



Northumbria Branch Newsletter : Late March. 2015

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE AGM???:

well, we set up a programme, and other things -----

Lets start with:

Other things ---

FIRSTLY, SIMON HAS RESIGNED AS TREASURER as he has not a clue when he'll get back from Greece.

Alan (Millar) has very bravely taken on the job.

This is a good place to record thanks to Simon for sterling work, often at long range and on airyplanes going God knows where (though Simon seems to know). His should have been a small job but during the 2013 rally it became a major accounting challenge, plus hassles with banks and a huge hassle with Paypal, bravely fought by Simon. For one, I will miss working with Simon, though I also look forward to working with Alan (who may be finding me and my geriatric errors a bit hard to deal with).

AND NOW WE NEED YOUR MONEY – and it's cheaper!!!!

We dropped the subs to £5 due to profitability year on year having accumulated as a big bank balance. At £5 we will probably lose more years than we gain, but that's the intention. So: still send sub. **to the secretary**, that's me, John Powell, 9 Lily Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2SP. (I live 5 mins walk from a bank). Cheques to Norton Owners' Club Northumbria please. It would really save hassle if the money came in promptly without having to chase.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE 19TH OF JUNE:

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER ON LINE FOR CORBRIDGE SHOW IS 19TH OF JUNE. THE SHOW ITSELF IS ON 5TH JULY. INFO. RE REGISTRATION IS ON THE LAST PAGE.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO SOON: BORDERS WEEKEND, 12-14 SEPT.

Space is limited and we need to jump the queue. Book EARLY , or repent at leisure. See the event in the following list:

More Other things:

Our numbers are up: members now at 38, (became 39 with Gordon Scott, who joined during the AGM,) plus Frances Bates, Honorary member. (Of the total of 40, 12 are not main club members.) Give Gordon a big welcome. It seems he is involved with Tritons. Tritons are NICE! – nearly as nice as real Nortons.

Other Ossifers are as before – Bob Tym, chairman and John Powell, secretary and dogsbody.

John trying to trace what happened to club videos including videos on gearboxes etc.

“Sew-on” NOC Northumbria badges: We thought to offer these to members. John also trying to find a source for badge sewing.

Branch Ride-outs: Monthly weekday evening ride-outs have been requested from April on..... so: The first Wednesday after the club night may not always fit. (Too close to other events or leader not available etc). And as I, John will not always be there, can we have a volunteer or two to lead a ride or two? However here are two proposed dates – **Mon 20th April** and **Tues 19th May**? **Please let me know if you would like to join.** Routes still to be decided.

Subsidies for meals, BBQ’s etc: update – We have enjoyed further support from the main club for our “welcome” events, with hospitality at the Wooler camp and at the Corbridge show.

Web site. Subject overlooked in the meeting, but it’s up and running. Events are listed. So are old Newsletters and you may find a picture of your bike. If not and you want your bike added, contact the secretary. The site is a part of main NOC web site (www.nortonownersclub.org) – look at “branches”.

Any other business (It is traditional that at this point the fur starts to fly)

The Idea of the main club acquiring Les Emery’s business was discussed. It may be that this matter will re-appear at the main club AGM and member’s opinions were sought. The replies are best described as “sceptical”.

Possible day ride out to motorcycle museum near Carlisle: Alan will try to organise this for one of the two mid-August weekends, with an attractive route. More info later. The museum is at Scaleby Hill. It has no website. A search for Mike Barry throws up good reviews:
http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/ShowUserReviews-g190736-d4831172-r219497777-Scaleby_Hill_Vintage_motor_bike_museum-Carlisle_Cumbria_England.html

Richard’s racing, particularly the Bob Mac event at East Fortune which appears to be on 20-21 June. Bob could go to E. Fortune and take other interested parties with him. Clash with Aln Valley Railway visit? Make one the Sat and one the Sun?

First aid training. Some of us were first aid trained prior to the 2013 rally. Some are interested in going back for a “refresher”. It was suggested that it would be in the branch’s interest to have a few first aiders around who may go on runs or be present at events.. E-mails with Marty Curren (trainer) say he is retiring from the fire brigade and will lose his venue – he’s on the look out for another. It would be nice to tell him how many are interested in this – for first time training or revision. If interested, please let me know! (NB last time price was £10/head for group).

And Now: - - - - The Programme!!

(Our main branch and associated events including those to be advertised in Roadholder are in bold print and not in italics.)

12th April

Bellingham show – anyone want to take an early ride out?

AGM main club, Donnington Hall

1st-3rd May (holiday w-e) Scottish “pre-65” trial Kinlockleven. Alan attending on the Saturday and would welcome anyone joining him. Contact Alan at club night or text 07734402110.

10th May (Sunday) – not 9th as mentioned at AGM: Clive Taylor memorial run. Possible route South of the Tyne? More info soon by e-mail or text. News hot off the press: Dr Clive's granddaughter (named Mai) has arrived in the world!

15-16 May: we are invited to join the BSA owners club camp at Demsene farm, Bellingham. Run on Sat. Camping, plus bunk-house accommodation also available. Book bunk-house or caravans/campers. at 01434 220258. Camp £8/person.

May 29th – 1st June: International rally, Wicklow, Ireland. Easy trip? Out via Stanraer? Back via Holyhead? (Bob planning to go)

5h-7th June– camping weekend at Wooler. Camp site availability OK. BBQ as before. Site is at Highburn house, North of the centre. Sign from North end of high street, or, if coming South, at turning to right off the main road just before Wooler, with sign. REPORT ON AT THE OFFICE BEFORE GOING ON TO THE SITE! It would help with catering if you could let me (sec) know you are coming. If you cannot do the whole weekend, come for the BBQ!

Sun 14th June – invite from Simon Hadden – girder forked bikes, or any pre-1931, only. How many of us have such machines hidden away???? Spectators welcome



*20th-21st June: Aln Valley railway open days. NOC cordially invited incl free ride on train, coffee etc. **Tony happy to be intrepid leader** and ride with a group to the railway on the Sunday. Contact Tony at club night or on 01912365171*

June 25th – 28th: NOC National Rally, near Caernarfon. See Roadholder. Sec plans to go. Bob also, and both wives.

June 28th is also the Kielder show. Clashes with NOC rally N Wales

July 5th – we will repeat the Corbridge classic vehicles show. Bob master of ceremonies at the site but John will liaise with organisers. You MUST pre-register – absolute deadline for on-line registration 19th June. (See end of this newsletter).A great success last year – let's repeat it.

Invite from Dave Wardle – also - 3-5 July – not his fault : Coincides with BSA club gathering at the site at Ugthorpe Hall. Whitby area .- Contact Dave Wardle prior to going. 01670 820424

Maybe less of a clash than it looks as those who have been to this camp in the past tend not do “do” shows .And vice versa.

July 17-19 Tay Valley Branch camp at Applecross. Members have attended in the past. Book at camp site ahead of time if intending to go. It gets full. Google Applecross camping. (Can book on line).

2nd August: Tyne Valley Classic Bike club have their show at Stamfordham. Probably the Druridge bay show is the same day (to be confirmed).

Borders weekend, 11th - 13th September at Kirk Yetholm, near Kelso. With Scottish branches. Camping - 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. Tay valley has already pre-booked a number of pitches. You can grab one of these by e-mailing David Templeton at smokeyjoe750@gmail.com

NB Another “Open days” the same weekend at Aln Valley railway and we are invited. Sat. and Sun? (Could include in Sat run, or visit on the way home, Sun?)

Kamtrek 27 Sept Leader is Michael Sutherland of the amazingly advanced motorcyclists. More info later - - - NB The more come , the less chance there is of winning!

Brunton show – date not yet known

Christmas club night. Same place this year. Date of Thurs 17th Dec.

My LED (and headlight) Saga continued – and after this I promise to shut up!!

The next step in the LED-ification was fitting a combined stop/tail light. There seem to be 2 schools here. . One choice is a light board. Paul Goff does these in 6v and 12v. These provide a cluster of baby LED bulbs like grapes over much of the inside area of the rear light. Lots of light, I imagine. The web site says that if you remove it you can put in a normal tungsten bulb as a spare, but I do not know if this would be easy in the dark and rain – well I never asked.. Or you can get a LED bulb that plugs in the normal socket on a 1960-61 Dommi and many Brit bikes. Paul Goff seems to offer such a thing, on his web site, with white light number plate illumination built in, but I could not find a 6v version there, so I went to <http://www.dynamoregulatorconversions.com/>. (These people fixed the dynastart on my 40-year-old boat engine – a good job.) They have such a thing. It illuminates more in the centre, like a bulb, and may give less plentiful light than the light board? – your choice). But it seems brighter than the old tungsten filament type. And of course, low amps with the LED. (NB if ordering “my” rear bulb type, do not order the first “Stop/tail” bulb you see on the web site. Spool down to the picture of an Ariel. The right stuff is there.). There may be other suppliers.

Another warning, though – I bought a LED rear bulb a few years back from Paul Goff. It “blew”. The bike then had the original set-up – 6v alternator, rectifier, no regulator, juice straight to the battery. Paul gave me my cash back and said the cause may have been “spikes” on an unregulated system. I now have a modern solid state regulator/rectifier. So far no blown bulbs though as yet only about 170 miles ridden since LED-ification.

