



**Northumbria Branch Newsletter :
A Merry Christmas/Overdue Guy Fawkes
message: from the Branch Scribe. Read at your
own risk!
November 2017**

Well, the last bit of news was in July. So – an update.

Since your scribe has missed a lot of club nights, if your personal bit of news is missing, sincerest apologies! I have business and pleasure to report – but lets start with the pleasure!!

Corbridge Show (held in July)

This must have been the busiest ever for us. Yes, we had a good turn-out of members, but the organisers must have decided to send any classic motorcycle that came in the gate to our stand. The result was a massive display of machines and the tea and biscuits got well attacked. Here's a view of **some** of the crowd of bikes:



And we got a "best bike" award – although not with a Norton, Nevertheless, due credit to our master of webs, and here he is gloating while demonstrating George's manly chest..



NOC main club rally at Weston-super-Mare.

Bob and Ginetta and John and Liz attended with wives. No Gary and Amy. Most unusual and sad. It is a fair old slog down there, though using the Fosse Way takes some of the pain out of it. Due to members' extreme and advancing age, this was a test of a non-camping event, held in a Pontins camp. Mrs Scribe quite upset – the place looked like a Belsen, only with friendlier staff. There was once a time when this was the only kind holiday a lot of people could afford. Did the format work for us?? Really cheap and all the meals laid on. Some complained about the quality, but at that price, what do you expect? Value for money, YESS! Your scribe suffers a bit in that part of the country. South African childhood and VAST open spaces. Then Northumbria and BIG open spaces. Down there it is PRETTY-PRETTY-PRETTY. Almost nauseatingly pretty, and incredibly convoluted and slow. A dense PRETTY medieval town, village and road layout. Someone said it was like living in a museum, where much would be lost if it were modified to better suit the modern era. But for making progress on even two wheels – well, it can be quite frustrating. Anyhow beach, helicopter museum, Wells cathedral, etc.

Yetholm camp with Scots.

Sadly a real shortage of Noerthumbrians here. How come? So many of our members love heading North, into the Borders or the Highlands. But a good turnout of the Scots, and great "Craik". Scribe organised a ride but most others already had other plans. Nevertheless a Cheviot lap including the "Ranges". Strange – entered a big area with a row of attack helicopters under covers and just a couple of blokes working on the last one of them. Anyhow, unobstructed we went past. On return, a couple of people, who had already made other plans, said, "We did not know there was an organised ride".

Kamtrek treasure hunt:

Sean won this one and now has the wooden spoon. As ever, a great event to end the season. Pretty rides around Northumbria and an easy pace with companionable meal and coffee stops. What's not to like? (Thanks, Simon Hadden). Numbers lower than on many occasions – we have had less, but also a lot more. It is quite a lot of work to organise, and, again, your branch Ossifers would like to promote Kamtrek as hard as possible.

And now an event of a different kind (A Facebook event? – promoted to members in Facebook) – and could be important!.

News was sent around by John Pye of a new event – "Wings and Wheels" in mid-August. And it looks like being a regular. It has been suggested that we should put up our Gazebo here and make it a Norton stand. Why??? One picture tells the whole story --



And so – a “plug” from our Hard-working Webmaster for our Facebook Page

I have received a request from our Webmaster (John Pye). He drives our branch “Facebook” page. Apart from info. put into Facebook by members, he also puts in info on any interesting events in the area (see above), so you are unlikely to ever face a boring weekend. He asks:

“Either on a computer or a smart phone, please do register on the Northumbria Norton Owners Club Facebook page ASAP. This page is growing in interest and is an excellent way in which update information relating to local events, items that may come up for sale/wanted, helpful hints and tips regarding everything mechanical and a whole host of other Norton bike related matters that can be communicated easily within our "family" using this social media. (Also – a “plug” - you can read your scribe’s postings/”blog” from this year’s Spanish ride on the branch facebook page *WITH PICTURES!! WOW!!*)

For anyone concerned about security, or “who can find me?”, or “will work be able to see my posts”, etc, etc, I can categorically confirm that Facebook allows you to stay as anonymous as you want.....you can easily adjust your privacy settings to maximum, which would result in even the KGB having difficulty in locating you !! Joking apart, this is a social media page for the Northumbria Norton owners Club.....nothing more nothing less..... I've used it for years, and have picked up useful information, shared views, been informed about motorcycle events and a lot more.....so don't be shy, and come and join us !!

