



Northumbria Branch Newsletter :Xmas 2013

NO: IT'S NOT AT THE "SHOES", BUT IT IS THE NATIONAL RALLY CELEBRATION/SURVIVAL CHRISTMAS DINNER:

WHERE IS IT? “The Keelman” at Newburn.

WHY THERE?: Because John Storey’s brother runs the place and because it has its own brewery, and because we are going to be given a brewery tour before the meal!! (John joined the branch this year). An offer we can’t refuse!!

WHEN: Thursday the 19th of Dec. Brewery tour starts at 7.30, meal at 8

TO GET THERE: If you need a lift and cannot find one, we might be able to fix you up! To find the place, read on -

AND: WE MADE A PROFIT ON THE RALLY!!!! – so the branch can provide a **2-course meal, FREE!** (If you want a third course, sorry you pay – also for drinks – but – there will be sample jugs of the various brewery beers on the tables).

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: E-mail me, John, at jnoandlizpowell@yahoo.co.uk **BEFORE 30th Nov**, with numbers attending and choice from menu. Wives partners etc all welcome - - -

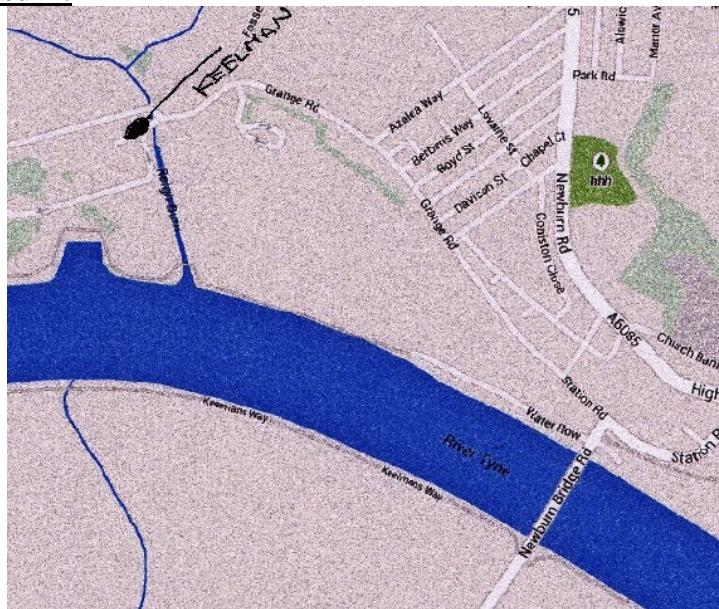
Here's the menu – choose any 2 – starter and main, or main and pud, or a third course too if you like, but you'll have to pay for the third course because our profits were not THAT big.

Starters: Honeydew Melon, Pawn cocktail salad, Cream of honey roasted parsnip soup, Ham Knuckle Terrine.

Mains: Trad Xmas Turkey meal, Nut roast, Carved beef sirloin, Seared Salmon Fillet.

Puds: Spiced red wine poached pears, Trad Xmas pud, Choc. Tart, Cheese board or coffee (incl. as pud equivalent)

And, here's a map of Newburn:



THE RALLY REPORT:

A whole new word has entered the dictionary: ASSIDUOSITY! (Or is it ASSIDUACIOUSNESS?). They gave ME, branch sec, an ASSIDUACIOUSNESS trophy! Well, if I was guilty of ASSIDUACIOUSNESS, I was hardly the only one. LOTS of people helped and put in real effort, and I'm not going to list them all – you know who you are. I was so assiduous, they kicked me off the reception gazebo and took over.

Anyhow, what is more assiduacious than this? – Here's Don, gunking the Morpeth Marketplace after the gathering of Nortons – complete with watering can and brush --



Then some wag, who is safer if he remains anonymous, sent me this picture (Sorry Richard, I could not resist):



And then , not satisfied with that, he sent me the next one. Well some people never manage to grow up -- -



What more can be told of the rally? Well, lots - too much - my head is still spinning. But we have had no letters of complaint (usually there are the traditional whingers).

Tim Harrison (Chairman of the big NOC in the sky) has requested and been sent our “Assessor of Risks” list of astonishing risks, together with a rally post-mortem. (= what we did, why we did it and what could have worked better).

And here's a couple of messages of thanks:

Hi John and Liz,

We have just got home after the wonderful National Rally that you and your team organised!

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed meeting you again and participating in the rally. John's tips on which run out to join was a real bonus, I am so glad that we went on the long run!! The chaps in charge of the run were really well organised and made sure that we saw the best of Northumbria and the Borders safely. Please be sure to let them know how much they were appreciated. The run on Sunday was super too; something for everyone, and you arranged perfect weather :-).

The entertainment that was put on was such a refreshing change and enjoyed by virtually everyone.....I will be bold enough to say more than usual!! I would happily sit through Saturday evenings entertainment several times! And the venue was really good; clean loos and showers (always a bonus!), friendly meeting places for everyone and a very pleasant camping area. And the attention to H&S which people may laugh at but is a necessary evil was fantastic! The information leaflets and brochures that you included in the welcome pack were exemplary, I only hope that other organising branches take note!

And really well done for organising the public display of the bikes in the centre of Morpeth!! It was wonderful to see nearly all the bikes in one place for everyone to see.

We had a really enjoyable time, please say thank you to everyone involved from me.

With all best wishes,

Linda (Harrison)

And, from the main club treasurer, Peter Holland, who also sent a “Thank you” card from him, Suzanne and son Harry:

“NOC Events I have had an “organiser’s” hand in have had bar brawls, damage to hotel, injured participants with broken glasses, hog roasts that ran out (we did that too!!), armed police arriving to site, and noise complaints from neighbours.” He adds “ You had very few problems, beautiful scenery, and all very welcoming”. Well, compared to what he says, we must have been pretty boring!

And, from the Northumbria Blood bikes, for whom we were collecting, raffling etc:

Hi John,

Many thanks for your efforts over the weekend - over £230 all together at the rally (Inc raffle) and £88 from the market square, so that's fantastic!

Thanks, Richard

CAMPING WEEKEND WITH THE SCOTS AT THE “SALTUATION INN”

All went per plan – except – (read on) –

Northumbria branch representation was pretty good, but compared to last year, we were well down on Scots. One of the Scots who did arrive said it was because Gino was not there to round them up – the “Gino-less syndrome”. Mick boosted our numbers by asking some of his BSA riders to join us – and very welcome. We also had Simon Ratcliffe from Shropshire who is a serious long distance Norton rider and joins lots of our events.

Davie Palmer, of Edinburgh, organised a long but scenically gorgeous route for the Saturday. This included a stop to pay homage at the Flodden battlefield site, then a vista-infested route to St Mary’s Loch, and, for those who did not leave early for a long trip home to avoid the promised Sunday storm, a visit to the Jimmie Guthrie exhibits in the museum in Hawick park.

A “downer”, though was the disaster that occurred to Brian Miller (Edinburgh)’s Commando, which, while still tooling along slowly after leaving the café at St Mary’s Loch, simply blew up. – A smashed crankcase and the cylinder block at the front was also smashed open, with cam followers lying in the road and push rods hanging out. Carole Nash picked him up from this remote spot more quickly than they had collected me at the edge of town after I’d done the Diesel trick. He was back on the camp site by car, that evening.

I left early on the Sunday and apart from fairly strong cross-winds, I got no storm, or even rain.

Some nostalgic pics:





CLIVE TAYLOR MEMORIAL RUN, 2ND ATTEMPT:

All went to plan on the most beautiful day. Turn-out was less than on the first failed attempt. Do we repeat the route next year, since a lot did not get to see it? – or try something different. Some pics –

Coffee stop by Wark bridge.

When Clive was about to make off with John's wife in his side-car;: (Next page)



Kamtrek



A splendid route and thanks to Simon (Hadden). Turn-out again a bit thin. Simon got some of his Vintage people to join – but the Amazingly Advanced Motorcyclists had a conflicting event and we missed them. Anyhow, nobody talked about discontinuing Kamtrek and hopefully we can get a few more to join us next year.

Well, that's it for now. Just in case you have forgotten it, or missed it last time, here's a repeat of a Geordie Carol.

Silent Neet!
Freezin neet!
The Newcie Broon is floowin' sweet!
Bonnie bairns, the fire-side aroond,
Weatin' fer Santa t' cum doon t' groond,
Hush noo! The whoole toon's asleep
Hush noo! The toon's aal asleep!

Silent Neet!
Twinklin' Neet!
The aa'd river Tyne runs dark and fleet,
The last fisher-boot's cummin' hoame from the sea,
Wor new rusty eangel, watch ower thee!
Hush noo! The whoole woorld's asleep
Hush noo! The woorld's aal asleep!

Best wishes to all –



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(Note re. pictures: I know the pics in the printed newsletter are crap. This is because I have to print in "Draft" mode to save staggeringly expensive ink. If you want to see the pics in all their glory, look on the NOC web site: www.nortonownersclub.org, then look at "Branches", find us, then click on "newsletters". You'll find this one, with much better pics, and others. I also have a lot of pics from the rally on file and if you would like a copy I'm happy to put them on a disc for you – file too bog to e-mail - John)