights to all citizens of this country without discrimination against minorities just because they do not 'Fit in'. In any other aspect of The British Way of life, what is happening in the Peak Park would not be tolerated and considered unthinkable.

Today, with "Greenlaners" from all over the country assembled in your car park we are looking to get from you reassurance that all future plans have been modified to include us not exclude us. On behalf of People Assembled outside I implore you to stop, take stock and to look for an alternative Strategy for the lanes that includes use by MPV's.

Once again we offer you on a plate compromise and conciliation, a genuine desire to help make the Peak Park a World Class place for its residents, the peoples of Great Britain and a National Park over all other National Parks with diversity, vibrancy and inspiration. A Place we can all be proud off.

Yours Sincerely,

Mike Irving
Communications Director
Trail Riders fellowship.

TRF, Marchiff, Bakers Hill, Exeter, EX2 9TE. Website <http://www.trf.org.uk>

Registered Office: 2 London Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7PA.
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ROW UPDATE

Dorset Map Scales

This case is scheduled in the Court of Appeal on 23/24 April. Thanks to Dave Tilbury and Alan Kind for their ongoing support in this case. If you are interested in how the court works you are welcome to attend the court hearing in April.

Peak District National Park

Chapelgate is ongoing. For those of you who may not be aware PDNPA are now consulting on the management option for Chapelgate. The response has been large but the report due to be put before the AR&P committee on the 25th Jan, has now been postponed to 22nd of March.

The proposed PTRO's on The Roych and Long Causeway have attracted a large response from both supporters and objectors. We are told 4,500 responses were received which has meant that the decision on this has also been put back to the meeting on the 22nd of March.

In the meantime Derbyshire CC have imposed a temporary TRO on Chapelgate pending further repairs to the route. You win only to lose out once again.

Finally thanks to all those of you who turned up on the 25th Jan to protest against the restriction being proposed by the Peak District National Park supporting the joint actions of vehicular users in PDNP

Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders

Solihull MBC, West Midlands, Wood Lane, Barston, ETRO was removed on the 22nd of December as a result of communication with Westmidlands TRF Group, and informing Solihull MBC of the victory in the Peak Park over Chapelgate.

This shows that these ETRO's imposed by

authorities can be defeated with a little effort and without the need to resort to legal action.

Devon TRF Bouchland PTRO

We now have a court date. Devon TRF are confident however that we will win this case when we get to Court, now scheduled for 26th June this year.

Powys Section PTRO

Breaking news Powys CC have now proposed Permanent Traffic Regulation orders on the two Byways in this case consultation ended 23rd November. Reports were prepared and were issued to the Radnor Committee on the 19th December however the decision was deferred to the next meeting of the committee while some outstanding issues were resolved. In the meantime Powys CC have placed a new TTRO on the two byways to pre-empt any use over the winter months.

NEW ISSUES

Oakridge Lane

Yet another case proceeding to the High Court as a result of a challenge by the TRF. We are expecting this to be scheduled for court soon.

Regional ROW Advisers

Finally, for information, the appeal for Regional ROW advisers in December's issue of Trail was unsuccessful as I received a limited number of replies from members.

If you are interested I will be happy to talk to anyone who wishes to help out on a regional basis to support and help our next generation of ROW officers.

Any feedback on any of these issues please send to me at row@trf.org.uk

Robin Hickin

REGIONAL ROW ADVISERS

More Volunteers Wanted

To ensure that the ROW work carried out by the TRF is performed to the highest possible standard both now and in the future we are looking for individuals to assist local groups with their tasks in ensuring members access to legal routes is not restricted.

Wanted Further Regional ROW Advisers

Do you have an understanding of the following	Y/N
The Definitive Map and Statement	Y
The List of Streets	Y
DMMO application process, requirements of WCA 1981	Y
Public Inquiry process resulting from DMMO applications	Y
Traffic Regulation Orders and the requirements for their introduction	Y
How to influence local authority decision making	Y
Can you be a Regional Rights of Way Adviser	Y

If you can tick most of these boxes then you're the person I want to help move the TRF's ROW work forward in the future.

I am looking for further volunteers as Regional Rights of Way Advisers who are prepared to act as a contact for local groups in your area/region to provide additional support to group ROW officers where and when they encounter issues needing assistance. Often some local knowledge is required to be able to provide the best advice to local members or groups. Unfortunately I do not have that intimate local knowledge for the whole of the UK.

As a Regional Rights of Way Adviser you will be reimbursed for any and all out of pocket expenses that you might incur and will also

receive payment for your time involved in advising others if so required.

The TRF is committed to ensuring that as a Regional ROW Adviser you will get up to date training to support the needs of members in your region. You will be provided with whatever training needed to ensure that you are able to carry out the role of a Regional ROW Adviser.

As a Regional Rights of Way Adviser you will be supported by our network of National ROW Contractors and by the National ROW officer of the TRF.

Robin Hickin
Technical Director & National ROW Officer
row@trf.org.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

West Yorkshire TRF - Lyndon Poskitt Thursday 7th March 2013.

Somerset TRF Exmoor Forest Ride Day Sunday April 7th 2013.
www.somerset-trf.com for further information.

Devon TRF Axe to Exe Spring 2013 Saturday & Sunday 21st April 2013. For more information please contact Debbie Hutchinson
debbiehutchy@btinternet.com

Wiltshire TRF Wessex Wanderer Weekend 2013
May 18th & 19th 2013.

BMF Show Peterborough: 18th-19th May 2013.

Bristol TRF Fun Time Trial at Ubley Drove

Will be returning this year for its second time and is to be held in June, full details to follow in next month's edition.

BMF Bikefest Kelso: 6th-7th July 2013.

Teesside & North Yorks Big Bore Coast to Coast
August 7th & 8th 2013

BMF Tailend Peterborough: 14th-15th September 2013.

MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS LISTED

Send any details to [The Editor editor@trf.org.uk](mailto:editor@trf.org.uk),
Sheepcote Farm, Moor Lane, Wiswell, Clitheroe, BB7 9DG.

WWW.TRF.ORG.UK

TRF WEBSITE & FORUM

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AND SEE WHAT YOU THINK AND SAY HELLO ON THE FORUM.
WE WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS WITH ANY FEEDBACK
OR IDEAS FOR CONTENT THAT YOU MAY HAVE.

TRF members need to be aware that in order to access the Members' Only Areas, you will need to ensure that the email you use to register your account on the website is the same one that we have for you on the TRF database. If you have any queries or difficulties please contact it@trf.org.uk or web@trf.org.uk

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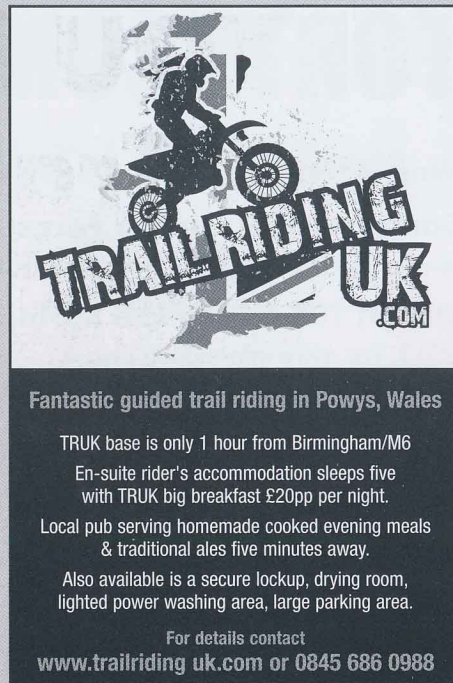
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Do YOU benefit from Trail Riding?

