

Delia's journey from Bike to Trike



I have always liked Dynas and knew when I brought my Street Bob in 2010 that I would be hanging onto it for a while. So I decided to go down the customising route giving it a bit of a retro look with wrapped custom pipes, custom paintwork themed on some of my favourite things (Jack Daniels and Tennessee) plus other extras and 'Tennessee's Finest' was born!

I was thrilled with the finished article, Guildford Custom Cycles and Altamura achieved just what I had asked for, Tennessee's Finest won a trophy at SofER that year which was the icing on the cake.

In 2012, I was diagnosed with cancer and had prolonged courses of chemo. When at my lowest point, I would close my eyes and imagine I was back on my bike sweeping round curves on country roads and couldn't wait to get back on the road. Unfortunately, as a result of the chemo I was left with neuropathy - no sensation or feeling in my left leg and restricted in my right. I battled on for 2 years hoping the damaged nerves would heal but it was not to be. But I was not ready to give up riding or my bike. I wanted to stay on 2 wheels not 3 but had to be sensible for once and recognise my limitations. My only option was to 'trike' it.

I knew exactly what I wanted the trike to look like and after visiting many trike specialists, settled on 'Trike Shop' Cardiff as I thought they could achieve the look I wanted. I kept the original seat that had been leather covered and tooled to my design by 'Leather Mark' but there was a wide space behind the seat where a pillion seat would have been, so Jim made up a prototype bag which Mark then fabricated from aluminium, clad in leather, again tooled with the 'Tennessee' theme. I was both delighted and surprised on each occasion when Tennessee's Finest won 'Best Trike' at SofER two years in a row!



I find a trike harder to ride but for me it solves my problem, when my foot is in place I know where it is which makes riding much safer for me. When I originally realised that to 'trike' my bike was my only option, the reaction from some was quite negative *'I'd rather give up riding than ride a trike'*, *'Never catch me on 3 wheels'* etc.



To me it is still my own bike / trike, I still get that exhilarating sensation of speed, the thunder of the pipes, that wonderful feeling of wind in your face, the warmth of the sun and of course rain!

Cancer takes a lot from you, I was determined it was not going to take my biking days away from me too.