

Northumbria Branch Newsletter, February, 2024



Your Committee Needs YOU!!

You are summoned to attend the Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Melton Constable, Seaton Sluice on Thurs 28th Feb (*A leap year!! Ladies can take charge!!) at 7.30 p.m.. It is believed that sandwiches will be served

Simon has emailed all the details, but of particular importance is that the annual sub of £5.00 is extremely unlikely to be changed, but if you do not pay it HORRIBLE THINGS will happen to you. How to pay? Sec. Simon says:.. *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*

Also Alan, our long serving bean counter is retiring, and being replaced by Simon Parry (unless someone else stands for the job). Simon (Parry) will be new on the job and is going to have to prove he is at least as fierce as Alan. (well, he has the whiskers for it).

In case you missed Sec Simon's email, at the end I include the agenda and also the draft programme for the year (at least it is the most up-to-date I have seen).

And now for a happy story about his Commando, by Simon the Sec (we have abundant Simons)



My Mk 3 So as many of you will have seen, it's on the road. I bought it in 2015 and it's not been on the road since I bought it and now it's rideable. However it's not going to be a show queen: I'm just going to ride it!

Major work:

1. New down pipes and exhaust silencers fitted. The third set eventually fitted properly.....
2. New wiring loom. First loom did not match the wiring - I replaced it with a 'Lucas' and it fitted perfectly.
3. Replaced the Isolastics. That rear Isolastic is challenging accessing it.
4. Overhauled the gearbox. When I got the bike, kick starting it - it went into first gear????!!
5. New carbs.
6. Overhauled the swing arm.
7. New main stand. Second stand fitted, but see later.....
8. Overhauled the electric start, including fitting a modified starter motor by Peter Shand.

- And loads of other jobs. It's probably one of the worst bikes that I have worked on - it seems so much more difficult to do simple tasks than a Mk 2A! - two examples being accessing the horn and the warning light assmulator! It had a terrible kick back initially (just ask Derek!). I've persevered and, after checking the ignition timing degree scale against 28 degrees on the crank, I've set the Pazon as per their instructions and it starts very easily now.

Issues that I've had since being on the road:

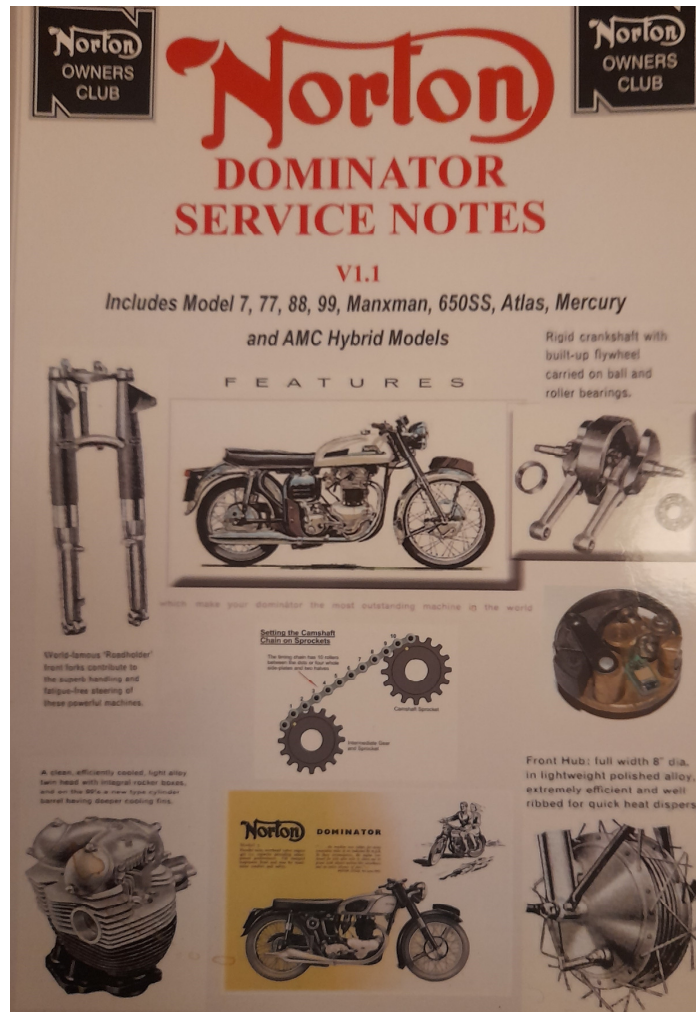
1. The electric start intermediate gear only lasted five starts before shedding a tooth. AN asked for it to be sent back and then supplied a new one.
2. The main stand fouls on the LH exhaust. I've asked AN about it and they just advised they can't guarantee all parts supplied fit - especially for post '76 bikes, as the factory were using different parts suppliers with no quality control.
3. On the second run out, the LH carb bowl drain plug fell out - this is well documented on the FB page. Thanks to branch members for advice on replacement parts (non-OEM) that were available near Otterburn! 4. I'm not happy with the rear brake performance or lack of it! To be investigated.
5. When out on a ride, the tickover doesn't come down to 1,500 rpm, maybe a sticking throttle cable.
6. I discovered there were no bulbs in the instruments - not so good getting caught out at dusk.

