

# Midland Section News 2007

## January 2007

Happy New Year everyone...here we go again. If you've received your Journal before the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan, there's still time to remind you of our New Year's Day rideout leaving Donington Services at 10.00, details of which are in the Dairy section....and here's the final call to book with Bill Rodgers for the post-Christmas meal at the Three Kings, Threkingham on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Bill's number is (01526) 834480.

We have co-opted section member Paul Straw onto the committee for the rest of the season, and as I know Paul's worth, I'm sure that he will be a great asset to the section. Welcome Paul.

Towcester and Greetham are back to their normal places now that Christmas is over – 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> respectively, and we have a Topbox/Tabletop (call it whatever you want) sale at Greetham on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Motorcycle related equipment only please. Set up from 11.00.

Our new 'all year round' meeting place gets it's first try this month (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>) and I hope to see many of you there for a chat and a spot of lunch. If the weather is dry we will be having a short ride around the local roads each time (about 11.00), before sitting down to anything from a cup of tea and a cake to a full blown Sunday lunch – your choice. The venue is called Christy's, and it's on the left of the A617 about 8 miles West of Newark, Notts, just after a small village called Hockerton. (01636) 816472 – O/S ref: SK 71295 56663 and postcode NG25 0PJ – see you there.

Many thanks to John and Janet at Towcester, and Sally and Graeme at Greetham for our Christmas specials in December, and to Judy and Mick Moyne for their efforts so far at Greetham – we all appreciate the effort which you put into catering these events for us – thank you very much. We have caterers for Greetham for the months of Jan, Feb and March, but volunteers will be needed for the Autumn/Winter gatherings later in the year – can you help please?

Once again we have a really varied calendar of events, and my thanks go to those who have volunteered, or will volunteer their services throughout the year, but you may have noticed that the section year-card is not with this month's Journal. In order to make the information more accurate, it will be sent out with the February Journal. Thanks to those who commented on the 2006 card, and changes have been made where necessary. I hope it meets with your approval...but if not...please let me know. In the meantime, copies of the 2007 calendar can be obtained by e-mail from me, or downloaded from the website mentioned below.

Now might be a good time to book your holidays for our camping and B&B events this year - we have three superb camping weekends for you – Easter weekend, Whit bank holiday and the end of June - all with the section marquee in use which means free food and drinks, and a good social scene whatever the weather. We also have a couple of excellent B&B weekends. Reserve your places now as these are already receiving a great deal of attention.

If you would like to be included in my e-mailing list, please send a blank e-mail with just the word Subscribe in the subject line to [midlandlist@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandlist@ntlworld.com) You will then be notified of any late news or changes to events where applicable. Please do not use this e-mail address for any other purpose.

Whenever possible, check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland> and don't forget the midland discussion area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> Start times/locations and contact details can be found in the diary section of The Journal, and I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com)

The Sunday meets are underway. The Towcester meet has a change of leadership. Welcome to John and Janet Winn, not connected to the Terry Wogan radio show are you? If you have any questions re this meet they can be contacted on 01604 631043.

Don't forget about the Greetham Dinner (wont mention the X word just yet) bookings being taken by Graham and Sally Cluley, contact on 01572 813639.

Also there is the post X dinner on Sat 14th Jan at Ropsley bookings to Bill Rodgers on 01526 834480.

Also by popular demand, Martin Ellis will be leading another NYD ride. More details to follow.

Finally a theme I will be returning to in the final jottings of 2005. The section committee and others work hard to provide you with an active and varied calendar, but we need your support to make it worthwhile.

Ride safe.

Rob H (bomber pilot)

## **February 2007**

If all's gone well you should have received your yearcard with this issue of The Journal. It lists all planned events through to and including next January, and I hope that you find it useful. Please do read it (and keep it to hand) as we have some really interesting events for the coming year. The committee look forward to seeing many of you out there.

As you read this, it's February, but I wrote it in the first few days of January so I have no news on the success or otherwise of our bring and buy at Greetham, Bill Rodgers' post Christmas meal at Threekingham, or our first gathering at Christy's – more next month.

The New Year's day ride though was great fun again on a dry, sunny day, and we had almost 30 people at Masson mills for the entertaining tour and demonstrations of working mill machines from the Victorian era. We had visitors from Mercia, Yorkshire, East Anglia and Western sections, along with many of our own regulars, and half a dozen new members.

