



ZEN AND THE ART OF...

Motorcycle maintenance is not only an essential part of owning a bike but it can make the difference between getting from A to B and getting stranded – or worse, taking a spill. Giselle Whiteaker breaks it down into ten key parts

ASI WHEELED OUT MY TRUSTY motorbike, Barney, a few weeks ago, I thought back to when I bought the bike. I didn't have it checked by a mechanic. My real estate agent took it for a test ride and pronounced it roadworthy, and I handed over the cash. Months later a friend suggested I should change the oil. I thought about it and even tried to open the oil tank but it wouldn't budge. I promptly forgot about it. That was over a year ago. Barney was overdue a check up.

Barney's surgery included an oil change, a new battery, front and rear brake pads, shock absorbers and some fine tuning. The bike now purrs like a kitten. 115ccs is never going to roar like a tiger. The brakes work so I no longer have to use the Flintstone method of braking, which will save the soles of my shoes. I am determined to give Barney some post-operative care, but where to start? While I am never going to be a mechanic, there are a few