Positively, the engine is going well with no vibration, the gearbox is really smooth changing gear and there are no more electric gremlins! Let's see how the '24 season goes as I'm hoping to put many miles on it!

Was it a good buy? I probably should've bought a concours example, especially considering the purchase price and the amount I've spent on spares, I would've saved £££, less stress, but hey - where's the fun in that? Finally, thanks to everyone in the branch who've helped, particularly: Bob - Mk 3 guru and supplier of lots of advice (and tools) having done almost everything on his bike that can be done! Clive and Simon H - For gearbox advice. Derek - For continued advice and patience and I hope the leg recovers from all those kicks! Neil - For listening to the whole saga over the years

Santa Claus is so considerate -(this is for those of us who Dominate)

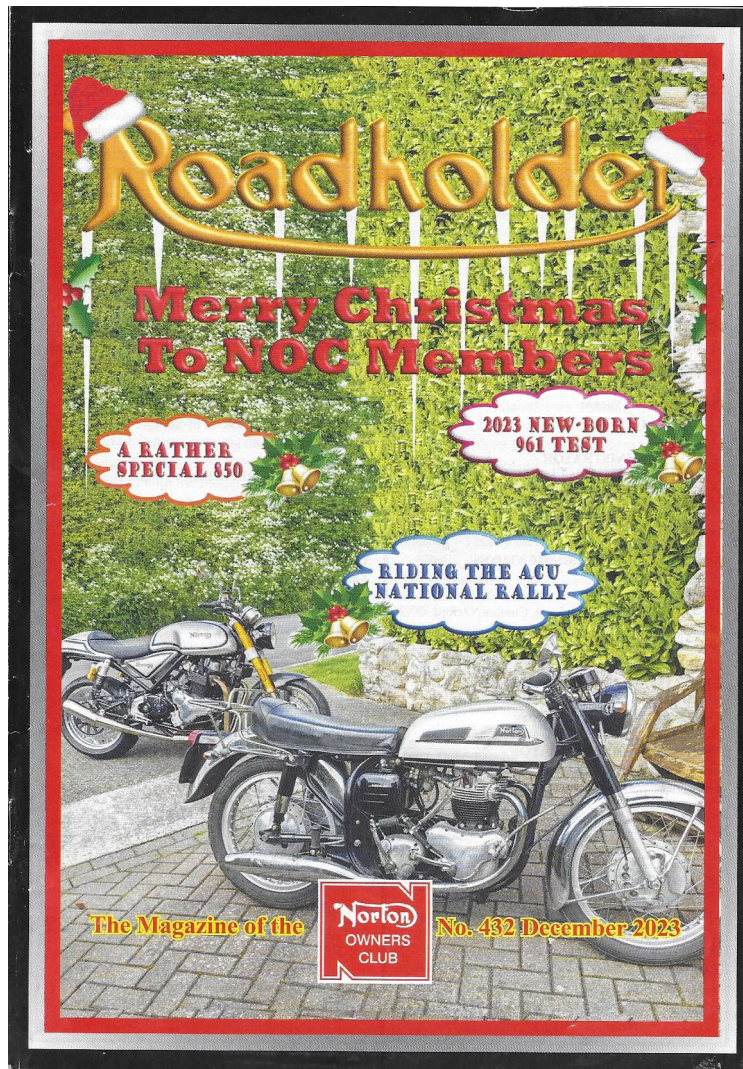
Because he gave the scribe this new publication from the Big Norton Club in the Sky (BNCITS). No, it is not a substitute for a workshop manual, but it adds a hell of a lot of information you will not get in one. It is also printed on thick shiny paper with lovely photos, and you could spend days reading it on the loo!. It is full of information on restorations, models (including obscure models), quirks in design, tips, lovely pics of bike bits, etc etc etc. Recommended that you get one for your birthday, anniversary, Easter, equinox.



