

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING 17th April 2012



www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org

Events

In the absence of any local reports or photos a few more events are listed below. Although the weather had improved it has turned colder again but the lighter evenings are very welcome.

April 22nd

The London Motorcycle Museum plays host to a St George's Day Hog Roast. Opens 11am to 4pm at Ravenor Farm, Oldfield Lane, Greenford, with displays of over 150 classic machines including many rare or unique prototypes from the old industry. Admission includes food plus local history centre, free parking, tea-room, etc. Just five minutes from the A40. 0208 575 6644 or www.london-motorcycle-museum.org

.. but not forgetting ..

The Pete Allen Memorial Run C (Classic motorcycles) on Sunday 22nd April.

The run is intended to be at a leisurely Pace (NO overtaking) and is suitable for first timers looking for an introduction. The aim is to arrive at Alresford Station on the Mid Hants Railway in time for a return steam hauled run to Alton and back.

Meet: Arborfield Royal British Legion Car Park, Eversley Rd., Arborfield RG2 9PR

Time: 09:30 for 10:00 departure (full fuel tank)

Approx 60 mile run with a coffee stop at Loomies, West Meon.

Arrive Alresford Station approx 13:00.

Run Leader: Pete's son Robert riding Pete's 1953 Norton Dommie Model 7.

Backmarker: Lyn Allen on Norton Dominator 88.

Members of Norton Owners Club plus friends of Pete who ride classic machines will be joining for this run.

April 28th / 29th

The STAFFORD CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE SHOW opens 9am on both days at the Stafford County Showground. All the usual show attractions including hundreds of trade and autojumble stalls plus some complete old bikes for sale. Guest of honour Giacomo Agostini. Admission now £12 on the day so best to prebook at www.classicbikeshows.com or call 01507 529529. Free parking; weekend camping available but expensive.

Surrey Branch

At the Surrey Branch club night on 30th January the members were treated to a very interesting talk and slide show by Carl Rosner covering the early years of his involvement with motorcycles, his sponsorship of racing bikes and how his business has developed to the thriving enterprise it is today. □ First established in 1969 selling and servicing British bikes, including Norton, Carl Rosner has been a Triumph dealer since 1974. Carl Rosner Motorcycles is truly a family business with 3 generations of the family having worked in the business. The staff have a strong passion for the Triumph brand and the business offers new/used bike sales, motorcycle service, MOT testing,

parts, accessories and clothing. They also have a large stock of Norton spares available.

They have an active RAT club and are supporting a rider in the T3 race series. As a Triumph main dealer they cover South London, Surrey, Kent and Sussex. All are welcome whether it is for buying a bike or just to have a look around and have a coffee. Their website is at: www.carlosner.co.uk □

The selection of a few of his photos show his first bike purchase, the last Commando off the production line (which he managed to buy), a Norton on the set of Eastenders, his sponsorship of bike racing, an advert for his shop (Carl Rosner Triumph) and one day when they had taken delivery of over 30 Triumph Bonneville. (Ed: I bought my Commando from Rosner while I was working in Croydon in the 90's – it does seem a long time ago.)

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You're never too old to sit on a Norton

You may have read about Mr Charles Harwood who was 102 on Tuesday March 6th and he wanted a motorcycle for his birthday! The Surrey Branch duly obliged and turned up with several Nortons which quite made Charles' day as can be seen from the photo.



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Editors Musings

I have had a few runs on the Commando sufficient to indicate that I should check the cylinder head nuts, valve clearances and exhaust port nuts. All seemed well until I tried to get a socket on the deeply recessed front cylinder head nuts. I foolishly thought a long socket would fit but no, Norton didn't think to make the access hole in the head large enough. Trouble is it is Easter Saturday evening with shops closed tomorrow and probably Monday so it will be Tuesday before I can try to get a suitable spanner. Well Easter has passed and I've obtained a suitable socket for the front nuts and had a suitably slim ring spanner for the rear undershot nut. Everything is now back together although the centre bolt for the head steady mount was a b****r to replace. Now for a test run but I'm not going out in a hailstorm thankyou!

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Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar

Date	Event	Contact	Status
April			
19 th	Thames Valley Branch Club Night – Location The Swan, Three Mile Cross	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
Sunday 22 nd	The Pete Allen Memorial Run C (Classic motorcycles)	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
May			
17 th	Thames Valley Branch Club Night – Location The Swan, Three Mile Cross	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
June			
28 th	Thames Valley Branch Club Night – Location The Swan, Three Mile Cross	Tony Ripley	Confirmed

Other local Branch activities

The NOC Branches across the country have all put in reports of their status and activities to 'Head Office'. I have taken the liberty of extracting some elements from local branches' reports to show what others are up to. Some condensing has been necessary to save electrons and paper.

Solent Branch

We have not run any major events, but 2011 has been a busy year. Instead of an Annual Christmas dinner we visited HMS Victory have a tour and a dinner provided by the staff aboard. We held our usual Cheriton Camping Weekend which again was well attended, a large number of us also attended the National Rally at Bisley/Brooklands, Denmead Village Show unfortunately clashed with other events this year but we still had a couple of members attend, we are also hoping to forge a friendship with the Waterlooville Motorcycle Club. York NOC AGM, Popham Mega-meet, Queen Elizabeth Country Park Show, Amberley Show, South Hants Show, Sammy Miller's Museum, Goodwood Revival, Geoff Smithers and Barry Stickland between them have been on at Beezump, Dunsfold, Odiham and Festival of 1000 bikes. Luc Sur Mare, Ace Café run to Brighton, Isle of Wight Weekend where we enjoyed a lively Hotel weekend, plenty of interesting rides around the Island, Old Fossil run VMCC, Stamford Rally and finally Begonia Rally.

Oxford Branch

Oxford Branch continues to 'tick-along', though we have had some success in attracting two or three new members in the past year. We're only a small branch of about 10 members, but we meet every month, and the majority of those 10 do attend each time. Getting anything organised proves to be a bit of an effort, but we've attracted a vigorous new member in the shape of Kiwi Ian Cordes, who bravely volunteered to become our first-ever Events Officer at our AGM held on 14th Feb 2012, and has already instigated our first skittles-match against the Oxford Beemer Club, and is busy organising various runs etc - brilliant!!

Our long-standing Treasurer Barry Whitehead has left the NOC with the writing-off of his Commando at the 2010 Manx GP, in a freak accident with a Triumph owner who inexplicably managed to hit a wall in Ramsey, leaving Barry absolutely no option but to bounce his Norton over the stricken Trumpet. Barry has therefore stood-down from his official role, but continues as a much-regarded social member. His position has been taken over by another long-standing regular, Tristram Spencer, and a big welcome to him too. Alan Wise continues as our well-respected voice-of-reason Chairman, and Peter Scatchard continues as Secretary, who attended the 2011 Branch Secretaries' Meeting in Warwick.

We did manage two events in 2011, one closed-to-branch in the shape of a Xmas Dinner to which 'other halves' were made very welcome, and that proved to be popular with all 14 or so who attended, and is already marked down for a repeat in 2012. It was a good chance to thank those responsible for keeping the home-fires burning, and proved a means of widening we members' knowledge of one-another and consolidating friendships.

Earlier, we had put on our now-traditional bi-annual 'open-to-others' event. After our 2007 Reunion Rally on the banks of the Upper Thames, and our 2009 Golden Jubilee Windrush Rally, in September 2011 we held a Café Racer Day (acknowledgement to Gino Rondelli for his suggestion made during an unexpected visit to us earlier in the year), open to EVERYONE. A good 50% of the entries included significant Norton componentry anyway, and all three winners featured Featherbed frames, so Norton honour was well-upheld. We had a good turnout of around 50 machines, around 50% genuine cafe racers, everyone enjoyed themselves greatly, our 'home', Sturdy's Castle did good business that enabled us to put something back to Vanessa and her team, who

Space left for your reports and photos:

have proved enormously hospitable over the past 5 or 6 years, and we were graced not with one Club Vice-President in the shape of 'Mr Featherbed', Ken Sprayson, but two, with our very-own Honorary Branch Member 1953 World Sidecar Rider Champion Stan Dibben to help with the judging and prize-presentations.

Bristol Branch

2011 started off with our yearly Xmas Party in January. Members from Bournemouth and Surrey in addition to our own branch totalled 69 people.

In February we had the stand at the Classic Bike Show at Shepton Mallett, a particularly successful show, our usual flagship showing for the NOC in the South West. Awards won for Ian Loram, Eric Arnold and Tony Lockwood for their machines. Then throughout the summer we had a number of outings, as well as our usual evening runs.

An early summer camping weekend to Cornwall at Frank Parkhouse's farm, which unfortunately was a little soggy and then there was an alternative camping weekend run by Alan Byrom.

Bristol holds its own motorcycle show at St Nicholas Market, we regularly attend this every year, putting up our branch gazebo and making a Norton statement – this is normally run by Tony Lockwood.

Our annual club night, held regularly every year for the benefit of our branch members to show their pride and joys, was a huge success this year with a turnout of 30 machines. Awards for various categories from the lightweights to the commandos were given out.

Throughout the year we have attended national events including the Norton Day at the Ace Cafe, representation at the National Rally (Brooklands) and Bisley and 18 people went to the IOM Manx Grand Prix including the Norton Day at Laxey.

Towards the end of the year, Martin Treasure, Eric and Jill Arnold, helped man the NOC stand at the NEC Birmingham show. Martin Treasure brought along the Bristol branch turntable and we spent three enjoyable days at the show.

Kent Branch

Some members meet up and enjoy a bike ride usually on a Thursday once a month and often attend other motorcycle events and other events of interest Steam fairs, Railway exhibitions and the like the effort are members have made and the publication of our branch newsletter as attracted 6 new members to our club this year.

The Kent branch now has 62 members. This year the club attended four events where branch tent and banner were displayed. Quite a few of our club members attended The Isle of Wight hotel weekend and a group of us attended Norton Day in Staffordshire which due to weather conditions and cold showers was not for the faint hearted. Club barbecue open night went very well with a good turn out again this year we raised money for the Air Ambulance.

Once a year the club meets up for a meal; a nice social event with most members attending. Our own is doing exceptionally well and enjoyed by many.

Bournemouth Branch

Yet another year has sped by, with many events attended by the branch both locally and nationally. A new event at which we were asked to arrange a display was Gillingham in Gear, which we will be attending again this year.

Membership is at 44 members in total, comprising of 12 joint pairs, 6 social members and the rest full members.

We continue to meet once a week at The Stocks Inn at Furze Hill near Wimborne where anywhere between 10 – 20 members turn up. During the summer we still meet weekly but every other week is a ride out to different destinations. If anyone is down in this area anytime please feel free to join us.

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