My apologies go to those to whom I didn't get chance to say goodbye when I left early, because I was shattered having been woken three times in the middle of the night with the house mains electricity tripping out and our alarm screaming its head off. The fact that it had been New Year's Eve and I was late to bed anyway, didn't help matters either.

Terry and Bron Collier are catering for us at Greetham this month and Graham and Ann parker have stepped in for March, but we need volunteers for the late season and into 2008. Please let me know if you can help.

Are you sitting comfortably...? 'cos we have a rideout on the 17<sup>th</sup> (yes, in February) to Derby's industrial heritage museum, and there's the Rhino rally from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, so coupled with our regular visits to Towcester on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Greetham on the 11<sup>th</sup> and Christy's on the 25<sup>th</sup>, we have a full month. Weather permitting we'll try and have a short meander around local roads

at about 11.00 from Christy's for those hardy souls who venture out on their bikes, but if it's throwing it down, we'll just have a chat and a cuppa or a spot of lunch, again, from around 11.00. Directions and contact details for Christy's are on the new yearcard, as is information for all of these events.

Please remember that the Derby industrial museum ride mentioned above is on a **SATURDAY**.

I shouldn't need to remind you (but I will) to try and get your bookings in for our camping and B+B events this year – Graham's Keswick weekend has proved so popular that he has arranged another hotel for the extra numbers, and we still have a couple of B+B rooms left for the Red Marley hill climb/trials weekend in Worcestershire over Easter, where you can turn up with a tent or a caravan too. The Long Eaton steam rally is on again (end of June), with free entry to the show, free camping and free food. All you have to do is agree to show your bike on our stand for some of the time, and prebook it through me to get your entry pass. We also have a joint weekend with East Anglia section at Banham in Norfolk, which will be camping and caravanning with a Saturday rideout.

All of our camping weekends will have the section marquee in use which means free food and drinks, and a good social scene whatever the weather.

If you would like to be included in my e-mailing list, please send a blank e-mail with just the word Subscribe in the subject line to [midlandlist@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandlist@ntlworld.com) You will then be notified of any late news or changes to events where applicable. Please do not use this e-mail address for any other purpose.

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### **March 2007**

As promised, here are the reports of recent activities. The post Christmas meal was well attended as usual, and despite some difficulties due to the pub struggling to cater for such a large group in one go, I think everyone went away full, and in good spirits. Our thanks go once again to Bill Rodgers for his efforts.

The bring and buy was a change to our usual format for a Greetham gathering, and apart from some grumbles from a few who didn't like the change, it went really well. The crowd could be seen to be mixing more and talking to a wider range of people than would otherwise have happened, so overall it was a great success. It was nice to see some new faces and chat with them about why they don't usually come to Greetham – the comments have been noted lads.

Christy's, our new all year round Sunday meeting place saw around 25 people turn up for a good natter, and food where applicable. From February on, whenever the weather is amenable we will be going for a short ride around the area (starting about 11.00am) before returning to the cafe, and if there's a desire to split into two groups, modern and vintage/classic, all the better. It's only 30 minutes up from Greetham so it would be pleasing to see more of our members from the southern part of the section than we did in January. Some of us travel over 50 miles to Greetham to make it the event it has become. Please support this new venue and give it a chance of succeeding. Christy's this month (March) is on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Graham and Ann Parker are catering for us at Greetham in March, and Judy and Mick Moyne have come through again as far as late season and into 2008 are concerned. A big vote of thanks to all those who do, and have done, their bit.

We still have a couple of B+B rooms left for the Red Marley hill climb/trials weekend in Worcestershire over Easter, where you can turn up with a tent or a caravan too, but they need booking now or we will lose them. Please contact me for more information about this event, or for entry forms for the FREE Long Eaton steam rally weekend in June.

All of our camping weekends will have the section marquee in use which means a good social scene whatever the weather. We (the committee) need your support and comments for our events, and we look forward to seeing many of you out and about as the year progresses. I also now need definite volunteers for the organising party at Long Eaton. I can't go on relying on exhibitors and a few regulars to do all of the work. Please contact me by any of the methods below, to be included on the list.

The national AGM is on the 31<sup>st</sup> in Cambridgeshire. There is likely to be heated debate concerning two of the proposals which I have sent in after consultation with your committee, and one of them may give Midland a chance to be in on the ground floor of an additional national rally in 2008. Please attend the AGM if you can, even if it's just for the meeting, as your vote could mean the difference between a proposal succeeding or failing. We're willing to lay on a minibus if there's enough interest, but I need to know now.

