



In this 4th issue of 2023...

Another year speeds by, President Arthur goes airborne, updates on what's happened & happening and 'Global Warming' is the true Fellowship of IFMR

Seasons Greetings to you all

Please note: any website links included in the following articles are not 'live' - to use them please 'cut and paste' into your browser.

Website: <https://www.IFMR.org.uk>



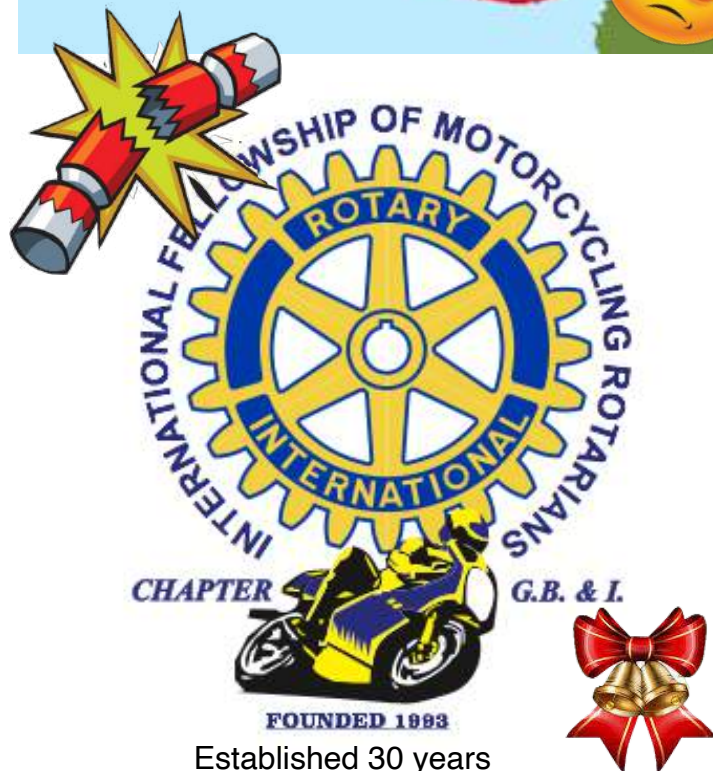
FaceBook-UK Chapter & IFMR World

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IFMR.UK/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ifmrworld/>

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*The views expressed in this issue are personal views and not necessarily the views of IFMR although the Editor does have his work vetted by his pillion rider!
All articles are published in good faith*



Established 30 years

*IFMR Rider is an occasional publication for and behalf of the Members of the Great Britain & Ireland Chapter of the **International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians** with the aim of informing Members of upcoming events (and reports on past events) as well as light-hearted and humorous articles. Ed*

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**Note new number

Events - coming up (and recent past)

IFMR 'Post Christmas' Sunday Lunch Page 3

IFMR-India 2024 'Rotary Goodwill Ride' Page 4

IFMR 2024 AGM details Page 5

Motorcycle Live (23rd Nov) Report Page 6

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Presidential antics Page 10

Garmy has his curfew lifted! Page 11



Post Christmas Sunday Lunch

IFMR 'Post Christmas' Sunday Lunch

(Previously held at The Bear Hotel, Crickhowell)

New venue! New venue!

Malvern Hills
Hotel & Restaurants



<https://malvernhillshotel.co.uk>



Wynds Point, Jubilee Drive, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6D
tel: 01684 540 690

What3Words location :- [///occur.synthetic.avoid](https://www.what3words.com/occur.synthetic.avoid)

Sunday 4th February 2024

(Lunch booked for 1.30pm or thereabouts)

Lubrication available in the bar somewhat earlier!

Good accommodation available for those of you preferring to stay over and a special deal for the Sunday night

To make your reservation please contact the hotel and speak to Dawn, (they may ask for a small deposit), make your own arrangements re any accommodation the please email Neil and advise him so he can keep tabs on things...

neil_hardwick@btinternet.com

IFMR-India 'Rotary Goodwill Ride' 2024



Rotary



International Fellowship of
Motorcycling Rotarians
INDIA CHAPTER
Riding with Passion, Responsibly

Presents

Ride is open to Rotarians,
Anns, Rotaractors and
friends of Rotary.

