

Shetland Classic Motorcycle Club Newsletter

March 2016



*** FROM THE SADDLE ***

Can this terrible winter be almost over and spring ready to burst out upon us? We can only live in hope of that and that we might be blessed with a fine summer this year.

To encourage that, and more so you fellow members to get out more on da bike this year, the committee have deliberated on the many possibilities and devised the local runs programme set out later in this epistle. Hopefully there will be something in it that is to your fancy, but wherever we go, it is always the camaraderie of fellow members and guests that makes for an enjoyable outing. Oh and there is always the added attraction of the "Runs Trophy" to aim for – with a little effort, it could be your name on it this year!

Over the winter period we have enjoyed several interesting and well supported club nights. In October, Dean presented an interesting slide show of his trips away. In November, we browsed old brochures and suppliers' catalogues and in December were entertained at Frank's Emporium, where we enjoyed a convivial evening around the wood fire, supping on mincemeat pies and mulled wine served up by Gordon. January was a great DVD night, the AGM in February and by the time you read this, the March night will hopefully have been an outing to a well-known Lerwick engineering works. Grateful thanks to all concerned.

Sadly we have recently lost two stalwarts of the club, namely Carol Fraser, who for many years did sterling work on our behalf, and John Smith who was a regular rider and supported the club well. A full tribute is provided by Geordie in this issue.

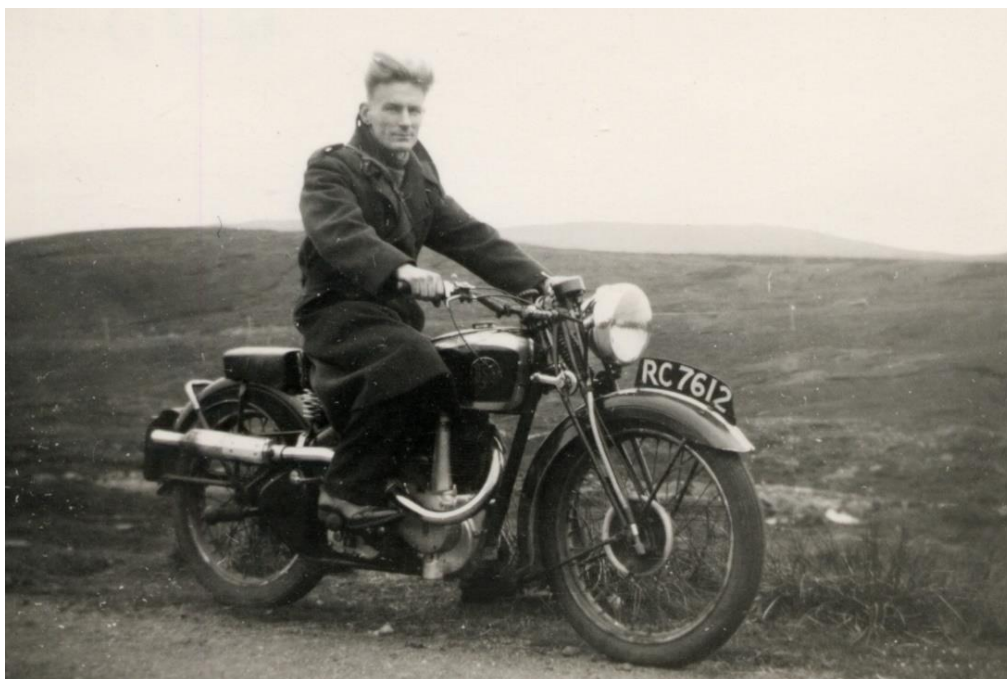
Well folks, that's it from me for now. Hopefully see you at Frankie's on the 6th of April!

Joe



Getting ready for the "off" at Da Waas Vintage Day 2015

*** RARE BIKES IN SHETLAND No 25 ***



Frank Miller on his 1939, BSA 350cc, OHV Silver Star

Rebadged from Empire Star to Silver Star in 1939, these sporting versions of the standard OHV BSAs ran from 1937 to 1940, featuring the new Val Page designed engine and a BSA four speed foot change gearbox. Although similar in design to the contemporary 500cc BSA engine, which went on for many years post war as the B31 to B34 range, this model featured a distinctive kidney shaped timing cover.

First registered in Derby, Frank ran her in the late 1940s / early 1950s until moving on to a 350cc Triumph twin with the then more desirable tele forks!

The next owner was Lowrie Brown from Voe, father of Eric Brown of cycle and motorcycle fame. Lowrie was a baker and used her for the daily commute or "fir gaain ta da wark" as it was better known then.

