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December 2023

Dear Member,

Wakefield MAG wishes all our members a Very Happy Christmas and a Biking Packed New Year !!!

## **Forthcoming Events:**

### **Tuesday 16th January 2024 - Wakefield MAG AGM**

The Wakefield & District Motorcycle Action Group Branch AGM will be held in the Thatched House, on Tuesday 16th January 2024, starting at 8:00pm (prompt). All members are invited to attend this special meeting, so please try to attend if you can. At this meeting there will be a review of the year, elections for the branch committee and the prize giving for our branch heroes. An agenda for the meeting is enclosed. Minutes from the last AGM are posted on the Branch web site and can be sent to you on request. Copies will also be available at the AGM itself. Hope to see you there.

N.B. Motions for the AGM should be submitted no later than the week before the AGM (Tuesday 9th January 2024).

### **Tuesday 30th January 2024 - Wakefield MAG 19th Post Christmas Auction**

Our 19th Post Christmas Auction will be held on Tuesday 30th January 2024, at 8:00pm, at the Thatched House, and if previous years events are anything to go by, an event not to be missed. The idea is that you bring along all your unwanted Christmas presents, together with other stuff you no longer want, or have the room for, donate them to the branch, and we auction them off to the highest bidder. The auctions are always hugely entertaining and there are always some real quality items donated, and hence, some real bargains to be had. Proceeds from the auction will again be split (2/3 to the MAG Fighting Fund, 1/3 to a charitable cause(s)). I hope to see you there. A flyer for this event is enclosed. Be there early, with viewing from 7:00pm onwards, and the auction starting at 8:00pm prompt (and don't forget to bring your unwanted Christmas pressies !!!).

## **What do YOU want from Wakefield MAG ?**

Wakefield MAG represents MAG members with a WF postcode, and is **your MAG branch**. We have met every week since January 2002 (excluding the two periods of Covid lockdown in 2020), that's very nearly 22 years. However, since Covid, Wakefield MAG has lost a number of active members, mainly due to health reasons and hanging up their leathers. However, we have not been able to replace them with new active members, meaning all the organisational effort now falls down to only three people, which is not sustainable and leads to burnout.

As an attempt to boost meeting attendance, we have trialled business meetings every other week, with socials on the others, in case business meetings were *too boring* for some. However, that hasn't worked as the socials are less well attended than business meetings, and we've had to stop the monthly organised social events because they were so poorly attended. We also haven't held any monthly rideouts during 2023 as attendance on those had dropped right off, plus no one volunteered to be rideout co-ordinator at the 2023 AGM.

Curtailing social events as they are poorly attended and no longer feasible reduces the attraction to new members as you don't do anything socially - it's a real Catch 22 situation.

Wakefield MAG has historically never been an overly political branch (unlike some other MAG branches) - most business meetings cover only the minimum of political campaigning, with the majority of time devoted instead to events and fundraising (in short, they aren't boring meetings to attend).

We hosted a very successful 21st Birthday Bash in September this year - although we had an excellent turnout, there were relatively few Wakefield MAG members (past and present) who attended, despite the fact the event was specifically laid on for them as a celebration of 21 years of a MAG presence in the Wakefield District. Why was that ? Bugged if I know.

So, the question to our membership is .... What do **YOU** want from Wakefield MAG that would encourage you to attend meetings / events ?

Please e-mail us at [wakefield-rep@mag-uk.org](mailto:wakefield-rep@mag-uk.org) with your ideas and suggestions, or better still, come down to a meeting on a Tuesday and tell us in person !!!

There is an old adage, '**USE IT OR LOSE IT**', which is particularly relevant right now. Over to you.

## Membership

Please accept my thanks for maintaining your Membership of MAG throughout this year. If your Membership renewal is due shortly, or has recently lapsed, please don't forget to rejoin. MAG's vital campaigning, which ensures you maintain the freedom to ride your motorcycle without unnecessary rules, restrictions and bureaucracy, is only possible with a strong membership base.

You can join MAG at any of our weekly meetings, by phone (0800 988 3193 during office hours), on the Internet ([www.mag-uk.org/motorcycle-action-group-membership/](http://www.mag-uk.org/motorcycle-action-group-membership/)), or by post (MAG UK, Unit C13, Holly Farm Business Park, Honiley, CV8 1NP). Join (or renew) by Direct Debit, then your renewal will be automatic every year, so no risk of a membership lapse.

Don't forget also that MAG memberships also make excellent Christmas Presents (see below) !!

## Wakefield MAG On-line

We have an active web and social media presence so be sure to follow us on-line:

- our web site: [wakefield.mag-uk.org](http://wakefield.mag-uk.org)
- our Facebook Group: [www.facebook.com/groups/wakefieldmag](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wakefieldmag)
- our Instagram page: [www.instagram.com/wakefield\\_mag](http://www.instagram.com/wakefield_mag)

## Wakefield MAG Monthly Newsletter

If you can't attend our Tuesday meetings regularly, our monthly newsletter is the next best thing to keep you up to date with what we are up to. The monthly newsletters are uploaded to the branch website on, or around, the month end ([wakefield.mag-uk.org](http://wakefield.mag-uk.org) > Newsletters), with a

Wakefield MAG meet at the Thatched House, 434 Aberford Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4AA, every Tuesday at 8:00pm

reminder posted on our Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/groups/wakefieldmag](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wakefieldmag)). If you are not on-line, we can post a paper copy of the newsletter to you instead (on request, with a contribution to the postage - Let me know if you would like these posted).

## 2024 Rally Dates

Confirmed dates, venues and ticket prices for the 2024 Yorkshire MAG rallies have been announced and are:

- **Into the Valley:** 3 - 5 May 2024, Driffield Showground, Driffield. Pre-Book Only £30 (Saturday ticket £20)
- **Farmyard Party:** 21 - 23 June 2024, Duncombe Park, Helmsley. £50 Pre-book; £60 OTG (Saturday ticket £35)
- **Yorkshire Pudding Rally:** 2 - 4 August 2024, Escrick Park, Nr York. Pre-Book Only £35 (Saturday ticket £25)

### TICKET PRICES HELD FOR ALL 2024 EVENTS

Tickets are On Sale now (Online and Telephone) and from your local MAG branch early in the new year (Remember, if you buy your tickets directly from your local MAG branch, you save on the on-line booking fee (which are per ticket not per transaction !!!) and postage .... more money in your pocket = more beer money .... what more of an incentive could you possibly want !!!).

## Christmas Present Ideas

Stuck for a Christmas present idea for the biker in your life this year? Be stuck no more as MAG has a Christmas Shop: [mag-uk.org/product-category/christmas/](http://mag-uk.org/product-category/christmas/)

Christmas items include multiple Christmas card designs, coffee cup (with Christmas card), water bottle (with Christmas card), Gift Card and Gift of a MAG membership. In fact, any MAG product can be made a Christmas gift by adding a handwritten Christmas card and 'not to be opened until December 25th' sticker on the packaging free of charge. Simply add to the basket both the item you would like to gift plus the 'make any MAG product a gift' and at checkout add the recipients details in the delivery field, and MAG will do the rest (Available only until the 17th of December to allow for postage).

If you would like to gift any of the Wakefield MAG Products (see the range at: <http://wakefield.mag-uk.org> > Products), let me know and I'll arrange to get these to you in time for Christmas.

## Weekly Meetings

New (and Old) faces are always very welcome at our weekly meetings at 8:00pm at the Thatched House on Aberford Road, Stanley. Everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome, healthy debate, friendly banter and cheap drinks. What more could you ask for !?!

N.B. there will be **no branch meetings over the Christmas and New Year period i.e. Tuesday 26th December & Tuesday 2nd January**. Meetings as normal this month up to and including Tuesday 19th December. Meetings in the new year will commence on Tuesday 9th January 2024, then every Tuesday thereafter, as normal. Also worthy of note, MAG's Central Office will close at mid-day on Friday 22nd of December 2023 and re-open at 09:00 on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Ride Safe & Hope to see you soon.

*Steve Travis*

Wakefield MAG Branch Rep