



VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB

AUGUST 2006 NEWSLETTER



On behalf of Centre 9 members I would like to give a special Thank-you to the Sherwood Shindig organisational committee. We know how much hard work you all put in to achieve an outstanding Party weekend.

Not sure who booked the weather, but they need an extra-special thanks! So, THANK-YOU guys and gals, we all appreciate it.

Jayne (Ed)

Hi welcome to Centre 9's August newsletter, blimey it'll soon be Christmas. This month has once again been a busy one and I've been warned that 'malc's bit' is smaller than normal - I blame those lights. So I need to be brief and to the point.



► July's Anniversary Centre Meet - excellent turnout of bikes and people, the atmosphere was bubbling, very friendly - just as it should be.

► Centre 13's Rally - crackin' weather and of course the Hawaiian theme. Centre 9's turn-out in fancy dress is becoming legendary. Check out the websites and you'll see wot I mean.

The big event for the centre this month - probably for the whole of the year was the 'Sherwood Shindig', our first ever National Party, complete with Robin Hood's merry men, monks and a number of wenches. Almost 200 people came to Alfreton and everything went very nearly to plan, the campsite was a sight to behold and the bike park glistened with chrome and polish. 78 bikes went on the ride-out to Moryash and several teams played a five-a-side football competition with 'Rozz - the boss' as referee. Centre 9 won a huge cup, with Carl being the man of the match and the top goal scorer.

The bike show had some very surprised and pleased winners - Terry (Yorkies rep) won the main prize with Mr Kevin Hoyte being runner up with Lee Brown hot on his tail, cough, cough. All were Virago's, very clean, very tidy and have seen plenty of action and miles.

Here we have tried to capture THE MOMENT to give you the feel of the weekend. To be 'onest I don't think it's possible; that is unless you know different. Please, please pass it on if you think you've got it.

Please enjoy your newsletter and read how and why Centre 9 is the best supported centre in the country.

Malc



It was 'Hot, too hot...'



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WOTTS-ON?

JULY

- 23 Hog on the Humber
 26 Bike Night Cruisers: Dog & Gun, Butterwick // 8 Jolly Brewers, Gainsborough.
 28 Bike Night: Hartsholme Park, Skellingthorpe Rd, Lincoln.
 28-31 **Centre 2 Ireland - Laughin' Leprechaun Rally.**

AUGUST

- 1 **VSOC C9 Meeting at the Grey Goose, Gedling**
 2 Bike Night: Cruisers; Kings Head, Tealby // Waterfront Inn, West Stockwith.
 4-5 **VSOC Scrumpties Summer Party - Court Farm Country Park, Banwell, Weston Super Mare, Somerset.** see VSOC website or Clatter for flyer.
 4-6 **Barn weekend, North Yorkshire - contact Ken Collingwood**
 8 Ashby Foleville - a gathering of bikes & cars - classics and customs alike, from mid-afternoon onwards.
 9 **VSOC Lincs Area Meet, Castle Inn, Coningsby**
 9 **VSOC Leics/Northants meet, Walcote**
 9 Bike Night: Cruisers; White Swan, Torksey // Castle Inn, Torksey.
 13 **BIG Bike Fest, Lincoln - Brayford Wharf North 10am to 5pm.**
 14 **VSOC Derbys Area meet, Barlborough**
 16 Bike Night: Cruisers; Barge Inn, Keadby // Ferry Boat, Burton on Stather.
 23 Bike Night: Cruisers; Glass 'n' Bottle, Normanby by Spital (off A15) // Rose and Crown, Gainsborough.
 23 *Deadline for receipt of items for inclusion in next month's newsletter*
 25-28 **Centre 4 The Northern Raiders FOURGASM II Rally (The Second Cumin')** - see VSOC website or Clatter for flyer.
 30 Bike Night: Cruisers; Ferry Boat, Burton on Stather // Cider Centre, Brandy Wharfe.

