

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING

21st September 2010



www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org

Norton Day 2011

Your Branch needs YOU!

I am sending out this newsletter earlier than usual as we need some feedback from the readership. Surrey Branch have been invited to organise next years Norton Day. No date or venue has yet been set although Brooklands and Goodwood are being considered and the date will be a weekend between May and July. Surrey has asked if Thames Valley can assist with the organisation. We therefore need to know who can be counted on to get involved. Please advise your interest to Tony as soon as possible so that we liaise with Surrey.

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Swallowfield Show

The Swallowfield show is a traditional family orientated Village show organised by the Swallowfield Horticultural Society and has been running now for 126 years. It includes such things as Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, Horse and Dog Shows, Birds of Prey, varied Arena acts and many other attractions. For the last 20 years Beryl Skinner (TVNOC Treasurer) has organised the Display of Classic Car and Motor Cycles.

The TVNOC first attended as the Branch last year in celebration of the Jubilee and it was so successful that we returned again this year. The number of Nortons just about equalled the number of other makes and ranged from Martin Penman's 1943 16H in full military colours to David Brown's 1989 Norton Rotary Café Racer. On both days there was a ride into the arena where they were all lined up and the compere went along the line to discuss the bikes and broadcast to the crowd.

On the first day, David Vine was presented with an award for the best Norton at the show as voted by the public. This was for his very pretty 71 Norvil Commando and the second year running that he has won an award at Swallowfield. On the second day the runaway winner was a 1958 Model 30 Manx owned by Roger Deadman from the Surrey Branch.

Public attendance at the show was roughly 9500 over the two days and I would say that about 1% came up to me and said 'I used to have one of those when I was a lad'. There was a lot of interest in the Nortons from both young and old and it was a very enjoyable two days.



David Vine with his 'Best Norton' award. *Photo Tony Ripley*



Barry Stickland could not really ride his Inter around the field so decided to frighten some of the classic car owners with his display of how to ride a 350 AJS. *Photo Tony Ripley*

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Forthcoming events

September 11th

There's a motorcycle sprint organised by the VMCC Sprint Section, with various classes from vintage through to superbike, at the Brighton Speed Trials. See the web at www.vmccsprint.co.uk

September 12th

The Knebworth Classic Motorcycle Show opens 10am at Knebworth Park near Stevenage, SG3 6PY. Great setting for the event, with access to Knebworth Park facilities plus private entries, arena displays, concours, club stands, commentator, autojumble etc. phone 01484 667776 or see www.classicshows.org.

It's Great Western Italian day at Swindon, close to the STEAM museum and the McArthur Glen shopping centre. Caters for all Italian cars, bikes and scooters. Phone 0117 947 5814 or see www.ItalianAutoMotoClub.co.uk

September 18th

The EGP autojumble opens 10am at Kempton Park racecourse near Sunbury. Large bike jumble with around 250 outdoor and indoor stalls, five minutes from J1 of the M3. Admission £5. See www.egp-enterprises.co.uk or phone 01344 883961

September 26th

There's a motorcycle sprint organised by the VMCC Sprint Section, with various classes from vintage through to superbike, at Eelmoor Park, Aldershot. See www.vmccsprint.co.uk

The Kop hill climb takes place at Princes Risborough in Bucks. 250-plus classic and vintage vehicles are expected. Plus a ride from Ace Café, leaves 9am from the North Circular to join the event. See www.kophillclimb.org.uk for background to the event plus entry details.

October 3rd

The Norton OC join all Real Classic NORTON CHALLENGERS for an end of season get-together at Chasewater Light Railway, Chasewater Country Park, Pool Road, Brownhills, Staffs, WS8 7NL. Meet at the Chasewater Heaths Station at midday. The café will be open from 7.30am until 2pm. Show your crash helmet when you buy a ticket to ride on one of the classic trains and you'll save £1 on the usual fare. 'Nortons' can be 'bagged' before or after the

meeting. (Riding a Norton is of course optional but old motorcycles are preferred). Frank Westworth hopes to attend on a Norton, and will be leading a party over to the Norvil premises, open from 10am to 4pm. Tours of Norvil's bike building workshop available. (Thanks to the Emery family for their hospitality.) More info nearer the date at www.nortonchallenge.net.

October 16th and 17th

The Classic Motorcycle Show opens at Stafford County Showground at 9am both days. Admission £10 per day. Camping available. Phone 01507 529529. Special guest Eddie Lawson.

October 16th

The EGP autojumble opens 10am at Kempton Park racecourse near Sunbury. Huge bikejumble with around 250 outdoor and indoor stalls, five minutes from J1 off the M3. Admission is £5. See www.egp-enterprises.co.uk or phone 01344 883961 for details.