Early birds
get USD 100
Discount upto
20th Dec 2023



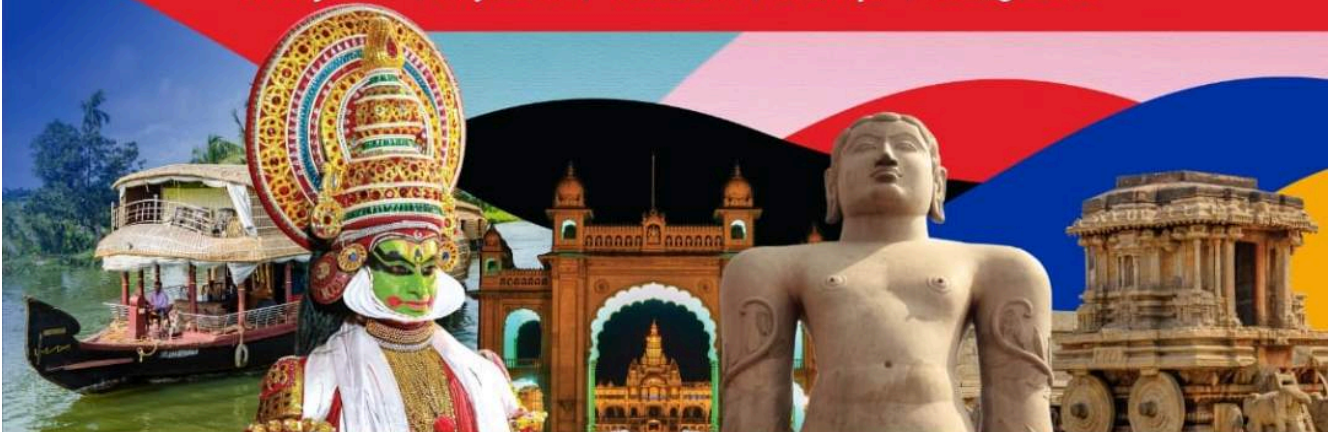
DATES: 16TH FEBRUARY TO 01ST MARCH 2024

5th International Ride by IFMR-India
Creating awareness on Mental Health

LAST DATE TO REGISTER IS 10TH JANUARY 2024

www.rotarygoodwillride.com

Kochi | Kumarakom | Alappuzha | Thekkady |
Thanjavur | Mysuru | Hassan | Hampi | Bengaluru



Rtn. Rajesh A R - President IFMR India 2023-24

Rtn. Vinod Agarwal - Secretary IFMR India 2023-24

ifmrindia@gmail.com



Stanton House Hotel

The Avenue, Stanton Fitzwarren, Swindon, SN6 7SD

Tel: 01793 861 779

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th April 2024

Website: www.stantonhousehotel.co.uk

Hotel contact: Monika - Please mention IFMR when booking

Organiser: Dr John Rees, 07939 212448, johnrees201@btinternet.com

Details: Rooms reserved/allocated for us are:-

16 Double occupancy - £175.00 per room per night, includes dinner & breakfast

6 Single occupancy - £125.00 per room per night, includes dinner & breakfast

Each member will book their own rooms, quoting your name when booking. They will be required to provide credit card details at the time of booking and payment will be made no later than 29th March 2024.

Any rooms not allocated without full payment will be released on 30th March 2024.

Should any further guests require a room after the release date, they will be able to make a booking *subject to availability*, at the same quoted price.

The dinner Menu will be issued in January 2024 and the full pre-order for both nights will be passed directly to the hotel 7 days prior arrival by Dr John.

Dinner will be served in the Rosemary Suite on both evenings.

AGM will be in Rosemary Suite which will already be laid up for our evening meal on the Saturday evening instead of paying for a separate 'conference room'

Nearest petrol station, Shell, is on the A361 (Highworth Road) it is 2.6 miles from the hotel. It is on righthand side of road before you go into Highworth.

Note:- Having made your reservation please email Dr John and let him know so that he can check against the Hotel list.



<Motorcycle Live> report

Thursday 23rd November saw 12 members and friends, some of us on bikes, gather at the National Motorcycle Museum for a 'catch-up' and coffee prior to heading into the NEC for 'Motorcycle Live' commonly known as 'The Bike Show' to view the latest models (bikes!) and dissect the 'features and benefits' and meet up with President Arthur, Craig and Sam. Some decided to renew our moulded ear-plugs and I confess that sitting down for 5 minutes while the silicone material was squirted into the ear and left to set in total silence was quite welcome! Craig treated himself to a new wheel-cleaning brush so we'll be checking his bike when we next meet. Neil was flirting with the possibility of terminating his long love-affair with his Honda in favour of a younger and more spritely MV Augusta but as you will know that a steady mature ride is often more comfortable than a lively youngster - and easier on the back as well as the wallet!

