



Terry's Travels

TT13-1 Wot! - no travelling 27/08/2004

Well for the last month I haven't been doing much traveling - but I thought I would give you an update anyway since there has been lots happening. It's felt quite hard work to clear our things from "the big house" that my daughter and family now own, clear out the "small house" that is Di's and prepare for selling the "new" house that we built and decided not to live in! - in fact both the "new" and "small house" are just going up for sale. Yes, I will be a true gypsy in the motorhome if they sell, so that should ensure even more travelling in Europe next year.

In any event I have booked my next Round the World trip - starting with an exciting motorcycle ride down into the Copper Canyon in Mexico Oct 2nd. This is less well known than the Grand Canyon - but BIGGER. Then Melbourne OZ to catch the next to last motorcycle Grand Prix at Philip Island. Then onwards to live in Nelson NZ for 6 months, where I DO have a house. Di joins me a month or so later. As part of the clearout, the Triumph above that I have owned since 1974 has been sold (subject to the cash hitting my sticky hand) with a 1963 Royal Enfield, Kawasaki 200 trail bike (when I find the key), and even my James Bond BMW Cruiser also up for sale. Clearing the office is in progress - all with the idea of having MINIMAL stuff in storage. My pal who has a removal and storage business tells me that most people store stuff for years before THROWING IT OUT !! On the fun side of things my grandsons are swimming now and improving weekly. I took Dan the 6 year old to do a deal with upgrading his bicycle at the local bike shop (he seriously shook hands with the owner to seal the deal). I have had two more reunion parties, been to a gig or two. Watched some of the fabulous Olympics, bought a DVD recorder, copied my old home movies from 40 years ago and scanned my ancient family photos from the earliest days of photography. I will do an issue on technology next as I have a DAB radio on order (Di's birthday present) and upgraded the hifi in Mercie.



This weekend is the local Harley Rally and the top class Colne R&B Festival for the Bank Holiday and next week a trip to the Goodwood Revival Festival near Chichester featuring RICH OLD BOYS with their cars and bikes - all in costume of the 1950's - and racing stuff worth up to 5 Million quid...

No time for boredom in retirement

Terry - Bingley, UK.



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TT13-2 The most important thing in Life is NOT to miss it...

After a month or so of dealing with some of the boring stuff of life it was time to get to playing! The Colne R&B Festival was a super event. If you ever get to see a guy called Earl Thomas (he hails from Tennessee) perform, I especially rate him and how he interacted with a really enthusiastic audience. Other bands that I heard were good too. It's a great event.

Another Bank Holiday event was the International Market Festival in Bradford. Again this sunny event was a great success with traders from Europe busy selling Dutch Roses, French Patisseries, German Beer and I had a Cottage Cheese curry from a local trader – it was good too. One likely lad had a whole group holding plastic bags which he proceeded to fill with stuff that looked like perfume – you wouldn't believe how many fancy boxes the punters got for not even £25 or £20 or £15 – just give me a tenner!! (£10)

I had wanted to go to an event at Goodwood (near Chichester S coast of England) with historic bikes and cars for some time. I bought tickets for the Revival, stayed with friends near London and took Ray for a great sunny day out. With the top down on my car we parked in huge grassy well organised car parks and walked through hundreds of pre 1960 cars (they get privileged parking) to enter the circuit. The whole place drips with money but yet it's a friendly and enthusiastic crowd of motor enthusiasts there to have fun. Many of the crowd were dressed in the clothes of the 1950,s with varying degrees of success in an attempt to look spiffing. A really good swing band were blowing merrily and the be-costumed were having fun dancing in the style of the '50's. So many details were so well done – even down to Mods (scooter riders) and Rockers (bikers) shouting good humoured abuse at each other. Somehow it didn't have the suggestions of violence – perhaps due to them now being in their 60s and 70s.

I went back a second day and had a circuit of the circuit on a tractor pulled trailer. The cars were being enthusiastically driven even though many were worth millions. One sold for £4.5 million pounds at the Bonhams auction. I saw Sir Jack Brabham driving at 79 years of age, Murray Walker and many stars from film and TV. Wearing a tie gets you into most places apart from the members enclosure including the pits for cars and bikes. The field in the centre had a steam driven harvester running and there were the old time sheaves of wheat making it all look in period – Britain at its Best. Being the lucky bugger that I am, this year was special with a Memorial race dedicated to the late Barry Sheene and a fabulous turnout of immaculate racing bikes which included Manx Nortons, MV's and a Benelli added their unique sounds to the exciting atmosphere. In a thrilling race Wayne Gardner got to the front beating Jamie Whitham.

A night out in the City of Chichester and pavement dinner in Café Rouge ended what had been a brilliant weekend. The heatwave still had me with the top down even late at night and my trip was far from over as I was headed to Dorset to



stay with other friends.

Terry - Bingley,UK.



Terry's Travels

TT13-3 Dorset and Technology 12/09/2004

The drive into Dorset was beautiful, the farmers had taken advantage of the heatwave to harvest and their fields were looking very dry and stubbly. Overnighing at a superb barn (formerly cattle lived here) conversion of my hifi dealer friends Graham and Robyn, who have just bought a second home on Waiheke Island NZ. Graham took me to the nearby breathtaking Selbourne Abbey with its especially fine roof and a stroll round this very English village. Then it was time to head Northwards via more tiny roads en route to Bristol and later a call into the scenic town of Malvern. The only boring bit was then the M5/M42/M1/M62/M606 and then finally back into Crossflatts village where we have had great benefits from the Bingley bypass. England just has so much to offer when the weather is right.

Just a little techno aside now.....

The newly launched Evoke LX small radio that I bought Di for her birthday is fantastic. A mains portable radio it uses the new DAB (Digital Audio Broadcast) technology and offers such a wide range of stations both of news/sport/music and especially of the spoken word. It sits in the kitchen and pulls them all in on its telescopic aerial.

I eventually got another device via EBay called a Belkin Tunecast 2. This is an FM transmitter, small battery powered that plugs into any stereo source such as an iPod and transmits the stereo to any FM radio. My main use will be to put my World Space satellite radio into Mercies stereo system. It worked well on the Evoke also.

My other toy is a new Panasonic DVD recorder, I went for an E65 which has a Firewire input to put my DV recorder into it to copy my home movies. I also can copy VHS tapes onto DVD's that will play in most DVD players. Forget that it can record up to 8 hours – but it records well up to 6 hours per disc. The DVD RAM discs can be erased and re used up to 100,000 times – impressive technology.

I have now copied my old slide collection by shooting stills with the DV camera whilst projecting on a screen. Eventually some of this stuff will go onto my website along with scans of my family history – its been an interesting project but needs time and effort.....

Terry - Bingley,UK.

-next week Cumbria/Scotland (just) ?Cleveland.





Terry's Travels

TT13-4 Scotland (just) and Nostalgia 1/10/2004

I had never visited the Eden Valley in Cumbria, but an invite from a motorcycle friend called Tim had me rectify this. Mercie the Motorhome bowled along past Skipton and the Yorkshire Dales with all the English countryside looking especially beautiful. The M6 took me to the BIG scenery of Shap which looked fantastic through the big windscreen - I started singing to myself. The Eden Valley was signed from the M6 with Penrith. My pal Tim had been a solicitor here before retirement which enabled living in the Isle of Man before returning to 'his' village of Great Salkern. My last few miles were on very tiny lanes before reversing Mercie into the front of Tim's lovely cottage built in the distinctive local pink sandstone - what a delight.

Together we walked along the banks of the very swollen River Eden, a little muddy in places but slipping on the giant piles of dog poo was a worse problem but only for the first few hundred yards. The whole area is a positive rural pleasure (please don't tell anyone though). Meeting Tim's long time friends in the local was all about what England does best - I then slept very well in Mercie - I will be back. After light lunch in another Olde Englishe Pub it was nwards to Scotland to visit two more friends. I was headed to a bit of Scotland I had never been to before. Past Carlisle, crossing the Border and left at Gretna Green I was headed on the A75 to Stranraer. After a few miles it started to feel different. The Scots manage to build solid but unimaginative houses with small windows - but then I do accept that this is my 'English' view. The road runs along the Solway Firth and it was getting windy. By the time I was on the stretch of road alongside the sea it was a gale - then came the heavy rain squalls. During my last hours driving I was thinking why DID I come here as I was peering through the windscreen with Mercie being rocked as if by a giant hand.

My pal Dennis was waiting to guide me down the last few tiny lanes to his house near Drummore on a spectacular hillside overlooking the sea. I forced the door of Mercie open against the gale and went for a welcome cuppa that his wife Chris quickly brewed. I happily accepted a bed in one of the solid Scottish type houses, thinking that the Scots perhaps, did know what they were doing. Motorhomes in extreme weather are not the place to get a good nights sleep. A first class dinner in a classy nearby restaurant allowed us plenty of talk time. I showed some home movies of New Zealand - Dennis and Chris were the friends that lived in our house there and did such a lot of the re-modelling. It was a different world next morning, still, sunny, warm and with incredible blue skies. We walked on beaches, saw Stranraer with its tropic folia (courtesy of the Gulf Stream) and I was especially taken with Port Patrick. The whole area has featured in a recent TV series that the attached photo may bring to your minds. Again I will be back with more time and two wheels.

This is the last TT before I start the next RTWorld trip and I



thought that I should mention a bit on the techie side. I have the Microsoft SP2 running with XP and also updated Media Player 10 which seems excellent - and free! I have burned images of all my old photos and slides along with my digi photos and one DVD will carry all 10,000 !! on a bit of plastic. Adobe Photo Album 2 is expected coming today to manage the filing and retrieval of them. I am also taking DVD's that I have made from English TV and copied from videos to New Zealand. In short technology is making so much more possible in the way we live globally.....

My final day in England is still a social whirl - just the way I like it.

Terry - still in Bingley,UK.