October 24th

The South of England RealClassic motorcycle show and bikejumble opens at 10am at the South of England Showground near Ardingly RH17 6TL, close to Gatwick. Big displays of British, European, Japanese and American classics: extra indoor space for the club displays, trade stands and autojumble stalls. Plus Guest of Honour world record holder Eric Patterson and his record-breaking **JAP-Norton**, free parking on firm ground, bring your bike to sell, garage clear-outs welcome. Real Classic subscribers can claim a discount on the gate admission price. All pre-booked display bikes go home with a souvenir plus have the chance to win one of the handsome awards across a range of categories. See www.elk-promotions.co.uk or call 01797 344277

October 31st

The Malvern RealClassic motorcycle show opens 10am at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern in Worcs. Indoor show (safe from the weather!) with several halls of autojumble plus private entries, concours competition, club stands, commentator, refreshments etc. Discounted admission for anyone who'd like to display a classic bike and take part in the concours competition, with a wide range of awards plus special RealClassic Commendations for interesting old bikes. For admission pass, please enter in advance by calling 01484 667776 or download form at:

www.classicshows.org/BookingForms/Bike%20Booking%20form%20202010.pdf, or see www.classicshows.org. Please note: this event has been rescheduled from a previously publicised date so make sure you've got the correct Sunday written in your calendar!

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Background to Kop Hill

Kop Hill Climb's exciting revival last year propelled it into one of the "must attend" events on the historic motorsport calendar. Kop Hill near Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire was one of the most popular speed hill climbs in the country for motorcycles and motorcars in the period between 1910 and 1925.

It was after a minor accident on Kop Hill in 1925 that it was decided to ban motor and motorcycle racing on public roads in the UK. At that time, on an open public road, pedestrians could not be restrained from going and standing where they wished and any vehicle had to be given the right of way if they wanted to drive up or down the hill during racing.

There was a revival of the hill climb in 1999, as part of the Risborough Festival, which was organised by the Bean Car Club. This year's centenary event celebrates the first recorded races by motorcyclists in 1910. A year later they were joined by motorcars. For two days, Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th of September the hill will be returned to its glorious past. Storming the hill this year will be over 300 historic vehicles from the earliest days through to post-

war classics. These will be leavened by a few modern exotic cars showing how motoring has developed over the last 100 years. The organisers are planning for over 300 entrants and priority will be given to motorcycles and cars which could have appeared on the hill before 1925. The run plate given as a part of the entrance fee will be a unique memento of the event.

Kop Hill is just short of 1300 yards long and in this distance rises 304 feet. However, at the half way mark there is a gradient of 1-in-6 and near the summit the gradient is 1-in-4, sufficient to test all but the most powerful vehicles. The road surface is smooth and in good condition unlike in the 1920s.

Many spectators are expected to enjoy the action throughout the day from three strategic viewing points. The gate admission fee of £6 includes a souvenir programme and parking, and access to the trade stands and paddock area. The photograph shows a Morgan breasting the summit in 1925 on a somewhat loose road service. It illustrates the potential dangers from racing on public roads in those times. The action in 2010 is likely to be considerably safer.



Kop Hill Climb in its Centenary year has been a sell out, as there is already a full complement of entries for the hill.

For those interested in participating in this historic revival of Kop Hill please refer to www.kophillclimb.org.uk for full details of the event. The site has just been launched and contains entry forms that can be downloaded.

Spectators will be able to see and hear the vehicles roar up the Hill and have a close up view of the vehicles in the paddock.

This event is an opportunity for Drivers, Riders, Classic Owners and Spectators to support the revival of this exciting and historic Hill Climb, at the same time as raising money for worthy local charities.

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Ray Kennard

As you may know Ray Kennard passed away about the beginning of the month and his funeral is arranged for 16th September. Ray was a one time member of the branch but is far better known for his magnificent efforts in supporting off road motorcycling, in particular Enduro. His Norton connection was a Wasp sidecar outfit, which he campaigned in the early 1990s and which was later restored by Pete Weait. Ray also owned a Rotary at one time. Ray was not particularly active in the NOC and so many members won't remember him. However, any that do and who wish to have one final outing with Ray are welcome to join the riders' parade which will follow the cortege to his funeral. Ian Verrinder has details of this and the funeral and would be happy to hear from anybody who wants to know more.

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Editor's musings

Not much room this month – makes a nice change. I did get the Commando to the Swallowfield show – on the worse day weather wise – but didn't win any prizes!

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Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar

Date	Event	Contact	Status
September			
21 st	Thames Valley Club Night – at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
October			
16 th and 17 th	The Classic Motorcycle Show at Stafford County Showground		
19 th	Thames Valley Club Night – at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed