



VIRUSCAST 1

Being the Northumbria Nortons Bananavirus Newsletter, Viruscast: First Issue

This is the big chance to get into your sheds and Fettle! Fettle! Fettle!

(Actually, your scribe is guilty of total lack of forethought, and did all his maintenance on the Dommi over the winter. THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO FETTLE!!! I may even be reduced to having to do GARDENING! Oh horror!)

Anyhow to help to while away the boring hours, preparing a regular VIRUSCAST will keep your scribe from going crazy, and, maybe also provide our esteemed members with something that shows them what **real** boredom looks like, (assuming they have run out of things to fettle). So, please send anything you can that is newsworthy – fettling reports/rebuilds, stories about “when I was a lad and fell off my first motorbike”, pictures, interesting articles, and so on. And I will incorporate them into Viruscast 2, Viruscast 3, and so on. The more boring the better!

Well there actually is a little motorcycling news - thanks to Derek Turnbull, who provided the following report –

The Covid-19 Run - 21 March 2020 Social Distancing

Simon was kind enough to arrange the first morale-boosting run of the year to coincide with the closure of all schools, pubs, cafes and restaurants. Comforted by the almost certain knowledge that Coronavirus cannot attack you at 60mph, six hardy souls (Amy & Gary, Bob, Derek, Graham & Simon), on an eclectic mix of bikes – including one Norton, all met at Seaton Burn services – where takeaway Burger-King-things along with Greggs stotties and pasties were still available if required.



Taki

Taking advantage of the near deserted roads, we moved swiftly to our first stop - an al fresco picnic at Kielder Castle. Hypothermia threatened so we didn't stay there very long

We headed north, risking ever colder temperatures, entering Scotland at Deadwater, next stop Newcastleton.

As we parked up in the village square, dreaming of warm, welcoming hostelryes and hot pies, we experienced the great British spirit that exists in the panic-shopping, Coronavirus-infected world we live in.

Thanks to a kind passer-by we learned that bacon butties and hot drinks were still available if we were prepared to eat in the garden behind the café (which will remain nameless, to protect the innocent). Priceless!



Returning to England, we took a marvellous country road towards Roadhead and Gilsland then followed the Military Road home.

We achieved our objective of 'social distancing'; 150 miles on cold, quiet roads. We were certainly social and we covered a considerable distance!

*Derek Turnbull
Self-styled Stand-In Scribe*

(Thinks: is he after my job?)

Well, there was going to be another ride but Boris' announcement put an end to that. There was nothing anti-social or dangerous in what our "riders" did. We just get punished with the rest of the public (Blanchland villagers blocked off the car park to discourage the hordes who arrived and milled around in the village at the weekend, and, on my return from Ardfern on Saturday, the road from Inveraray and back down Loch Lomond was a stream of traffic heading North . The village pub at Ardfern had lots of people going in and out on the Friday evening before pubs got stopped. It is impossible to make a rule that gives latitude for people to behave sensibly, because it seems too many don't. End of rant).

And: we now have video-conferencing. We did it and it worked! It's the electronic club night!

Conferences are every 2 weeks, so the next is Thursday 9th of April at 8 pm for 30 minutes. We use "ZOOM". You need to get registered with Zoom. The steps I took are as follows:

Set-up:

Go into www.google.co.uk. Type in Zoom, and enter. You will see a heading, "Zoom video conferencing – etc". Ignore all the stuff under this heading. Just click on the heading.

Agree with the cookies and click on "close".

Enter your e-mail address where it says "work email".

Click on "sign in for free", then "confirm e-mail".

(Re "resources", I confirmed.)

It then says you will be sent an e-mail. When you get it you need to create a password, and you are registered

Joining the virtual reality club night –

Simon will have emailed a meeting number.

So just google Zoom as before, and click on the main heading as before. At the top of the next display, you will see “Join a meeting”.

Click on this and enter the meeting number. You are in.

You may have to do extra clicks for video and for sound - you may need to click on a noise symbol bottom left corner.

All sorts of disgraceful individuals will appear.

