



Northumbria Branch February, 2023

Not a Newsletter,!! Why is this not a Newsletter??

Because I have NO NEWS!!! (So why write this crap anyhow??)

Well, Simon has already sent an email, warning of an AGM on 23rd Feb at the Melton Constable, Seaton Sluice, at 7.30 p.m.. And as before, you will be bribed with free sandwiches to get you to attend.

And, though Simon has already emailed it to you, the agenda is also at the end of this newsletter. (I always used to send this agenda out by snail mail before all the e-mailing, and I know virtually all of you will have it now by email, but even so I am also sending it because, as before, I cannot cure myself of the habit.)

So, WHY IS THERE NO NEWS?

Well. Where does news come from? - in the winter???? Maybe in winter I could have an article or two from someone, or have got news of a winter project while at a club night. But that involves meeting people and for much of the winter I have been very restricted, while recuperating from a hip replacement. (BIG NEWS! Last week I managed to start the Dommi with the repaired leg!!)

I did get to the Christmas gathering – my first outing to anywhere. I was somewhat perturbed that the pavement in front of the pub door was a sheet of ice! If a fall?? - not good -----Why not salt it? If they had run out of salt, I am sure someone could have told them where they could find lots of salt water -----.

Unlike pre-covid, there was only one choice for the menu, and that was a bit “bog-standard-Christmas”, but at the time reports were appearing in the press that pubs were in financial trouble and were cutting down on menus due to the general financial stress, so there could have been a good reason.

Anyhow all were very happy, and it was great to see so many members again. On emerging from the dining I was very cheerily greeted by a second group outside in the bar, who seemed to be NOC members who did not want to pay for the meal, and who were re-enforced by some non members who looked a bit like the

BSA owners to me. Anyhow there was a time when we did a couple of joint Christmas meals with the BSA owners, and I remember them once joining us at Yetholm. But my hip had gone about as far as it could go at that time of the evening, so I waved them goodbye and negotiated the ice rink outside the door. Lizzie took me home.

Since then, after the busy programme I have on Thursdays (why does EVERYONE plan all events on Thursdays?), and having returned from the evening Spanish class and been fed by my wife, I regret I have just felt too tired to go out to a club night in the winter weather and darkness. But, things are picking up, both weather and physically, so I will definitely make it to the AGM.

My own Tech news.

(Once upon a time, the word “Technology” meant building something like Concorde. Now the word “Technology” seems to mean something like “Take away pizza.com”. Do people today actually know what technology really is? Could they, today, build something like Concord??). Anyhow my technology has involved spending an hour or so at a time in the shed, giving the bike its winter service and fitting a RGM Side Stand to the featherbed frame..

Interestingly there has been stuff about side stands and modern fuels in “Roadholder”. My Norvil side stand also snapped off (at the bracket – the outer part, a grainy piece of cast iron). This bit and the leg got returned to Norvil (“It has never happened before”). Later the leg was found for sale on EBay. I bought it back cheap and with the help of Mackem John bodged up a replacement for the outer part of the clamp. But it was never that good and got more and more wobbly over the years and after the loaded bike tried to squash Lizzie by falling on top of her, (how to squash your wife!) I bought a RGM stand.

This comes with something like a PHD thesis on side stand design and fitting. Of course there is the hassle of removing all the primary stuff to get at the frame. But RGM’s instructions say that no two featherbeds seem to have been the same as regards height off the ground, height of exhaust pipe etc. SO they make the bracket with too much metal on it and if you need increase the angle of lean, or the height of the stand when raised, they tell you to grind away excess metal until you get the result you want. And they tell you where to grind. If you get into this, a warning – don’t grind in the most obvious places as the actual contact may be happening elsewhere. I resorted to engineers “Blue” and should have done so sooner as I “Overground” a bit in the wrong places. The stand has yet to see action but looks reassuringly solid after its predecessor, and with a powerful spring.

Then there is fuel. Bike came off the road just before my “op” at the end of October. I had followed the same practise as on our boat – fill the tank to the top to avoid condensation inside. I had also drained the carburettor. At the end of January – not that long later – the engine would not start. Flood liberally – kick – a few “puffs” – and dead. Repeat “x” times with the same result. I checked all the normal things and all was correct. So I drained about a third of the tank, then shook the bike vigorously, and tried again. It started immediately, running like the proverbial sewing machine. (I then fit the fairing and it now sounded like the proverbial bag of nails).

Anyhow E5 fuel can clearly start to separate out in 3 months!!

Sorry - that’s all “Me! Me! Me!”, but lets all combine our efforts and create LOTS OF NEWS in 2023!!!

Simon’s AGM stuff follows.

John – still the scribe - (HAS ANYONE AN ARTICLE???)

#Officers - - -

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

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

Money scrounger: Alan Millar. Tel 01670 853223 mob 07734402110 better text than e-mail, though e-mail is ok Scribe :

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Norton Owners' Club – Northumbria Branch

2023 Annual General Meeting, 23rd February at the Melton Constable – Agenda

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of previous meeting & any matters arising from minutes
4. Branch Officials Annual Reports
 - a. Chairman – Bob Tym
 - b. Secretary – Simon Murray
 - c. Treasurer – Alan Millar
5. Election of 202/23 Branch Officials/Committee Members (Please advise the Secretary of any nominations!)
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Newsletter Scribe
6. Branch Subscriptions
 - a. Annual fee – proposal is to continue with £5/member.
 - b. Cash at the AGM or bank transfer is now the only method (Please use your name for the reference). If this is difficult, please contact the secretary to discuss.
Name: Norton Owners Club Northumbria Branch
Sort Code: 30-93-55, Account Number: 01241950
7. Media
 - a. Norton Owners Club website – Branch section, seems little used – feedback?
 - b. Branch Facebook page is working well and thanks to Simon H. for administrating. Contact Simon to have access.
 - c. Thanks to the Scribe for his continued efforts, he is always looking for articles for the Newsletters.
8. Venue for branch meetings – to be discussed
 - a. Melton Constable. Other suggested venues?
9. New members from the west:
 - a. We have two volunteers to assist: Martin Chadwick & Eddie Stephenson – Will continue to have events in the west as often as we can.
 - b. Evening pub meeting - Keswick to be considered - Filling Station Cafe. Date TBC.
10. Branch and associated events
 - a. Refer to attached schedule of events for 2023 – Comments welcome, consider though that it is difficult to accommodate every event and avoid clashes!
 - b. Please let the Secretary know of any events that members might be interested in throughout the year and they will be circulated – e.g. The Bamburgh Run, Aln Valley Railway events, etc.
11. Ride-outs and ride-ins
 - a. We now have a dedicated ride-out team – Derek/Bob/Simon, but anyone can suggest runs, via the Secretary.
 - b. It is hoped there will be 'ad hoc' Sunday rides too, if there is an interest.
 - c. What length of ride-outs suits members and preference for destinations with/without food?
12. Riding challenge for 2023. Completing by Wooler (so we can give prizes!).

For riders to find as many castles, peel towers and bastilles in Northumberland between January 2023 and Wooler (3rd June) to encourage riding. There will be two prizes; one for the highest number of castles, peel towers and bastilles (on any bike) and one for Norton riders with the highest number of castles, peel towers and bastilles. Pictures and grid reference to be provided for each castle, peel tower or bastille visited. Prizes will be given at the Wooler barbeque.
13. Zoom calls – Have been continuing throughout the winter and are considered successful.
14. Any other business
 - a. Branch merchandise – A branch T-shirt came out top of the poll. These will be priced and interest confirmed before placing an order.
 - b. Due to the distance/time involved, the branch will not have attendance at the Branch Secretaries Meeting in 2023.
 - c. To encourage participation at events (and noting the branch's healthy funds), it is proposed to:
 - i. To cover the cost for the camping for branch members on the Saturday night in Wooler.
 - ii. At one of the events to display bikes, to hold a raffle with a prize of £20 for the winner (noting attendance at external events allows us to claim grants from the NOC).

