

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING

21st October 2008



www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org

Upcoming events

South Of England RealClassic Bike Show

The 26th October sees The South of England *RealClassic* Bike Show open at 10am at the South of England Showground, Ardingly near Gatwick. The show sees classic bikes on display indoors plus trade, club and autojumble stalls with new and used spares, memorabilia and more. Admission is £5 (or £4 OAPs and *RealClassic* members), children free. See www.elk-promotions.co.uk or phone 01797 344277.

Malvern RealClassic Bike Show

The Malvern *RealClassic* Bike Show on **November 2nd** opens 10am at the Three Counties Showground at Malvern (J7/8 off the M5 or J1 off M50, and enter via the brown gate). Everything is under cover so safe from the elements. There are trade stands, autojumble, refreshments, plus commentary. Phone 01484 452002 or see the website www.classicshows.org.

Admission: £6 all adults, £2 children 7-14 parking is free.

London Motorcycle Museum Military Day

The London Motorcycle Museum hosts their Military Day on **November 2nd**. Entry fee (£6) includes admission to all the museum buildings and displays plus grub in exchange for the NAAFI voucher provided on entry. Any old bike, but ex-Army machines are especially welcome. Opens 10am at Oldfield Lane South in Greenford (two mins from A40). Phone 0208 575 6644 or see www.london-motorcycle-museum.org.

Classic Motor Show at the NEC

The Classic Motor Show at the NEC, Birmingham from **November 14th - 16th** now features a brand new hall, dedicated to classic motorcycles as well as the usual display of old car and associated clubs and trade stands. Show opens 10am until 6.30pm on Friday, 9.30am until 6.30pm on Saturday, and 9.30am until 5.30pm on Sunday. Ticket prices range from £15 when purchased in advance.

See www.necclassicmotorshow.com or call 0870 060 3776.

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An Evening with Stan Dibben, World Champion Sidecar Rider 1954

As we celebrate our Golden Jubilee - 50 years of the Norton Owners Club in 1959 - Stan Dibben, Eric Oliver's sidecar-rider on a Manx Norton with Watsonian chair, celebrates 55 years since winning their World Championship in 1954. Stan will be talking to us, and signing copies of his recently published autobiography "Hold On" (see *Roadholder* 259 for a review) at Oxford Branch's regular haunt, Sturdy's Castle on the A4260 near Tackley, around 5 miles north of Kidlington, Oxford on Tuesday **13th January 2009**. All NOC members, their family members and friends are invited to come along for 7.30 p.m. for an 8 p.m. start to Stan's talk.

This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to meet one of the heroes of Norton's long and illustrious racing history, in the flesh!! The location is only 10 minutes off Junction 9 of the M40, so well within reach of many of our Thames Valley, Surrey, Gloucester, Northampton, Beds/Bucks, Birmingham, Solent and Bristol branch-members, so why not make the effort to attend this unique event. There will be a small charge of £2 a head to cover expenses. An indication of your attendance is not strictly necessary, but would be appreciated. To register your interest or for more details please contact Oxford Branch secretary Paul Whitehead on 01869 248 605 or preferably email him at whitehpn@btinternet.com

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New Surrey Branch

The newly formed Surrey Branch meet at The Royal Oak, a wonderfully biker friendly pub in Leatherhead on the last Monday evening in each month.



Situated just a few miles away from the historic Brooklands Racetrack, where Bert Denly (pictured) roared round the banking on his old Model 18 Norton in 1925.

The branch has already set up a good website at <http://www.surreynoc.org.uk/> where their excellent first newsletter can be found. (I can forward a copy of this to anyone who would like to see it - Ed)

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Newsletter distribution

We have to change the way the newsletter is distributed. Therefore please take note and act on Tony's options listed below.

"This copy of the newsletter is being posted out to ALL members of Thames Valley. What I need you to do is either :-
1. Send me an email (triple@bigfoot.com) with a subject of 'Newsletter' and I will use your email address to send all subsequent newsletters.

2. If you require the newsletter by post then ensure that you have paid your BRANCH membership fees. You can pay me by posting me 8 x 2nd class stamps. (see address below). Give me a call if you need to check if you have paid.

3. Do nothing and you will not get the newsletter.

A word about NOC and branch membership.

