

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING

16th June 2009



www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org

The Classic Motorcycle

The July issue of *The Classic Motorcycle* features 'our own' Peter Weait's 1968 Commando Fastback and includes notes on the history of the model.

NOC Golden Jubilee

Don't forget NOC Golden Jubilee at Donnington Park is almost upon us; this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and is not to be missed. Again it is close enough for those that 'do not do rallies' to turn up just for the day.

Commando news - continued

The parts (bellows for the rear master cylinder and a new side stand and spring) duly arrived from Norvil slightly later than I had hoped due to the intervening Bank Holiday. I installed the new bellows having drained, flushed and refilled brake fluid to both back and front brakes. I tried to set up the timing correctly as on starting a lot of backfiring was occurring. You may laugh at my efforts as I had forgotten there are two timing marks on the rotor one of which is at BDC and setting to that does nothing to help the starting process! All my adjustments failed to cure the misfiring but I decided to try for the MOT. The test station was a bit surprised at the noise emanating from the machine when I arrived as the revs had to be kept to prevent stalling. As a result the MOT was failed – the horn (a Fiamm unit) was not loud enough to be heard by other road users was the reason given on the failure notice! A loose direction indicator and a dragging rear brake were also cited.

Subsequent attempts at home to lever the brake pistons in were a failure but a call to Ron Fromant resulted in his airline being employed to shift the pistons. One came out fairly easily but the second need a lot of physical persuasion. The caliper was cleaned up and new pistons and seals from RGM installed and the caliper returned to the bike. By this time I had realized that it was not the ignition causing the misfiring but the pilot jet setting. I have a new single Mk 2 Concentric on the bike which is jetted for the Commando (RGM again) and I found that the pilot setting is quite critical. Having corrected the listed faults I returned just before the 10 day free retest and this time it passed! There are some minor items to attend to before I feel totally confident but it is running well enough to make some local journeys now. So with luck and fair weather I might even make to Tuesday's club night!

Forthcoming events

Some more events to consider riding out to if there is an improvement to the 'summer' weather we are experiencing!

June 17th

- Shiny Bike Night is at The Plough at Cadsden, Princes Risborough from 7.30pm. Phone 01494 562962 or see www.bbcmcc.freeuk.com.

June 19th to 21st

- You are all aware of course of the [Club's 50th anniversary celebrations](http://www.nortonownersclub.co.uk) at Donington Park with The Unapproachable Norton event featuring the largest-ever collection of Norton motorcycles in one place, from the 1907 TT winning V-twin to the new 2009 rotary racer. All NOC members who pre-register a Norton for the event will have the opportunity to ride it on the circuit over the weekend. Details in The Roadholder or at www.nortonownersclub.co.uk.

June 21st

- The Banbury Run returns to the Motor Heritage Centre, Gaydon. Open to veteran and vintage machines manufactured before 1931. Details at <http://www.banbury-run.co.uk>.

July 5th

- The London Motorcycle Museum host their ANNIVERSARY BASH at 29 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford UB6 9LB, five minutes ride from the A40. See www.london-motorcycle-museum.org or phone 020 8575 6644 or 020 8579 1248.

July 6th

- The East Berks section of the AJS and Matchless OC hold their Annual Bike Night at Burnham Cricket Club (near Slough) from 7pm. Details at www.amoc-eastberks.co.uk.

July 10th, 11th and 12th

- The VMCC's Festival Of 1000 Bikes returns to Mallory Park circuit. Special guest Carl Fogarty. Details from 01283 540557 or at www.vmcc.net.

July 19th

The East Berks section of the AJS and Matchless OC hold their Chiltern Hundreds Charity Ride from Burnham Cricket Club (near Slough) leaving in the morning with a lunchtime stop somewhere along the 100km route. All bikes welcome. Entry forms from 01844 216868 or www.amoc-eastberks.co.uk.

Editor's Note: if you attend any of these or similar events how about sending in a few words and/ or photos for the newsletter? I still need your inputs.

2009 Events

Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar

Date	Event	Contact	Status
June			
16 th	Thames Valley Club Night at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
19 th	Golden Jubilee Day (Donington Park) NOC Jubilee Event	NOC	Confirmed
20 th	Norton Day (Donington Park) NOC Jubilee Event	NOC	Confirmed
21 st	NOC Classic Racing (Donington Park) NOC Jubilee Event	NOC	Confirmed
July			
3 rd – 5 th	NOC National Rally (Keynsham)	NOC	Confirmed
21 st	Thames Valley Club Night at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
August			
18 th	Thames Valley Club Night at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed