



Northumbria Branch Newsletter : July 2014

2014 – The story so far - -

(But first, for those wanting to book in for the Borders camp in Sept (see below), David Templeton's e-mail address has changed and is now dtempleton@talk21.com)

Melton Constable –

Well, we DID move venue and as I write I am preparing to visit it for the first time, as our new venue, having missed the last 2 club nights, though I did hear that members did turn up – in the rain – on motorcycles! So something is working!! (P.S. Super turn-out Thursday + 2 new members!)

Evening rides have been sparse, mainly because the normal evening ride dates have been right next door to the dates of other events, or because your branch sec. was inexcusably absent.

However, early on we did have a ride that was supposed to go to Alnmouth but only made it to the Angler's Arms, on the (closed) road to Rothbury. Just Bob, self and wife, plus Ian Cartwright, who, having been given a treatment that suppresses his arthritis, is now determined to enjoy life and join in EVERYTHING. The return journey was exciting, consisting of darkness and thick fog.

Must try to use the route all the way to Alnmouth before the season is over - - -

Wooler!!

You cannot have Wooler without the traditional heavy rain. The Sat ride out, which was to have taken in sites of historic/prehistoric interest, became curtailed after lunch when the rain started and some (who I will not name) immediately fled back to the comfort of the gazebo.

Here, in the evening, we fed 18+people, in a cloud of steam. Some of the 18 are just visible in the steam and smoke:



Indeed, having invited anyone of any consequence, branch members or not, we got a great turn-out, including Nortoneers from Scotland, Dave's mates from Sheffield, two from my own walking group, one of whom has a Norton and I'm trying to persuade him to join, and another who would like a Norton but says the prices have gone crazy. Alan popped up for fish and chips on the Friday.

Also great to see Ian and Joyce Crooks, members who live in Denholm in the Borders (escaped Geordies, these). The did not come on the "unstoppable Norton", but on this amazing and charismatic contraption:



The Clive Taylor Memorial Run was well supported, and the promised rain held off until we reached the pub! Campbell Adie from Aberdeen (surely our most assiduous non-member) had ridden down to join us – and of course he was also at Wooler, with Bill Reith, also from Aberdeen. (of the other Scots, Davie Palmer absent with mechanical difficulties, and Brian whose engine blew up last year has not yet un-blown it).

After so much wet weather, the tiny country roads (a mix of tar, gravel and mud) were a trifle slippery and your Sec's Dommi did a sudden front wheel "shimmy", with Lizzie on the back. Fortunately the bike recovered so the divorce has been put off for later.

We were joined by Frances, and also by Michael and Geraldine Sutherland – of the Amazingly Advanced Motorcyclists, who had been friends of Dr. Clive.

The Norfolk National Rally was attended by 3 Northumbria bikes – plus 2 wives. Interesting, after last year, to see how other people do it. All went very smoothly. An event totally without fuss – though perhaps one or 2 things I think we can say, maybe we did better (?). The "Ride out" (short) was to a museum which once had been a workhouse. – not just one building, but a whole complex, complete with farm. You could spend a full day there. It was nice to see that the organisers had borrowed our idea and put disclaimers/warnings on the bikes, though their message was a bit more robust than ours!



The question of the future of Les Emery's business after he retires, and how much NOC should get involved, was much discussed, and is perhaps a better subject for a club night – or two – this thing will run and run -

Meanwhile, the same weekend – Dave Wardle's camp near Whitby. This seems to have gone fine. I had a chat with Ian Cartwright, who enjoyed himself there, though he reported 2 road accidents (not involving motorcyclists) on the stretch of road near the camp site, causing some disruption.

Sad news from Neil Hall, who has had to sell his prize-winning Commando. Here's his message:

Hi John

Thanks for your email and kind words.

I decided to part with the Commando after 14 years for two reasons, the height and weight of the bike has become a problem due to my size, I have always believed that the Commando was made for someone bigger than me. Another problem is the starting due to a very dodgy left knee, and the right one starting to cause me problems, I know you can get electric start kits but redundancy at work made that less likely to happen.

The Commando now is away to someone in Blyth and no disrespect to him I would rather it had gone to someone out of the area due to regret of selling it, that I am currently going through. The day I parted with the bike I never slept for a week and I am not ashamed to say actually had a few tears after leaving it, but it is a done deal now and unfortunately I am not in the financial position to throw a blanket over it and look for another project to buy.

I could have sold the Bike numerous times and the ones that missed out have lost a great bike but the money that I have managed to get will be used for another bike. (one that I can get my feet on the ground and is easier to start)

I still have a Triumph Daytona that I will use for NOC events and whatever comes next. I will still be a Northumbrian Norton Owners club member and nothing will change apart from the bike. I would also like to add I missed the Wooler outing this weekend due to a long drive down to Surrey to see a Triumph Tr6r Trophy 1967 that spewed oil out when he started it. (what a sickener) Well I suppose it was a Triumph after all.

I will still be at Corbridge.

Regards Neil

However; New members: John Pye has joined us, so all is not lost – and Neil will still be around -). Also joined us at yesterday's club night was Davie Price (who has a Navigator), while earlier in the year the brothers Tim and Graham Fawcett joined – so please make them all welcome!

Events Still to Come –

Corbridge show, 6th July, Now closed for exhibit passes

Sunday 3rd Aug Druridge bay. Big display of bikes. Tony has got an invite from the organisers. **MANY** bikes from the National rally last year went there. They'd hoped for the same turn-out again. Tony has been told we might make 12. No pre-registration,. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Just turn up. Support Tony and VMCC

13-18th August: International/Euro. rally at Bremen. A day's run from the "Amsterdam" (Ijmuiden) ferry. Bob and Ginetta are going and will spend more time, touring. Alan will be there very maybe. Sec. will also go, just for the event

12th - 14th September Borders weekend, confirmed at Kirk Yetholm. Joint with Scots. David Templeton (Tayside) has reserved 15 places and still has a couple left. Following this, camping places are limited, any more places will be pot luck, but can be booked directly with the site (look up Yetholm on line), **but try David first** so he has none left over. The small site is at the end of the Pennine Way and in good weather could bring in an influx of hikers. So: David says to e-mail him to book a spot. **DO IT NOW!** David is at: dtempleton@talk21.com

If you prefer something more luxurious, there is accommodation in the two pubs near by. Their details and more about the area can be found at www.yetholmonline.org.uk.

28 Sept. Kamtrek - Scatter event, a bit like a treasure hunt. Looks good with the amazingly advanced motorcyclists. Hopefully some vintage people too. The more come, the less chance there is of winning! (Winner gets to organise next year's) Details later. . *Usual appeal by Sec for members to participate, to keep the event alive. (PLEEEASE!!! BEG!! BEG!!! PLEAD!!! PLEAD!!!)*

Xmas "Bash" – more info later my e-mail and/or texts, but it looks like being 18th.

Invitation by Dave Wardle, , who has rejoined:

. He and friends will be at their traditional camps again this year, and any members are very welcome to join. The next is :

- Coniston, Coniston old Hall camp site, w-e 25-27 July. Steam rally at Flookburgh.

If interested contact Dave on 01670 820424 or davidwardle@hotmail.co.uk

Also: Dave is buying a "961". M&S on Westgate Road are also going to become agents. M&S keen on a line-up of classic Nortons, with the "961" for publicity stunt (maybe they'll give us coffee too????). Sounds like fun. Date not known as Dave has not a clue when the bike will arrive.

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