* It's easy.....look up Facebook via Googleonce on Facebook.....type in Northumbria Norton Owners Club.....ask to join (because it's a closed members page)....I'll receive your notification.....I'll then accept you as a member.....SIMPLES !!

We should be aiming to have 100% membership from our paid NNOC family.....I know some of our group are regularly enjoying the benefits, so please join us.....before I start badgering people at the last Thursday of the month meetings!!! .lol.

Cheers and best wishes! John

Looking, yearning, for a lost Norton: can anyone help?

I received this message: From: Bill Went. williamwent@hotmail.co.uk.

Subject: Trace my bike.

Message Body:

In 1969 I had a nice Norton registered DFT 509. I have a photograph of the bike at my house but have no details of where it went. DVLA records show that it still exists but has not been registered since 1983. I thought that I would start looking in our area first, so wondered if anyone in the club knew of the whereabouts of the bike now. It would be my intention to restore it and let it take me back to the 60's.

Bill

Paul Dunstall “Tuning” and “Twin Cylinder Manual”

I came by copies of both recently. These publications are maybe more rare than some others. The “Twin Cylinder Manual” contains, among other things, material on the lightweights. Bob Tym has both books which members could borrow. I have also scanned the “Twin Cylinder Manual” if anyone wants a copy on a CD. I cannot offer scans of the Paul Dunstall book for copyright reasons, but, as said, the branch has a copy. Andover Norton list the book on their site if you would like to buy one

And, on Branch regalia:

A previous AGM asked for branch “regalia” to be made available. Quite some years back, now, we did do a “production run” for members. But the successor of the outfit that had done the original stuff kept going AWOL on me. So we set up a new arrangement with “Custom Planet” in Killingworth. Andy, there, and I put in quite a lot of work in setting this thing up. But there seems to have been very limited response from members. Andy came on to me the other day. The arrangement made was for people to buy “one-offs” and he wondered if this was a bit expensive. Said a group order could be cheaper. Well, it is not really my job anyhow, now, but if you want to see the items (or place individual orders), it is all on the branch web site with pictures. www.nortonownersclub.org. Then click on “branches”. A map appears. Click on our spot on the map. On the introductory page there is a link to the regalia. BUT BEWARE THE WARNING ABOUT HOW YOU SPECIFY DELIVERY METHOD. Personally I have found the hat and polo shirt much more useful than the sweat shirt. As for bulk orders – well – not my job any more - But you can order one-offs on line and they could make nice Xmas gifts. J

And: a personal plea for help/advice/experience. Can anyone shed light??:

Here’s the story:

Late 2016 and a hole in a piston – cause? Accumulation of many possible past incidents?

Bores good. And fit now pistons – Aussie make?

Start, and clouds of smoke – which eventually settles.

But rattles and huge oil consumption. Take apart.

Looks like a “seize” except none experienced. Pistons chewed, **and** bore damage.

Rebore? – but already +60? But can rebore an 88 to model 99 bore (+2mm on initial diameter).

Model 99 pistons (“Gandini”, Italian) slightly proud and hit head, so machine a step at the edge, like the standard “88” pistons. Starts first kick.

Do plug “pulls” etc and with a “richer” set-up seems to be running cooler.

Running in including 2 rides to the Lakes. Oil consumption zero. Then to East Fortune to see Richard race.

Late for race, and only a mile to the AI exit – and 400 miles of running in, speed up from 60 to 70. And the engine seizes.

Restart. Sounds fine. Ride home including 2 quick bursts to 75. AOK.

Dismantle. Bores OK. One piston scraped at skirts. But clearances look fairly OK and with trips to Somerset (Rally) and then Spain, no time for MORE pistons and MORE running in. A bit of a rattle but trip to Somerset fine. Oil consumption nil. So off to Spain.

Sudden erratic running on A1 with loss of power. Can’t face M25 like this. Prolonged investigation in service area car park. Pilot jet blocked – clear with fine wire. Round M25 to Son’s place. Arrive and find petrol running out of carburettor round the tickler button. Dismantle – find no dirt. Re-assemble. Rough running. Clear out pilot jet again with wire. And to Portsmouth – AOK.