Richard P may be finding things a bit frosty at home since he decided to arrange for an additional 'ride' to move into his garage as he was last seen carrying a large bag of thermal underwear!!

For those of us that travelled on two wheels the weather was most accommodating - warm and sunny and the only issue was the idiots who seemed to be on rails in the outside lanes and unable to move over (or use their mirrors!) but all in all a good day with plenty of banter and great fellowship and we felt that the Show was better, bigger and busier than last year as we were still recovering from Covid.



Note: new ground was broken as our "1.00pm meet-up" this year was on the  stand and NOT the  stand!!!!

As Arthur and I departed the Triumph stand he seemed to be walking with some difficulty so whether he'd walked too far at the Show or was still suffering from his recent 'Bird-man of Lancaster' landing I'm not sure!....(see page 10) Ed.

Oh dear! more things to watch out for while riding!

The new two-way 'ultra' speed camera drivers must watch out for!

What they look like and how they work

- The German manufactured Jenoptik VECTOR-SR is the latest speed camera tech being used in the UK
- Doubles as a red-light camera and can also catch drivers without a seatbelt or using a phone at the wheel.

The device can identify ***speeding drivers travelling in both directions***, doesn't flash when it snaps and can also catch motorists not wearing a seatbelt or handling a mobile phone at the wheel.

Having received approval for use in UK, it looks and works very differently to typical roadside cameras - which means many drivers will be totally unaware of what they are.

Cornwall Council and Devon & Cornwall Police have also been using the new tech on their roads and reported in August that it had issued **3,280** tickets in the first two weeks!

IFMR France AGM Road Trip Morbihan 21-24 Sept 2023

In September 2023, Angela and I embarked on an unforgettable road trip to attend the IFMR France AGM. Our journey took us to two lovely venues in Brittany, France - Guérande and Larmor-Plage. Little did we know that this adventure would be filled with wonderful landscapes, delightful encounters, and cherished memories.

Our road trip began with gales and torrential rain, all the 200+ miles to Portsmouth. The turbulent overnight ferry to Saint Malo allowed only a fitful sleep. Grumpy England didn't want us to leave!

A warm sunny Thursday morning greeted us off the ferry in Saint Malo, light winds and blue sky.

We took the day to ride on A and B roads through lovely rolling countryside to Guérande.

The charming town welcomed us with open arms, and we settled into the cozy Hotel De la City and Spa. We met friends old and new in the hotel reception and walked together into town enjoying a meal in a local restaurant. The anticipation of what lay ahead fuelled our excitement.

Friday marked the next leg of our road trip, as we bid farewell to Guérande and made our way to Larmor-Plage. Friday morning (at 8:30 sharp) brought with it a sense of adventure as we embarked on a ride which included a guided tour around the enchanting salt marshes. The glistening salt beds and the detailed intricate hard work involved in harvesting the salt were a surprise. After the tour, we rode to Questembert and enjoyed in a three-course lunch, savouring the flavours of the region. The afternoon provided more opportunity to witness the varied scenery and enjoy the roads. We arrived back at the hotel about 7.30pm.

The AGM held later that evening saw the retirement of President Philippe Valetoux after 5 years in office and the instalment of his successor Eduard Wismeyer. We were really pleased to pass on a gift and the IFMR banner from our President and Chapter; to Philippe.



The Hotel Les Rives du Ter became our home for the next two nights offering a tranquil retreat.

Another 8:30 start and more fabulous scenery, biking and eating. After an excellent lunch, we

joined a guided walking tour through the historic city of Vannes, immersing ourselves in its rich culture and architectural marvels.

This weekend squeezed the most out of each day, we arrived back to the hotel with barely time to change before we went down for aperitif's and dinner.

As we traversed the roads of Brittany, we marvelled at the diverse landscapes that unfolded

before us. The countryside reminded us of the picturesque beauty of Scotland, whilst the coastal regions evoked memories of Cornwall and North Yorkshire. The south coast of Brittany, with its craggy yet inviting coastline and charming harbour's, felt like a hidden gem waiting to be discovered.