But, subject to that , problem solved. Now to headlamp bulbs and reflectors.

The original spec. on Dommis was a tungsten filament 6 v headlamp bulb – 24 watt dip, 30 head. And strangely enough we saw pretty well with such lights in those days. I think it was because the oncoming car lights were weaker – less dazzle. Discuss: is modern vehicle lighting a dazzling competition? Anyhow, with a 35/35 watt halogen head and a tungsten filament rear bulb plus tungsten filament turn signals (lots of watts), the old alternator was struggling, and heavy use in traffic with low engine revs could run the battery down, which then re-charged at a very slow rate once on the open road with lights on.

When I got the bike quite some years back it had a very tired headlamp reflector. Reflector quality really matters. A bike parts shop in Queensferry, N Wales, sold me a nice replacement made by the Indians. Which meant that the bulb was in the wrong position. Result: no light went forwards – it all came out sideways. Beautiful halo!

Then I found a shop in Blundellsands who sold me an original Lucas glass, reflector unit. Really shiny reflector and, especially with a 35/35w Halogen bulb, just another world. Many years later the reflector

surface was looking dull and grey. I bought a new one from Paul Goff. Not happy – the reflector surface was of mill state steel – with “orange peel “ effect. I put it to one side and tried polishing the original. The Method – get lots of “Mr Sheen onto a soft cloth and squeeze the cloth in through the hole where the bulb goes. Insert finger and push the cloth round inside, meanwhile lacerating finger on the sharp corners. . Repeat with soft dry cloth! Ureka! Better than new! (Wipe off the blood.)

But – a downside has been a beam that was TOO well focused: a dazzling shaft of light like a drain pipe going straight ahead. Great on straight roads – awful on corners. So I reverted to the Goff headlamp. Result, the “orange peel” surface nicely dispersed the beam – just enough not to be too weak in the straight ahead position. But after this winter, the reflector did not look all that shiny. So I repeated the Mr Sheen trick – further lacerations to finger! Result – super! Well, the Magnalite torch people know that reflector quality is all. Oh, and an additional benefit from the new battery and LED-ification, (rear and indicators) and new Maplin battery, is a more reliable tick-over in traffic with lights on.

Boring enough for you? If you found that staggeringly boring, send me something better!

Or perhaps I have aroused rebellion from others who have much better methods? - - and you can always fit a gargantuan alternator - -- but, well, I’ve told you what I did .

Sorry I cannot make it to the March Club night – stricken by an unavoidable social engagement, not of my doing!- - - - - J

Well – we seem to have an awful lot on this programme – but hopefully there is something here for everyone.

All the best for a great season - - - - - John

Officers

Chairman: Bob Tym. 01670 517949. robert.tym@googlemail.com

Money scrounger: Alan Millar. Tel 01670 853223 mob 07734402110 better text than e-mail, though e-mail is a_m_millar@hotmail.com

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Classics in Corbridge

TYNEDALE PARK, CORBRIDGE, NE45 5AY
SUNDAY 5th JULY 2015

Supported by Sports Car Supplies, Swalwell – 0191 496 0522 www.sportscarsupplies.com

We are pleased to confirm that MG Northumbria's Classic Vehicle Show will be held once again in the picturesque setting of Tynedale Park, within easy walking distance of the historic town of Corbridge.

To register your car, one driver and one passenger please do any one of the following: -

go to the Eventbrite site using this link [Classics in Corbridge Eventbrite Registration](#) click on the green register button and simply follow the instructions (recommended method)

or

copy and paste this URL into your browser <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/classics-in-corbridge-2015-tickets-15487672044?aff=ehomecard>

or

you can also enter directly online via our website at <http://www.mgnorthumbria.org> on the Classics in Corbridge 2015 tab

All makes of classic, vintage and veteran vehicles (cars, commercial vehicles and motorcycles) are welcome to enter the show and will be classified as follows: -

Pre - 1930's, 1930's & 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, Modern Classics

Other interesting vehicles can be entered at the discretion of the organisers (if in doubt please check). Club stands can be catered for by arrangement with MG Northumbria using the contact e-mail address below.

Trophies will be awarded for Best in Class, Best in Show, Best Club Stand and Best Costume, if enough people are dressed in the period appropriate to their vehicle. The show will open to entrants at 9am and to the public from 11am. It will end with the presentation of awards at 4pm. As always, all proceeds from the show, after costs, will be donated to local charities.

The full range of attractions is not yet finalised but is expected to include live music, archery, dog agility display, children's rides, as well as various charity, trade stalls, auto jumble stalls, food, refreshments and a bar etc. Basic camping and caravanning facilities (waste disposal and water) are available direct from Tynedale Rugby Club at a small charge.

Closing date for entries is Friday 19th June 2015.