There is also a saying, “as useless as a chocolate screwdriver” – well, look what else Santa sent! (I have eaten the handle off the hammer)



And here is fame and adulation for Varne, because the bikes on the cover of “Roadholder” are his!



Don's Construction/Creration:

Take one frame, bought on EBay, and add engine and gearbox, also from EBay, plus a hell of a lot of diligence, and TIME, and you get a



Well, the whole thing looks like this:



Time??? He has been at it since 2006! Looking at it more closely, you keep seeing interesting creative “tweaks”, like an anti-drain valve linked to the ignition switch, or the rather interesting left hand side footrest. This is a standard Dommi part, but on normal Dommis it is fit on the other side, protruding between engine and gearbox.



Bui there are far more creative tricks than can be listed here

Then there is the mighty braking



Don wants to give credit to many useful suppliers and services. Too much to write down here, but in particular, Russell Coates for tools, Phoenix for the starter motor, and Saddlecraft who did a lovely job on the seat. Unfortunately the computer insists on inserting this pic into the page sideways, even though the original is the right way up.



It would be great to see this machine out this season. It is going to have to wait a bit. Don is recovering from a ding-dong with the medics, and, though the machine starts first kick, and with new pistons etc, it is giving out a lot of smoke, to the point where oil is disappearing fast. It has been suggested to Don that it could be a breather issue, creating pressure, but that does not explain why most of the smoke comes from the right hand cylinder. Ideas, anyone?? I am attempting to attach a video alongside this newsletter.

The Scribe's troubled Dommi:

There is no point listing everything I tried up to the end of October, but my traditional end of season ride to the Lakes (over Hartside, a walk in the Lakes and back via the military road), went like this:

Ride out, running fine.

Part way back much phutting and misfiring pulling away from start at low revs. But 60 mph cruising – fine. Return of the old disease – If you ride everywhere at 60, and only 60, and do not stop, you will be OK. Can get quite exciting! After Chollerford, running OK again.

Sherlock Holmes said that once you have eliminated the possible, the impossible becomes a certainty. Or maybe it is like alt-control-delete on the computer.

Because, since then –

- Soaked carburettor in cellulose thinners (and Richard is going to get me some magic carburettor gubbins which I intend to use.) Thinners I used are Rustins (MEK/MIBK mix). Some thinners sold are xylene/isopropyl alcohol and do not do the job.
- Drained and completely dried tank inside, then added more Rustins and sloshed and let it sit, then drained. (Theory: Soluble residues of dodgy tank lining stuff not completely removed and may be producing snotty gobbets (that's a technical term))
- Completely rewired bike.
-

Well, it starts and sounds ok running, but a road test has to wait until there is no danger of road salt.

