

March 2025



East Sussex Advance Motorcyclists

ESAM NEWSLETTER

Sussex Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter

A Message from the Editor

Hi all, I would like to introduce myself, though some of you may already know me as Wayne's wife Karleen. I'm into biking myself, I passed my test in 2023. I started on a Kawasaki Versys 650. I have now moved onto using Wayne's bikes: Ducati Multistrada 1200s and his BMW K1200s, both of which I enjoy riding- that is about extent of my biking history and knowledge. Wayne is great at nominating my services to help in the kitchen (I have just found out I'm helping in May) I don't mind it is good fun and great for meeting new people. Talking about Wayne nominating me he has put me forward to do your newsletters. I am looking forward to doing these for you all, just hope you enjoy reading them... Now to tell Wayne

I am nominating him to help me print them! 🙌

Looking forward to warmer days

There's been rain, which isn't a problem rather a fact of life! Personally I really enjoy riding in the rain, you can make so much progress and if you personally are warm and dry then why not?

There's been wind, which definitely can be a problem. Not so much from the effects of side winds as we (your Observers) can design routes to mitigate the impacts but from the unexpected detritus that can be left in the roads.

There have been thunderstorms, I don't advocate for anyone to ride in those!

Finally, there has been the incessant cold and if any of our planned or ad hoc observing routes are likely to be below 5 degrees Celsius (kelvin for the scientist amongst you, if I remember my school days correctly, which are often easier to remember than err?) we don't observe and the Examiners don't undertake tests. Not only do you have to consider the likelihood of ice but also the wind-chill. Heading to the coast can alleviate things to a degree for ice but intensify the wind-chill. There simply isn't an easy answer and when you are in the middle of your development enforced breaks are not helpful, but they are necessary.

The IAM RoadSmart Masters Examiners shut up shop for January and February and only deviate from that if there is going to be a "warm" period.

Thinking back our last 2 Open Sundays have been attended by significantly more people on 4 wheels than 2, me included. That says a lot for the camaraderie and common sense in our club and should be applauded.

So whilst I enjoy time in front of a roaring log fire I long for predictably warmer days, double figures would be nice but anything above 5 degrees will do, fingers crossed!

Alan B



If you've not already joined, there is a WhatsApp community set up to help keep you all in touch and updated with what's going on. Current groups are: Alex's Isle of Wight Tour, Café and Refreshment ideas, GPX files and a general chit chat group.

We won't be offended if you mute the groups but check in regularly to keep updated.

London Excel Bike Show February 2025

I was fortunate enough to win two tickets in the recent ESAM raffle for the show.

Surprisingly my wife Jackie said that she would like to come along which shoehorned nicely into her Valentine's Day gift (we went on 14th February). Parking at Hastings Station was £6 and the train tickets about £90. We boarded the train about 9.30am and arrived about 11.30am (same day). It was busy but comfortable in the hall. There were less manufacturers than when I last went but still plenty of new bikes from the usual suspects to look at. I sat on the 1000cc Hornet and the Tiger Sport 800cc. Couldn't touch the ground on either (b....r, f..k, s..t and damn). For me the Indian FTR still looks the best bike.



To me the BSA 650 Gold Star is an insult to the original and should have been called something else (like the tin star). Because it wasn't overcrowded the show was more enjoyable. For example I shook hands with Peter Hickman and Glenn Irwin, wishing them both good luck for the coming season. Allen Millyard was there with the Norton Nemesis, can't wait to see that going round somewhere. He's got it running but not quite right yet. That man is a genius.

I'm a sucker for a 'bargain' so spent a while on the discounted tools stand, buying more of what I 'really do need'. In the auction section a Triumph 500 Desert Sled caught my eye but, with its raised seat, my feet couldn't touch the ground on that either! I was very lucky in 2017, when starting biking, to come across my Ducati Scrambler 800 Flat Track Pro (about 790mm seat height). The food inside the show was a bit pricey but we went to the restaurant in the hall which was more reasonable. We spotted Charlie Boorman come out of the show to get a Bagel. In addition to the bike there were plenty of stands with gear, accessories, and associated items of interest to enjoy. We had a great day, leaving at about 3pm, back home by 6pm (same day again!).

Phil G

Bike Wash Products

Scrolling on Facebook I see lots of adverts now but one that keeps popping up is HydroUK. The owner, Jordan, sprays his vehicle with a prewash, waits a few minutes then adds snow foam, another couple of minutes then a gentle jet wash or hose off.