Guys, the first couple of sentences of this piece may seem to be of little relevance to you, but please read on - **THIS IS IMPORTANT.**

As hopefully all members are aware the TRF are members of the Sport & Recreation Alliance and as such have a seat on the Access Working Group. This group feed in to Government departments and as such the meetings are attended by people from DEFRA and Natural England who have a good understanding of what is heading our way and what works in the way of responses to consultation.

If one has the stamina to live through a couple of hours of top-trend-government department speak then we come away with a lead on stuff we need to do. (e.g. 'We are seeking legislative opportunities to further the outcomes of the stakeholder working group' becomes "We seek a Christmas-tree Bill on which we can hang our baubles." You couldn't make it up.)

SO, in order that we might respond to one

current consultation we need to come up with examples of how trail riding has economic benefit to the community. If you run a business that gains income from trail riding, be it a workshop or bed & breakfast - or if you have a friend who benefits from our activities I would be most grateful for a couple of paragraphs explaining why trail riding helps sustain a small business. To me, please, at the address shown in TRAIL.

Government will be leaner and following this 'direction of travel' we need to demonstrate that trail riding does bring benefit to small rural businesses and the community via B&B, café and pub patronage, etc. In fact I would suggest that members make it policy to buy a lunch out to raise the profile of the TRF in the rural community. Not only will pub landlords be pleased to sell an extra half dozen meals a week, you will be able to show that community that under the lid there is a caring human being.

Thanks, Dave Tilbury

BIKE TRAINING SESSIONS

The Bristol TRF group have started doing bike training sessions with expert rider Matt Ridgway. They are aimed at novices and newbies right up to clubman class. All of our sessions are held on a Saturday and there are two different types of session:- Session A would be for up to 10 riders aimed at the novice and sportsman rider and Session B would be for up to 3 riders for more intense and extreme bike skills aimed at clubman riders. Basically if you're one of those riders that is always getting stuck in lanes and have to be helped, or when you are not trail riding you're a quick racer but

not quite getting everything "hooked up" then this is for you!

Prices - Session A "novice and newbie" £50 each - £10 pound of which is to be paid as a deposit to the Bristol TRF group.

Session B "clubman" £60 each - £10 deposit to be paid to the Bristol TRF group.

For more details and to book yourself a place contact me Dean Allen - the Bristol Group Events Coordinator at deanallentrif@gmail.com

Our next session which is for the novice/newbie which will be Saturday 16th March.



Devon TRF Axe to Exe Spring 2013

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st April 2013

A change of venue for our sixth guided trail riding weekend in April 2013. We will be using Castle Brake Holiday Park based in Woodbury and in the heart of East Devon, carefully chosen for it's perfect base with over 240 legal lanes between the rivers Axe and Exe, to check their facilities available go to - <http://www.castlebrake.co.uk/index.htm>

Riding will take place on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st April 2013

We endeavour to cater for all riding abilities including novices and big trailie bikes all of which will start and finish at Castle Brake Holiday Park.

Staying and sharing in full equipped Holiday Homes, accommodation will be available on Friday 19th through to Monday 22nd April, with a full English breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning, Hot Fork Buffet on Saturday evening followed with a presentation by Sam Manicom and 2 full days of guided trail riding between the rivers Axe to Exe.

Cost per person; is £145.00

Camping Grass Pitches also available at £100.00 per person or Hard Standing Pitches at £110.00 per person

(Castle break is also the prefect base to bring the family, should you feel guilty!)

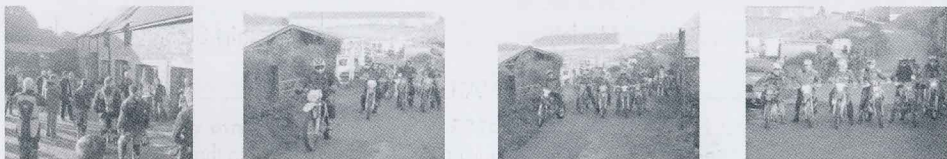
For more information or to book a place contact, Debbie Hutchinson – 07966 438907 or debbiehutchy@btinternet.com (email preferred).

ALL MOTORCYCLES AND RIDERS MUST BE ROAD LEGAL AND MEMBERS OF THE TRF

Before you ride, you will be asked to declare that: -

- You are physically and mentally fit to participate and are competent to do so.
- You understand the nature and type of event and the risks involved and agree to accept these risks even if such risk may involve negligence on the part of the organisers/officials.
- You will not seek to claim against the TRF, their organisers or officials, the landowners, or other bodies or individuals connected with the event in respect of any damage to your property regardless of the cause, including any damage caused by the negligence or breach of said bodies or persons.
- Your motorcycle is road legal and effectively silenced.

RIDERS OF NOISY MOTORCYCLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.



FUNDS RAISED GO DIRECTLY TO ENSURING THAT AS MANY DEVON GREEN LANES REMAIN OPEN AS POSSIBLE.

Teesside & North Yorkshire TRF

BIG BORE

Coast to Coast - August 7th & 8th 2013

All funds raised will be donated to the Air Ambulance.

ENTRY IN ADVANCE EVENT FOR TRF MEMBERS

The coast to coast route is ideal for big bike owners of 600cc and above. The route will be planned around the capabilities of motorcycles like: Triumph Tiger - KTM Adventure - BMW GS - Africa Twin - Yamaha XTZ. The route will have plenty of interesting riding with fantastic scenery. Road tyres will be fine with the route planned but trail tyres might be an advantage.

The day will start near Morecambe at 10am, and then travel through the Yorkshire Dales with its fantastic scenery & long gravel roads.

The later part of the day will see riders enter the North Yorkshire Moors heading to the camping field near Kirkbymoorside. For those not wanting to camp there are local pubs approximately 2 miles from the camping field.

Day 2 will be spent meandering through the Moors with lunch at Scarborough, before returning to the camping field at around 3pm. Riders are welcome to camp on the Thursday night.

Riders entering the coast to coast please ensure that your motorcycle is well serviced & have spares in-case of breakdown. The ride will cover around 250 - 300 miles and get to some very remote areas.

There will be portable toilets in the camping field but no water is on site.

ENTRY IN ADVANCE EVENT FOR TRF MEMBERS

Only the first 30 entries will be accepted. **Entry Fee £40.00** Every rider will get a T-Shirt Please make Cheques or Postal orders payable to: "Teesside & North Yorkshire TRF" **DO NOT SEND CASH**

There is no pay on arrival at this event, with no exceptions

When the event is fully booked cheques will be returned & entry forms retained in case of late availability.

Entries must be pre paid and pre booked. The entry fee is non-refundable.

RIDERS DETAILS

TRF Membership No: Local T.R.F. Group:

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Email:

Home Phone: Mobile Phone:

Bike Make: Model: T-Shirt Size:

DATE: MEMBER'S SIGNATURE:

For further info you can ring: Leo Crone on 01325 463815 or click onto www.nytrf.co.uk

By signing this entry form I confirm that I have read, fully understand and agree to the indemnifications.

Please send this entry form & £40 cheque with a self addressed stamped envelope to:

TRF, W.G. Dodds & Son, The Sawmill, Bowesfield Crescent, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland, TS18 3HJ.

