

mag-yorkshire-region-list@mag-uk.org

Yorkshire MAG newsletter March 2023

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the first Yorkshire MAG newsletter for 2023.

Yorkshire Branch AGM's

It's been the AGM season in the Yorkshire Region this winter with Wakefield (17th Jan), York (29th Jan), Leeds & Bradford (16th Feb) and South Yorkshire (19th Feb) all holding their Branch Annual General Meetings. See Branch reports below for details.

Operation Earthquake Update

Operation Earthquake as you are hopefully aware is the current MAG campaign to oppose the proposed UK Government policy to end the sale of new internal combustion engine (ICE - petrol and diesel powered) vehicles - They propose to end the sale of new small petrol motorcycles by 2030, and larger new petrol motorcycles by 2035. The start of that ban is a mere **SEVEN** years away !!!! The zero emissions at tail pipe policy is effectively forcing us down the Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) route, even though it's not the ideal motive power source for a motorcycle, when compared to the convenience and flexibility of petrol.

MAG's own survey of riders (which included a large number of MAG and non-MAG members), backed up by a very similar survey by FEMA of European riders, showed that at least 80% of motorcyclists oppose this ban, despite green activists having targeted the survey to skew the result - We estimate that the real proportion of motorcyclists who oppose the ban is well over 90%. Both survey's also highlighted, quite worryingly, that the majority of riders will hang up their leathers and give up biking altogether once petrol powered bikes are no longer widely available. This is the biggest danger to our chosen lifestyle **EVER**, motorcycling as we know it will simply wither and die out.

The first phase of Operation Earthquake involves contacting MP's to determine their stance on the proposed ban. Further phases will follow, particularly as we get closer to the forthcoming UK general election.

To date, the following Yorkshire MP's have been contacted:

- 1) Jason McCartney MP, Colne Valley. Cons.
- 2) Barry Sheerman MP, Huddersfield. Lab

- 3) Julian Smith MP, Skipton and Ripon. Cons.
- 4) Kevin Hollinrake MP, Thirsk & Malton. Con.
- 5) Julian Sturdy MP, York Outer. Con.
- 6) Rachael Maskell MP, York Central. Lab.
- 7) Nigel Adams MP, Selby. Con.
- 8) Jacob Young MP, Redcar. Con.
- 9) Robert Goodwill MP, Scarborough + Ryedale. Con.
- 10) Andrea Jenkins MP, Morley and Outwood. Cons.
- 11) Jon Trickett MP, Hemsworth. Lab.
- 12) Yvette Cooper, Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford. Lab.
- 13) Simon Lightwood MP, Wakefield. Lab.
- 14) Alec Shelbrooke MP, Elmet and Rothwell. Con.
- 15) Rachel Reeves MP, Leeds West. Lab.
- 16) Dan Jarvis MP, Barnsley Central. Lab.
- 17) Ed Milliband MP, Doncaster North. Lab

There are 55 MP's in Yorkshire so 17 MP's contacted represents 31%. Nationally, the figure isn't so good - 45 MP's nationally have been contacted out of 650 MP's within all the United Kingdom constituencies – a mere 7% !!!

A huge thank you to the Yorkshire MAG members who have written to their MP's as 38% of all UK MP's contacted has been done by Yorkshire MAG members.

However, we really need 100% coverage as otherwise, it looks like only a small proportion of the electorate (7%) oppose the ban, so by inference, 93% are quite happy to have the ability to choose a new ICE powered motorcycle forcibly removed from them, starting in just 7 years time.

CALL TO ACTION:

If your MP is not listed above, please write to them. MAG has put together an Operation Earthquake Campaign Pack, which contains a couple of template letters together with lots of other useful information.

Link to Campaign Pack: <https://operation-earthquake.mag-uk.org/take-part-operation-earthquake-campaign-pack-makes-it-easy/>

You can use the template(s) as is, or alter it to add some points you personally wish to emphasise, the choice is entirely yours, but the key bit is to ask your MP to oppose the ban (and hopefully get them on-side). Once you have contacted your MP, let us know the name of the MP, and similarly, let us know what response you get as MAG is collating all the responses so these can be published.

You can look up who your MP is at this link: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

This will tell you who your MP is and their contact details, incl. Email address. It will literally take a couple of minutes to find your MP, copy and paste the template letter into an email and send it.

Please support this campaign, your chosen lifestyle very much depends on it !!!

Popular Myths Debunked

Operation Earthquake has led to some negative comments on Social Media about MAG's policy and direction, the vast majority of which are simply untrue. Hopefully, the following explanations will debunk some of these 'myths':

MAG is a Climate Change Denier

Absolutely untrue. There is no one on MAG's Board, National Committee or a paid staff member who does not believe the climate is changing, and has been for millions of years. The very existence of coal fields in Yorkshire is because millions of years ago it was a tropical rainforest with temperatures very much higher than they are today – if that's not rock solid evidence that the climate is changing I don't know what is.

MAG has collated climate stats, not as part of any climate change denial agenda, but to emphasise the point that an ICE ban in the UK, at a scheduled much faster pace than other far more polluting countries in the world, will not achieve anything tangible, apart from make us all poorer. All road transport (cars, vans, lorries, buses and other road vehicles) accounts for around 30% of global carbon emissions. The UK contributes a mere 1% of this 30% of global carbon emissions, so a total ban of ICE vehicles in the UK will reduce global carbon emissions by a whopping 0.003%. Motorcycles and scooters represent a mere 1% of UK traffic so a ban of those will reduce global carbon emissions by a colossal 0.00003%. The ban will not contribute anything tangible to reducing global carbon emissions.

The Department for Transport has rejected the CEBR report that MAG commissioned

The CEBR report uses the government's own methodology for calculating costs, so by rejecting it the government are in effect admitting their own methodology is therefore incorrect Really !?!?!?

In essence, the government don't like the answers as it doesn't fit in with their present agenda so it's easier to reject it out of hand than to admit their chosen course will be economic madness, a blight on civil liberties, and a threat to the UK's prosperity, our quality of life and national security.

The full CEBR report is available at this link:

https://wiki.mag-uk.org/images/f/fc/Cebr_Analysis_of_2030_Ban.pdf

The CEBR report is still valid and should be referenced when contacting MP's.

MAG opposes battery electric motorcycles

Absolutely untrue. MAG is all for freedom of choice and if you want an electric motorbike, fill your boots. For commuting, they can make an awful lot of sense, especially if you can charge them for nowt at work. MAG NC members own electric motorbikes.

What MAG opposes is the removal of freedom of choice and an enforced BEV route, at the detriment of other environmentally friendly and sustainable developing and emerging technologies. BEV's have their place in the transport mix, but should be exactly that, part of the mix, not the only 'forced' option.

MAG is campaigning for Diesel and Petrol Cars – we are supposed to be a motorcycle lobbying organisation

Very early on we could see that the ICE ban proposals would not be reversed for motorcycles alone. So, MAG formed the Transport Reality group to bring together organisations from other transport sectors who shared our position. In order to fight the ban, support would need to come from a much larger pool of stakeholders. Motorcyclists are a minority group (unfortunately), and this ban is way too big an issue to fight alone.

MAG has a successful track record working with car organisations where this is seen as beneficial to a campaign – As an example, MAG ran a campaign against continuous VED, when Ken Clarke was Chancellor, it succeeded precisely because we engaged all the car organisations.

Opposing the ICE ban is an un-winable campaign given so few people support it

In private and 'off-the-record' a good many MP's and ministers admit that Net Zero is a vanity exercise that will be impossible to implement, and not achieve it's stated objectives, but to admit this in public would be 'political suicide' so they toe the party line.

However, the tide is turning and the public are slowly realising the colossal cost for very limited benefit. The Daily Telegraph frequently runs articles and letters which are very much against the Net Zero agenda and opposition to it is gathering momentum. A few years ago opposition was ridiculed, akin to believing the earth is flat, now it's becoming much more mainstream.

An example is Telegraph columnist Mathew Lynn's rage against and phrase 'Governments Orwellian Green Targets'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/03/02/heat-pumps-have-triggered-revolt-against-net-zero/>

"Plans for Whitby village sound like an extract from an early draft of George Orwell's 1984. Targeted as the Government's first 'Net Zero village', as part of a pilot project it would have all heating systems removed and replaced by either hydrogen or heat pumps. Once a choice had been made by the villagers, they wouldn't be able to opt out of the trial. Gas companies could force entry into their homes to switch appliances if necessary.

But there was a twist. The residents protested so much that the project was scrapped. That is, surely, proof that we should go a step further – and scrap all top-down Net Zero targets. "

And protest is exactly what we need to do, hence the request to contact your MP !!!

Yorkshire Region Meeting

The next Yorkshire Region meeting will be held on Sunday 12th March (11:00 – 13:00) at Brighton Ferry, Brighton, Selby, YO8 6DH. The meeting is being held before the MAP meeting (see below). Food is available to order at the venue.

Every Yorkshire MAG member is very welcome to attend and have a say in how your region is run. Hope to see you there.

Magic Action Promotions (MAP) Rally Planning Meeting

Magic Action Promotions (MAP), is the events arm of Yorkshire MAG, which hosts the ITV, FYP & YPR bike rallies, which contribute so enormously to the MAG fighting fund. Every MAG member is more than welcome to attend the meeting and see how the MAP events are run, it's more the merrier and MAP welcome you taking more of an interest or active role.

The next MAP rally planning meeting will be held on Sunday 12th March at Brighton Ferry, Brighton, Selby, YO8 6DH. The MAP meeting is scheduled to start at 13:30, after the Yorkshire Region meeting (see above).

Link to The Network MAG activists newsletter

https://wiki.mag-uk.org/index.php/Editions_of_Network#2023

The MAG activists newsletter, Network is published at the start of each month and can be accessed with the above link.

2023 Yorkshire Rallies

Every Yorkshire MAG branch now has it's allocation of sale or return tickets for the Yorkshire MAG rallies. These are available to buy at your local MAG meeting (see below for meeting days and venues for the Yorkshire MAG branches).

Ticket prices and dates are:

- 23rd Into the Valley (ITV) 28-29-30 April - Pre-Book Only £30 (Saturday ticket £20)
- 35th Farmyard Party (FYP) 16-17-18 June - £50 Pre-book; £60 OTG (Saturday ticket £35)
- 20th Yorkshire Pudding Rally (YPR) 4-5-6 August - Pre-Book Only £35 (Saturday ticket £25)

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 !!!

See the Yorkshire MAG Events site for more details of these 3 fantastic rallies:
www.mapevents.co.uk

Branch Reports:

Garry Williams - East Yorkshire Rep

Things have been fairly quiet over the past few months in East Yorkshire, business meetings have continued to be held twice a month and are mostly well attended. As I always say, we need to be seeing new faces, if you have not been to one of the meetings before, please give it a go.

We voted to hold our Fred Hill run in May this year, as several members instrumental in the organisation and success of the ride were off enjoying the holiday of a lifetime on the other side of the planet during February. The date for your diary is Saturday 13th May, when we will be celebrating Fred's birthday, with more details to follow shortly. Some of us felt we should still also mark Fred's passing, and held a low key ride, with nine bikes following the usual route through Hull on 12th February.

We have finally agreed a design for a range of East Yorkshire MAG clothing. We are currently collecting pre-orders for the first run of T shirts, long sleeve T's, sweat shirts and hoodies in all sizes and various colours. The last order date will be 31st March with the intention they will be ready by the third week in April so we can be resplendent in our new garments at the Into The Valley rally. All the details of the products, prices and how to order are on the EY MAG Facebook page, but if you don't use this, please contact eymagevents@gmail.com or call 0800 988 3199.

Our stand is due at a couple of events over the summer. We have been invited to attend the InSpire event at the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln on Sunday 14th May and the ever popular Hornsea Biker Event on Sunday 13th August.

Finally, Spat Out of Hull Rally will again be returning to Brighton Ferry over the weekend of 15th to 17th September, ticket information to follow over the coming months.

SallyAnne Slater - Huddersfield MAG rep

Huddersfield MAG continues to be busy on the Political side. In the main around opening up a long overdue dialogue between MAG and Kirklees LA. Many thanks to Tom Lonsdale – Political Rep.

It has been a reasonably quiet few months for Huddersfield MAG on the social side. Numbers at weekly social meetings are still down compared to pre-covid. We're working

on that ! What have we been up to ? Well, if you've attended our socials, you'll know that Huddersfield MAG runs best on full tummies. Read on – there is a theme.

We wanted to end 2022 on a fun note. Christmas Party. Date set for 10th December at our HQ – The Field Head, Quarmby. Menu planning. You can never have enough pigs in blankets. Then our lovely landlord / top chef Ivan advised us that there was a random footie game taking place that same evening. The pub would be rammed with supporters drinking copious gallons of lager and shouting 'a bas la France'. Does anyone remember the final result ? Diaries were hastily consulted and we finally agreed on a Post Christmas Christmas Dinner 21 Jan 2023.

We had a blast. Ivan put on a magnificent spread – as always. The portions were huge. I would write a full report but after many glasses of Prosecco – hic – some details may be a bit blurry. I vividly recall our lovely friend (sidecar Pat) winning the star prize in the raffle. A light up unicorn wand !!! No photos. What happens in Hudds MAG , stays in Hudds MAG 😊

If you want to know more, come to our events. 2023 will be a year to remember. MAG's 50th birthday, but more importantly, Huddersfield MAG's 30th birthday.

The first event 22/03/2023 – Huddersfield MAG PIE night. Only a few places left and it always sells out. We will be holding a raffle and also a Lucky Dip. Other events include a camp out at Tan Hill Inn, our infamous Top Box on tour, a Party, a Real Ale Trip.

All details on facebook or contact a committee member.

Leeds and Bradford MAG

The Leeds and Bradford MAG AGM was held on 6th February 2023, where their long standing rep Richard 'Manny' Manton stepped down due to work pressures.

Unfortunately, no body else put themselves forward to be voted in as local rep so the branch is now left without a representative.

The Leeds and Bradford MAG committee now looks like this:

- Leeds MAG Rep: position vacant
- Leeds MAG Vice Rep: position vacant
- Leeds MAG Treasurer: Kate Manton
- Leeds MAG MAP Liaison: Keith Maven
- Leeds MAG Web Officer: Marcus Houlden
- Leeds MAG Entertainment Officer: Helen Taylor
- Leeds MAG Political Officer: Marcus Houlden
- Leeds MAG Press/Media Liaison: John Nettleship
- Events Promotions /Social Media Rep: position vacant
- Dealer Liaison: position vacant

Keith Maven is acting as a branch contact in the interim and they will still meet at the Royal Hotel in Pudsey - 1st Tuesday (business) and 3rd Tuesday (social). For the business meetings, it will depend much more on members bringing areas of interest along to

keep it alive, in the absence of an elected rep. They also still have an elected political officer to maintain dialogue with Leeds City Council (who are notoriously anti-bike).

However, they won't be hosting as many events and fundraising activities during 2023 (although a couple of volunteers have offered to run the Lineham Farm egg and toy runs).

In my 21 years of being active in Yorkshire MAG, Leeds has always been a leading strong group within the region, so it's a shame the group is unable (temporarily hopefully) to continue as an '*active*' MAG group.

The vacant positions remain open if anyone lives in the Leeds / Bradford area and would like to volunteer.

Stuart Hatfield - South Yorkshire rep

South Yorkshire MAG members have been emailing MP's as per Operation Earthquake. On a variation, one of our newly elected political officers Tosh McDonald has been emailing councillors and getting them not only talking at council level but as party members to hopefully address this to MP's.

We recently held our AGM and elected the following committee for 2023:

- Rep - Stuart Hatfield
- Vice Rep - vacant
- Political Reps - Richard Vivian and Tosh McDonald
- Treasurer - Oliver Rose
- Social - Sharon Thompson Hatfield

Planning another event at the Market in July with a live band, food and the Huddersfield MAG top box sale 'on tour' – watch this space for details.

Steve Travis - Wakefield MAG rep

The Wakefield & District Motorcycle Action Group Branch AGM was held in the Thatched House, on Tuesday 17th January 2023. This was our 21st AGM (and birthday). Steve was voted in as Rep / Chairman again (for the 20th time), so unfortunately, you are all stuck with him for yet another year.

Hosted our 18th Post Christmas Auction on Tuesday 31st January. Our Post Christmas Auction's are the stuff of legends. The idea is you donate all your unwanted Christmas presents, together with other stuff you no longer want, or have the room for, to the Branch and we auction them off to the highest bidder with the proceeds split 2/3 to MAG and 1/3 to charitable causes. We had a good amount of items donated this year, lots of quality bike gear, tools and accessories, amongst other 'obscure' items.

This years auction raised £260 for MAG and £65 each for Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes.

All 4 Wakefield and District MP's have been contacted as part of Operation Earthquake, with some non-responses and others just toeing the party line and effectively supporting the ban, including the Shadow Transport Minister.

Our popular bike show, hosted at the Wakefield Gala at Clarence Park Arena, on May Day Bank Holiday Monday (1st May), is rapidly approaching. Fettle up your pride and joy and enter it into the show for FREE. All types of Bike, Scooter, Moped, Combination and Trike are welcomed and there are six winning categories plus an overall Best in Show up for grabs. We will also be hosting the Wakefield MAG stand and running a tombola (with some great prizes to win). Lots of other attractions at the gala to entertain you whilst you wait to see if your bike has won, and it's a great family day out.

Location: Clarence Park, Wakefield. Show to be judged at 14:30, Entry into show from 09:30 onwards (Gala officially opens at 10:00).

Hope to see you there. Did we mention it was FREE !!!

Currently planning a summer event to mark the 21st birthday of Wakefield MAG, and of course the 50th birthday of MAG nationally. This will be a bike day at the Thatched House on Saturday 24th June. The MAG stand will be up, Steve the landlord will be cooking a BBQ, bike show in the car park, Huddersfield MAG's top box sale 'on tour' will be in attendance so you can grab a bargain, and lots more.

Richard Suddaby - York MAG rep

York MAG are hosting a charity Easter egg run in aid of the York District Hospital children's ward. The ride will take place on Sunday 26th of March. For further information, please check their Facebook group.

York MAG have been liaising with the Executive member for transport within the newly proposed North Yorkshire council They have been invited to participate in a meeting to discuss the new transport strategy for the whole of North Yorkshire once the new North Yorkshire Council goes live on the 1st of April. To get involved, propose any ideas or highlight any issues please contact a York MAG rep or attend any of their meetings.

York MAG have also been liaising with Head of parking at city of York council. Slow progress is being made. In their last correspondence from CYC it stated their blacksmiths are ready to construct new fixed security for their designated bays once sizes in areas of interest are proposed.

Local group meetings

Your local groups are the lifeblood of MAG and the best way for you to get the most from your MAG membership. All have a full calendar of meetings, ride outs and events and we all try to support each other, so come along and say hello. You'll be glad you did.

East Yorkshire MAG meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 8pm at The Forresters Arms HU17 0PR

Huddersfield MAG meet every Wednesday from 8.30pm at The Fieldhead HD3 4FB

Leeds and Bradford MAG meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 8pm at The Royal Hotel LS28 8PR

South Yorkshire MAG meet every Thursday at The Market, 2 Wentworth Rd, Elsecar, Barnsley S74 8EP from 7pm

Wakefield MAG meet every Tuesday from 8.00 at The Thatched House, 434 Aberford Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4AA

York MAG - Third Friday of each month from 7:30pm at The Black Swan, Peasholme Green, YO1 7PR.