Trip to France - continued...

Despite a brief rain shower, the majority of our journey was blessed with blue skies and light clouds, enhancing the beauty of our surroundings.



The IFMR France AGM road trip was not just about the destinations; it was about the people who made the experience truly special. We were part of a vibrant group of 36 riders and pillions, 23 motorbikes strong, with four of us representing the UK.

Our French hosts exemplified the spirit of fellowship, extending their kindness and warm welcome to all. Language barriers were effortlessly overcome as our French friends selflessly dedicated their time to ensure we felt included and valued.

This trip showcased the riding prowess of our French companions. With their skillful navigation and disciplined approach, we effortlessly weaved through the French countryside, towns, and cities. The majority of the motorcycles were BMWs, with RT & GS1200/50's dominating the scene.

Honda's NT1100, Africa Twin, and Goldwing followed closely behind, while a lone Ducati ST3 surprised us with its reliability. Mechanical issues were rare, with only a flat battery causing a minor hiccup when a BMW's satnav drained it overnight.

We are grateful to all our French friends for making us so welcome. We must mention our special thanks to Philippe and Pascal for leading us on routes which must have taken many hours to plan and check-ride. We are truly grateful to Philippe, Pascal, Eduard, Hervé and everyone who took time away from their duties and friends to ensure we four Brits were always involved and included in everything that occurred.

As the trip came to an end, we couldn't help but reflect on the wonderful experiences we had shared. The IFMR France AGM trip had not only allowed us to explore the beauty of Brittany but had also forged lasting friendships and created cherished memories. We were grateful for the warm hospitality, the breathtaking landscapes, and the joy of riding alongside fellow enthusiasts.

This road trip would forever hold a special place in our hearts, reminding us of the power of Rotary Fellowship and the bonds formed on the open road.

And finally, a word of caution about the BMW 1250GS. Nowhere in its handbook does it warn that, if you leave a bar of your favourite chocolate in the top box and ride through rural France at 26C, the chocolate will melt into the locking mechanism of said top box and weld it firmly to the bike, resisting almost all attempts to remove it!

Best wishes and safe riding

Steve Pritchard

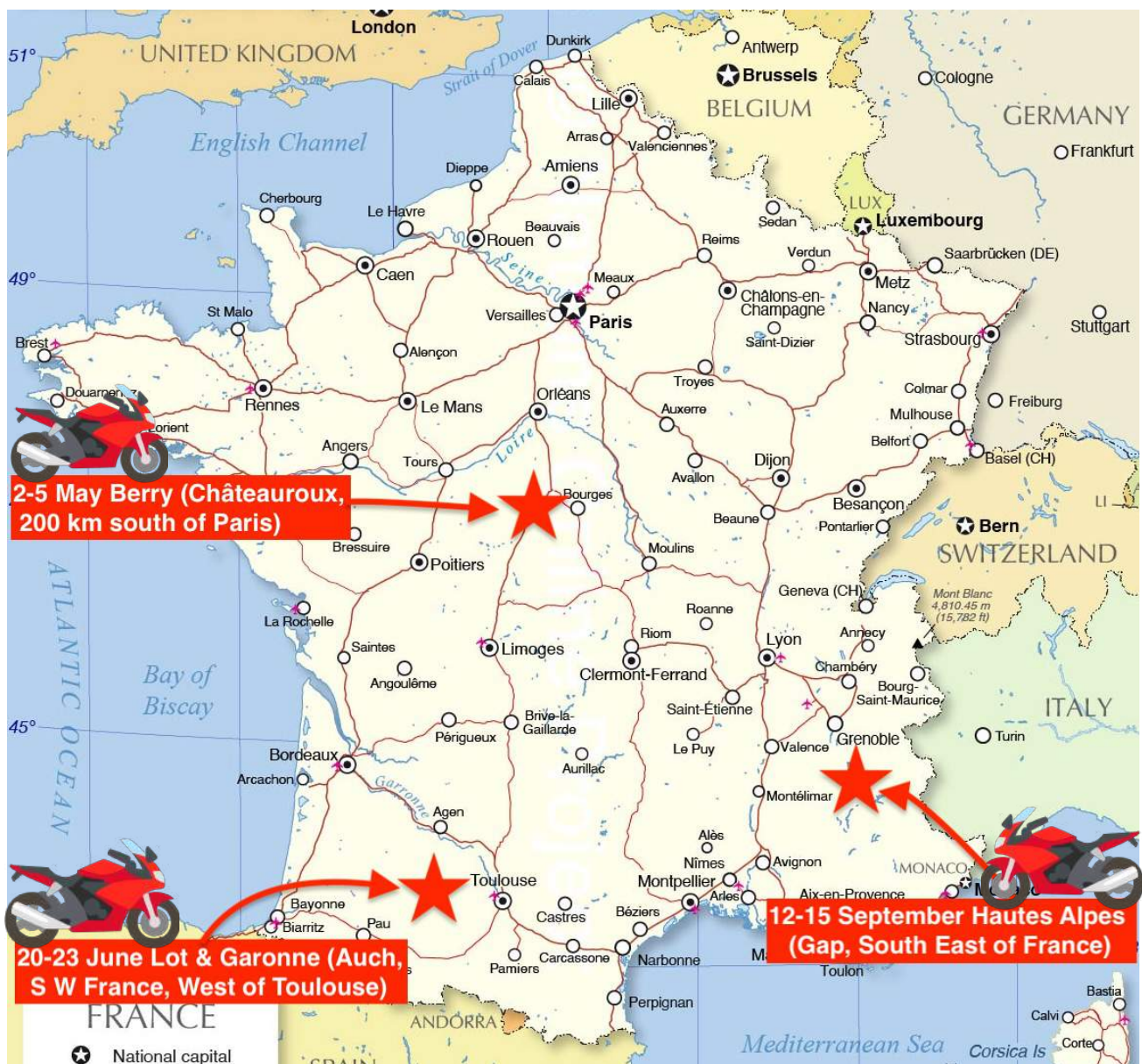
IFMR_France invites you to join them in 2024

