

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING
20th June 2006



<http://www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org/>

Branch Summer Calendar.

Following on from the outstanding success of the first breakfast run on May 21st (thanks Chris for turning up in the pouring rain) I would like to propose a few more dates: -

June 25th which is the same weekend as the Oxford branch rally, I would suggest we join them for breakfast. If we could meet at 8:55 at Pangbourne station car park (I assume there is a car park at Pangbourne station - *yes there is - Ed*) ready to leave at 9:00.

July 4th Meet at Cricketers ready to leave at 8:00 Destination TBD (any ideas?)

July 9th destination TBD. Meet just south of M4 J11, head towards Basingstoke, first roundabout turn right towards Burghfield and then immediately right into Mere oak Lane, [Streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk) x,y = 471290,168265. See you there at 8:55 ready to leave at 9:00

August 8th Meet at Pangbourne Station ready to leave at 8:00 Destination, Oxford Branch.

August 20th Meet as above. (*Which above did you mean Tony? - Ed*)

I would also like to suggest some Tuesday evening runs.

September 5th Meet at Cricketers ready to leave at 8:00 Destination TBD (any ideas?)

Note:- If a meeting point somewhere other than the Cricketers would get more people enthused for an evening run then please let me know. - *Tony Ripley*

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Other Events

On Saturday 1st July the Thames Valley Velocette Owners Club is holding a 'Show off Your Classic Bike' event. The venue is The Plowden Arms, Shiplake, Henley on the A4155 on the west side of Shiplake between Reading and Henley. It is not proposed to organise a formal run from the club so make your own way there. Details from Dave Downer on 0118 9882726.

On Monday 3rd July 2006 the AJS/ Matchless Motorcycle Club organises its East Berks Bike Night at the WAMDSAD building, Maidenhead Rugby Club, Braywick Road, Maidenhead from 7:00pm onwards. Burgers and cheap beer available on site and there are usually upwards of 500 bikes of all makes and persuasions.

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Commando success

I know it's been a while since I reported on my attempts to get the Commando sorted (*Who said at last!*) after the engine degenerated into a backfiring one and a half cylinder machine. The pressure of the change of job to Canary Wharf and the daily commute left little time or energy to make any progress. After several false starts involving ignition coil and spark plug changes, carburettor dismantling and cleaning without effect I decided to go for a replacement carburettor and decided on a single 34mm Concentric Mk 2. For simplicity I obtained a complete kit with manifold and cable from RGM. It all fitted fine and the engine started second kick. A little slow running adjustment seemed to be all that was necessary and one Saturday morning in April I rode across to Keith Manning to get the now expired MOT renewed. I arrived to find the place closed with a notice on the gate to the effect that he was taking a days leave - serves me right I should have telephoned first. A few weeks later I managed to arrange to work from home and fixed an appointment for the MOT. This time bike developed the sulks and stalled permanently after a couple of miles and refused to cooperate so I rang and cancelled the appointment. When I next got a chance to follow this up, looking under the tank I could see a bullet connector not fully housed in its mating half. An hours work saw this and a couple of other suspect connections sorted out resulting in a first kick start and nice smooth running. By chance I had been in Maidenhead town centre a Saturday or so before and saw a Commando arrive and park up. I couldn't resist the introduction and found myself talking to Gordon Slinn from Holyport. He was able to advise of a local MOT station, Moorbridge Garage, who tested older bikes where a week

or so later I took the bike it passed the test. Now for some fine weather and so me time free from the job and home pressures to enjoy. I have ridden out a couple of times and though I have never counted myself as a speed freak (apart from an accidental 95 on a local motorway) and I can't say I have noticed much difference in the performance. Incidentally while talking to Gordon he also expressed an interest in our monthly meetings so I hope he will visit us at this month's meeting.

By the way are your indicators erratic in operation? Mine were until I realised that the standard 'flasher' relay requires a 5watt indicator lamp to complete the loading to get the correct flash interval. The Norton one is only 2watt through a different circuit arrangement including the non-flashing bulbs which reduces the power loading on the relay flasher circuit even further. I've improved the situation on the Commando by adding a resistor to each side to bring the power dissipation through the flasher nearer 5watts. I will endeavour to put the details in a future issue of the newsletter.

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2005/ 2006 Events

Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar			
Date	Event	Contact	Status
June			
23 rd -25 th	Oxford Reunion Rally	Oxford Branch	Confirmed
Sunday 25 th	Branch Run to the Oxford Reunion Rally	Tony Ripley	
Tues 27 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
July			
Saturday 1 st	Velocette Owners Club Meet, Shiplake, near Henley.	Dave Downer	
Monday 3 rd	AJS/ Matchless Bike Night at Maidenhead		
Tuesday 4 th	Branch summer run from The Cricketers	Tony Ripley	
Sunday 9 th	Branch Mystery Ride Out	Tony Ripley	
Tuesday 18 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
August			
Tuesday 8 th	Run out to Oxford Branch from Pangbourne	Tony Ripley	
Tuesday 15 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
Sunday 20 th	Club Run – another mystery ride?	Tony Ripley	
September			
Tuesday 5 th	Branch summer run	Tony Ripley	
23 rd / 24 th	Norton Day and camping weekend	Shropshire Branch	

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Tailpiece - For Sale

Not a usual item for these columns but a useful space filler. I must say the thought of trying a rotary has a lot of appeal but there's no room in the garage and I think domestic harmony (?) would be seriously jeopardised!



Ray Kennard is offering his rotary for sale. He says the photo was taken when the bike was brand new. It has been changed somewhat since then but we still have all the original Police parts including fairing, panniers lights etc. The buyer would therefore have all the original parts plus the replacement parts to use on something else. It never had blue lights or sirens!

Norton Interpol Rotary. Civilianised 1985. Original bits still available. Around 18500 miles on clock. Now too heavy for owner. Full Police and subsequent history. Simple engine problem apparently easily remediable. Will accept £1600. Tel 0118 942 1534