



Northumbria Branch Newsletter : 2015: Bumper Christmas Edition with:

FREE GIFT!!!

Yes, what is this thing nestling in the newsletter?? - it a BADGE!! - FREE!!
(Why on earth have you been given a badge??) – well, the kitty is pretty full and so we thought to give something back to members. Free meals do not work because some members cannot get to them, and free garments are too costly (and all the styles and sizes are a nightmare), so with this badge, gentle reader, and with a bit of thread or glue you can make your own Norton garment, hat or underwear! (I glue badges onto my falling-off jackets with “Evostick”- J).

And (you may also ask), why the re-design compared to the original? Well, that is at the request of the big Norton club in the sky. Ownership of the “Curly Norton” mark is claimed (not by NOC), but the big Norton club in the sky has a registered design of the Curly Norton inside a “Square N”, and we have been asked to use this to avoid any possible future hassles. – which seems fair enough. So Neil’s son’s original and magnificent design has had to be modified.

NOW FOR THE - XMAS MEAL AND GATHERING (SYSTEM LIKE LAST YEAR) :

At: Melton Constable

Date: Thurs17th Dec

Start 7.00

**Booking ahead – Yes you need to book ahead and choose your menu or you will not get fed!! Book with us!
Joint venture with the BSA owners club (at least half of whose members appear to be members of the Norton Owners, and maybe vice versa).**

How to book ahead:

If you are on email you will get my e-mail, with the attached form; ignore the form at the end of this letter, but **fill in the e-mailed attachment** and e-mail it back to me. jnoandlizpowell@yahoo.co.uk. Clear as mud? - - good!

If you are not on e-mail use the attached form and send it to me by snail mail at John Powell. 9 Lily Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2SP.

Even so, **if you do not get an e-mail at the time you receive this letter**, fill in the form anyhow and send it to me, maybe with your current e-mail address on it as people sometimes change them and sometimes I suffer from typo’s. Clearer than mud?? - good!

You can bring wives, partners, spouses, non-spouses, off-springs, on-springs, whatever you have, like, enjoy but:

ONE WARNING!! We are going to have too many people to just use the conservatory (fancy word for greenhouse) at the pub, so some will have to eat in the main pub. So it is first come first served, as far as places go. We can always mill around afterwards, exchange gay banter etc (am I allowed to use that word any more???)

Form to me, John, please, by Sat 12th Dec latest. **IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL, TELL US!!! ENOUGH!!!**

And the additional enclosure in this package?? - is the Branch secretary stepping way out of line, in promoting his own exhibition of himself, which has nothing to do with the club????? – Yes, he knows he is, and he’s done it anyway!!

More on regalia:

As well as the enclosed badge, you will soon be able to buy a selection of Northumbria Norton regalia on line. This is via the outfit who did the badges, called “Custom Planet”. The site and garment selection are not quite ready yet, but you’ll be informed by e-mail and, again in the next newsletter, how to go about ordering sweatshirts, polo shirts, fleeces and maybe hats. (T-shirts are too thin to embroider).

Events since the last newsletter – 2 final branch events for the 2015 season were - - -

Camp with the Scots at Yetholm:

Still a good weekend, though marred by rain. Anyhow there was no need to ride all along the border this year, looking for good artillery placements, as this year we have no referendum. However our political leaders seem to want to provide us with lots more referenda of all varieties (presumably because they cannot make up their minds by themselves). Anyhow there was still much rejoicing in the pub, though nobody rode very far, and the resources of the lovely town of Kelso were sorely stretched to provide a full day out.

And then there was Kamtrek:

And this time the weather was fine - --- and it was organised a bit differently this year. Michael and Geraldine of the Amazingly Advanced Motorcyclists of Northumberland, decided this was a SOCIAL EVENT. So less riding and more banter! A breakfast start at the lifeboat café at Blyth – a morning coffee stop – a lunch stop – and then a final café stop where the score was calculated – ANDDD!! – Bob and Ginetta were the winners! - finally! – they have been to innumerable Kamtreks where they did not win, but this time their luck was out. Since the winner organises next year’s event, they got the job! Turnout? – good! - an open event with lots of Norton owners, but also Amazingly Advanced Motorcyclists, vintage men with long grey beards, and a few other free spirits. We also acquired additional membership! Here’s the lunch stop:



Sean telling a staggeringly boring story at the Kamtrek lunch stop.

New members and new Nortons:

We are accumulating new members, with 40 members now on the list. In fact your secretary is having trouble keeping up and remembering who is who. So please forgive any “faux-pas(es)” in remembering people’s names – you are all hugely welcome. New members – new blood – new ideas – and new bikes!

Times are changing. It is not just about old motorcycles, now. With the new arrivals we now have 4 NEW Nortons: “Norton 961’s” in various guises, and that’s likely to increase. They do not quite outnumber the “Featherbeds” yet,

but it is heading that way. So the Norton marque is renewed, and our membership enhanced. (Don't worry old lags – you are loved as well!)

And, as for “Donnington Nortons”:

This web site gives a link to info. on the next generation of Donnington machines:

<http://www.bennetts.co.uk/bikesocial/news-and-views/news/2012/2015/august/new-norton-v4-pictures/#.VglWUexVikr>

A note on motorcycling in Spain, our experiences:

In October the Secretarial Dommi went down to Southern Spain (using the ferry from Portsmouth to Santander and Bilbao), with Lizzie on the back and lots of luggage. In fact “Dommi-freighter” mode. Well, the bike has done a lot of journeys now, but for those who have not ridden in Spain, a few notes may be of interest. This our third trip – once in June South from Bilbao and in a half-circle coming North again over the Eastern Pyrenees and back through France. Second trip the “Costa Verde”, including the “Picos”, and this last trip that went down to Granada, Seville and Cadiz. Some notes:

Weather: Costa Verde is the Costa rainy, but beautiful if not raining and not over-hot in June. Inland in mid June it got so hot we had to get off the road by about 11 a.m. to avoid turning into salamis. October gave cold mornings inland but subsequently bright days, and, became quite hot in the South (with, unfortunately, rain), and dry cold coming North again (about 6c with a strong cross-wind on the last day!).

