

Simon interviews: Biker – Dave White

Simon: So, Dave, thanks for coming into Spotlight on Brittany.

Dave: Not a problem.

Simon: On this lovely, sunny afternoon where we've chosen to sit outside in the courtyard.

Dave: It's good.

Simon: And, er, yeah, it's really, really pleasant.

Dave: It's just....

Simon: I heard about you from the biking er tour thing that you did. Tell us a bit about the biking.

Dave: Okay, well, I've, ever since what the age of 15, been into motorbikes. And at school, had the pleasure of that switch from the old British bikes to the dreaded Japanese two strokes. Me and my mate used to bomb up to Brands Hatch. Um see Barry Sheen racing. Ah wicked.

Simon: Yeah, yeah.

Dave: Those were the days, on the back of his rd 350 Yamaha.

Simon: I had an rd 250.

Dave: Ah. First motorbike I ever did over the ton on was an rd

Simon: Crazy bike.

Dave: Yeah, and er that sort of er, just motorbiking became a way of life. Then I was a student training to be a science teacher. Had an old Vesper rd, Vesper 150 sprint.

Simon: Right.

Dave: Which then became a Lambretta 150 Li with gold plated paint and an air horn and all the bee's knees. But er then got married and the bike went. Had children. Still no bike. But um as needs wanted, um went back onto motorbiking after that, because I was having to commute quite a bit in Suffolk.

Simon: Right.

Dave: So it was a cheap, easy way to do it.

Simon: Yes.

Dave: Um, no, CZ 125.

Simon: Okay.

Dave: Biggest seat 125 you could get, which was great. And then changed my job. Became a social worker after teaching, and in the end, was working for the universities across East Anglia. It's about 400 miles a day. So student to student, you know, sort of Kings Lynn to Cambridge to Colchester and all the way around. Up. Yeah. Wonderful job being paid to be out on my motorbike.

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: Daily. And we then started um buying Hondas, Honda motorbikes, and ran the Norfolk and Suffolk, Honda Owners Club branch. Did that for 10 years, and then life changed, and we moved across to Brittany, and got chatting to Corinne, who runs the Vie magazine. So she said, would I be interested in doing some trips around Brittany or writing some articles.

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: On trips around Brittany on the motorbike? Well, what a stupid question. You know? I mean, it's lovely because it gets us to places we wouldn't normally go to. It makes sure we go out in the summer.

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: Um, choose nice little routes through with some nice fast bits, twisty bits, banking curves. You know. And we end up with a nice lunch and have a slightly different route on the way back. So the feedback I've had is that people have been intrigued by the places we found. I mean, things like the Morbihan resistance Museum, which is beautiful, the big Cairn on the north Brittany coast. You know some lovely little places tucked in which are much more accessible by motorbike.

Simon: Right.

Dave: Than if you're trying to do it in the car.

Simon: Right. So do you, because you just came back from a trip when when we spoke.

Dave: Yes.

Simon: Was that a long biking trip? Or.

Dave: We did take the car. We went down to Magny-Cours, the world superbike track down in the Loire Valley, and.

Simon: Right.

Dave: For my wife, sitting on the back of 550 km is a bit excessive. I think.

Simon: Yeah, yeah.

Dave: It's a long old haul.

Simon: Yeah. So what are you riding at the moment?

Dave: Ah, Africa, twin. Honda Africa, 1,000 cc.

Simon: OK.

Dave: Beautiful bike.

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: I was. Because we linked in England very closely with our local Honda dealers, they got me a little surprise ticket of two days up in the Welsh mountains around Merthyr Tydfil learning to off road on the Africa Twins.

Simon: Amazing.

Dave: Ah, it's wicked.

Simon: Yeah. So do you? So do you run a bike club as well? Or you just ride for the.

Dave: I just ride for my pleasure. Now.

Simon: Right.

Dave: We used to, we used to run the Norfolk and North Suffolk Honda Owners Club.

Simon: Right.

Dave: Yeah, we. It's difficult. I mean, we there's so much biking goes on in Brittany.

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: There was the Pontivy, sort of speed trials the other week.

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: Er, Plouay with the um Motoclassic.

Simon: OK.

Dave: I mean, that is fantastic. And last year they did all the British classics.

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: You know, the Nortons, the Triumphs,

Simon: Yeah.

- Dave: BSAs, wonderful. Just a huge melange. Biking is a wonderful society.
- Simon: Yes, a club isn't it.
- Dave: You always talk to another biker.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: You know.
- Simon: Yeah, yeah. So with the Vie magazine, it's a monthly magazine?
- Dave: Er, two monthly, bi-monthly.
- Simon: Yeah. So you write an article every month?
- Dave: Every other month, yep.
- Simon: Every other, every two months, yeap.
- Dave: So next article, it'll be for December. Bikes are in storage.
- Simon: Right.
- Dave: Getting cold and icy and.
- Simon: So what do you, what do you write about in the winter?
- Dave: Reflect back on the previous, you know, this year's World superbikes, British superbikes, Moto GP, how to look after your bike in winter.
- Simon: Yes.
- Dave: How to stop it rusting away expensively in the garage.
- Simon: Yeah, yeah.
- Dave: And looking ahead, you know, looking at what's coming up.
- Simon: And what is coming up? Big bike wise, or bike wise in Brittany?
- Dave: Well, I think I'd say this the motoclassic, which is an annual thing. There's interestingly, post Covid, we're starting to get, um. I mean, at Perret there was a lovely little classic bike show on this year that was wonderful. And some gorgeous machinery.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: Just finding these little snippets to to sort of pop up on onto these pages.
- Simon: Yeah.