You are invited to join them for great rides, fun and fellowship, their 2024 program is:-

- 2-5 May - Berry (Châteauroux, 200 km south of Paris)
- 20-23 June - Lot and Garonne (Auch, South West of France, West of Toulouse)
- 12-15 September - Hautes Alpes (Gap, South East of France)

*for mor details please contact President Edouard
edouardwismeyer@gmail.com in the first instance and he will connect you to
the 'event organiser'*

Please see the map below showing the rides as you will certainly need to plan
and arrange some 'over-night-stops'



Note: These trips are designed for UK riders that love riding 'on the other side of the road'!! 🍌😄

'As high as a kite' or 'a leap of faith' - our President...

23rd October 2023 - Arthur's Sky-dive - NOT an IFMR event but it's what 'older folks' do....

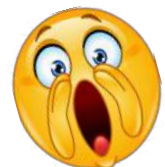
I managed to complete the Sky Dive today after about 5 postponements! Thank you to the people who came along to support me on the day. This included 6 members from my local biker club plus Carol and my daughter Louise. My older brother was there as well.. All much appreciated. I have posted on FB and added a photo here holding my certificate to show I did actually do it. The other pictures are one before I went up with my instructor and tandem partner. The other (holding onto the fence!!) is after landing. I was asked by my instructor if I would do it again. Probably not is the answer at this moment. It's a real adrenalin raiser and cold particular in the free fall bit. The fall rate is 160 miles per hour for 40 secs before the chute is opened. A bit faster than my riding speeds!!



A huge thank you to everyone who made a donation. There may be a little more to come but pleased to report will exceed the target amount of £1000. Brilliant!!



I can see why the Instructor is grinning.... he knows what going to happen!!



THE NORFOLK & SUFFOLK (sub) CHAPTER MEET!

THE NORFOLK & SUFFOLK CHAPTER MEET!

Anne and myself met up with Shirley and Colin Wade. The Waitrose caff (Norfolk for 'Cafe') at Swaffham seemed a sensible halfway point to do this, not least because I know the quality of their bacon rolls from often stopping there on the bike when we were "exploring" darkest Norfolk.



It has been a good few years since our last meeting, and as well as a general catchup the idea was to give them a souvenir programme (which Shirley is holding) of our 30th Anniversary weekend.

For different reasons neither Colin nor myself are riding these days but when I joined (in 2001) and made his acquaintance, I assumed by his height, and his riding presence that he was a policeman. This was not the case, but I learned so much simply by watching the

precise characteristics of his roadcraft.

Shirley and Colin send their very best IFMR wishes to everyone!