Roads: Superb. Very extensive motorway system with quiet traffic. Minor roads nearly all excellent (only met two bumpy ones) and so empty that if you broke down all they would find were bones.

Accommodation: With the Euro at dumping levels just now we were staying in top hotels for a good less than a British B&B would charge.

Distances are BIG: You start to realise that ours really IS a small island. We had one 70-mile day. Others were all 150-250 miles.

“Austerity”, “poverty”, “crashed economy”: No sign of it. A lot of new cars, busy bustling towns with shops full of goods, spotlessly clean, everyone out for the evening and having fun. New-looking factory, shop and warehouse units by the road on the edges of towns. Some beggars but only in the tourist towns, and probably no more than the “rough sleepers” we now see in Newcastle. A solar farm at least 1 km square was a fascination.

- And a “thank-you” to George Young, the insides of whose distributor are now whizzing around in the “Dommi-freighter’s” distributor and did a superb job – not missed a beat and very easy starting.

And a note on the Aln Valley railway:

This project is especially close to Tony Sargent’s heart. This is a magnificent project. A line, with station(s), is being constructed from the industrial estate at Alnwick (east side of A1) to Alnmouth and has already made considerable progress. The organisers also have open days and are encouraging people to come and display vintage and classic motorcycles. A few of us turned up for the open day earlier in the season. If you come you get free tea and a free train ride. This will get better and better as they lay more track. But there is some obligation to hang around a bit to enhance the display for the visiting public. With increasing entertainment, this should work fine – and the event is growing. So it is something to consider in our 2016 programme.

Those awards and trophies.

As previously reported, we are now “Best NOC Branch 2015” and “Best Club Stand” at the Corbridge classic vehicles show. Since we have not yet built a club house to hold all our trophies, Bob brought the Corbridge trophy to a recent club night. For those who were not there, the next page shows what it looks like.



This has nothing to do with Nortons, but you might enjoy this Christmas poem!

My Self-Employed Office Party

Went self-employed in 'Ninety-one
It has its pitfalls, lack of fun
And overwork had left me tired
Some sort of party was required.
As boss *and* workforce talking here
I'm not as hard as I appear
Though disagreements *had* occurred
And, when they did, I had a word
About myself, and *with* myself
Though mainly, seemed to like myself
Till halfway down that jug of port
I told myself just what I thought.

The problems with the new IT
Were mainly what defeated me
The thing I found the most frustrating?
Constant crises with updating.
As boss, *I* sympathised with this,
But what about a Christmas kiss
Perhaps, under the mistletoe?
I told myself I ought to go
But drinks went down, the discs went on
The Kylie, ABBA, Elton John.
I'd warned myself about this stuff
I didn't listen hard enough.

Well, that's the last thing I remember
This occurred in mid-December
To the week, a year ago
And this tribunal ought to know
As sole employer/employee
I've always liked a laugh with me.
But fondle my *own* buttocks? Ah!
I definitely went too far.
Look... it was just a bit of fun.
A boss and worker one-to-one
Though *I've* proved harder to convince
And haven't spoken to me since.

The outfit which I wore that night?
Provocative! Well, rather tight.
I cried and grabbed my coat to go.
I've got to learn that No means *No*.
I stopped the party, locked the place,
And now there's this harassment case,
What can I say, *I'm* in the wrong.
Though having known myself so long,
I thought that I was a friend:
It's awful that it has to end
In dragging myself off to court.
This year, I'm staying away from Port.

And so a merry Christmas to all our readers, and many joyful miles in 2016!

Officers

Chairman: Bob Tym. 01670 517949. robert.tym@googlemail.com
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Norton Owners' and BSA Owners' Christmas Party

2015

Please return this form by Sat 12th December!

If you got this form by e-mail:

please complete (Excel Spreadsheet) and e-mail to jnoandlizpowell@yahoo.co.uk

If you got this form on the Norton Owners newsletter and did NOT get it via e-mail,

please complete and post to: John Powell, 9 Lily Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2SP

At: Melton Constable, Seaton Sluice

When: Thurs 17th Dec

7 p.m.

Please select your meals choices. NB You can have any 2 courses for £11.90 per person or any 3 courses for £15.45. Cash collected on the night. A bit extra for the tip might be appreciated.

IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL: TELL US! - email as above or text or phone 07802 257800!

Sorry, no free meal this year: Booze extra ad lib -

Name: _____ **Number of people:** _____

Number of Servings:

Starters: -Pork, duck liver and port pate

-Prawn Cocktail

-Home made veg. broth

Mains: - Full roast Turkey Dinner, with trimmings and cranberry sauce

- Roast veg., apricot and goats cheese nut roast. Yorkshire, new spuds, and veg.

- Poached salmon, hollandaise, new spuds, and veg

Pud:

- Xmas Pudding:-

-with custard

-with brandy sauce

- Choc yule log:-

- with vanilla ice -with vanilla ice

- with pouring cream

- Gingerbread cheesecake:-

-with vanilla ice

- with pouring cream

- Caramel profiterole sundae, w. ice cream, cream, choc sprinkles and wafer.

Coffee or tea available on request, cost not included in the above.