

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING

20th April 2010



www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org

Forthcoming events

April 18th

The London Motorcycle Museum hosts its annual St George's Dragon Roast. Some extremely unusual old bikes will be present, including prototypes from the BSA-Triumph years, plus local heritage displays, gift shop and such. The event is at Avenor Farm on Oldfield Lane in Greenford, a few minutes from the A40. Admission is £8 for adults includes a meal and hot drinks. Opens 10am; hot food available from around midday. Call 020 8575 6644 or see www.london-motorcycle-museum.org

The Brooklands Spring Motorcycle Gathering marks the anniversary of the official start of motorcycle racing in the UK, at Brooklands on 20th April 1908. Genuine Brooklands racers and historic record-breakers will be on display and demonstrated on the famous Test Hill and steep Members' Banking plus club displays, trials demos, trade stands, café, discounts for visiting club groups, etc. Open 10am to 5pm. 01932 857381 or www.brooklandsmuseum.com.

April 24th -25th

International Classic Motorcycle Show at Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD.

The Club will have its usual presence at the April Stafford Show. The stand theme has yet to be announced but as ever, a fine selection of Nortons will be on display. Various members of the NOC Committee and technical teams will be on hand to answer your questions.

May 3rd

At Fleet, Hampshire there's a Classic Motorcycle Rally and concours for classic motorcycles up to 1986, plus BBQ and refreshments. Check in at 10am, depart at 11am for 46 mile run through beautiful Hampshire countryside with a pub stop for lunch before returning to Civic Halls Car Park, Fleet by 2.15pm for judging, trophy presentation and raffle draw. Cost to riders £9 on the day or pre-booked entry £6.50. Public admission is free. Donations welcome. See www.fleetlions.org.uk or phone 01252 621283.

May 15th

The Southern Classic Bike Show and Autojumble opens at 10am at Kempton Park racecourse near Sunbury. As well as the usual giant bikejumble with around 250 outdoor and indoor stalls there's a superb indoor show featuring local and national club displays plus private entries. All five minutes from J1 off the M3. Admission is £6. www.egp-enterprises.co.uk / 01344 883961

May 22nd

The Surrey Branch of the NOC is organizing a Norton meeting at Brooklands and all Nortons are very welcome. The famous test hill will be available (weather permitting) for one hour in the afternoon. From the top of the test hill you make your way down to the original race track and ride along the banking for about 150 yards before returning to try the test hill again. Open from 10:00 am to 05:00 pm.

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Norton Motorcycles

Is Norton really back in the business of manufacturing motorcycles again? A great day for Norton at the end of March as the first 961 SE Commando was handed over to lucky purchaser Jonathan Hewitt from Grimsby who showed great excitement as he picked up the keys to his brand new Norton Commando 961SE motorcycle from Norton CEO, Stuart Garner.

Norton is now building and delivering motorcycles with production levels set to rise throughout the year. Stuart Garner Norton CEO said "this is a great day for Norton and everyone involved in producing the bikes, we thank our customers for the patience and confidence shown in Norton and look forward to many more motorcycles rolling out of our Donington factory. We are thrilled to be producing bikes once more and will continue to build Norton up, back where it belongs."



Editor's Musings

With some warm(er) and dry(ish) weather over the last couple of weeks I have extricated the Commando from the garage and taken the first forays onto the tarmac. The first time the bike proved reluctant to start and expired after half a mile and I had to push it home. This was quickly tracked down to one of the spark plugs having a gap of over 0.1 ins and the other not much less! How this occurred baffles me. Plugs shouldn't get brewer's droop! I went out again for a few miles yesterday and arrived back to find oil flooding out of the primary chaincase. This was engine oil which I drained off, topped up the tank and checked both levels before going out again today without recurrence of the problem. The problem now remains of clutch drag when cold and slip as soon as it warms up. I guess I will have to strip the clutch plates and clean them – never simple is it! It's good to be back riding again.

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Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar

Date	Event	Contact	Status
April			
11 th	Norton Owners Club AGM at the National Motorcycle Museum		Confirmed
20 th	Thames Valley Club Night at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
24 th – 25 th	International Classic Motorcycle Show at Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD.	Martin Maynard 01905 24663	
May			
18 th	Thames Valley Club Night and Social evening –at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
22 nd	Surrey Branch 'Nortons at Brooklands'	Nigel Heugh	