- Dave: Also doing some nice runs out. We've done a few to North Brittany coast, 'cos we were tending to go a bit, I think, we tended to go a bit to the west, last time, a bit south. So just trying to sort of move around a bit. I mean, we live in Sylfiac, which is.
- Simon: Yes.
- Dave: Smack in the middle of Britany.
- Simon: Yes.
- Dave: So try and vary it a little bit to to cover all tastes.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: It makes sure we get out. It gives you a reason to dig the bike out when you might just be thinking, gosh, I've dug the garden, done the potager. feel a bit clapped out. But hey, let's go on the bike.
- Simon: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Dave: Find a nice restaurant.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: Lovely restaurant at the end is very worth it. Run down to Auray. You know. Auray is beautiful.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: There's always a few bikers.
- Simon: Oh yeah.
- Dave: On the quay. Yeah, it's great, you know. And um then just, just keeping eyes out for for the local stuff.
- Simon: Great. And you're also involved in the photography club aren't you?
- Dave: AIKB photo club.
- Simon: Photo club.
- Dave: Yeah. Just done our open compe... photography competition, which was won, won by a wonderful picture done by a lovely Frenchman. Er that was great, which was 'into the distance'. Very active club. We've got, generally, every meeting, about 20 members.
- Simon: Right.
- Dave: We have a monthly challenge. We're just finishing 'fill the frame', so get as much in your camera picture as you can. And next one we're going on to is I,

oh industrial, 'industry, industrial', so that could be anything from tourism, farming, ah anything you like, really, you know.

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: The old farm houses. Yeah, that's really, well again, it gets us out and gets us exploring the

Simon: Yeah.

Dave: Countryside, and that's really good fun. And the quality of pictures, crikey.

Simon: Yes, I've seen some of them.

Dave: Yeah,

Simon: They're pretty amazing aren't they.

Dave: Well, the 'fill the frame' ones, it was like, go through, think, Ah don't know. Choice of.. choose your top three? Then next day it's like, well I'll have a different three.

Simon: So do you cross the biking into the photography?

Dave: Well, it's funny you should say that. I was asked to do a session for an afternoon of, we were doing panning. So.

Simon: Right.

Dave: Riding my motorbike through Gouarec and back and.

Simon: Yes.

Dave: Through and back and through and back for about an hour.

Simon: Right.

Dave: So people could get used to panning.

Simon: Yes.

Dave: To follow the bikes. Really good, fun, lovely pictures. But I think the inhabitants of Gouarec.

Simon: Ah.

Dave: Were wondering what on earth was going on.

Simon: Yes.

Dave: All the cars

Simon: Yeah.

- Dave: Started slowing down, seeing the the road lined with people with cameras.
- Simon: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Dave: It was wonderful.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: Really amusing. So, yeah, there is, there is a crossover. And I've actually noticed a few other photographers in the club are beginning to add motorbikes in their pictures.
- Simon: Oh, OK.
- Dave: Result!
- Simon: Yes. So you're not planning to do a sort of photo mo., photo moto tour. You could do a moto photo tour.
- Dave: That would be good fun. Yeah.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: Yes. I think um, it it's a lifestyle choice, isn't it? If you, unless you got biking in your blood, you just don't know what it's like.
- Simon: No. You've got to have biked.
- Dave: Yeah.
- Simon: To realise what fun it is. So to wrap up, what should, what should people who are interested in bikes but never really got into bikes, but would like to get into bikes. How should they approach it?
- Dave: I think don't be afraid of them. Certainly not over here. Um, there's plenty of schools that will take you out gently. And and just enjoy. The roads are so much clearer. They're flatter. There's no potholes. You know, what's there to worry about? People are much more courteous. I think the things to get used to on the bike are the acceleration, but also the braking. You know, you can speed up, slow down so much quicker at base.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: Than than in a car.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: And you're just far more alert to all your surroundings.
- Simon: Yeah.

- Dave: You know, you've got that, the smells of nature. You've got the flies in your eyes. But you're you're just, it's a totally different experience.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: You know. When I'm in the car, it's like being in a tin can.
- Simon: Yeah.
- Dave: Come alive on the bike.
- Simon: Yeah, I, I fully concur with that. I stopped riding bikes because er, I don't know why, actually, but I did. Er, but I rode bikes all all all my, most of my adult life, and I was a dispatch rider in London in the eighties.
- Dave: Oh wow.
- Simon: So you get the feeling
- Dave: Yes. You get the buzz.
- Simon: Definitely got the bug. But yeah, well, that was great. Thanks, Dave for that, and um we'll put any links, anything we should put on the website.
- Dave: I think, look at the Vie magazine. There's there's a, every edition there's a you know a very nice route to try out in.
- Simon: OK.
- Dave: Somewhere in Brittany.
- Simon: Yeah, of course, follow the route on on Vie magazine.
- Dave: We always try and find a nice somewhere to eat at the end of it, and then you can just enjoy
- Simon: Even better.
- Dave: Sleeping it off on the way home.
- Simon: Even better. Okay, thanks for coming in.
- Dave: No problems at all.
- Simon: Cheers.
- David: Cheers.