The dirt just falls away. Yeah right I thought, anyways, a good introductory offer came up so I bought into it. My bikes usually go anywhere, except intentionally off road.... the point is they get dirty so I tried this pre wash and snow foam, I can honestly say, it works! The k1200s didn't need any brush agitation at all and that sat for 2 weeks before it got washed. The Multistrada Enduro (the one that's for off road but is too big and heavy for off road) that needed I little bit of extra washing on the swing arm around the chain entry, it's like a mat type finish so muck sticks into it. I personally will use it more for the dirty, wintery riding. It's not the cheapest out there on the market and it does use up the product quickly, especially while trying to set it up right. I like it and while I keep getting discount codes I'll buy my next batch of wash ready for the next dirty ride that I come home from.



Tight, crusty nuts 'n' bolts

Back in 2019 I bought a 2015 Ducati Multistrada 1200s, what a bike had a lot of fun on it but now it's getting tired and in need of some TLC after riding in all weathers. My wife now rides this but has allowed me to make the improvements I want, which is good. It currently has a flat rear tyre and the front has worn a bit unevenly so time to change them for something new, probably bt023's as I like those on the BMW I ride.

One of the improvements I really wanted to do is change the colour of the wheels, I really have a thing for the gold ones, I think with the white bike they set off well.

So powder coating.... I get the bike up on the centre stand, start the process of removing the front wheel. First thing is to remove the brake callipers, these are super tight against the wheel and the brake union, you need to prize the pads apart to gain room on the disk itself to then twist out. Now usually, I'll protect the paintwork with a layer or too of electrical tape, however, in my infinite wisdom I forgot this process. One side comes off ok but the harder side won't, the pistons are seized. I open the fluid reservoir, nothing. In just forcing it off, I lose a little bit knuckles and scratch the paint, in two places. I'm taking the opportunity while the wheels are being done to get a few other bits done too, luggage rails, centre and side stands and the exhaust heat shield, that will be cerakote.

I thought I'll get the rails and stands off then they can go with the wheels but no, the Italian has other plans, seized and chewed bolts from years of road grime, there not coming off in a rush.

I go back to the wheels to remove everything from the front, tyre valve, break disks, bearings and wheel weights, 10 bolts, 5 either side 3 get stuck and won't shift, the Torx head just chews the bolt.

My friend removed the tyres for me using a bit of kit called a Rabaconda, what a bit of kit that is too, manual but very good. He then gets his heat gun out and gently warms up the bolts and slowly releases them from the grip of way too much loctite.

Well the wheels are delivered and I'm currently waiting on a couple of test swatches to decide the final colour. Next job is to free the rails from the clutches of the frame and get all the black stuff off to be coated too. Fingers crossed that goes a little better now that I've had to buy a battery powered heat gun.

(note from the editor. He's wanted to do this for years, says it's now my bike to ride but he still wants it for himself).
Wayne F

Website Updates

We are trying to bring the website up to date and introduce new features in order to keep it current. This is so we can keep members up to date and reach a wider audience. We're looking for any recent photos that could form part of the background pages and any ideas that you have to help us do this. There are things we're aware of and are in the process of changing, James does a great job in doing this for us.

Cafes list.

For those that have smart phones we're looking to create a cafe list where you can look at the map (in my case google maps) and on there are a list of cafes that you can visit. I'm aware of other websites that use this sort of thing but not sure we can just click on a button to create the route there. Any thoughts gratefully received.

Any Hot News from YOU!

Got something to share with members? A test ride, a product, tools or garage hack or just your thoughts on something bikey related you've done or going to do....

Please get in touch through socials or email any of the committee, we can't continue a newsletter if there is no content, especially if it's all my content...

ZZZZZZ

ESAM Membership Renewals are due on or before 1st April 2025

Your continued support is highly valued as without it there would be no ESAM and no mentoring of Associates, which is the main reason for our existence.

We have quite a few Events lined up for you all this season, see Facebook or WhatsApp + forthcoming Newsletter for details.

Payment by BACS is now preferred, see renewal form re details.

I still require the completed form; you are welcome to send it to; membership@esam.org.uk as a photo or PDF.

IF YOU JOINED US AFTER 1st MAY 2023 VIA ROADSMART ADVANCED RIDER COURSE. WE WILL CONTACT YOU, RE A PRO-RATA PAYMENT, SHOULD YOU WISH TO REMAIN A VALUED MEMBER OF ESAM UNTIL MARCH 2025.

Ride Safe

Richard White

Membership Secretary

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