Ian Garmston (*no doubt supervised by Anne*)

A Note to contributors... (wherever you are?)

I plan to produce the next masterpiece in late March / early April 2024 in good time for the AGM so can you please forward copy, articles, complaints etc to me by mid March latest. Ed



The Editor's last word...as there's no space at the end!!

My apologies for the 'small print' of President Arthurs bit on the last page but as it's the 'season of goodwill' etc I have added his 'few words' intact and left it the same font-size that he sent...nerxt time the cutting knife will be out!!

Aye, aye it's Arthurs (long) bit...



I am pretty sure that most of us are busy with Christmas preparations on a family level or a Rotary level plating Santa or attending town light switch ons.

As I write this I have just had a phone call to say that my presence this evening on our very first outing with our sleigh has been postponed due to snow and ice on the route! This is early in our program for such poor weather and is probably the first time for several years that we have had to postpone an outing for several years. Let's hope it's not a sign of things to come. Not good biking weather either, sadly.

You will have read the report by Steve and Angela on their visit to France Chapter AGM accompanied by David and Julia. Their president, Eduard Wismeyer, who was installed at the AGM, is keen to foster a close relationship with our Chapter and our esteem editor has listed their events above for us to consider. I hope that some of us can attend and that the French Chapter can reciprocate by attending some of our events in the coming year. Speaking of events, I want to Thank Neil and Maggie for stepping into the beach and organising our 'Not the Crickhowel' Christmas lunch meet up at Malvern Hills Hotel. Carol and I are looking forward to meeting as many of our members and guests as can make it. Neil managed to arrange favourable overnight rates and we will be staying on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Following the Christmas lunch our next event is the AGM at Stanton Fitzwarren, Swindon but beyond this we have no other event organised at the time of writing this. If anyone is willing to organise a weekend, or perhaps a midweek event, please let me and Gordon know. My only request is that if it is to be in September please note that I am not available to attend on the weekend 6th to 8th.

Thank you to Jeff for organising the lunch time meet up at Fromebridge Mill which seems like a good idea and perhaps other members could organise a lunch time meet up as a 'ride in' of about 50 miles, give or take a few miles, in our various locations around the country would seem a reasonable distance. All ideas welcome!

The report of attendance at Motorcycle Live shows a picture me sat on an Indian motorbike. Just as I got off the bike two youths (of about 13) rushed onto the bike using the panniers as amounting platform! The expression on the face of the guy running the stand was something to behold! A lovely bike to sit on I have to say but at almost £30K it will have to stay where it is for now at least.

I managed to meet several of us at the Triumph stand at arranged but clearly I didn't meet all 15 members but I hope we all enjoyed the goods on display. I was impressed with the riding demonstration on the BMW stand (sorry Gordon) of the new 1300 GS. The skills of these off road instructors was impressive even if you're not a fan of BMW and worth looking up on YouTube if you didn't see it.

I continue to try to attract new members for Ireland and my district governor has spoken to her counterpart in Ireland on our behalf. She is also running a 'Rotafest' in May as a different form of our annual conference and has asked that I organise a stand promoting Fellowships (particularly as RotaryGB&I don't). I have agreed to do this for her and have agreed that the Rotary Retro Automobile Fellowship and IFMR share a stand. The DG is also asking via her newsletter for other Fellowships to join us. Thanks to Dr John we have a pull up banner and somewhere we have a display board that I can use. If any of you have some interesting photos I could use please feel free to send them to me and I would also hope to promote the involvement of the French Chapter to demonstrate the 'Fellowship' aspect of our band of likeminded Rotarians and other members.

Finally, you be pleased to hear, I come to the Sky Dive. As already commented this was not an IFMR project but several of you supported me in raising funds for my local Mens Hub. Mens Hub is the same as Mens Shed which was, just like IFMR, started in Australia to get men out of sheds to come together and provide a forum to chat and socialise with a motto of 'wellbeing through doing' and run various groups to encourage activities that bring men and women together to avoid isolation and perhaps even mental illness such as depression and anxiety. As a former psychiatric nurse this is close to my heart. My target was to raise £1000 but am astonished to report that we have raised an amazing £1810. Thank you everyone who sponsored the jump. I won't be doing another one!! I didn't really enjoy it but worthwhile in the end.

It just remains for me to wish everyone and your families, from Carol and I, a very Happy and Safe Christmas with a Prosperous New Year.

Arthur