Teesside & North Yorkshire TRF

BIG BORE

Coast to Coast
August 7th & 8th 2013

Indemnifications

I confirm that the information in this entry form and the information given is correct.

I confirm that I understand the nature of the weekend I am entering and I am competent to take part.

I confirm that any vehicle that I use will comply with the highway regulations and be fit for road use.

I will NOT take part if I have any doubt about my ability or the safety of the venue.

I confirm I will not hold any run leader or the TRF responsible for any traffic offences that might arise in prosecution such as section 59 or financial penalties. Run leaders will take all necessary precautions to avoid potential prosecutions. Neither the local club nor the run leader will be held liable for any traffic or financial penalties imposed on individual riders.

Before taking part in the event I will read and be bound by and comply with any regulations and final instructions issued by the organisers.

I will not participate whilst under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating drugs and that if I am taking any prescribed medication I will inform the event organiser and seek approval to participate before taking part.

I confirm that as a participant I may be exposed to the risk inherent in motor sport and that I am prepared to take such risks.

I further agree that I shall not seek to claim against the TRF, the organisers nor their officials, the land owners, the promoter or other bodies or individuals connected with the event in respect of any damage to my property how so ever caused, and whether by negligence or breach of statutory duty of the said bodies or persons.

I understand and agree that I am required to register my arrival by signing on at the event control with my gate pass upon arrival.

I confirm that I am fit and not suffering from any physical or mental disability which would impair my safe participation in the meeting and I undertake to inform the organisers immediately should any change in my condition occur which I have reason to or ought to have reason to believe would affect my ability to continue to participate in this fun weekend. I also authorise any hospital or medical practitioner to furnish information relative to my medical condition to TRF.

I also hereby AGREE that if the applicant should sustain any injury from any cause whilst taking part in the event and as a result bring a claim for compensation against you or the organisers or officials or sponsors or entrants or owners of the venue I WILL INDEMNIFY AND REIMBURSE any sum which you may be required to pay as a result of such claim.



British Motorcyclists Federation

BMF welcomes in 2013 - Here are the facts

For the first time in some years, the BMF has more money in its accounts at year end than it had at the beginning of the year. This is even allowing for a lower income than expected from the shows and paying a monthly sum to the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations (FEMA). The BMF has no other creditors.

The financial situation is finally steady for the BMF after a fiscally tumultuous time.

BMF Individual Membership held steady in

2012 after six years in decline.

In 2012 the BMF welcomed 645 new members (we even had 12 new members in the first two days of 2013!) and 23 new affiliated clubs.

About 50% of BMF affiliated clubs have already re-affiliated for 2013 - higher than any previous year at this time.

After some tough times for all in the motorcycle industry, the BMF is happy to make these positive announcements and, with the support of its members and affiliated clubs, looks forward to a period of regrowth.

The BMF would like to thank its members, reps, volunteers, affiliated clubs and Corporate Members for their continued support.

"The BMF, is looking forward into 2013 as we continue to work independently and through a variety of different organisations that share our aims to promote, protect and pursue motorcycling in the UK, Europe and across the world."

Thank you and a happy new year!

Braintree DMCC

are running a



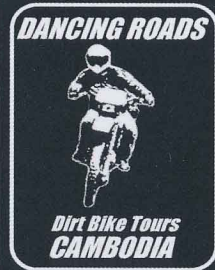
Long Distance Trial on 7th April

Approx. 80 miles of Essex
Countryside, 16 sections
& a special test

Entry £28

camping &
accommodation available

Please email for regs etc
mark.hughes@courtneylang.com



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ruins

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contact us:
www.dancingroads.com

Celebrating the Birthday of the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF)

As part of Herts TRF's work on Icknield Way Public Enquiry I was informed by Alan Kind, part of the TRF's ROW expert team, that he understood the TRF may have actually started in Hertfordshire with its first ever ride on the Icknield Way. This set me off on a trail of discovery which I am pleased to share with you below.

First organised ride out

The TRF's first meeting occurred at the Valiant Trooper in Aldbury on the 18th January 1970 and this is a story about the major part

Berkhamsted Motorcycle and Car Club (BMC&C) had in its birth and Herts TRF's role in celebrating its 1st birthday.

The idea for a TRF had been around for some time before January 1970, the chief exponents being journalists Ralph Venables and colleague John Ebbrell. It is believed they had already been turned down by the British Motorcycle Federation (BMF) so they enlisted the help of Berkhamsted club secretary Ernie Wrigley and the Berkhamsted club and the South Midland centre ACU "right of way" committee.

A "green roads" run with a difference was organised by the Berkhamsted club but it would be unusual because of what is planned to follow it. A brand new national club will hold their first meeting. The tentative name will be the Trail Riders Fellowship.

The Green Roads run was under the leadership of Dick and Jean Sutton of the West Middlesex Amateur motorcycle club.

The run took in the Icknield Way for approximately 17 miles. They rode in four groups on a wide range of machines ranging from a 50cc Italian cross country machine to a 1000cc Egli Vincent.

Incidentally this bike today would be cheap at £50,000 beating even the previous record for money spent on a Herts TRF trail bike of £20,000 set late last year by Nick Gorringe at

SBW BMW Hertford.

Sections of this 3000 year old road had fallen into disuse and had been abandoned by ramblers and horse riders. Motor cyclists will ride the way legally to promote the desire to see the full length of the Icknield Way properly classed as a byway by the local authorities.

Also it was decided that the run would open the route and to help upgrade a section of the Upper Icknield Way which changes from a RUPP (Road Used as a Public Path) to a bridle way (No vehicles allowed) and back to a RUPP at the change of county borders.

The day began with the "Green Roads" ride out which was limited to a maximum of twenty four riders and it concluded at the Valiant Trooper.

The riders' ages were also quite widely spread with the youngest at sixteen and the eldest George Abbay a sixty seven year old who had travelled from Shipley in Yorkshire to ride in the event.

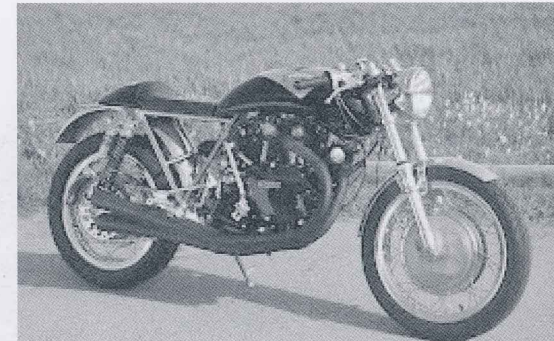
Weather conditions were not good. A 1000cc Vincent, drizzle and a muddy green lane in January must have been challenging.

At the end of the day at 5.00pm the inaugural meeting of the then proposed "Trail Riders Fellowship" took place and amazingly another fifty people showed up to attend the meeting.

Inaugural TRF meeting

Berkhamstead MCC organised a green roads run over the Icknield Way on Sunday 18th Jan 1970 and kindly also made their clubroom available for this meeting after the run. Thirty took part in the run and at least a further 40 were present by 5.15pm when proceedings began.

The three original sponsors, Messrs. John Ebbrell, Ralph Venables and Ernie Wrigley



Over £50K of Egli Vincent



Unspoilt BOAT running west from Valiant Trooper

New trials ground home of BMC&C in Hemel



Nov-April

Seasonal TRO defines the next ride in May!

provided a written summary of the general idea behind the Fellowship.

The following persons were elected to serve the Fellowship and to guide it through its formative period.

- President: George Abbey
- Director: Ernie Wrigley
- Secretary: Colin Salmon
- Treasurer Mike Brown
- Editor: John Ebbrel

Affiliation to the BMF is to be sought.

After the meeting about 60 riders enrolled as founder members.

This meeting was chaired by Berkhamsted MC & Car Club's chair at that time Steve Hoole.

The meeting must have been a huge success because fifty six riders paid their subscription and became the first members of the TRF.

Members of the Berkhamsted MC & Car Club (BMC&C) were very much into "green laning" in the early 1970's, this together with the huge interest in scrambles and grass track, trials came a lowly second. Throughout the 1970's "Green Roding" was always mentioned in the BMC&CC club minutes and had a regular agenda spot. Today only about 15% of BMC&CC members indicate an interest in trail riding.

The 1970 agenda titled "A General Idea" included a proposal of guidelines on how the new fellowship should be operated and was signed by John Ebbrell, Ralph Venables and Ernie Wrigley.

These guidelines included some statements (1&5) that you don't generally see nowadays:

- 1) Membership is open to any person of goodwill.
 - 2) That it wishes to work in harmony with existing motorcycle organisations and willingly collaborate with local authority, government agency or amenity society.
 - 3) It extends the hand of friendship to all other users of the countryside in the interests of our common heritage.
 - 4) That it would organise venture runs. These may range from casual friend-calling-on-friend to carefully planned large scale get-togethers.
 - 5) To have as few awkward rules as possible.
- There are other proposals for the aims of the new TRF and I have not quoted them all.

The TRF fight to protect our interests in the countryside and have in my opinion succeeded many times in their objectives to maintain our legal right in riding green lanes.

The TRF website home page still promotes the aims and desires of the inaugural meeting:

- 1) The organisation that represents responsible trail riders.
- 2) Preserving historic, public rights of way.
- 3) Working to ensure local councils and highways authorities carry out their statutory rights of way duties.
- 4) Campaigning for the fair and equitable treatment of all countryside user groups.
- 5) Lobbying government against exercise of prejudice in respect of countryside access issues.

In January 1970 Berkhamsted MC&CC Goat Herd Gazette there is a report about the proposed meeting of the TRF and the statement:

"THIS COULD BE THE START OF SOMETHING BIG"

Celebrating the 43rd Birthday

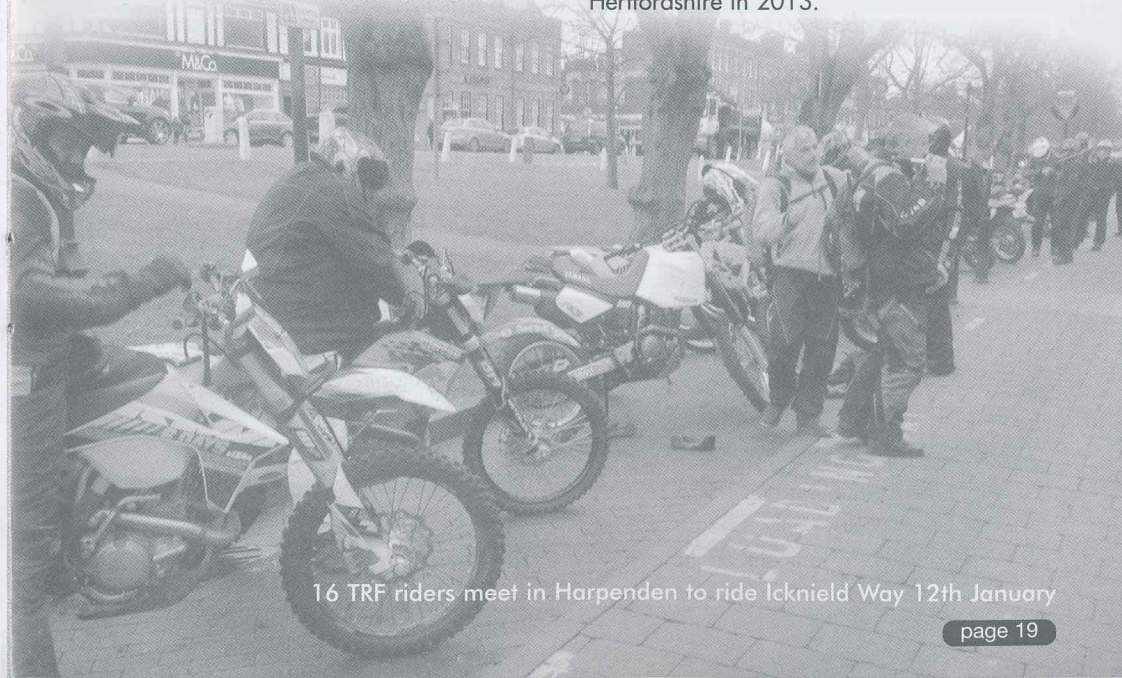
The TRF is still, after nearly 43 years, the organisation that actively promotes and protects our rights to ride legal byways and as such this date deserves to be celebrated.

With the discovery of this date on January 11th, only 7 days before the event Herts TRF did not have much time to prepare.

Fortunately two events were already in place leaving three last minute events to action.

- On January 3rd decision of the Public Enquiry to keep a section of the Icknield Way between Luton and Hitchin as a BOAT and not downgrade to Bridleway
- On January 12th 16 riders in small groups rode the section of the Icknield Way in quiet

- celebration.
- On January 18th myself and another TRF member, Michel Sabatier braved the snow (other nearby members were invited but declined to travel the 3 miles from Hemell!) and went for a drink in the Valiant Trooper.
 - On January 18th a hastily prepared email went out notifying all registered members of this event, as alas it was too late for Trail or other written notification.
 - On Sunday 20th January Michel and I followed as much of the Icknield Way as we legally could around the Ashridge area and leading toward Princes Risborough. I have to admit, due to the conditions and need to navigate, we did reluctantly use a 1970 Series SWB Land Rover, but with no windows or heating we certainly suffered for it but it was a stunning day's laning all the same.
- We are working to confirm the original "green road" route of the ride out. Reclaiming sections of the Icknield Way that are currently not ride-able has now become part of the Strategic Plan for Rights Of Way (ROW) in Hertfordshire in 2013.



16 TRF riders meet in Harpenden to ride Icknield Way 12th January

We look forward to holding the Herts ROW Strategy meeting for 2013 with a dinner at the Valiant Trooper which has good meeting facilities .

Meanwhile to celebrate next year's 44th Birthday we will celebrate the day with a ride out, meeting at the BMC&CC (new) Clubhouse in Hemel and riding to the Valiant Trooper on Saturday 18th January 2014 to which we will of course invite all the TRF. We will work at extending the route to include more of the Icknield Way in future including tracing the exact route as closely as possible with rides in this area in the summer. (see www.hertstrf.org.uk for dates)

Meanwhile if you have any information to add or to correct any inaccuracies please feel free to get in touch.

Mario Costa-Sa
Chairman Herts TRF
chairman@hertstrf.org.uk
Main Board Director National TRF - Membership
membership@hertstrf.org.uk

To follow in next month's Trail - More on the Icknield Way and the Public Inquiry Outcome

Credits:

Thanks to:

BMC&C - Mike Dunks, Peter Weight and Steve Hoole who supplied the majority of the text that I have rearranged for the TRF.

TRF - Robin Hickin, Dave Tilbury John Gardner and David Giles for their individual contributions but especially to Alan Kind for being behind the initiating spark that started the trail of discovery.

