

Barrel of laughs

Supporting charity from the saddle



Formed 36 years ago, Barrel Bikers today are basically a motorcycle club of friends – but friends who all have a love of riding and bikes in common. They share technical advice and tips, enjoy the odd party and do a lot for charity along the way...

Barrel Bikers MCC was formed in 1979 by a few members of other bike groups in the Buckingham area. Today the membership numbers more than 70 and they hail from all over the country, but mainly the areas around Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.

The members come from all walks of life, male and female, and ride a variety of machines. The important thing, and one they all have in common is that they all love bikes and getting together to talk about bikes, riding and help each other out - with a bit of partying thrown in for good measure!

The club holds weekly meets at the New Inn, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, every Wednesday from 8pm to closing. Prospective newbies (or even those who just want to chat about bikes) are welcome to pop along, chat to the members and get a feel for the club, its riders and activities.

There are ride-outs, rallies and marshalling of local charity events year round. Other events include an annual Christmas party held in, err, January - when else? This kickstarts the new year with style and a live band usually helps to chase any January Blues away.

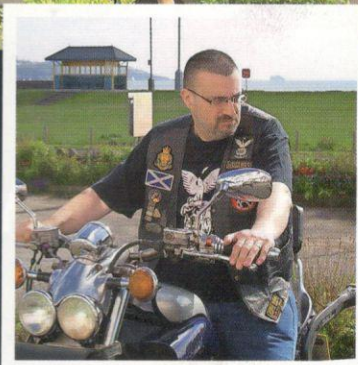
The Firkin 'o' Bitter rally is a three-day rally and camping extravaganza. It's usually held in

March and, although there's no live music at this one, there's plenty of fun, games, awards and liquid refreshment (the campsite is conveniently set in a field behind a pub!).

August's Classic and Custom Trike and Bike Show offers a great family day out with music, bar, food stalls, a charity raffle, kids' fun and 11 free-to-enter custom classes.

The club also holds benefit gigs and anniversary parties and raises money through raffles and collections for local and national charities, choosing one main charity each year. The most recent was in July 2015 when riders from the club rode to present a cheque for the whopping sum of £3341.71 to the Guide Dog Breeding Centre. Dogs and hogs... obviously a natural pairing. They also support local charities and have donated to Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance, MS Society, Macmillan Cancer Support and Tsunami Relief in the past.

In 2015, to celebrate the club's 36th birthday the annual GPO rally – its largest event with 500 attendees – is bound to be even more special than usual. Held over three days, it promises live bands, local real ale, hearty grub, a bonfire, stalls and marquee along with silly games and all the other good stuff you associate with a rally. barrelbikers.co.uk



Capturing the past: photos from the club's illustrious past activities