Bilbao, and set out. Bike rough again. Leave motorway, stop and clear out pilot jet again. AOK. Long climb on motorway (about 20+ miles of “up”) onto the Spanish plateau. ¼ throttle and 60 on dial. Did this before 2 up and no trouble, and I am solo. Then engine seizes. Sit on hard shoulder 20 minutes to allow to cool. AOK (but with clatter: jam ear plugs in harder) and go slowly to first stop 60 miles from Bilbao. Next day rough running. Wire job on pilot jet. Since then no further trouble, but treat bike fairly gently though cannot avoid huge winding mountain climbs 2-up in great heat. Toledo, Cordoba, Cadiz, “White villages”, Malaga.

And – home with clatter. Used no more oil in the engine than in the Scott oiler. Trip around 2500 miles. What's up? Pistons could be too tight in the bores (?). Also have been suggested “wet seize” – where a dollop of neat petrol gets sucked in and washes the oil off the bores. - well – it is all coming apart this winter. Fuel line contains 3 fine mesh filters – at the tap, in the line and at the carburettor inlet. Any advice welcome. (timing is spot-on and plenty of power but I dare not use it). – J

Christmas Menu: (Attached)

Simon has already contacted most members by e-mail, but he needs your choices/reservations before 5th December. This is to ensure we have everyone's choices in good time! There is no actual “form” this year, but if coming, and you have not already booked, please e-mail Simon with your food choices, or post him a copy of the attached, “ticked off”.

- DO NOT SEND MONEY. You pay on the day.
- Make sure you also give your selection of starter, main and desert!
- Please book **only** with Simon, not at the pub, because otherwise we cannot check numbers: the pub has a maximum capacity.
- If cancelling TELL SIMON otherwise a meal will get prepared for you.

Date is 21st Dec, At the Melton Constable at 7 p.m.

Happy Xmas? Happy New year? We wish you had a happy Guy Fawkes? Did the Haloween witches get you??

Well, there is no harm using a good thing twice. And, since this Christmas carol went into a Newsletter at least 15 years back, a lot of members will not have seen it - so – to wish you all a great Christmas and many happy miles in 2018, here is

A Geordie Carol

Silent Neet!

Freezin' neet!

**The Newcastleil Broon is flowin' sweet.
Bonnie bairns, the fire-side aroond,
Weatin' fer Santa t' cum doon t' ground.
Shush noo! The hooal toon's asleep.
Shush noo! The toon's aal asleep!**

Silent Neet!

Twinkl'n' Neet!

**The aa'd rivva Tyne runs dark and fleet,
The last fisha-boat's cummin' hoame from the sea,
Wor new rusty eangel, watch ower thee!
Shush noo! The hooal woorld's asleep
Shush noo! The woorld's aal asleep !**

Officers - - -

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

Secretary: Simon Murray. 01670 785792. mob 07483 888801 . simon@bar Moor.com. E-mail will be best.

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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XMAS MENU FOR CHOICES, 2017

(choices to Simon Murray, simon@bar Moor.com, or 07483 888801 or post a copy of this menu with your choices to him at :

Simon Murray, 25 Green Close, Stannington, Northumberland, NE61 6PE.)

LATEST DATE TO RECEIVE THIS – 5th DECEMBER

Melton Constable

21st Dec

7 PM

Price: 2-course: £14.95. 3-course £16.95

Name: _____ **Give number of persons.** _____ -

Choices are:

Starters:

Hog roast & Apple Paté – real ale chutney and oatcakes.

Potato Skins. With a side of home-made garlic sauce and sweet chile sauce.

Ham and Veg. Broth with crusty roll.

Prawn cocktail. Marie Rose sauce and wholemeal bread

Mains:

Traditional roast **turkey** OR **roast beef**. Yorkshire, stuffing, pigs in blanket, all the trimmings.

Melt in the middle smoked salmon and champagne fishcakes. Chips, tartare sauce, garden peas and salad.

Salsa Chicken. Topped with melted cheese, with -

- new potatoes and veg

or:

- chips and salad

Roast vegetable, Apricot and goat's cheese nut roast. Yorkshire pud, fresh veg and vegetarian gravy.

Desserts:

Traditional Xmas pudding, with:

- hot custard

or:

- brandy sauce

Gin Fizz, lime and elderflower cheesecake, with:

- Vanilla ice-cream,

or:

- Fresh pouring-cream

Ginger, pear and salted caramel sponge pudding, with

- Hot custard

or:

- Vanilla ice-cream

Duo Chocolate truffle; White and dark chocolate truffle with a raspberry centre served with:

- Fresh pouring cream

Or:

- Vanilla ice-cream