Ralph Venables article: dates & publication unknown

The Berkhamsted Gazette (Writer unknown) 23rd January 1970

Refs:

"Unity" The journal of the British Motorcycle Federation Dec 1969 - Jan 1970 Letter John Ebbrell



Wiltshire Trail Riders Fellowship WESSEX WANDERER WEEKEND 2013

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May 2013

A weekend of guided rides for national TRF members hosted by the Wiltshire TRF Group

Wiltshire and the surrounding area offer an outstanding network of legal rights of way in one of the most beautiful parts of England. The first Wessex Wanderer was held in 2011 and the event was repeated with a few tweaks in 2012 and was judged a huge success. We want to build upon this success in 2013.

An invitation is extended to national TRF members to join us for a weekend of guided runs led by experienced local run leaders in groups with a maximum size of 6/7 riders and catering for all - from the beginner to the progressive. This year we are asking entrants to be realistic about their ability and will be offering the option of early finishes on day 2.

The event will be based at the Three Magpies public house near Devizes. The pub also offers adjacent camping, caravan and camper van facilities. A list of local B and B accommodation is also available upon request.

Advanced bookings only will be accepted with an individual ride donation to the Group Fighting Fund of £40 for the weekend to include a BBQ on Saturday evening. Additional BBQ tickets for non riding family members are available at £10 each.

Entry Form

TRF Membership No: Local T.R.F. Group:

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Email:

Home Phone: Mobile Phone:

Bike Manufacturer and Model:

Type of run preferred; [please tick preference and delete inappropriate ones];

- Gentle & Scenic [less than 100 miles, café lunch, regular stops to take in the scenery]

- Medium [100-130 miles, garage stop for lunch, back before 18.00 on day 1]

- Long day and progressive [150 plus miles, return after 18.00 on day 1]

- Early finish [approx. 14.00] requested on day 2

Date: Member's Signature:

By signing this entry form I confirm that I have read, fully understand and agree to the indemnifications contained in the small print overleaf.

Please return form and remittance payable to: Wiltshire TRF at 2013 Wessex Wanderer, Willow Cottage, Frome Road, Wingfield, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 9LL

If you want to ride with friends, please clearly indicate with your booking. Confirmation of booking will be emailed to entrants together with contact details to book accommodation. Final instructions will be emailed to all participants by Friday 10th May. If you are not on email, please provide an SAE with your booking.

When the event is fully booked [50 entrants] cheques will be returned and entry forms retained in case of late availability. Entries must be prepaid and pre-booked, tickets are non refundable after 30th April 2013.

Please email any enquiries regarding this event to keith.johnston55@hotmail.co.uk

COPY FOR TRAIL

COPY DEADLINE: The first Tuesday of the month.

COPY: Via email, typed or handwritten (please try to make it legible!) to The Editor, Sheepcote Farm, Moor Lane, Wiswell, Clitheroe BB7 9DG, email: editor@trf.org.uk, fax: 01254 887999.

PHOTOS: Digital via email on CD or DVD; scanned originals (high resolution 300dpi jpeg or tiff); or posted originals (please include an s.a.e for return). We prefer you not to include your photos in 'Word' documents, if possible please send images separately.

CAPTIONS: Please caption your photos!

EMAILING: It is best not to place too many images on one email document.

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SPELLING? DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER?

Don't let this put you off, send it in and we'll sort it out, handwritten or otherwise.

Photographs submitted for publication may also be used for other TRF purposes.



Wiltshire Trail Riders Fellowship **WESSEX WANDERER WEEKEND 2013**

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May 2013

*A weekend of guided rides for national TRF members hosted
by the Wiltshire TRF Group*

THE SMALL PRINT

I confirm that the information given in this entry form is correct. Before taking part in the event, I will read and be bound by and comply with any regulations and final instructions issued by the organisers.

I confirm that I understand the nature of the weekend I am entering and am competent to take part. I will not take part if I have any doubt about my ability. As a participant, I accept that I am responsible at all times for my own actions

I confirm that any vehicle I use will comply with the highway regulations and be fit for road use.

I confirm that I will ride throughout the weekend in accordance with the TRF Code of Conduct.

I confirm that I will not hold any run leader of the TRF responsible for any traffic offences that may arise in prosecution such as section 59 or financial penalties. Run leaders will take all necessary precautions to avoid potential prosecutions but neither the local club nor the run leader will be held liable for any traffic or financial penalties imposed on individual riders

I understand that the weekend cost [£40] covers my ride donation and BBQ. Booking and payment for camping and breakfasts with the site owner will be my responsibility. Details of the site are available at <http://www.threemagpies.co.uk/home.php>. Bookings for camping and breakfasts should be made direct with Tina at threemagpies@wadworth.co.uk

Breakfasts will be available from 07.30 - 09.30 on Saturday 18th and 08.00 - 09.30 on Sunday 19th May. Breakfasts must be pre-booked at least two days in advance.

I confirm that I am fit and not suffering from any physical or mental disability which would impair my safe participation in the meeting and I undertake to inform the organisers immediately should any change in my condition occur which I have reason to or ought to have reason to believe would affect my ability to continue to participate in this fun weekend. I also authorise any hospital or medical practitioner to furnish information relative to my medical condition to the TRF. I will not participate whilst under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating drugs and that if I am taking any prescribed medication I will inform the event organiser and seek approval to participate before taking part.

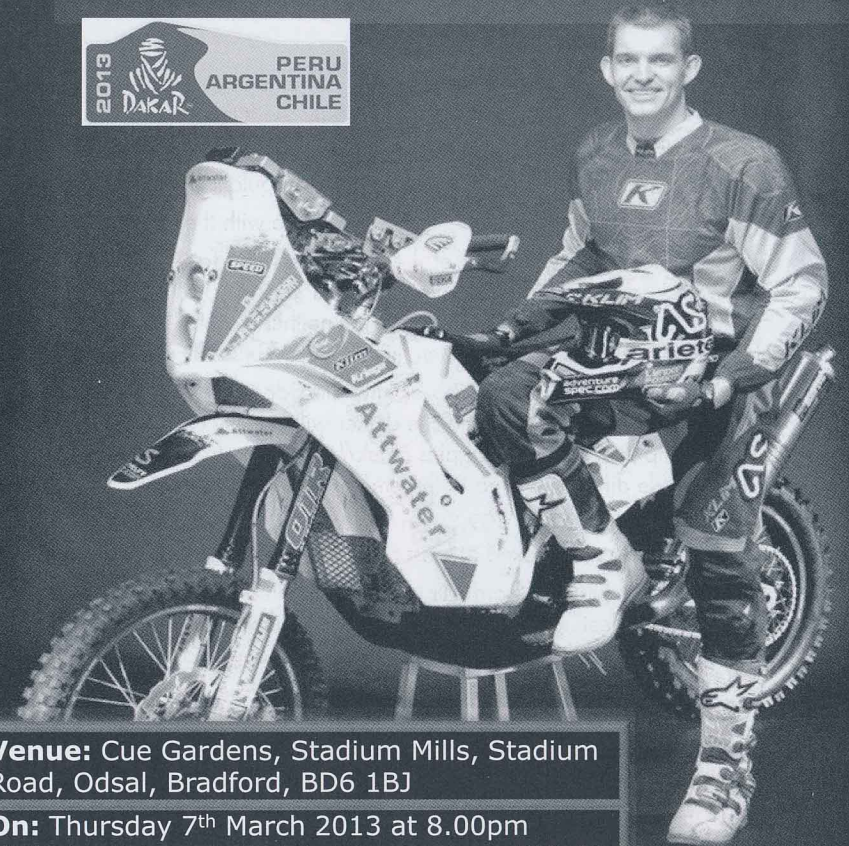
I further agree that I shall not seek to claim against the TRF, the organisers nor their officials, or other bodies/individuals connected with the event in respect of any damage to my property how so ever caused and whether by negligence or breach of statutory duty of the said body or persons.

