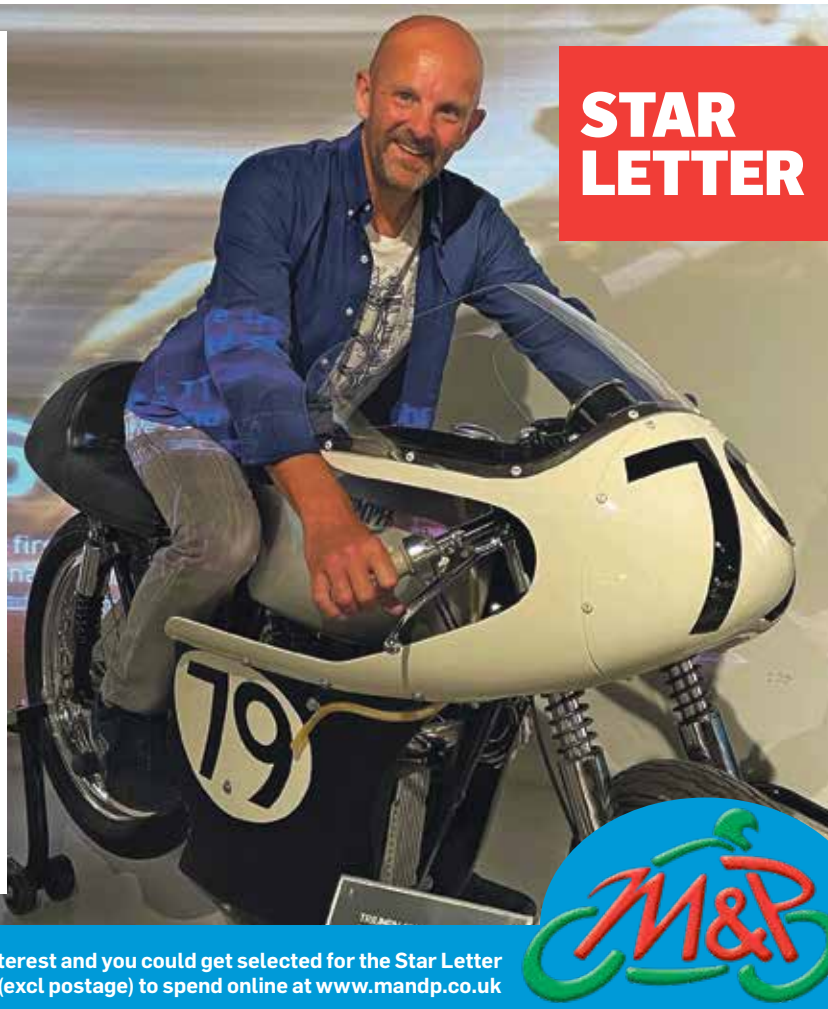


# Talking point

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## Birthday trip was a real Triumph

My amazing partner promised me a visit to the Triumph Factory Visitor Experience as a lockdown birthday present. It was brilliant, even for her as a non-biker, and Ian, our guide, was excellent. Better still, we were introduced to Dick Shepherd, who owns most of the bikes. He asked if I would like to sit on the Moto2 test bike. Fifteen minutes later I'd had pictures on the *Great Escape* bike as well as Buddy Elmore's Daytona-winning Triumph (right) and we were talking about how he had found, restored and got the first-ever Triumph running for the first time since 1938. Dick was a gent and a genuinely amazing guy!  
**Adrian Cole, email**



Write something that spikes our interest and you could get selected for the Star Letter slot and receive a voucher for £25 (excl postage) to spend online at [www.mandp.co.uk](http://www.mandp.co.uk)

## Good luck Valentino!

The news of Rossi's retirement is sad but not entirely unexpected – none of us can go on forever! Following on from letters featuring murals honouring Beryl Swain and John McGuinness, this is a picture of a mural in Tavullia, which I took when my wife and I took a fabulous trip to Europe in 2016. We travelled through France, Switzerland and Italy, taking in the MotoGP at Misano. What a fantastic time we had over a three-week period. Good luck to Vale in whatever he now chooses to do.

**Maurice Parker, email**

## No thanks, Honda

I can think of nothing more boring than riding an uncrashable bike (MCN, August 11). In racing and on the road the risk of a crash is good for sharpening senses and skills. There'd be zero excitement if it was risk free; it's a ridiculous notion.

**Paul Garrod, Portsmouth**

## Back to the grassroots

Great to see 13 pages of sport and a further 10-page special on MotoGP



Maurice stopped off at Rossi's mural

legend and the GOAT, Vale, but how about some speedway and dirt bikes? Speedway and motocross offer as much excitement and are often more accessible to families, with clubs and race meets the length and breadth of the country.

However, this is now under threat with clubs facing financial challenges – a fact underlined by the news this week of the possible loss of Rye House Stadium in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, which is home to the Rye House Rockets.  
**Mike Burrell, email**

## Go with copper grease

Further to the email from Darren Brown (MCN Letters, August 11), I must point out that I personally have experienced absolutely no problems whatsoever in over 20 years of using good quality stainless steel bolts, nuts, etc on motorcycles. Galvanic corrosion starts with two metals at the opposite ends of a table of compatible metals.

Unfortunately, stainless steel and aluminium are bad bedfellows, and oxidation/corrosion can take place on the aluminium. Copper (in the form of copper-based grease) prevents this reaction from taking place due to the fact that the copper acts as another metal which is both compatible with aluminium and stainless steel, so eliminating galvanic corrosion. Ordinary grease, LM or otherwise will not achieve this result.  
**Paul Ashton, email**

## Pipe down a bit please

I was pleased to read that Emma Franklin thinks she's 'over' the noisy exhaust thing (MCN, August 11). If only there was some way she

could transfer this feeling to the oik who rides his open exhaust Honda monkey bike past my flat at six o'clock every morning, thus guaranteeing with his selfishness that I get an early start to each day whether I want it or not.  
**Nigel Savill, Northolt**

## Future of secure parking

Having just visited Nottingham city centre to catch up with my daughter, and staying in a hotel with no parking, I was resigned to leaving my motorcycle on the street and hoping it would be there in the morning. Until I stumbled on the Lace Market multi-storey where they have built a steel cage for secure parking. Electric gates and an app for access, what a great idea. Let's hope it takes off and more councils adopt this approach, I slept soundly knowing my bike would be there in the morning.

**Andrew King, email**

## You take the high road

Thanks to Simon Weir for his interesting advice regarding visiting the Isle of Skye. Correct, it is a fine place and like most 'closed shops' it is pricey for digs. But, trust a local, the Skye Bridge is free and it has been for more than a decade so there is no need to be ready with £2.90 in your pocket.

**Mark Bryant, email**

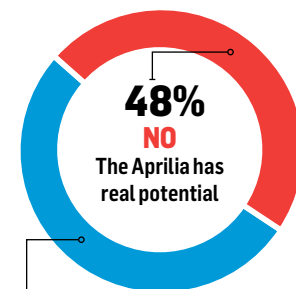
## Get Millyard on the case

Having read MCN for the last 50 odd years the one column I've really missed is Neil Murray's. Jon Urry is doing a fair job but perhaps it's time to twist the arm of Allen Millyard.

**Richard Shephard, Herts**

## READER POLL

Has Viñales made a mistake going to Aprilia?



**52% YES** He should have made things work at Yamaha

**MCN**  
**LAW**  
Your tricky legal questions answered

## Q 'Taken out by overbanding'

I was riding along a wet country road outside Newport and was going around a bend when my bike lost traction and I ended up in a hedge. I was able to pick myself up and went to look at the road when I saw that it had been repaired recently. The seal at the edge of the repair looked much wider than normal – about 3 or 4 inches wide. I have been off work and losing pay so I was wondering if I can claim compensation.

**Rhiannon, Caerphilly**

**A** Depending on the type of road, the local council or the Highway Authority are responsible for maintaining the road surface and all repairs. Authorities often contract this work out, but the contractors have a duty to make sure the road repairs comply with statutory requirements and repair guidelines. The seal around a repair is known as overbanding and recognised as a potential accident risk to motorcyclists

## 'Take photos of the overbanding as evidence'

because it can cause skidding. If wider than 20mm, then the overbanding is supposed to have a grit-like substance added to provide wet skidding resistance, and it should never be more than 40mm wide or 3mm thick.

If you can prove the overbanding did not comply with the requirements, then it would likely be considered a hazard and you may well be able to bring a claim against either the authority or the contractors for misfeasance and/or negligence. I suggest you take photos to assist your claim.

**Andrew Campbell**

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

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