Whenever possible, check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland> and don't forget the midland discussion area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> Start times/locations and contact details can be found in the diary section of The Journal, and I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com)

## **April 2007**

The committee's collective thanks (and I'm sure yours too) go to Terry and Bron Collier for their lovely grub at Greetham in February and by the time you read this we will all have no doubt gorged on the much appreciated offerings prepared by Graham and Ann Parker.

I'm indebted to Paul Straw for standing in for me on the Silk Mills run to Derby in February, and I'm assured that it was a very enjoyable day out, even if the numbers were very low. Our numbers at Greetham were low in February too, so perhaps we shouldn't read too much into this. Towcester by contrast attracted a large crowd again, and I'm really pleased to see that this venue is becoming increasingly popular. Long may the trend continue. John and Janet Winn, and Mick and Judy Moyne have done us proud over the winter, and our thanks go to them and their helpers.

Christy's had a decent showing again in February and the 40 mile ride around the local villages sharpened our appetites for the good selection of Sunday roasts and lighter meals and snacks, some of which were laid on solely for club members. It really is a superb place for mixing and chatting, and now that Towcester and Greetham have closed their doors until later in the year, I hope that it becomes a firm favourite with those who want to stay in touch all year round, and perhaps go on the pre-lunch rides with us. April's date is the 27<sup>th</sup> and the ride starts at about 11am. A volunteer for a run for the vintage/classic bikes would be most welcome. Please phone me if you want to have a go.

We have two Sunday runs this month – one to the Anderton Boat lift on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and a repeat of last year's very enjoyable run for lunch to Kelling in Norfolk, on the 15th. The Anderton lift is a

superb bit of Victorian engineering which is well worth a visit even if you don't take the boat trip which goes along the basin and includes a ride on the lift itself. This will be run-leader Dave Clayton's second run for us and if it's anything like his last one, to see the Lancaster at a Lincs airfield, it should be a good day out. <http://www.andertonboatlift.co.uk/>

Our Red Marley hill climb/trials camping/caravanning weekend near Bewdley in Worcestershire is here at last. It takes place over the Easter weekend and you can turn up with a tent or your own caravan. Please feel free to phone or e-mail me for more information about this event, or see the Midland website. It's a fascinating show which attracts really good crowds and never fails to entertain. <http://www.redmarley.com/home.html>

Entry forms for the FREE Long Eaton steam rally weekend at the end of June are also available on the site, or directly from me. Please don't leave this until May/June or you may be too late. Did I mention that it's FREE?

All of our camping weekends will have the section marquee in use which means a good social scene whatever the weather, but please don't forget that we (the committee) need your support to make sure these events run smoothly.

If you want to volunteer to help with the marquee, or just want to be included on my mailing list for late changes and event reminders, please contact me by any of the methods below.

Whenever possible, check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland> and don't forget the Midland discussion area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> Start times/locations and contact details for all of our events can be found either in the diary section of The Journal, or on your section yearcard, and I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com)

## **May 2007**

**LATE NEWS** – Our May 6<sup>th</sup> run to Cambridge has had to be CANCELLED at the last minute. - Further details next month.

Graham and Ann Parker did us proud at Greetham again with a substantial meal (as usual) and our collective thanks go to everyone who looks after us at our winter gatherings, which are now finished until October. John and Janet Winn (with helpers) collected a total of £574 this season, and this amount will be donated to the Air Ambulance fund. Well done and thank you.

Garth Forbes informs me that the Rhino rally was the success it usually is, and to reminisce that it was 18 years ago that he first took it on!

March was a very quiet month apart from the AGM, at which the Midland section was collectively awarded the Fred Secker trophy primarily for our efforts at Moreton Morrell.

Christy's is still going strong, and it would be nice to see you on the 27th for a short, leisurely ride round (about 11.00) before returning to the cafe for a drink or some food. The people at Christy's have taken on board our comments and there are more snack-type meals available for those not requiring a full Sunday roast.

Our one rideout in March was my mystery brunch run, and we had a great time despite the doom and gloom in the weather forecast. It remained dry and sunny (albeit a little windy) and we visited the Great Central Railway preserved station (decked out in 1940s style) at Rothley

near Leicester. After looking at the model railway exhibition, we boarded a (steam) train to Quorn station, where we had some light refreshments in the 1940s style NAAFI kitchen before catching the train back to Rothley and the bikes. Those of you who were unable to join us missed a good day out. Next time eh?

By contrast, May is absolutely chock full of places to go and things to do, with an event of some kind on every weekend, but if all goes well I will have had an operation on my left shoulder by now so I will not be riding for some time, although I hope to see you at Christy's and Banham at the end of the month.

Entries are still being accepted for the Belvoir steam and vintage rally this month, with entry forms available from Bill Rodgers (01526) 834480, and don't forget the joint East Anglia/Midland rally at Banham in Norfolk, which takes place over the Whit holiday at the end of the month. This promises to be a really good social event complete with the Midland marquee, and all that that implies. For booking, or more information on the Banham rally, contact E/A social sec Paul Brown by any of the following methods; 0845 1560715 [g4aje@yahoo.com](mailto:g4aje@yahoo.com) or via the E/A website or the E/A section of the club Forum

Last chance now for anyone wanting to go to the Long Eaton steam rally weekend for FREE. Completed entry forms MUST be in my hands by the end of this month at the latest to receive your free pass for the show, which takes place over the weekend of June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Entry forms are available directly from me at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com) or by phoning. **Please note that this also applies to those who will be helping out over the weekend.** Remember...no entry form = no pass = **NO ENTRY**.

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## **June 2007**

I hope that the late cancellation of my May 6 run to Cambridge didn't catch too many out but as I sit typing this with one hand due to having just had a 'Subacromial Decompression' operation on my left shoulder, I knew that there was no way I'd be able to take the run, and I hadn't been able to find an alternative leader by the time the Journal deadline for section news submission came around. I promise we'll go there someday soon.

Dave Clayton's ride to the Anderton boat lift in Cheshire was very well attended and we had a very enjoyable day out, as did those who went with Griff to Kelling in Norfolk once again. My thanks go to both of these gents for leading rides for the section.

The Red Marley weekend was a resounding success with many visitors from the Yorkshire section, and a goodly number watched some enthralling trials action on the Sunday and an exciting hill climb (complete with spectacular crashes) on the Monday, all in glorious 'tee shirt' weather. The Saturday evening cook-out (all free) went down a storm and many of us sat out in the Midland marquee drinking and swapping stories until quite late. If you didn't go you missed a cracking weekend and I offer my thanks to those who helped with the logistics (unloading and packing away) throughout the whole weekend.

Now then, where to start with our June calendar? There's so much to choose from. We've Andy Pilkington's ride to a newly opened motorcycle collection on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Graham's Keswick B+B weekend, The Bourne (Lincs) classic car and bike show with Bill Rodgers on Father's Day (17<sup>th</sup>), a massive 'biker meet' on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>, in Leicestershire, and a repeat of my 2006 joint E/A run to Wroxham on the Norfolk Broads on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – which is a SATURDAY. We'll have free off-road parking and a trip on a broads boat (should you wish) for a couple of hours. This has been put on once again after numerous requests from those who missed it last year and heard what a great time we had. Start time is prompt - please don't be late or we'll be gone.

Due to a few cancellations, there may still be places for anyone wanting to go to the Long Eaton steam rally camping/caravanning weekend (29<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup>) for FREE. You must however, contact me NOW to get an entry form so that I can have it back in time to send out your pass for the show. Entry forms are available directly from me at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com) or by phoning. **Please note that this also applies to those who will be helping out over the weekend.** Remember...no entry form = no pass = **NO ENTRY**. Passes will be sent out a few days before the rally, with more information on directions etc.

Christy's is on the 24<sup>th</sup> this month and it's proving to be a real success story. Our gentle rides around the area before lunch are showing us what fantastic roads and countryside abounds in this area of Nottinghamshire, and the atmosphere is very friendly. Be there for 11.00 to catch the rideout at about 11.15. Details in the yearcard or 'Where we meet' in this Journal.

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## July 2007

May was a busy month with something going on every weekend. Our involvement with the BMF rally was a great success (a national event but run by a Midland based team) and Lisa (and team) have received many votes of thanks from people attending, for putting on a good 'old fashioned do' in the best tradition of Club events, and on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Brian Gardiner led his (inaugural) ride with a 'Lord Of The Rings' connection for us, a report of which can be seen on the Midland website. My thanks to Brian for doing his bit and apparently having a damn good time doing so, despite the rain.