I also hereby agree that if the applicant should sustain any injury from any cause whilst taking part in the event and as a result bring a claim for compensation against you or the organisers or officials or entrants I WILL INDEMNIFY AND REIMBURSE any sum which you may be required to pay as a result of such claim.



West Yorkshire TRF proudly present:

Lyndon Poskitt AKA Pyndon "My 2013 Dakar experience"



Venue: Cue Gardens, Stadium Mills, Stadium Road, Odsal, Bradford, BD6 1BJ

On: Thursday 7th March 2013 at 8.00pm

Tickets: Advance £7:50 - On the door £10.00

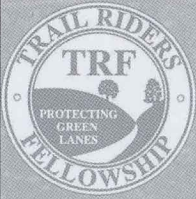
Ticket includes raffle entry for Pyndon Dakar Goodies

Contact: Ian Brown 07826 526474 or
Mark Cooper 07776 137452.

Email: events@wytrf.org.uk



To find out more about WYTRF visit
www.wytrf.org.uk



Somerset TRF EXMOOR FOREST RIDE DAY Sunday April 7th 2013

Somerset TRF invites you to its latest non-competitive off road event within large private forests in the heart of Exmoor



The event is open to bikes, outfits & quads (Trials rear tyres only)

Hot and cold drinks and BBQ available throughout the day



Site open from 9am and clearly defined courses open for riding from 10am until 4pm

Main Loop, Hill Climbs, River Runs, Trial Routes and Woodland Enduro Style Tracks

TRF Members - Advanced = £14 / On the day = £20
Non TRF Members - Advanced = £20 / On the day = £28
(Please bring your TRF membership cards)

Advanced booking available online through paypal or credit/debit card at:
www.somerset-trf.com/exmoordays.html

For Further Information Please Visit:

www.somerset-trf.com



JKeswick

THE FORUM

TRAIL MAGAZINE

I joined the TRF for the same reason as David Scott and didn't know TRAIL existed. Though I enjoy reading it, it doesn't warrant the % of the annual subscription.

I suggest:

- The printed version of TRAIL is phased out over the next 12 months. Existing members can choose to receive the hard copy until the end of the year. At renewal the default option is PDF, the printed version has to be opted in. This allows us to explain why TRAIL is going PDF only from 2014 and the directors to see what % really want the printed copy.
- New members receive TRAIL only in the digital form.
- From 2014 the only option is PDF.

This will drag the TRF into the digital age. Objectors will have to accept it. Bear in mind everything is now over the internet, some things only via net, e.g. Tax returns. We may lose some members but the benefits outweigh the losses. The members we lose, do they really follow the TRF ideal? The real benefits of being a TRF member still remain.

Peter Rawl

It was with a small feeling of joy when I checked the post whilst leaving for work and discovered the latest edition of TRAIL.

As a publication it doesn't quite match the

journalistic qualities of TBM or Adventure Bike Rider but it brings me pleasure to have my own clubs activities reported in a regular magazine for its members.

It was then with some regret to discover David Scott's article suggesting that TRAIL be scrapped due to the cost of production compared to the TRFs annual income. On asking myself what could be done I couldn't argue with the facts. Personally, I probably wouldn't want to increase my subs in order to save the magazine and also agree that the £49,000 could be put to much better use in fighting to keep the lanes open.

There are many bikers using the lanes who are unaware of the TRFs work and take the lanes for granted. I can only imagine the readership of the two afore mentioned magazines is substantial and targets directly the people who should ALL be members of the TRF and yet probably see no need or even worse, have some incorrect image of the TRF as a boring old farts club (as was suggested to me in one bike shop when I started out!).

Increasing subs is not going to attract new members that's for sure and yet it seems we need more members to be truly representing the people out on the lanes and raise the much needed revenue to fight the antis AND maintain a regular periodical. I have never been drawn to forums and would certainly miss a lot of what is going on if the contents of TRAIL existed purely in the forum. It is also very

nice to have an edited concise collection of various articles from each of the TRF regions presented periodically. It is clear the magazine as it is is costing too much money and also would benefit from the advantages offered by a digital copy such as- no postage or printing costs, full colour pictures, web links embedded in all adverts Links to riders routes via ViewRanger or other mapping software - More member contributions- technical articles, product reviews, riding tips and tricks etc etc. Many people have either smartphones, tablets, netbooks or the very least a home computer. I would hate anyone to be alienated due to technology and maybe an option to buy a hard copy of TRAIL could be offered, however not only could TRF save a lot of money by producing a digital magazine monthly but also, dare I say, a better one to boot. Keep up the excellent work!

Liam Kirkham
(who doesn't get out nearly
as much as he'd like)

I have recently joined the TRF for the first time, although I have been a trail rider for 20 years (naughty I know!).

The main reason I joined was because of the recent successes which have been achieved by the TRF and the raised public profile. I feel I can trust the TRF to stand up for green lanes and my rights as a legitimate user. The only way I can help is financially, hence my membership!

When my welcome pack arrived I was surprised to see that it contained a magazine, and a very glossy one at that. On reading David Scott's letter I was prompted to add my thoughts to the discussion.

I was not expecting the TRF to produce a magazine. Everything you need to know about the TRF is on the website. I would not stop being a member if you stopped the magazine.

I read the magazine in around 10 minutes from cover to cover, then it will get recycled. I cannot see the value in it to the TRF and would have no problem if it was dropped.

Understandably some would be upset if all communication was by email, but most people have access to a PC, even if that is in a library or cafe.

I for one cannot see how the cost of producing the magazine can be justified when there is so much work to be done just to keep our hobby alive by fighting lane closures.

Giles Evans

I felt I had to respond to the letter in last month's mag. I joined Lancs TRF late 1985. The mag then was about 8 pages, but that and the late Brian Crabtree persuaded me to join. I later became treasurer/membership secretary, and carried on doing both jobs when Ribble Valley club started. About half the new people that came to the club had come because they had been given a mag or picked one up at a show. A few years ago the mag was made a lot more like a monthly glossy national mag. I couldn't understand why a small club needed to spend this much. The green section reports probably aren't read in full by many members, so why not put the main points in and put the rest on line for the people that want it. Does it also need to be printed on glossy paper, apart from front cover. I have not had a trail bike for the last 2 years and I don't go to local meetings because I live too far from both clubs in Lancs. I don't want to read the mag on line so if it goes this will probably be the last year that I renew my membership. Over the years I have raised money for the club by doing horse trials, stood the TRF stand at Rossendale show, been map holder and also a spell as group rep, packed the mag for about 18 years and given small donations with my renewal. I also

did run sheets for about 10 years that have been lost.

Tony Broughton

I have just received my Jan 13 issue of TRAIL and was interested in David Scott's review.

I must say I have only been a member for a year and enjoy reading the TRAIL.

If however the figures given in the report are correct then I for one would fully agree and support the changes proposed by David.

Keith MacGregor

People join the TRF for various reasons. I joined to support the cause by paying my membership fees.

