



**SUZUKI X7**

Here I am back when I had just passed my test in 1979 and got my first big bike – a handsome X7. **Graham Weild**



**ALTA SUZUKI 125**

My first bike still had paint marks from the SSdT. I took this picture with a Box Brownie camera in around 1977. **Phil Capsey**



**TRIUMPH TIGER 80**

1946 and I'm on my first bike – a 1937 Triumph Tiger 80. Bikes have always been part of my life and I am still following MotoGP at almost 95. **Roy Sprigg**



**SHERCO**

Getting lively with my first Sherco trials bike. Those poor daffodils didn't stand a chance. **Andrew Milliken**



**LEXMOTO**

My wife, Angharad, on her birthday, on her first bike, a day after getting her CBT. Doesn't get much better than that! **Richard Selway**



**HONDA CB125**

This one is me with my little sister Hazel in charge of my Honda CB125 in 1973. Great little bike. **Gary Stevens**



**SUZUKI RG250 GAMMA**

Aged 18 and proudly displaying my 1985 Mk2 RG250 Gamma... after a 29-year absence I'm back on two wheels with a CBR600FS2. **Andy Price**



**KAWASAKI Z650**

This is my sister, Liz Galbraith on her Kawasaki Z650 taken in Westbrook, Kent in 1979. **David Galbraith**

**YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE**  
A blast down memory lane  
Send your first bike pics to:  
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**MCN LAW**  
Your tricky legal questions answered

**Q 'Pothole left me with broken wrist'**

I came off when my wheel hit a pothole and suffered nasty bruising and a broken wrist as a result. I have complained to the council but they deny responsibility. I believe the pothole was an obvious danger. What do I need to do to get some compensation for my clothing and injury? I have lost wages too.

**Nigel Haynes, Wrexham**

**A** The council has a duty under s.41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain roads and to take steps to ensure that road users have safe passage along those roads. The council will have a statutory defence to your claim under s.58 of the Highways Act 1980 if they can establish that they have taken such care as was, in all the circumstances, required to ensure that the part of the highway involved was not dangerous for traffic.

In practical terms, this relates to (i) whether the council has a reasonable method of inspecting roads and dealing with issues, and (ii)

**'You may need to get expert evidence from a civil engineer'**

whether or not they followed that method in your case.

You would need to establish either (a) that the council's method of inspecting and maintaining roads was not reasonable; or (b) that, if their method of inspecting and maintaining roads is reasonable, that they did not follow their own policy.

You may need expert evidence from a civil engineer. You should instruct a solicitor to investigate this claim for you.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Solicitor and author of the MCN Law column for the last ten years

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TT LEGEND JOHN McGUINNESS IN MCN EVERY WEEK

**McPINT**



**'Don't make a big deal about pipes'**

McGuinness reckons moaners have too much time on their hands

**T**here's a lot of people talking about loud pipes. I'm totally biased because I'm a biker, but when I hear the bikes going through the valley near my house the hair on the back of neck stands up because I love it. It sounds magnificent and I stand there working out if it's a twin, a V4 or a straight four. I listen to hear if they've got an auto-blipper – to me it's magical.

Also you hear it for a few seconds and it's gone, so I struggle to understand why people are worrying about it

**'I LOVE HEARING BIKES AND WORKING OUT WHAT THEY ARE'**

so much. If an aeroplane or a helicopter go over you that's a lot more annoying than a bike.

If it's a 30mph limit, do 30. If it's a national speed limit do 60, 70mph whatever. If you're riding through a village too fast you're a \*\*\*\*, if you're doing laps of the block you're a \*\*\*\*, but if you're out on a ride and you're there one minute and gone the next, I don't have a problem. People work hard to buy bits and aftermarket exhausts are part of the industry, they keep people in jobs.

You can also make the case for them being safer because people can hear you coming, which



Loud pipes have been a big talking point since the Covid lockdown

isn't a bad thing at the moment – have you noticed how people have started walking down rural roads? And because we've had some rain the hedges are really high and you come round a corner and there's a family with kids and a dog. I don't get it. Taking your family for a walk down a road is irresponsible.

I think a lot of the talk about exhausts is people are bored and they're looking for something to moan about. They haven't got anything to talk about, so they bring up something irrelevant. Everyone has a bit too much time on their hands!



OK well sometimes you are allowed to be on the pipe through a 30... it's the TT

**ASK McGUINNESS**

**Do you get to ride all sorts of different bikes?**



**Chris Webb**  
I get to ride a few. I had a go on the new Yamaha Ténéré when I was at K-tech the other day. What a nice thing. Light for an adventure bike and lots of fun.

**@ Send your questions to AskMcPint@motorcyclenews.com. Don't expect a serious answer.**

**NEXT WEEK MORE WISDOM FROM THE FAST MAN FROM MORECAMBE**