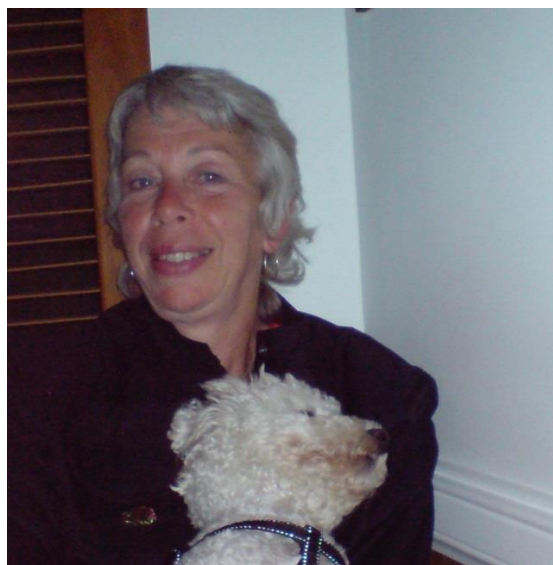
After Lowrie, she passed to Kenny Pearson from Vidlin, who often used her to come out to the end of the Vidlin road to catch the bus to work at Sullom Voe. Kenny spruced her up and she was a regular exhibit at many of our early shows.

Although she has been laid up for a few years, I understand that Kenny had been doing a bit of work on her recently, including rebushing of the girder forks, and he was even reported having a run around Vidlin on her in the last week or two. However I was shocked, and saddened, to hear that Kenny had passed away very suddenly earlier this month. He will be missed, and our thoughts are with his wife and family at this sad time.

Joe

*** Carol Fraser ***

I know you'll all be sorry to hear of the recent passing of Carol Fraser. Carol came to Shetland many years ago and initially worked for civil engineering consultants in Lerwick. It was upon her marriage to Colin Fraser, who was a Harley-Davidson enthusiast, that we became aware of her involvement with motorcycles. Colin was instrumental in setting up the Shetland Islands Cruisers club and Carol was very much involved too. She bought her own Harley, an 883 Hugger, and joined Colin and friends in local trips out and in excursions further afield, including the Thunder in the Glens rally at Aviemore. Carol and Colin made numerous friends in Scotland and abroad, including members of the Harley Owners Group from Lyon in France, where they have also been for a visit.



Carol and Max

Carol extended her interest to our Club and, following in Colin's shoes, took care of our Club website and was editor, and contributor, to our Club newsletter. After Colin's death, she moved to the Coventry area to be nearer to her family, but continued her sterling services to the club, thanks to the marvels of electronic communications. She continued her interest in motorcycles, buying a Moto Guzzi Nevada 750 and with partner Andy attended various events, shows etc., in the West Midlands area. Carol was also very much involved with the Classic Motor Show, in particular with the production of the Show guide. Always cheerful and helpful, she was a great host to those lucky enough to pay a visit to Frakkafeld when she lived there with Colin and a fine companion on the various outings she enjoyed with members of the Club.

Sadly, she only enjoyed a fairly short time in the Midlands before becoming ill and died on 22nd January. She was cremated at Coleshill and her ashes are to be interred with Colin at new Lerwick Cemetery on Monday 30th May at 11.00 a.m.

Our thoughts are with her partner Andy and all the family.

Geordie Jacobson

*** SCMCC Newsletter ***

We are keen to receive newsletter contributions from everyone. If you've seen or experienced anything interesting and maybe taken some photos - do share!

Send texts, photos, for sale ads, etc. to birgit.wagner@shetland.co.uk or post to Sungaets, Nesbister, Whiteness, ZE2 9LJ if you don't have an electronic version.

*** John I. Smith ***

We were all shocked to hear that John had died very suddenly from a massive heart attack while at his work on a salmon farm. He was a member of this Club along with his wife Annabel and regularly came out on club runs, both in Shetland and occasionally further afield. His favourite marque was BMW and he used them extensively both on his daily commute to work and on his regular holiday trips to the mainland and beyond. However, John had owned and enjoyed a variety of non-German machines, having an interest in what are often described as emerging classics. He'd also borrowed the 'Browster' Ariel to give it a few runs and last year took it to the Vintage Day event at Walls.



John really liked his bikes and used them as often as possible. To him, the car was a convenience item for use when using the bike wasn't possible. He was involved with most motorcycling groups in Shetland and it was a fitting tribute to see a large turnout of ZMCC members escorting the hearse at his well-attended funeral.