Along with others, I've just returned from a weekend at the joint East Anglia/Midland weekend at Banham Zoo, where despite horrendous weather on Sunday, the rally was a really enjoyable get-together. We had our Saturday rideout and evening barbecue in good weather, and many sat out late into the evening under the cover of our section mini-marquee, chatting and drinking. East Anglia social sec Paul Brown organised it all, and our own treasurer Graham Parker, did us proud with the Saturday evening food. I just handled the logistics of transporting the gear.

The 'car boot' on Sunday was under cover and I managed to stock up on some of the odds and sods you seem only able to find at car boot sales. A more detailed report with pictures can be seen on the Midland website, and on the 'Event Report' section of the Club Forum.

July is packed with things to see and stuff to do. Apart from our usual pub meets, we've **5 rideouts** this month, so there should be something to interest all. We're going to a **motorcycle museum** on the 1<sup>st</sup> with Ian Griffin (Griff) – then on the 8<sup>th</sup> we go to look at some **crop circles** with Brian Gardiner [www.lucypringle.com](http://www.lucypringle.com) – on the 15<sup>th</sup> Bill Rodgers leads us on his **Stoke on Trent run** which will take in a coffee stop in the hills above Cheadle, then (time permitting) on to the **Etruria Industrial Museum**, & finally on to the **Wedgwood Museum** [www.thewedgwoodvisitorcentre.com](http://www.thewedgwoodvisitorcentre.com) (with shop & restaurant), which is situated in parkland not far from Trentham Gardens. (All these years I've been spelling Wedgwood with an 'E' in the middle, and it takes a bike ride to make me realise I've been wrong).

Griff steps in once more on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and leads a run to **Founders day**, and finally we've my ride to **Marsden** in Yorkshire on the 29<sup>th</sup> to travel on the **Standedge Tunnel** – the longest, deepest, highest canal tunnel in the UK Those of you who enjoyed the Dudley canal tour will surely have a good time at Standedge. [www.standedge.co.uk](http://www.standedge.co.uk)

Our all year Sunday gathering at Christy's is also on the 22<sup>nd</sup> this month and I hope to see many of you there at 11.00 for a ride around the area before lunch, and don't forget that there'll be a BBQ at the Threekingham pub meet in **August**.

Whenever possible, check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. [www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland](http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland) and don't forget the Midland discussion area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> Start times/locations and contact details for all of our events can be found either in the diary section of The Journal, or on your section yearcard, and I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com)

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## **August 2007**

LATE NEWS – Our (June) Long Eaton weekend was cancelled at the eleventh hour due to bad weather but it has been rescheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, and everyone who had already booked in should have received their new pass by now, but if you were unable to join in at the end of June but would like to take part in September, please e-mail or phone me for an entry form, or download one from the club internet Forum.

June started with Andy Pilkington's first run as leader to a newly found motorcycle collection near Gainsborough. We had great weather for the run, which was a superb mix of major and minor roads with something to suit all tastes, followed by a really good lunch at a country pub. We got split up a little towards our destination but everyone made it and we were rewarded with a large collection of 'as-is' bikes from yesteryear. My thanks go to Andy for volunteering to lead a run for us (and enjoying himself at the same time). If you'd like to have a go next year, please contact me and we can have a chat about it. I'm already planning next year's calendar so please do it as soon as possible.

Graham Parker has provided me with a comprehensive report on his successful Keswick weekend, and it can be viewed on the Midland website, along with some nice photos.

There's quite a bit of information from committee member Bill Rodgers this month, starting with a reminder that there'll be a BBQ at the Threekingham pub meet on the 7th. Be there for about 7.30 (PM, that is)

His run to the Shuttleworth Collecton on Aug 5<sup>th</sup> will be to an event consisting of a 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> world war **flying pageant**, a brass band and a vintage car & motorcycle parade. All of the hangers & static displays will be open, together with the Swiss Gardens & birds of prey collection. Entry is £20.00 per head but will be subsidised by the section. 10.am. start from Colsterworth Services to arrive approx 12.00 at Old Warden.