Just to remind you that membership renewals all go direct to the NOC rather than through the Secretary but this only covers the NOC membership only and not the branch fees. The branch fees are currently set at £2.00 per member for anyone receiving the newsletter by post. If you receive the newsletter by email then there is no charge. This amount has remained unchanged for a number of years but now needs reviewing for obvious reasons. I would suggest raising this to £4.00 but I would like to hear if anyone has any other thoughts. The main difficulty has always been, and will not change with the new suggested cost, the problem of collection. It is simple to pay me at a club night but not everyone comes along. It hardly seems worth writing a cheque for and you cannot really post £4.00 For the current £2.00 you can pay me by posting me 8 x 2nd class stamps. Would posting me 15 x 2nd class stamps be OK for the proposed £4.00 charge? Another thought, would it be easier if BRANCH membership was always renewed at the beginning of the calendar year? It would then be simple to remind people in the newsletter. Again if anyone has ideas then please let me know.

Tony Ripley, 17 Pinchcut, Burghfield Common, RG7 3HP

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NOC Calenders

2008 Events

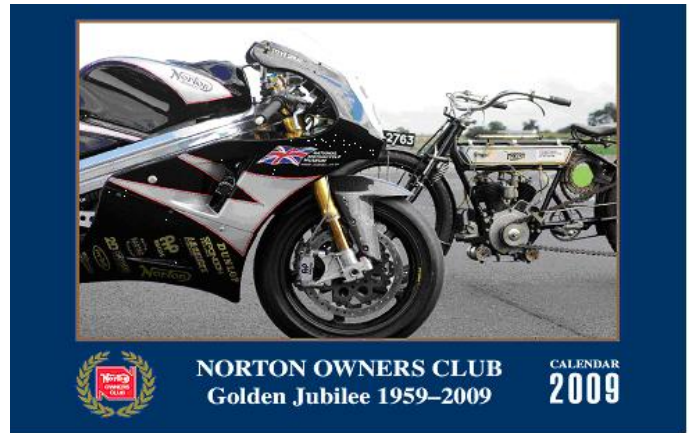
<u>Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar</u>			
Date	Event	Contact	Status
October			
18 th	Kempton Park Autojumble	01344 883961	
26 th	South of England <i>RealClassic</i> Bike Show at South of England Showground, Ardingly	01797 344277	
November			
2 nd	Malvern <i>RealClassic</i> Bike Show Three Counties Showground, Malvern		
14 th – 16 th	The Classic Motor Show at the NEC, Birmingham		
18 th	Thames Valley Club Night at The Cricketers, Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed

STOP PRESS Norton Comes Home!

Wed 15th Oct 08 - 16:55

“After nearly fifteen years of US ownership, Norton, the quintessential and most famous of British motorcycle brands returns home. As a result of prolonged negotiations and a multi-million pound deal we can announce that the Norton motorcycle brand is, at last, back in caring British hands. Stuart Garner a UK based businessman and owner of Norton Racing Ltd has bought back all the trademarks and development work relating to the Norton, Manx, Atlas, Commando and Dominator brands. Norton Racing Ltd is already in development of a new rotary engined race bike and now with the ownership of the brand itself plans are being developed to introduce a new road bike for 2009. 'This has been a challenging and exciting period for us' Commented Garner 'We are proud to have brought the brands back home and we now intend to focus on re-establishing Norton as a premier motorcycling brand across the World' he added. In the early nineties the brands were bought by Norton Motorcycles Inc in the USA with the view of developing a new Commando road bike for the US market. Nearly \$10 million was spent on IP, design and development, and this development work has formed part of the new deal. The investment can now be brought to bear on the new global project for the

The 2009 Calendar is now at the printers and I expect delivery within days.



As I have the wonderful job of shipping out all UK calendar orders I can offer you a special discounted rate of £7.00 per calendar (normally £9.50). Naturally this does NOT include a tube or postage so you either need to collect from me at my house (call first!) or come along to a branch meeting and collect from there. Correct change would really help. Cheques accepted.

Note: - The number printed has been reduced so there is a chance we could run out so do not leave it to the last minute.

Tony

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Norton Commando 961. Norton intend to develop a strong presence on the track and on the road during 2009 with a new 15000 sq foot factory and office complex based at Donington Park - Norton are at the heart of motorcycle racing once again and committed to investment to make the initiative work. As well as creating a new 'state of the art' road bike the Norton brands will see a vigorous licensing programme through Norton Global Brands to safeguard and develop licensing of all kinds from spare parts to clothing. Commenting on the programme Garner said 'Our trade marks and brand have incredible strength and value; we will strongly enforce our position as the new owners of these world famous brands and ensure our new partners benefit from a robust protection programme going forward'. 'This is the beginning of a new and exciting era in a brand that was started over 100 years ago by James Lansdowne Norton. It has sustained ups and downs over the years but still stands for performance and excellence. These will be the standards we live by from now on' stated Garner.

Comment from NOC :-

Members of the NOC Executive Committee have already met with Stuart Garner and we are planning a big event at Donington in 2009 that everyone can be a part of. John Morgan (Publicity) will get more news to you as soon as dates are established.”