Our condolences go to Annabel and both their families.

Geordie Jacobson

*** Runs Trophy Winners 2015 ***

Gordon, visibly bronzed from his recent sojourn in the Pacific, and Lewie, both looking pleased after being presented, at the AGM, with the annual trophy for completing the most runs.



They are to be congratulated for having done 15 out of the 17 runs scheduled, "weel don boys"!

Having calculated that, if we average two winners tying for the trophy each year, there is enough space for names on the plaque for the next 35 years, the committee in their wisdom have decided not to alter the qualifying criteria.

Joe

**** A fine Sunday afternoon run ****

There is nothing I like better than going for a ride out on a bike on a fine washing line day, gentle breeze, dry and warm enough to be pleasant and most of all on an old bike that you have put the life back into, making it feel more worthwhile and adding to the enjoyment.

Birgit was away, it was a Sunday and it was one of those days I had described, so after lunch I thought I needed to get out and enjoy it, but where to go?

The Classic Club had a while back gone up to Fitful Head, or should it be called Fateful Head, as I had not managed to get there that night. I thought that should be my aim for this afternoon's run. I duly set off on my Ariel Square Four MKII – on hindsight hardly the right bike for going up Fitful, but I am still here so it must have been okay.

The Fitful Head road was made for access to the radio mast and dome. It is fairly long, starts full width untarred and reduces to two wheel tracks, then turns into a rather broken tarred road for the ascent to the top. The scary bit is the hairpin bend which skirts the edge of the cliffs – not so bad going up. I hadn't given much thought to getting back down as it is quite steep and the brakes on my Ariel were not at their best, so a low gear was the order of the day for the descent. The view from the top is spectacular. If you are lucky enough to have a clear day, you do feel like you are on the top of Shetland. The cliffs behind the dome are 283m high. Looking north from Fitful I could see some old buildings in the distance on the next hill to the North. Being the inquisitive person that I am, I decided that I would try to get to them and find out what they were.



The Dome

I found an untarred road, inaccessible for a car but fine for a motorbike, near Symblister on the Spiggie Loch loop road. At the entrance there are two old large ruined buildings. This was the power station for the buildings upon Noss Hill, and the standby generators were on Hulse Hill. The buildings were from the Second World War, what was called Chain Home radar station. I have lived on Shetland for nearly forty years and never knew they were there. So many of them and still in good condition – it must have been like a small village in its day. I wish I had taken a torch with me as it is reported that some of the period furnishings are still in them. I spent the best part of an hour up there as it is quite spread out.



A view from the saddle



Some of the buildings

From Noss Hill I was looking north-east to the Ward of Scousburgh (Mossy Hill). I decided that would be my next stop. I went up the Mossy Hill from the west side of Shetland, going up by Vanlop to get to the top at 263m, great views again, there are quite a few side roads on the tops as the Mossy Hill was used by the M.O.D. as part of a radio network in Shetland including Collafirth in the North Mainland, Saxavord on the isle of Unst and Maybury station at Sumburgh on the South Mainland. This was in turn part of a greater communication system called ACE HIGH for N.A.T.O. during the cold war of the 1950's. If you want great views including St Ninian's tombolo, Foula to the West, Bressay to the East and Sumburgh in the South, it is quite accessible, being tarred all the way up. I came back down the east side, quite steep, onto the main A970 near Levenwick and my road home.



On top of one of the tops on the Mossy Hill

A fine Sunday afternoon out, took about four hours and a bit of walking, made for an interesting rideout and proved that you are never sure what you will find in Shetland.

Dean Mitchell, Sungaets

*** SCMCC Loal Runs 2016 ***

April:

Wed. 6th Evening run to Frankie's at Brae
Sun. 24th Voar Redd-Up - run to arrive at Spiggie at 2.00 pm (Or depart Islesburgh at 1.30 pm) (Provisional)

May:

Wed. 4th Evening run to Cabin Museum Vidlin.
Sat. 14th * Afternoon run to "Tingwall Valley Stonehenge"
Wed. 25th * Evening run to Noss Hill

June:

Sat. 4th and Sun. 5th Shetland Classic Motor Show
Sat. 18th. Afternoon run to Simmer Dim (Provisional)
Sun. 26th Run to Eshaness (Depart Islesburgh at 11.00am.).....details TBA

July:

Wed. 6th Evening run to Girlsta.....details T.B.A.
Sat. 16th Afternoon run to Sandness.....details TBA
Sat. 30th Yell run (Including visitation to Beatie and David plus added surprise from Frank!)