SEPTEMBER

- 5 **VSOC C9 Meeting at the Grey Goose, Gedling**
 8-10 **VSCN Dutch National Rally - see VSOC website for flyer.**
 11 **VSOC Derbys Area meet, Barlborough**
 12 Ashby Foleville - a gathering of bikes & cars - classics and customs alike, from mid-afternoon onwards.
 13 **VSOC Lincs Area Meet, Castle Inn, Coningsby**
 13 **VSOC Leics/Northants meet, Walcote**
 16-17 **BMF Peterborough - Tail Ender**
 17 **Leicester and Northants ride-out to the ACE CAFÉ LONDON.**
See separate ad in this newsletter.
 30 Halfway Heroes mcc - Leathered in Lincoln Bike Rally at Lincolnshire Showground. Tickets £12. Bands/ Camping/ Bar/Stalls. For info call: 01522 511652 or visit website www.halfway-heroes.co.uk

OCTOBER

- 9-12 Octoberfest at Calpe in Spain. Contact: linda@melonholidayhomes.co.uk
 21-22 13th Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show, Stafford County Showground.
 28-5 Nov International Motorcycle & Scooter Show NEC Birmingham



Bike Night Wednesdays
 at the A1 Café,
 Avenue 1, Storforth Lane Trading Est, Hasland, Chesterfield
 Phone: 01246 271315
 Open 7pm to 10pm April to September
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON LINCOLNSHIRE BIKE NIGHTS
 GO TO: www.spen-crowson.co.uk/lincs_bike_nights.htm

MEETING DATES & VENUES

CENTRE 9

Grey Goose Public House
 Gedling, Nr Arnold
NOTTINGHAM
 1st Tues of the month from 7.30pm
 includes FREE BUFFET

DERBYSHIRE

Dusty Miller Public House
BARLBOROUGH
 (just off J30 M1)
 2nd Monday of the month from 7.30pm

LEICESTERSHIRE / NORTHANTS

The Tavern Inn
WALCOTE,
 Nr Lutterworth
 1 minute from J20 M1
 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm

LINCOLNSHIRE

Castle Inn,
CONINGSBY
 2nd Wednesday of each month
 from 7.30pm

Leicester and Northants
 Presents:
 A ride-out to the
ACE CAFÉ LONDON
 It's the
 CRUISER and VALKYRIE
 Special Day on
Sunday 17th Sept 2006

Meeting at the Walcote 10am
 setting off promptly at 11am

For more details contact
 Pete Brown 01162 916809
 or your County Rep

Make a note in your diaries
 - join the ride-out



Do you recognise the man on the right?
 It's Ken Collingwood receiving his 3rd Dan from Sensei Tommy Morris (9th Dan Chief Instructor for KOI and Chief Referee for the World Karate Federation). Obviously not a man to mess with - our Ken!

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL



The C9 newsletter is available by email and takes the form of a 6 page 'Word' document of around 3mb size and in **FULL COLOUR.**

If you would like to be included on my circulation list, please email me at: jayne.bell@hemscott.net

The emailed file should reach you up to 5 days before the Gedling meeting.
PS: PLEASE ASK FOR A READ-RECEIPT ON YOUR REQUEST SO YOU KNOW I HAVE RECEIVED IT!

WEBSITES

www.vsoc.org.uk
www.lostriders.co.uk

Cottesmore Camping Weekend

After months of planning by Roy and Julie Cottesmore Camping Weekend arrived. The weather was warming up - much needed after a cool spell. I got a 'flyer' out of work, picked up my previously packed ruck-sack, jumped on my bike and John and I headed south down the A1.

We arrived 7pm-ish and got fish and chips, then round to the pub where others were having a meal. It was a very pleasant evening and a small group of us sat outside the pub soaking up the last rays of sunshine.

Back at the clubhouse, Dave was winning at pool, potting two balls at a time - not bad for 'novice' (or so he claimed!)

Eventually they stopped serving and we all drifted off to bed.

Saturday began with light rain but by 10 am it had stopped and everything was drying up nicely. The two Johns (Tessa's and mine) decided to test each others bikes, then Tessa's and Julies too. More people were arriving including Paul and Shelagh on Paul's Triumph - a milestone for Shelagh as it was her first time back on a bike since her accident - well done Shelagh!

At 12.30pm 15 bikes left on the ride-out. We had joked that Roy had been out earlier muck-spreading down the roads so as not to spoil his record, but in the absence of mud he tried to guide us through a fresh pile of sheep-sh't, and when that failed, through a herd of sheep, but despite his efforts the bikes stayed clean. After about 50 miles (during which time we all got lots of practice as 2nd man - including impromptu 'holding the traffic' as necessary), we arrived at Pickwell fete where we were directed into a field - 'that's it' I thought, 'Roy couldn't find any mud so he's taking us into a ploughed field instead'. As we parked up, the organisers invited us to display the bikes on the driveway along with various classic Jaguars and Daimlers.

