

18 Months with a 1925 AJS

I collected the bike from Mike Berriman

10 November 2013 – Steve Hallam

Mileage 2128

Due to the inclement weather I only rode the bike a couple of times around the local lanes to become familiar with it. It's very different to what I am used to and I am finding the gear changes tricky to master.

Shakedown Event 21st April 2014

Mileage reading - 2169.5

Left home 8.50

Beautiful day. Quiet roads. Good uneventful ride.

I helped marshalling so didn't ride.

Uneventful ride home of about one hour.

Mileage at end 2210

Thurs 14 May mileage 2271.2

Cleaned bike in early sunshine. Short ride to

Dereham. Beautiful summer like day. Mileage

2289.9

VMCC pre 40s Run 18th May 2014

Brilliant weather. Open face helmet experience. Bike

running well. Getting the hang of gear changing –

need to be positive. I used decompression lever for

some engine breaking, it does have some effect.

End of run mileage 2393.6

Taken off sprocket from speedo drive at the front wheel to use as a pattern for a replacement to be made. Also fitted a new rubber bulb for the horn. Painted the copper pipe work to the pilgrim pump black to blend in with the rest of the bike. (Satin Hammerite).

Bow St Run Sunday 25th May 2014

Total estimated distance 105 miles.

Sun & cloud. Riding on own so ended up as the last person arriving at lunch stop. Bike running well but was surprised to find oil supply almost empty. Also surprised by a girl within a group of students who raised her top as I rode past. Big smile. Return ride less eventful. Bike performed well.

Last to arrive back at Bow St.

Spring Lamb Run. 1st June 2014

Lovely sunny day. Not too hot. Lots of push bikes out as Norfolk 100 event. Rode with Peter and Trina. Bike went very well. New horn bulb fitted. New digital speedo/mileometer fitted, it appeared to be accurate. I took the bike on trailer so distance covered on this run only 60 miles.

Lots of interest taken in the bike at the lunch stopover. Oil consumption back to normal.

Banbury Run Prep

Tues 2nd June

Took front wheel off so the speedo gear can be made to match the sprocket on the wheel.

Friday new speedo drive fitted, matches digital speedometer for speed and distance.

Front brakes re profiled to fit rim. Front bearings and spindle found to be worn. Will need to be worked on in near future.

Bike taken to Peter Bennetts to be loaded into his van for transporting to Gaydon

Banbury shopping list:

AJS kick start rubber.

AJS mirror.

Saturday 7th June

Met up with Peter at Gaydon, visited stalls and heritage museum. Very wet journey getting there. Stayed with friends half an hour away on Saturday night.

Banbury Run Sunday 9th June 2014

Woke at 5 then 6 arose 6:30 to leave by 7:30.

The run report is on the VMCC Norwich website.

Mileage on bike after Banbury 2458.7

Round Norfolk 15th June 2014

Left the start quite late so didn't stop for either of the coffee breaks to help make up time. I was first to arrive at lunch stop. Bike went well, no problems except for usual heavy oil consumption.

Stopped for petrol at Sheringham - only needed 3 litres and topped up oil after 58 miles.

I was surprised to get an award for oldest bike. Good to see that Tony Milk had won it previously with this bike.

Digi speedo read 171 miles for route distance.

Pre 31 Run 29th June 2014

Rode to the start from home - bike speedo reading 2622

New route roller fitted.

Mileage to start 31 miles. Very wet on the way.

Soaked. Arrived late. Left last and got hopelessly lost.

Did make it to Blakeney just as others were

leaving. Had to fill up with oil as it had used a full tank getting there. Rode back with Arthur and Tony. Bike went well. Nick adjusted the Pilgrim pump - now worse than before. Oil was completely empty when I arrived home and the pumps sight window was full of oil and oil was oozing out of mounting gasket on crankcase

End of trip mileage 2750

Digital speedo reading 62.8 since lunch I think.

14th July

Tried to adjust the pilgrim pump. Not really any fine adjustment. Either, flow or no flow. Took bike for a 12 mile test run. All ok but still over oiling. Good ride on a sunny day. Bike mostly starts on first kick.

22nd July Nick Farthing came to work on the pump

Bike is booked for Saturday of the camping weekend. Delivered to the site on Friday 25 July (my birthday) for John Essam to ride.

Mileage reading –

Camping Sunday Run 27th July 2014

Unfortunately the bike seized in Attleborough.
However it was checked after being recovered and thought to be ok.

27th July

I wasn't sure about riding the bike but as it started easily and made no unusual noises I decide to try it. I rode with Trina taking things cautiously. All seemed ok and we completed the 55 mile run without incident. A hot day but not an over hot engine.

Digital speedo is becoming unreliable. Will replace it.
Mileage back at home reading - 2932.

19 August

Pilgrim pump arrived today after service and overhaul.

Grasshopper Run 24 august

Start mileage 2956

Rode with Graham Bramley from Carbrooke to the start of Grasshopper Run at Pulham Market

A pleasant run fine but cool weather.

Still using the hand pump - one charge every 5 miles - all well.

End mileage 3070

Pre Carbrooke Run 28 August

Pre Carbrooke Run with Graham Bramley for him to check that my route maps are OK.

Left home at 11:00 weather wet, arrived at West Acre at 12:30

Left the Ostrich Pub for the afternoon run at 14:00 the weather turned warmer and after an uneventful ride we arrived back at 15:50 Graham managed to navigate the route without any problem.

The bike went well working on one oil pump every 7 miles. It used half a tank of petrol and *half* of oil.

End of run mileage 3140

Friday 12 September

New front and back tyres with new inner tubes fitted, rear brake checked and cleaned. ***Recommended tyre pressure 35psi.*** New basket fitted. New digital speedo fitted. Front brake adjusted. Chains oiled.

Test run of 14 miles all ok. Except one fuel starvation problem but ok after tickling carb. Bike now falls into corners. New rubber gives confidence that comes with good grip.

Speedo reading 3153

Hardwick Hack Sunday 14th September 2014

Warm cloudy day. A pleasant uneventful run to Hardwick. The run was most enjoyable I'm still using hand oil pump at 7 mile intervals. I was running last mostly about 30 mph enjoying good roads and pleasant villages.

After the run fuel was low but I estimated I had enough to get me to a petrol stop on way home. I had to stop 4 times due to fuel starvation. Still fuel in tank so the flow to carb must have problems when the level is low. After the tank was filled there were no further issues.

Speedo reading when back home 3278

Museum Run 19 October 2014

Start mileage 3278

A very mild Autumn day. A pleasant ride except for a couple of mud covered right hand bends, interesting.

We stopped at Blakeney for lunch. I travelled via Norwich on way home. No problem with city riding. Again, I stopped once near home due to fuel starvation. The tank was getting low.

End mileage 3387

Halloween Run 26 October 2014

Kings Lynn section Halloween Run from Harling. I rode with Graham Bramely. A lovely run. Weather dry and mild. Good roads and interesting scenery. A big turnout of over 40 bikes.

Start mileage 3387

End mileage. 3486

30 November

Fitted the reconditioned Pilgrim Pump back onto the bike. Set the flow rate as recommended by Petes Bikes by measuring the oil flow from the outlet pipe not counting drips from the sight glass beak.

Flow rate is set at 60 ml per hour at tick over speed so should be more at touring speed. Not enough daylight for a test run. Will see if tomorrow is dry.

3 December 2014

A cold grey day. I took the bike out to test the Pilgrim Pump. I covered about 19 miles. All ok. Pump looks as though the flow could be reduced. I will adjust it when the front wheel and carburettor come back from repair.

Mileage after run 3502

4 December 2014

I delivered the complete front wheel to Mike Henry for work on the worn bearing cups. I also gave the carburettor to Tony Durier for him to work on the float chamber top cap.

Chris Sadd replied to my query about the work he had done on the front wheel bearing:-

“The original cups were removed from the wheel. New cups were made to accept ball race bearings with an internal diameter which was the same as the shaft. A sleeve spacer was made to go between the ball races to stop the bearings getting any side load when the spindle was tightened. The original spindle/cone adjuster nuts were then tightened into

their original positions. The original width was maintained by positioning the outer surface of the ball races to where the ends of the original cones were positioned. This was done by means of the new cups being made to a dimension which would achieve this.

I am afraid I don't have any dimensional information."

chris@csengineering.fsnet.co.uk

Tony has done an amazing job of making a new carburettor top out of brass.

05 April 2015

I prepared the bike today, ready for its first outing of 2015 - the Shakedown event tomorrow. Cleaned, lubed, fuelled and checked. I took the bike out for a test run, covering 20 miles. All appeared ok but will see how much oil is used tomorrow before resetting the pilgrim pump.

Shakedown Event 06April 2015

A cool but dry morning. I rode the 20 mile to Tibenham Airfield without incident.

The bike was available for members to have a go, without the worries of traffic – apart from the air!

Unfortunately, the first rider who took it out had problems half way down the runway. After that the rest of the morning was spent trying to sort out the problem. Nick Farthing spent a lot of time checking the electrics and fueling with help from Richard Mac and others. In the end it was decided that the magneto had failed. Peter Bennet and I took it off to be taken for repair. We also discovered that a tooth had broken off the rear wheel chain sprocket. Thanks to Arthur Livings who gave me and the bike a lift home in his van.

It was a disappointing day for me as this was the only time the bike had failed during the time I had had it.

Rear wheel sprocket repair 15 – 16 April 2015

The complete rear wheel was given to Nick Farthing who did a temporary brazed repair to the sprocket and I refitted the wheel next day after Peter Thacker delivered it to my home.

Magneto fitting 17 - 18 April 2015

I met Nick Farthing at Gt Ellingham after realising I couldn't fit the magneto sprocket as a part needed to attach the driving sprocket went off with the other magneto for repair.

It turned out that the spare magneto needed a different magneto cable support and cable. Also a different sleeve for the armature spindle was required.

Nick had parts which he was able to modify and fit so that the spare magneto would be able to work. After a couple of hours fettling the bike it started first kick. Later in the day I took it for an 11 mile test run. All worked well

End of run mileage 3558

Mike Berriman came to collect the bike today.

20 April 2015

So ends a fantastic experience for me. Since having use of the bike from November 2013 I have covered 1430 miles. I have had loads of fun and interesting experiences not least of which were the Round Norfolk and Banbury events. I have learnt about the workings and riding techniques of a bike of this period and it has made me come to enjoy bikes of this period so much I have bought one of my own.

Many thanks to Tony Milk and the club.