And finally on to Bill's run on Aug 12<sup>th</sup>. The Sheffield Industrial Museums is a multi site venue showing a broad history of Sheffield's illustrious history of steel manufacturing. From the largest steam driven rolling mill engine (in steam hopefully) to the manufacture of cutlery & stainless steel, the 2 venues which we will visit should have something of interest for everyone. Lunch can be taken on site. Start 10.00a.m. Donington Services for a picturesque run through the Derbyshire countryside. Call Bill if you have any questions (01526) 834480.

George Gibson's ride to Thursford (Norfolk) on the 19<sup>th</sup> looks very promising. Thursford is the home of one of the country's premiere steam collections and should not be missed. Visit <https://www.thursford.com/> and click on 'Steam Collection'.

Our all year Sunday gathering at Christy's is also on the 26<sup>th</sup> this month and I hope to see many of you there at 11.00 for a short visit to a local microlite airfield before lunch (weather permitting). Details are in 'Where we meet' or by contacting me.

Start times/locations and contact details for all of our events can be found either in the diary section of The Journal, or on your section yearcard, and I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com)

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## **September 2007**

Our 'Winter' Sunday gatherings start next month with venues at Towcester and Greetham, and this prompts me to give formal notice of our section AGM which will take place at Greetham on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October (address in 'Where we meet' in this Journal). If you wish to stand for a committee position (we need a couple more people on the committee, particularly to help with next year's events) or have any proposals, questions or other submissions, please contact our section Secretary Lisa Parker (Details in this Journal or on your section yearcard). Proposals, submissions and nominations must be with her by September 28<sup>th</sup>. E-mails are acceptable as are written /typed letters.

It's also time to let you know that tickets are now available for our Christmas lunch at Christy's on December 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday). Christy's have served us well all year with great hospitality and superb food. I hope that many of you will take part in what promises to be a real social gathering. Expected costs will be £14 - £17 depending on whether you choose a two or three course meal but all meals will include tea/coffee and wine. This is restaurant quality food with excellent service, and there will of course be a raffle for the Air Ambulance. Please don't miss it.

Worth a special mention this month is Graham Parker's ride into Derbyshire on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Be at Graham's house around 9.00 for a bacon butty and a cuppa before the ride (petrol available nearby - full tank needed) and a cuppa then it's off around one of Graham's favourite stumping grounds.

My ride on the 9<sup>th</sup> will be to "The Railway Age" exhibition/museum in Crewe (details in the diary section), then Bill's run on the 30<sup>th</sup> will be a little different. The plan is to tour the Scunthorpe Steel Works by steam train, courtesy of The Appleby Frodingham Preservation Society. This

will be a 2Hr 30min steam-hauled 15 mile tour of the works in their preserved railway carriage. The run starts at 9.30, and the tour at 11.0a.m. Following the tour, late lunch will be taken at the restaurant of a nearby garden centre

We have an unfortunate clash on that same weekend (which couldn't be foreseen) as the Long Eaton steam rally (cancelled due to bad weather) has been rescheduled by the main rally organiser for the 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September. There are still passes available for this popular weekend (either camping or as a day visitor) and it's all FREE. Phone me for a FREE pass.

Our all year Sunday gathering at Christy's is also on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (yes, it clashes with the National – sorry) this month and I hope to see many of you there at 11.00 for a visit to a local microlite airfield before lunch. Christmas lunch menus and tickets will also be available there.

I'm considering organising a section holiday in air conditioned chalets on the South of France for next September, but I need an indication of interest before proceeding any further. It needs planning NOW, so please call me ASAP or it won't happen.

Whenever possible, check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland> and don't forget the Midland discussion area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> Start times/locations and contact details for all of our events can be found either in the diary section of The Journal, or on your section yearcard, and I'm available by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com)

You can be added to my mailing list by sending an e-mail to [midlandlist@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandlist@ntlworld.com) with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

## **October 2007**

Our section AGM takes place this month at Greetham Community Centre (details in Where we Meet) on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting itself starts at 11-00am, with hot snacks at around 1.00pm. If you are intending to vote, please bring proof of your club membership along with you.

Our committee members are all willing to carry on in their present positions again this year, and we have a new face wanting to join the throng, in the shape of section member Kevin Stevenson. Should you wish to become a committee member yourself (we still have room) or to challenge for an officer's position, you may still have time (depending on when you receive your Journal) by contacting section Secretary Lisa Parker.

Towcester starts it's run as one of the venues for our regular Sunday 'Winter' gatherings this month on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the AGM on the 14<sup>th</sup> signals the same for Greetham. Recently, Towcester has been attracting numbers rivalling those at Greetham, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank John and Janet Winn for their continued efforts in this area.