The figures £49000 for the mag £127000 subs could be changed by a bi monthly mag. I must admit to looking forward to reading about fellow riders adventures and not the boring tro stuff over my head.

Like Dave Scott I find I am out of my depth only to find I have a lane change of use on my doorstep.

I contacted everyone I thought could help TRF locally and did all my small brain could muster apart from Richard Sugden and Debbie Hutchinson the response was disappointing specially compared to the Peak District.

Feeling the cause had not supported me I was tempted to not rejoin his year I did rejoin but have decided to ride trials as an alternative.

Brian Johnston

In relation to the article by David Scott on the future of "TRAIL", my straight forward views are; the magazine should be scrapped. All correspondence done online. High profile media to be published in TBM. Canvas members online to possibly raise the membership costs.

Why; The vast majority of the TRF lads are

computer savvy and viewing the mag online is not an issue. TBM is a well read magazine and issues will get across to members.

The average trail rider will not be adverse to a £5.00 subscription hike and most appreciate the work done on their behalf, the turn out at Bakewell demonstrates this.

Dave Heeley

I think that TRAIL should continue in its current form.

From what I have seen, TRAIL is one of the things that holds the TRF together. It's arrival each month reminds people, especially those who rarely or never attend local group meetings, that the TRF is still there. It also gives people a broad-brush overview of what is going on nationally. Many people do not have the time or the inclination to trawl through forums and not everybody reads TBM, which doesn't have as much trail bike content as it used to.

Dave King,
Loddon Vale TRF

I have to agree with David that the cost of TRAIL in its paper format is too large a chunk out of the membership fee. This money would be better spent on fighting the cause, especially given the TRF's modest resources. I think making it pdf by default is best. (I have indicated that I wish pdf but I still get the mag through the post every month!) I know from talking to others that many do not read it since "it's all depressing RoW stuff". Their words not mine. There surely must only be a handful of members who do not have access to t'internet - didn't Tony Blair make internet access available to everybody, even if you have to visit your local library? Yes, it is nice to get a glossy magazine. More tactile. But the money is best spent elsewhere.

Go pdf by default, tick the box if you really

must have a paper copy is perhaps a compromise.

Peter Allt

TRAIL magazine - something for nothing, or nothing for something

Regarding David Scott's open-letter in the latest edition I have to write in defence of keeping the printed TRAIL magazine.

Virtually all major clubs have some form of magazine, or newsletter that is published and issued to members. A magazine through the door is essential to keep our 'bond' and recognise we are in a club.

Though there may be many people who don't read TRAIL, I'm sure the vast majority do and enjoy the fact it is concise and reader led. I would agree it may not be the most effective way of passing on information quickly - but it's still the way (I'm guessing) a lot of us hear about what's going on in the rights of way arena. Not only does TRAIL keep us together, it's a mine of information and worth keeping many copies for future reference (appreciate a forum can say much the same)

There is an option to receive a PDF copy if you prefer, frankly no use to me as I prefer to get away from 'the screen' and also it would be tricky to read on-line where many of us probably do our reading - in the very small 'sitting-room' (I think you'll follow). Members could have a further option on renewal of 'no magazine' as well as the PDF option...but I can't see many people choosing that option to be honest, especially when paying the same.

TRF membership is not cheap - in fact I'd go further and say it is expensive (as a man with no income for last two years, and only a distant view of a pension). I understand why membership costs, but remove 'TRAIL' and I strongly believe you'll lose members - I for one would choose not to renew.

For comparison purposes:-

TRF £45 monthly A5 mag,
MAG £25 bi-monthly large mag,
BMF £26 quarterly large mag

Yes, have the debate, yes consider publishing bi-monthly - bearing in mind news will be 'older' (for me quarterly is too infrequent), yes consider cheaper paper / quality, but definitely no to printing in A N Other magazine (so we need to pay again?).

Please, please keep in mind the impact of taking away the printed magazine. Less members, less income, more problems.

I think we need a debate on ways to get more money in without increasing membership fees or removing TRAIL. Perhaps a push on alternatives like people leaving gifts in wills and the like? More advertising - many magazines include a lot of advertising, major sponsorship etc, etc.

Right got to get back to my tasks before the bread-winner returns!

Fritz, North Yorks

BEWARE THE SMALL PRINT

The tale below happened to a friend of mine:

Sorry this is a bit long winded but I think it is important that you understand my problem, in case it applies to you. This of course is a bike insurance but it may well be cars as well.

In December I received my renewal from Footman James and after talking to them I renewed at the beginning of January and duly received the documentation. I had not noticed that the cover allowing me to ride other peoples bikes had been cancelled (hidden away on page 3). I found this out today when they sent another set of certificates with a covering letter explaining that they had made a mistake and issued certificates in January that still showed the cancelled cover.

Somewhat miffed, I phoned them explaining that because they had sent the wrong certificates, when I read through the documentation to check and agree the cover, I could not see the missing cover and therefore could not take advantage of my statutory 14 day right to cancel without penalty and find an alternative. They did not see it my way at first but I persisted firmly but calmly and eventually they agreed to give me the 14 days starting today.

During the course of the conversation they did tell me they were working hard to reinstate the missing cover but that it may take weeks and maybe would not succeed. End of call and I (unsuccessfully so far) went in search of an alternative. A couple of hours later I got a call from Footman James saying they had found that if I took out a new policy they could reinstate the missing cover at the original price and I would just pay for the month of cover on the old policy. SORTED!

Apparently this removal of road traffic act cover is becoming the common place in both bike and car policies. Caveat Emptor!

John Grew

OFFROAD DRIVING UNDER RISK IN ITALY

I'm a young rider from Italy who has recently purchased a Yamaha TTR and am an offtrack enthusiast. I live in northern Italy, near Parma, inside the Emilia Romagna region right over Tuscany. A wonderful place for bikers all over the world, and given its position, a necessary step to reach any part of the Country.

This new year has brought us a law proposition to ban all motorized vehicles on all off-road roads in my region...including cart tracks. A ban that we fear may, if approved, be eventually applied to the entire country. Even downhill bikes will be banned, for they

are deemed dangerous.

The law is still under discussion between the regional counsellors. I'm not a law expert but in Italy dirt roads, mountain roads and country roads are under state jurisdiction - so a regional law should be unconstitutional, but they may take years to notice. The regions also claim the "natural roads" are a tourism issue, making them their issue. Permits will be issued from local authorities. Those found without will be fined up to 2000 Euros and, according to the law, have the bike confiscated in order to ensure the paying of the fee.

There's no national equivalent of the TRF sadly, so the matter is in the hands of a handful of different groups. We hope to have hunters on our side because the ban affects them as well. I'm not part of, or affiliated to, any group.

This letter of mine is first to inform any member of your association who is or has been a regular traveller here of this and then to see if you are willing to ask our counsellors to reconsider their positions, for we fear this resolution will backfire and be nothing but a moneybringer fee - incidentally, highways fees have already been raised, starting this year.

It's not a matter of not paying for a permit. We are aware that there's a problem with people without a working brain on bikes. There's also a problem with bad-mannered trash-throwing trekkers. It's the fee's monstrosity that gives it away.

This is the site containing the resolution (italian) <http://demetra.regione.emilia-romagna.it/al/monitor.php?vi=att&urn=er:assemblealegislativa:progettodilegge:2012;3351>

I thank you in advance for your attention and for what your work has brought you, a national association of enthusiasts.