Meanwhile from Aberdeen, the home of 66.6666% of our honorary members

E-mail from Campbell: Hullo to you both hope you are well and keeping clear of the dreaded virus on even longer reflection we made the right decision regarding the invasion over the border. John rest assured I have not been idle on Dommie front, we have ignition and lift off!!! all be it on the work bench so the next thing is to get Doc's and reg. no with the help of NOC I have down loaded relevant forms and instructions and will be proceeding with that post haste so the duel of the two Dommies becomes ever closer, I bet you are shaking in your crash helmet. All the best, regards to Liz. Campbell

(There had been a plan to go up to Aberdeen and festivate). Anyhow it looks like a race of the “Dommi 500’s” is on the cards – George? --- What about it? And- if there had been no Bananavirus, would Campbell have ever got on with the job?).

And this from Richard - -- not about racing - -- but it could provide some entertainment while incarcerated ----

Hi John and Bob! Please find below link to a Youtube film sent to me by an old friend of mine who now lives in Cincinatti. It captures a bike trip of 6500 miles from Cincinatti to Oregon over several weeks last summer. I found it easy to watch and it is a mixture of stills and movie. I thought you may want to watch it while in S.I. lockdown! At the end he gives a full list of all the equipment and editing suites used to make the movie. That is an education in itself! However, I did not see any mention of a Leica 35mm SLR anywhere (it surely must be an oversight!)??? This is part one, part two is yet to be released!
Regrds

<https://youtu.be/GpGWKJQZdDc>

(Nerdish correction: the Leica is not a SLR, but the most sophisticated rangefinder camera of its era. I'll give you a guided tour of the camera some time, Richard. But the video covers some of the route Lizzie and I covered on the Dommi, and gives a real feel for the vastness of everything, and that feeling that just going and going and going becomes one's state of existence. Stopping is abnormal.)

Nerdish thoughts on the Poisson Distribution.

If 60 people arrive at a Supermarket per hour, then, on average, one should arrive at the check-outs every minute. But they don't. There are periods when there is nobody, and then suddenly a whole mass of people arrives. How many staff do you put on the tills given that much of the time they will be doing nothing? - and sometimes swamped? Well, there is a formula for this behaviour – its called the “Poisson distribution”. Things in nature behave this way too – like lightning strikes. Maybe even the frequency of virus-strikes.

I was cycling over the town moor the other day. Not a huge number of people about, but I was faced with at least three clusters of people on the path, all trying to get around each other. It was clear that the people were not connected with each other, and, anyhow they were going, or trying to go, in both directions. The more nervous/dutiful ones left the path and circled the cluster by going on the grass. In one case I just stopped and let the “cluster” of people ahead of me dissolve. Monsieur Poisson at

work? Well it does demonstrate one of the problems in maintaining “social distancing” with even relatively low numbers of people on the loose.

The defunct Norton factory at Donnington?

Sean has sent me a link to a second article – and second interview with one of the investors. The first interview with an investor was given as a link in the last newsletter. Again, read with caution – usual disclaimer – we have not heard Stuart’s side of the story.

The link is: <https://www.superbike.co.uk/article/norton-was-it-a-fraud-from-the-start-part-two>

Events????

Kamtrek at the end of April? Hardly looks likely, now.

Clive Taylor memorial run in May? There could be a hope. This thing peaks some time.

On which sad subject - present events made me think of Dr. Clive Taylor. Clive’s job was running what I then realised was the snot laboratory at the Newcastle General. Called the “respiratory diseases laboratory” – but they were looking for bugs. He was very busy during the SARS scare.

A while back I planted a hydrangea on the embankment where Clive (and the lady who hit him) ended up. Unfortunately the council sent someone with a strimmer, who strimmed the whole area including the young hydrangea. So late last summer I planted another above the strimmed area. I did not think it stood much of a chance – lost from sight amongst the long rank grass and general tangle. I stopped on Saturday to see if I could find it. After a lot of stamping around, I had decided it was a “gonner”, when suddenly I spotted a little twiggy thing, with some new leaves starting to sprout. Well - It looks like, given time, there is going to be a lovely bush covered with flowers by the main road up into the Highlands. Here it is – LIFE!!!



The Dommi is stuck in its shed. Thinking that petrol stations could be swarming with viruses (viri?), I stocked up with fuel – and now in my shed I have the bike with a full tank and 30 litres more in cans. Don’t strike a match, anyone!

And now, just for the mood of it, there follow are two pics taken on last Friday, on a short drive down the Craigneish peninsula, where we keep our boat. With all the troubles, the world is still beautiful. And this is a great place to go on a Norton.



and:

Don't forget to send Alan his £5.00 sub!

And:

Send me some stuff so I can make a Viruscast 2!!!

Our e-mail addresses and phone numbers are as below!

(- oh – and Stay Well!!)

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