Note re. wiring – I use FAT wires. Got all the colours Halfords had but wanted more. Got some more colours from Amazon. They turn out to have silicone rubber outsides. Also many very fine wires inside. Very flexible (and heat resistant when soldering bullets). Has anyone used this stuff? I rather liked it.

(Ignition remains as before: a mouse who knocks 2 flints together 1/4" before TDC)

AGM?? In case you did not get it, here's Simon's agenda: (Next Page)



Norton Owners' Club – Northumbria Branch

2024 Annual General Meeting, 29th February at the Melton Constable at 19:30 – 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 2023/24 Branch Officials/Committee Members (Please advise the Secretary of any nominations!):
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. Due to Alan Millar's relocation, Simon Parry has volunteered to become Treasurer.
 - d. Newsletter Scribe

Please advise the Secretary of any further nominations.
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, is it worth updating?
 - b. Branch Facebook page is working well and thanks to Simon H. for administrating. Contact Simon to have access. Content should be restricted to Nortons and associated material of interest to members.
 - 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. 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 2024 – 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, they will be added to the schedule and circulated.
 - c. Yetholm is a combined weekend with Northumbria, Tay and Edinburgh branches. In 2024, the weekend may be combined with the route of the Northumberland 250 to make a longer weekend, if there is any interest.
11. Ride-outs and ride-ins.
12. Zoom calls – Have been continuing throughout the winter and are considered successful.
13. Branch merchandise. T-shirt in 2022 was well received.
14. Branch Secretaries Meeting & Norton Owners Club Limited's Annual General Meeting - 13th/14th April
15. National Rally – Is to be held at Tynedale Rugby Club from the 5th July to the 8th July – volunteers welcome!
16. Discussion on covering the cost of the camping for branch members on the Saturday night in Wooler to encourage attendance.
17. Any other business.

I have spread the programme over the next two pages to get bigger print.

NOC Northumbria Events Plan
2024

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
|-----|------------|-----|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Sun | | | | | | |
| Mon | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Tue | 2 | | | 2 | | |
| Wed | 3 | | | 3 | 1 | |
| Thu | 4 | 1 | | 4 | 2 | |
| Fri | 5 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | |
| Sat | 6 | 3 | 2 | Social Night - Sun Inn, Morpeth | 4 | 1 |
| Sun | 7 | 4 | 3 | | 5 | Clive Taylor Ride |
| Mon | 8 | 5 | 4 | | 6 | 3 |
| Tue | 9 | 6 | 5 | | 7 | 4 |
| Wed | 10 | 7 | 6 | | 8 | 5 |
| Thu | Zoom Call | 8 | 7 | 11 | Evening Run | 6 |
| Fri | 12 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 7 |
| Sat | 13 | 10 | 9 | 13 | 11 | 8 |
| Sun | 14 | 11 | 10 | NOC BSM & AGM | 12 | 9 |
| Mon | 15 | 12 | 11 | | 13 | 10 |
| Tue | 16 | 13 | 12 | | 14 | 11 |
| Wed | 17 | 14 | 13 | | 15 | 12 |
| Thu | 18 | 15 | Zoom Call | 14 | 16 | 13 |
| Fri | 19 | 16 | 15 | 19 | 17 | 14 |
| Sat | 20 | 17 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 15 |
| Sun | 21 | 18 | 17 | 21 | Weekend Run | 16 |
| Mon | 22 | 19 | 18 | 22 | 20 | 17 |
| Tue | 23 | 20 | 19 | 23 | 21 | 18 |
| Wed | 24 | 21 | 20 | 24 | 22 | 19 |
| Thu | Club Night | 22 | 21 | 25 | Club Night | 20 |
| Fri | 26 | 23 | 22 | 26 | 24 | 21 |
| Sat | 27 | 24 | 23 | 27 | 25 | 22 |
| Sun | 28 | 25 | 24 | 28 | 26 | 23 |
| Mon | 29 | 26 | 25 | 29 | 27 | 24 |
| Tue | 30 | 27 | 26 | 30 | 28 | 25 |
| Wed | 31 | 28 | 27 | | 29 | 26 |
| Thu | | 29 | Club Night & AGM | 28 | Club Night | 27 |
| Fri | | | 29 | Social event (TBC) | 31 | 28 |
| Sat | | | 30 | | | 29 |
| Sun | | | 31 | | | 30 |