Set in the grounds of what appeared to be an old manor house, the fete included dog trials, various games, an art display, a band and stalls. Sticky cakes and ice-creams were consumed while we soaked up the sunshine. A visit to the toilet however was a somewhat gothic experience!

After an hour or so we were on our way again back to camp. More people had arrived during the afternoon and we sat around exchanging stories, drinking beer and chillin'. Later Chris took some of us in his car to the local supermarket for food for the BBQ. This 'meals on wheels' bit was taken very seriously by some!(see pics)

All ready to burst post-BBQ and we are herded into the marquee for the raffle draw and Roy produces a surprise chocolate cake that he has made specially for Tessa's birthday which was earlier in the week. Very good it was too! At this point can I pass on Tessa's thanks and gratitude to Roy for his wonderful birthday surprise.

Following the raffle Paul & Shelagh left and most adjourned to the community centre bar for a return pool match and World Cup footie on the TV.

John and I left 9-ish as we had a prior engagement on the Sunday. We didn't have as swift a ride home as expected as the A1 was closed at Grantham so it took a little longer.

We'd like to say a very big THANK-YOU to Roy and Julie and their families for organising another successful camping weekend and another big thank-you to everyone who attended.

Thanks,
Jayne (Ed)

Wot! no reverse Malc?



A message from Nick & Jane

Hi Guys and Gals,

Oh, what a weekend! Oh, what a show. (Isn't there a song like that???)

Jane and I would like to just let you know that we had a fantastic time on Saturday and want to thank you all very much for the massive presentation of bikes that came along and gave us such a terrific escort from our wedding to our reception at Mallory Park. Both our families had never seen anything like it before and they now realise why we both enjoy the club so much. The hotel staff were amazed at the ride up the drive and we'll bet you're glad they could rustle up some thirst quenchers for you on such a hot day.

I know that those of you who stayed at the reception had a good time as we heard that many of you had a go on the karaoke once



the party upstairs had finished, some eventually going to bed at about 4 or 5 in the morning.

Hopefully Andy from Centre 4 had his bike relayed back home or his flat tyre sorted (a long time to get that organised apparently).

I've attached a couple of piccies for you, but we'll share the rest with you once we get back from our honeymoon or when we see you at the North London rally.

Last but not least we would both like to thank you for all the beautiful cards and gifts that we received, and we will personally thank you when we get a few minutes to ourselves.

New York - here we come!

Best Regards,
Nick and Jane Lappage



Hi Malc & Liz

Memories

Yesterday (Sat 8th July) will be one of those days that we will remember for many years to come!

For me, a well planned and managed ride out with great scenery, 2nd manning working like clockwork. 50 miles in the dry (well only a few spots of rain) and ending at Custom Cruisers where even more chrome bits could be bolted on.

For both of us, an evening with great friends who we feel very comfortable with, had made Lynn's 50th birthday very special. Our family said what a great bunch of friends we have and can see why we are always talking about the times we have with the 'gang'.

It didn't go unnoticed that you spent time on the ride-out sorting out with the pub and tea room owners for next week's Sherwood Shindig ride-out and then chatting with Mike at Custom Cruisers to encourage him with the end of ride food/drinks.

We just want to thank you both for yesterday. Keep at it. We all do know what hard work you both put into the Centre.

A big THANKX

Paul & Lynn



Crusader Leathers of Chesterfield (below) come very highly recommended for motorcycle clothing. Members having visited recently comment on a very helpful and attentive service. They are situated just off the roundabout on the A61 junction with the B6052 (the one just north of the Tesco's roundabout).

CRUSADER
Leathers

Quality Motorcycle Clothing
Manufacturers, Repairer & Retailer

Telephone: 01246 454921
www.crusaderleathers.co.uk

Brimington Road, North Whittington Moor, Chesterfield S41 9AP



Granny & The Biker!

A biker stops by the Harley Shop to have his bike fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home.

FUN TIME... FUN TIME... FUN TIME...

On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and an anvil. He stopped by the feed store/livestock dealer and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, he now had a problem: how to carry all of his purchases home.

The owner said, "Why don't you put the anvil in the bucket, carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in your other hand?"

"Hey, thanks!" the biker said, and out the door he went.

But in the parking lot he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, "Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?"

The biker said, "Well, as a matter of fact, I live at 1616 Mockingbird Lane. Let's take my short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time."

The little old lady looked him over cautiously then said, "I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and ravish me?"

The biker said, "Holy smokes lady! I am carrying a bucket, an anvil, two chickens, and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?"

The lady said, "Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the anvil on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens."

International Rally - Denmark

We left Chesterfield at about 10.15 am on a bright, sunny June morning. The Virago 1100 was loaded to the gunnels with panniers, tent, bed rolls, sleeping bags etc., forming a comfortable armchair for Jane.

We got to Harwich in plenty of time, and went straight through the various ticket and passport checks onto the ship without having to queue up (very different from the return journey, of which more later!). Most of the VSOC members were already on board, as the Danish shipping line (DFDS Tor Line) had begun boarding at 4.00 pm. We rode the bike up the metal gangways onto the deck where the other bikes were already parked in front of us - what a sight!

We had a great cabin to ourselves, with a sea view, our own shower and toilet, etc. We paid a bit more for the sea view, but it was worth it.

Into the bar for a Danish lager - a bit expensive, but that didn't stop us downing several. Then we had a splendid meal - a buffet / smorgasbord where you could pick from a wide choice of hors d'oeuvres, and either hot or cold main courses, puddings and sweets, and cheese and biscuits. We piled our plates with prawns, raw herring, salmon, lovely Danish seeded bread, and that was just for starters! Then a bean and pork dish, or chicken; fried wedges of potato, choice of vegetables or salad, followed by a chocolate muffin, and some cream and flan concoctions. No room for the cheese and biscuits. There was live music in one of the bars, but we retired to our cabin, thoroughly stuffed and pleasantly tired.

Infamous sandy path down to the campsite



We soon arrived in the port of Esbjerg and got our first glimpse of Denmark. Down to the deck where the bikes were situated, to unleash them. This was not a roll-on, roll-off ferry. As we were near the back, we were off fairly quick, as everyone disembarked the same way they had come

onto the ship, which meant most people had to turn their bikes round.

Once off the ferry, we all forgathered with our leader, Kevin (Hoyte), who divided us into three groups, the idea being that not too many bikes would arrive at



Jane with the bike and tent where we were attacked by ticks

the service station for a fill-up at the same time. We were in the middle group, and we pretty quickly lost more than half of our riders once we set off on the E20 motorway. We did eventually come together again at one of the stops, though by that time I think the three groups had got a bit muddled up.

We journeyed up the fairly busy autoroute, bypassing Middelfart (interesting name), then across an amazing 14 kilometre causeway and bridge over the sea from the middle island of Denmark to the eastern island, where Copenhagen is situated. We left the E20 and went north on smaller roads through the almost empty Danish countryside. Denmark has a population of only five million, and the land area of England, so there is plenty of space and little traffic compared to our busy roads.

At length, in the late afternoon we arrived at the entrance to the campsite in Klintebjerg, only to discover that we had to run the gauntlet of a rather tricky downward path of deep sand (having been previously assured by President Kevin that this infamous track had been fixed!). One of the Danish organisers (the founder of the Danish club, in fact), thoughtfully filmed each bike individually as it bumped and swerved down the sandy path, in the hope

that someone would fall off for the camera. Fortunately I made it down to the reception tent on our overladen Virago without disgracing myself, while Jane walked down the path. We were each greeted with a nip of something

light brown, very strong and warming (some sort of shnapps?) and given a goody bag with badge, pen, a Yamaha bike brochure in Danish, details of the rally, meal tickets, etc.

Unlike other Centre 9 members John & Rosie and Dave & Deb, we decided to pitch our tent in a more shady location in the pine woods. Having finally succeeded in pitching the tent to our satisfaction and unloaded the sleeping bags,

inflatable bedrolls, and most of the stuff in the panniers, we made for the bar and sunk a well-earned glass or two of Danish beer. We were soon getting into conversation with some Danes, and trying to learn some basic Danish. I discovered that beer is 'ol' in Danish (like 'ale') with a line through the 'o'.



Jane and a Polish member

and two beers is pronounced something like 'too ol' in Danish, so now we had all the language we needed, although I did also try to learn how to count up to ten in Danish. Here are a few more expressions I learnt:

'Hej her gaar det godt.' - 'Hello, here it is fine.'

'Hvordan har du det?' - 'How are you?'

'Tak jeg har det godt.' - 'Thank you, I am fine.'

The most useful word was 'Tak' - Thank you.