Our official section Christmas lunch plans have now been finalised and quite a few people have already reserved their places at Christys coffee shop/restaurant courtesy of the menu/reservation slip which has been available for download on the section and club websites for some time now. This is restaurant quality food with waitress service, and the 'mix 'n' match' menu choices are superb. This is a really friendly place, and we have been made very welcome there throughout the year. If all has gone well, details also appear somewhere else in this month's Journal and hopefully we will see many of you at Christys on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

You *do* need to book in advance, so please e-mail or phone me if you need extra reservation slips or copies of the menu. There'll also be some at our regular visit to Christys this month on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> or at Greetham/Towcester. We will of course be having a raffle in aid of the Air Ambulance after the Christmas lunch so if you would like to donate a prize, please let me or any other committee member know in advance

Sally Cluley (01572) 813639 has tickets available for her regular Christmas lunch at Greetham on **November 11<sup>th</sup>** at 1.00pm. Tickets are £10:00 and need to be paid for in advance. Please do not turn up expecting a regular Sunday gathering. Ticketholders only please.

I have a run to Papplewick Pumping station in Notts on the 21<sup>st</sup> where we will be able to see the magnificent Watts beam engines in steam, and there will hopefully be a stationary engine display taking place too, although this hasn't been confirmed yet. See the Diary section for details.

Bookings are now being taken for our [South of France](#) week in September next year, and we've *already* had a number of people paying deposits to reserve their accommodation. Please see the Midland website *or contact me* for an information package. Details will also be available at our Greetham and Towcester gatherings, at Christys on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and from me on the Papplewick run.

If you wish to be kept up to date with any late breaking news or reminders of upcoming events, please send an e-mail to [midlandlist@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandlist@ntlworld.com) with just the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You can also unsubscribe at any later time.

Whenever possible, check the Midland website regularly for more information, along with updates and late news. <http://www.bmw-club.org.uk/midland> and don't forget the Midland discussion area on the club forum at <http://forum.bmw-club.org.uk/> I'm available most times by phone (even on the bike!) on (07970) 682972 or by e-mail at [midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandsocsec@ntlworld.com)

## **November 2007**

The section AGM last month happened after the submission deadline for this month's Section News, so more about that in December's notes, or on the Club internet Forum now.

Reservations for our official Christmas lunch (at Christys coffee shop/restaurant on December 23<sup>rd</sup>) are coming in steadily, and it looks as if we'll have a decent turnout for what promises to be an excellent gathering with superb food. For those who haven't reserved their places yet, a menu/reservation slip is available for download on the section and club websites. One (or more) can also be obtained by e-mailing or phoning me directly.

As I said last month, you *do* need to book in advance, and we will be having a raffle in aid of our chosen charity after the Christmas lunch, so if you would like to donate a prize, please let me or any other committee member know in advance. Thank you to those who have already donated superb prizes, but we need more. There is a good variety of starters, main meals and desserts from which to choose, and you may opt for a two or three course meal, each with tea/coffee and wine. Please join us if you can.

Those of you who didn't join us on our September visit to Christys missed a tour round a microlite airfield near Newark, Notts where we gained a real insight into these fantastic machines which bear remarkable similarities to motorcycles. Our visit was courtesy of club member Andy Buchan who runs a microlite training school from the airfield. He can be contacted on 01623 883820 or by visiting <http://www.lightflight.co.uk/>.

The South of France week in September next year has already attracted considerable attention, and quite a few people have already booked the double rooms in our allocation of nine air-conditioned units. First come first served remember. Please see the Midland website or contact me for an information pack.

We'll be holding another bring and buy sale at our January Greetham gathering, and there will be a charge of £4.00 per seller which will include free bacon butty and cuppa. Tea/coffee and hot snacks will be available for everyone at very reasonable cost, and the profits from the whole event will go to our chosen charity. Members from all sections are welcome, either as buyers or sellers. Turn up and pay – simple as that. Motorcycle and camping related items only please

Our *post* Christmas Dinner (organised by Bill Rodgers) will be held at 8:00 p.m. on **Saturday, the 19th of January** at The Solo Club, Market Place, Sleaford. NG34 7SF. This club has an enviable catering reputation in the area for doing 'shoot' dinners and weddings etc. It will be a four-course meal at a cost of £14.50, and the menu is available from Bill (01526 834480) or Chop Nunn (01529 305316). It will also be available to read on the Midland website by the second week in November. A deposit of £10 per head will be required.