August:

Wed. 3rd Evening run to Burra
Sun. 14th Sumburgh Head to Skaw (Incorporating VMCC 60th Anniversary Baton Run)....details T.B.A.
Sun. 29th Afternoon run to Kellister

September:

Wed. 7th Evening run - 60 mile loop
Sun. 11th Afternoon run/walk to Levenwick Broch
Sun. 18th or 25th Final run of the year – Teas Run.....details TBA

Oct./Nov: Club Nites

Wed. 5th/2nd Details T.B.A.

December:

Wed. 7th Mulled Wine 'n' Mince Pies! Nyimm, nyimmmmm!

Please note:

All evening runs leave Islesburgh north car-park at 7.00pm.
All pm. runs leave at 2.00pm. unless otherwise stated.
Club Nites are usually held in the Anglers' Clubroom, Burns Lane and start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise advised.

* Denotes a run that may have a length of unmade road or hill track. Members take part in such runs at their own risk. For those not wishing to drive on such tracks an alternative continuation route will be arranged.

*** 'Overseas' Events ***

- Sun. 10th **April** Autojumble and Vintage M/C Show - Strathmore Hall, Forfar
Pre1990 m/cs. Organised by Central Scotland VMCC
Contact: John Lamb 07925 535403 or greatjumble@googlemail.com
- Sat./Sun. 23rd/24th Carole Nash International Classic M/C Show - Stafford ST18 0BD
www.classicbikeshows.com
This is the BIG one - huge show - recommended!
- Sat. 14th **May** Classic Show & Entertainment! - Inverness Town centre -
Contact: margaret@inverness.co.uk
This is a city centre on-street gathering - great if it's a fine day!
- Sun. 12th **June** C&S V&C Veh. Club John o' Groats Rally - John o' Groats
This event ties in VERY nicely as a follow-up to the Clickimin event.
Easy transport connections
Contact: David Green 01955 611766/316 info@green-cameron.co.uk.
- Sat./Sun. 18th/19th Bob McIntyre Memorial Classic Races - East Fortune Raceway
Big event with solos, sidecars, classics, etc. Combine with visit to
Concorde at the nearby Museum of Flight.
Contact: Agnes Cadger 01294 833320 or agnescadger@tiscali.co.uk
- Sun. 26th R.W. Thomson Memorial Rally - Mineralwell Park, Stonehaven
All classes. Nice and near Aberdeen.
Contact: Alan Innes 07739 979212 or carpetdesign@tiscali.co.uk
- Sat./Sun 9th/10th **July** Scottish Transport Extravaganza - GLAMIS
Contact lesley@svvc.co.uk
Premier Scottish event. All classes - thoroughly recommended!
- Sun. 14th **August** Orkney Vintage Club Rally - Kirkwall
Contact: Allan Way 01856 811295 or orkneyvintageclub@yahoo.co.uk
Great rally, following the County Show on the Sat. Easy transport too!
- Sun. 21st Dunrobin Castle Vintage Rally - Golspie.
Contact: Evelyn Cameron on 01408 633268
Another good show within easy reach via. NorthLink through Orkney.
Opportunity to visit the amazing castle and see the falconry too.
- Sun. 4th **September** Grampian Motorcycle Convention - Grampian Transport Museum, Alford
Contact: 019755 62292 or 64517 or www.gm.org.uk.
Great mix of old and new bikes. Dealers, trade stands, moped racing, etc.

Updates and further information on events in Scotland and the north of the UK can be sourced from www.svvc.org.uk or www.morgansyearbook.co.uk

And finally - if your garage isn't packed to the doors already - Morris Leslie Vehicle Auctions Ltd. will be holding auction sales of classic vehicles at Errol Airfield, Errol near Perth. It's mainly cars, commercials, etc. but bikes do come up occasionally (four currently entered in the May sale) and catalogues can be viewed online at www.morrisleslie.com. As with many such events, quality/standard of lots can be variable and first-hand inspection is always wise!

Dates for your diaries are: Sat. 21st May 2016, Sat. 26th August 2016, Sat. 19th November 2016

*** SCMCC Regalia ***



Metal pin badge: £3.00



Sticker: £1.00



Toorie: £8.00



Fleece snood: £8.00



T-shirt, various sizes and colours:
£10.00



Hooded sweatshirt, various sizes
and colours: £18.00

For regalia please contact **Russell Black**: 01950 431495

*** SCMCC Main Contacts 2016 ***

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