* - Yetholm may be combined with the route of the Northumberland 250 to make a longer weekend, if there is any interest.

July onwards – next page ----

ner (Branch events in red)

| Jul | | Aug | | Sep | | Oct | | Nov | | Dec | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|----------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | |
| 2 | | | | 3 | | 1 | | | | 3 | |
| 3 | | | | 4 | | 2 | | | | 4 | |
| 4 | | 1 | | 5 | | 3 | | | | 5 | |
| 5 | | 2 | | 6 | | 4 | | 1 | | 6 | |
| 6 | National Rally - Corbridge | 3 | | 7 | Yetholm (TBC)* | 5 | | 2 | | 7 | |
| 7 | | 4 | Nook Café (TBC) | 8 | | 6 | | 3 | | 8 | |
| 8 | | 5 | | 9 | | 7 | | 4 | | 9 | |
| 9 | | 6 | | 10 | | 8 | | 5 | | 10 | |
| 10 | Evening Run | 7 | | 11 | Evening Run | 9 | | 6 | | 11 | |
| 11 | | 8 | | 12 | | 10 | Zoom Call | 7 | | 12 | Zoom Call |
| 12 | | 9 | | 13 | | 11 | | 8 | | 13 | |
| 13 | | 10 | | 14 | | 12 | | 9 | | 14 | |
| 14 | | 11 | | 15 | | 13 | | 10 | | 15 | |
| 15 | | 12 | | 16 | | 14 | | 11 | | 16 | |
| 16 | | 13 | | 17 | | 15 | | 12 | | 17 | |
| 17 | | 14 | Evening Run | 18 | | 16 | | 13 | | 18 | |
| 18 | | 15 | | 19 | | 17 | | 14 | Zoom Call | 19 | Branch Xmas Dinner (TBC) |
| 19 | | 16 | | 20 | | 18 | | 15 | | 20 | |
| 20 | | 17 | | 21 | | 19 | | 16 | | 21 | |
| 21 | Weekend Run | 18 | Kamtrek | 22 | | 20 | | 17 | | 22 | |
| 22 | | 19 | | 23 | | 21 | | 18 | | 23 | |
| 23 | | 20 | | 24 | | 22 | | 19 | | 24 | |
| 24 | | 21 | | 25 | | 23 | | 20 | | 25 | |
| 25 | Club Night | 22 | | 26 | Club Night | 24 | | 21 | | 26 | |
| 26 | | 23 | | 27 | | 25 | | 22 | | 27 | |
| 27 | | 24 | Bonchester Bridge (TBC) | 28 | | 26 | | 23 | | 28 | |
| 28 | | 25 | | 29 | | 27 | | 24 | | 29 | |
| 29 | | 26 | | 30 | | 28 | | 25 | | 30 | |
| 30 | | 27 | | | | 29 | | 26 | | 31 | |
| 31 | | 28 | | | | 30 | | 27 | | | |
| | | 29 | Club Night | | | 31 | Club Night | 28 | Club Night | | |
| | | 30 | | | | | | 29 | | | |
| | | 31 | | | | | | 30 | | | |

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, for 3 more weeks: Alan Millar. Tel 01670 853223 mob 07734402110 :

Scribe: John Powell. Tel 0191 281 8116. . Mobile:07802 257800. jnoandlizpowell@yahoo.