A detailed map of the location and parking areas etc will be forwarded to interested parties at the time of booking, and for those travelling from further afield Bill has a list of Bed & Breakfast places & Hotels in Sleaford.

If you wish to receive occasional e-mails reminding you of upcoming events, and details of late news and changes as I become aware of them, please join my e-mail list by sending an e-mail to [midlandlist@ntlworld.com](mailto:midlandlist@ntlworld.com) with just the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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## **December 2007**

The section AGM in October produced few surprises either in turnout or content, and despite a very vocal minority who seemed unhappy with almost everything, the overwhelming body of opinion was that your committee is managing the section very well.

Kev Stevenson was voted in unanimously as a new committee member, and the rest of us were voted back into our respective positions, so you're stuck with us for another year. Section Secretary Lisa Parker coped well with the proceedings, and hopefully the minutes will be available for to any interested parties by the time you read this.

Membership figures are down a little on this time last year, but there may be a number of reasons for this, not least of which may well be the increase in subscription rates. Once again treasurer Graham Parker presented his accounts in an easy to understand format which brought about very few questions. Our bank balance seemed to be a little down, but again, there were reasons which are peculiar to this year, and the future looks rosy.

Graham and Sally Cluley have very kindly given us advance notice that they will provide us with a Christmas lunch at Greetham in December 2008, and this removes the uncertainty which was present at last year's AGM, when we chose Christys as our venue for 2007 due to there being no other offers....er...on the table...(sorry).

Places are still available for the section Christmas lunch at Christys on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month ([December](#)), and the best way of obtaining a menu and a reservation slip is to call me direct (or [download one from this website](#)) As I have said before, you *do* need to book in advance, and we will be having a raffle in aid of our chosen charity after the Christmas lunch, so if you would like to donate a prize, please let me or any other committee member know in advance. We already have a decent number of people who've booked, but we can accommodate more. Please join us.

Here's another reminder about our *post* Christmas Dinner (organised by Bill Rodgers), which will be held at 8:00 p.m. on **Saturday, the 19th of January** at The Solo Club, Market Place, Sleaford. NG34 7SF. There will be a four-course meal at a cost of £14.50, and the menu is available from Bill (01526 834480) or Chop Nunn (01529 305316). A deposit of £10 per head will be required, and for those travelling from further afield Bill has a list of Bed & Breakfast places & Hotels in Sleaford, but these are filling up already.

We have a healthy number of volunteers for leading and organising events in 2008, and to cater for some of our Winter gatherings. Thank you all for your time and effort.

Now news of a joint venture next year, co-organised by Midland Western and East Anglia sections. With St Audries Bay not happening over Easter, here's an alternative. This is *not* however, a replacement as this venue can't handle the numbers and doesn't have entertainment. The Castle Inn (Pengenffordd nr Talgarth, Powys, Wales) offers camping and bunkhouses in the grounds of a great Inn which has good quality food available all day, situated in the Brecon Hills. We have reserved the entire facility for the Easter weekend of March 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. Here's the really good bit...the bunkhouses are luxurious to say the least. Carpets, mains electricity, central heating, tables and chairs, tea/coffee making facilities, duvets and pillows, and a wetroom/shower/changing room in each bunkhouse...PLUS a full English breakfast with juice and cereals included in the price There are three such rooms which we hope to divide into male, female and unisex sleeping if required. Other sections have already used this venue and been eminently satisfied, but places are limited so bookings are only being accepted from the three organising sections until Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, at which time it will be made available nationally. A deposit is required for the bunkhouses and although campers can just turn up, the best spots will be reserved for those who prebook. More info can also be found in *Around The Compass*.

The Midland marquee will be used, so with tea/coffee and biscuits on hand all weekend, along with cooking facilities for campers, and a fridge in which to keep their perishables, it should be a damn good weekend. Rideouts are planned for the Saturday and Sunday. Bookings from **all sections** will be handled by me and no bookings will be accepted by the Castle Inn directly.

Finally, make sure you don't have a hangover on New year's day as I will be leading a run again, to the Great Central Railway in Loughborough, via a ride on a steam train from Rothley station. More details will appear in January's Journal, but it will be a 10.00 start from Donington services, as usual.

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