It was cool and shady most of the day where we were camping, but there were a lot of insect critters, and some of them decided to eat us for their breakfast, lunch and dinner. Most unpleasant among these were insect ticks which looked exactly like little crabs. I found one of them burrowing into my inner thigh, and at first thought I had caught genital crabs! Rather embarrassing, so we didn't like to mention it to anyone to ask if others had experienced the same thing. When we examined our bodies more closely, Jane and I discovered that we each had several of these ticks on us, on our backs, stomachs, legs and arms. They were impossible to pull off just with fingers once they had started burrowing into the skin with their front pincers, and we had to cut them off each other with a pen knife. Shades of Katherine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart in the film 'The African Queen'!

We arrived at Klintebjerg and settled into the campsite a day early, on the Thursday. The International Rally proper didn't get going until the Friday, when there was a good live band performing in the evening. It doesn't take much to make bikers happy, and this band really had the right idea, playing 'Born to be Wild' several times, as well as various Stones numbers such as 'Honky Tonk Woman' and a lot of other Rock and Rhythm and Blues tracks.

"I found one of them burrowing into my inner thigh, and at first thought I had caught genital crabs!"

A fiendish Dane opposite me kept going for my nail, and I was concerned that I might end up paying for the round of drinks, but fortunately a very tired and emotional (very well-oiled) large Dane had a disagreement with another Dane, which nearly came to fistcuffs, and he was led off in a huff. This meant that one of the players had dropped out, so the whole game was null and void. I can't say I was sorry! I supped more of the Danish beer and congratulated myself on my narrow escape.

I find one of the most interesting and enjoyable things about international rallies is the opportunity to speak to people of different nationalities. We chatted to the two Poles who came (see photo of Jane with a Polish member!), to plenty of Danish folk, and to several riders from the Netherlands.

next service station on the E20 without running out of fuel however, and had also managed to have our lunch at a food station when we had gone the wrong way.

When we finally got to the ferry, everyone was queuing up in the baking heat. We were kept for about two hours in the hot sun for no very good reason by the Danish shipping line (DFDS), all the bikes and riders lined up and panting to get on the ship, most of us with no water and nowhere to get a drink, and some (those who came later) with no shade for bikes or riders. (See photo). This was not very good; they could easily have begun loading us biker folk early, as they did at Harwich on the way over.



In the heat at Esbjerg



Playing the 'nail' game

Earlier in the evening I had attempted the famous 'nail game' (see photo), which appeared to be so loved by our Danish hosts. The rules of this (roughly) are that you bang each other's six inch nails down into a large tree trunk, but you don't hit your own nail - other players hit that. The owner of the first nail down (i.e. flush with the top of the log) has to pay for the nails, and the owner of the second nail down has to pay for the round of drinks.

There was also a good contingent from Finland, and naturally some Swedes, as this part of Denmark is close to Sweden.

We had to leave on Sunday, when the rally ended. Many VSOC members went to the Yamaha cruiser club near Copenhagen for a couple of nights, but we decided to venture off on our own, having met someone who told us about an attractive campsite on the island of Thuro, near Svendborg, south of Odense. We found the campsite and it was indeed pleasant, again right on the coast, like Klintebjerg, where the international rally was held. The campsite on Thuro island had a good shop with a fridge full of Danish beers of different types, which we enjoyed sampling.

We found the Danish people really friendly and enjoyed the whole experience of the rally. We got back to the ferry in Esbjerg on Tuesday afternoon, having gone the wrong way at one point and left the E20 on entirely the wrong road, so that we would have ended up in Germany! We had only gone about ten miles out of our way, which was still a bit worrying, as we were nearly out of petrol. We got back to the

On the sailing back to England, we were awoken in our cabin at about 2am by the captain, asking if there was a doctor on board, as they had a medical emergency. We found out more about this the following morning. One of our VSOC members had unfortunately been taken ill. Denise Burr from Centre 15, wife of Ron 'Rocket' Burr, the Deputy Rep. for Centre 15. I understand Denise suffered a bleed into the brain and had to be evacuated by helicopter to Holland. We were very sorry indeed to hear about this. There was a collection by the Centre 15 Rep., Ray Nicholson, in the bar on the ferry, to help Ron with the expense of the journey back to Holland, where he would have to go as soon as he got back to Harwich.

I gather that over £800 was raised by the VSOC members on the ferry. Unfortunately Denise passed away in the early hours of Friday morning with Ronnie at her side. The family would like any money to go to the charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer. A very sad ending to an otherwise excellent rally.

Keith Mason
Centre 9 member