Guido Mori, Parma, Italy.

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GROUPS

AXE VALE David Clegg, Tel: 01275 373652 (Home), Mob: 0793 1220895. dccje@talktalk.net 2nd Tues, 8pm, Windmill Inn, Nore Road, Portishead.

BLACK COUNTRY John Oseland, Tel: 01902 656011 1st Tues, 9pm, The Longford House, Watling Street, Cannock.

BRISTOL Glenn Summers, Tel: 07708 407061 4th Mon, 8pm, Portcullis, 130 High Street, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5HH.

CAMBRIDGE Tony Lacey, Tel: 07753 820520 1st Thurs, 8.00 p.m., The Seven Wives, Ramsey Road, St Ives PE27 5RF.

CORNWALL Adam Hedley, Tel: 01579 349217 3rd Thurs, 7.30 - 8.00 p.m., The Borough Arms, Bodmin.

CUMBRIA & CRAVEN Roger Harris, Tel: 01539 725198 2nd Tues, 7.30pm, The Bluebell, Heversham - 1 mile N of Milnthorpe on the A6.

DERBYSHIRE & SOUTH YORKSHIRE Bob Morley, Tel: 07836 680323 2nd Wednesday, The Angel Hotel, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB.

DEVON John Heal, Tel: 01626 366860 2nd Tues, 8pm, The Dolphin Hotel, Station Road, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9AL.

DORSET W. John Williamson, Tel: 01929 553640 Mob: 07850 727873 1st Tues, 8pm, Greyhound Inn, Winterbourne, Kingston, Nr. Bere Regis DT11 9AZ.

EAST MIDLANDS Clifford Austen, Tel: 07789 483600 2nd Wed, The Clock Warehouse, London Road, Shardlow, just off the A50.

EAST YORKSHIRE Simon Garthwaite, Tel: 07980 680026 2nd Tues, 8pm, Londesborough Arms, Market Weighton, York.

ESSEX Cliff Eaves, Tel: 07515 330423 2nd Wed, The Wheatshaf, Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel, Essex.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE James Osborne, Tel: 01531 822728 1st Wed, 8pm, Wagonworks Club, Tuffley Ave., Gloucester.

HERTFORDSHIRE Ken Marshall, Tel: 07776 493343, marshall.k@sky.com 2nd Wed, 8.30pm, Shire Park Social Club, Shire Park, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1TW.

HIGH PEAK & POTTERIES Steve Hyde Tel: 07931 728956. 1st Thurs, 8.30 - 9.00pm, The Foaming Quart, 5 Frobisher St., Norton Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 8PD.

ISLE OF WIGHT 1st Wed, 8pm, The Eight Bells Inn, Carisbrooke, Newport, IOW.

KENT Steve Neville Tel: 01474 742705 2nd Tues, 8.30p.m. for 9pm, The Anchor & Hope, South Ash Road, Ash (Nr Sevenoaks), Kent TN15 7ER.

LANCASHIRE Keith Westley, Tel: 01704 893215 1st Tues, Farmer's Arms, Bispham, Parbold.

LINCOLNSHIRE Paul Vernon, Tel: 01522 889079 4th Thurs, 8pm, Lincolnshire Poacher, Bunkers Hill, Lincoln.

LODDON VALE Eddie Mace, Tel: 01189 333380 2nd Tues, Swan Inn, Basingstoke Road, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berks RG7 1AT. joinus@lvtrf.co.uk

MANCHESTER Phil Kinder, Tel: 07809 647293 2nd & 4th Mon, 9pm, The Sycamore Inn, 4 Stamford Square, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6QX.

MID WALES Tony Rooney, Tel: 01239 698349 Last Thurs, 7.30pm, The Crown Inn, Rhayader except July & December.

NORTHUMBRIA Nic Gilbert, Tel: 07940 133871 1st Wed, 8pm, The Staffs Club, Blaydon, NE21 4JB.

NORTH WALES Neil "Timpo" Thompson, Tel: 07980 555874 1st Wed, 8pm, The Griffin Inn, Mold Road, Mynydd Isa, CH7 6TF. Ref SJ 257 638.

NORFOLK Terry Reeve, Tel: 0771 5013 665 2nd Wed, 8pm, White Horse, Trowse, Norwich.

OXFORDSHIRE Steve Pickford, Tel: 01865 463626 oxford@trf.org.uk 3rd Thurs, 8pm, The Gladiator Sport & Social Club, 263 Ilfley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SJ, next to Ridgeway VW Garage.

PEAK DISTRICT Alan Gilmore, Tel: 01332 553246 1st Thurs, 8pm, The Joiner's Arms, Church Road, Quarndon, Derby.

RIBBLE VALLEY Peter Ashurst, Tel: 07817 928329 2nd Tues, 8.30pm, Brown Cow, Chatburn, Clitheroe (off A59).

SOMERSET Fran Bunce, Tel: 01278 662605 2nd Thurs, 7.30-8.00pm for new members. Meeting starts at 8.00pm, The King Alfred Inn, Burrowbridge, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 0RB.

SOUTHERN Colin Lindstrom Tel: 07818 404240 3rd Thurs, 8pm, Southampton & District MCC, Woodside Ave., Eastleigh, (opposite Halfords).

SOUTH LONDON & SURREY Steve Sharp, 0208 773 4204 4th Tues, 8.30-10.30pm, Ripley British Legion, 25 Rose Lane, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6NE.

SOUTH NORTHANTS Andy Gerrard, Tel: 07803 600571 2nd Monday, 9pm, The Old Sun, 10 Middle Street, Nether Heyford, Northampton NN7 3LL.

SOUTH WALES Christian James, Tel: 01446 410073 1st Thurs, 8pm, Ty Nant Inn, Morganstown, Nr Radyr CF15 8LB.

SOUTH WEST WALES Terry Brooks, Tel: 07910 050001 Last Tues, Corner House Pub, Commercial Street, Ystalyfera, Swansea.

SUFFOLK Richard May, Tel: 01787 374073 Last Wed, Manger Pub, A134 Sudbury Rd, Bury-St-Ed.

SUSSEX Julian Flack, Tel: 01306 740586 Last Thurs, Ashington Social Club, Rear of Red Lion, A24, 9 miles North of Worthing.

TEESSIDE & NORTH YORKS SITUATION VACANT. 3rd Tues, The Ranch House, Thoraldby Farm, Stokesley/Hutton Rudby Road.

VIRTUAL PEAK GROUP Paul King, king@virtualpeaks.co.uk Tel: 07966 289778 This is a virtual group at www.virtualpeaks.co.uk

WEST ANGLIA Mark Jones, Tel: 07825 142511 1st & 3rd Thurs, Scott Bader Social Club, opp. Parish Church, Wollaston, Wellingborough.

WEST MIDLANDS Steve Whetton, Tel: 01527 451089 1st & 3rd Wed, Wilmcote Mens Club, Stratford on Avon.

WEST YORKSHIRE Paul Dearden, Tel: 07901 381629 info@wytfrf.org.uk 1st Thurs RoW 6.30 pm, Main Meeting 7.30pm, Cue Gardens, Stadium Mills, Stadium Road, Bradford BD6 1BJ.

WILTSHIRE Vic Price, Tel: 01380 724651 1st Tues, The Bell On The Common, Broughton Gifford SN12 8LX.

WORCESTERSHIRE David Walters, Tel: 07767 204730 1st Tues, White Hart, Fernhill Heath, Worcs.

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