



Northumbria Branch Newsletter *March 2012*

(Oops! Before I forget, your branch subscriptions are due! £5.00 please, to Simon Murray, 25 Green Close, Stannington, Northumberland, NE61 6PE, Cheques to “Norton Owners Club”.)

OK, now lets get down to basics: what is the programme for 2012?

The programme of Northumbria’s own events looks like this:

*(The hope is to announce camps marked * to other branches, and/or Roadholder.)*

Friday 30th March 2012. Brian’s trip to the Norton Factory, Donnington Park. (Thanks, Brian)

It looks like Brian has now got a full bus! Hooray! . For those going, if there is any reason you cannot come or if you are delayed at the last moment, you **must** ring Brian’s home or mobile number. This is to avoid the bus waiting and wondering. Pick-up point is the “Shoes” at 7 a.m., Friday, 30th March. Alternative is at Washington services at 7.30 **BUTTT!**, if electing to be picked up at Washington, tell Brian in advance!

Holiday Weekend 4-7 May. (Your sec and chairman will probably stop the Sat and Sunday nights, arriving early-ish on the Saturday.)*

We thought that in previous years there had been a big empty space before our first event, at Wooler in mid-June. So we have put in an event in May, at the May Day holiday weekend, a camp, at Demesne farm, Bellingham.

What do you think of this - - - -? Its quite a weekend in Bellingham! ----- look → →

- The Bellingham “Baafest” - a village music festival. For more info see <http://www.baafest.co.uk/>.
- Enfield owners club have an annual camp on the same site. They are happy for us to join them. In fact the site is being held as just a “motorcycle weekend”. And there are super rides out on both sides of the border.

There is also a bunk house at the camp site. There are three rooms sleeping 3, 4 and 8. All fully booked on the Friday night, but when last spoken to, there was still space available after that. You can reserve a whole room **IF** space available. Bedding provided. Common room and kitchen, stove, showers etc. But if you want to use this – or get B&B in the town – be quick! Demesne farm is [www. http://demesnefarmcampsite.co.uk/](http://demesnefarmcampsite.co.uk/) (Dave – sorry – but the idea of getting reductions from hotels etc for block bookings on such a weekend is without hope). Tent and one person £8/night. Tent and two £14. Bunks £17.

BEG AND PLEAD: If you are interested, could you let me know **soonest?** If enough members come to provide a welcome, we’d like to invite neighbouring branches to join us.

8-10 June. Wooler camping weekend. Simon organising free BBQ! Starting BBQ early so day visitors can ride home. Highburn House site* :

Due to trouble with interlopers 2 years back please be sure to present your NOC membership, or at least be on a Norton, or if neither, tell me (John) in advance if you are coming so the camp site is expecting you. Report in at the entrance. (continued on next page -)

Site is at the North end of the town. If coming from the South there is a sign at the top of the main street. From North, small lane to right shortly before entering Wooler, with "Highburn House" sign. .
(Note: Corbridge Steam show and Thirlstane classic vehicle show this w/e.).

15th July: Otterburn show*.

This show raises funds for the Northumbria air Ambulance and "Help for Heroes". There is a huge programme of events. Last year, a RAF parachute team, and there would have been a Spitfire fly-past on the Saturday, had weather allowed it. . Plus motorcycle stunt riders. And lots more. See www.otterburnfestival.com.

We will put up a Norton gazebo. This is so we can help **THEM**: - To make a great show for the public. Unfortunately, health and safety creep in. Our bikes and gazebo come into the show area, as exhibits. We ride the bikes round the ring and may be asked to talk about them on the public address. As exhibitors we get in for nowt. (if you come as a visitor, you pay. - £10 last year). Our gazebo will be there on the Sunday, but the show is open on the Saturday too. We need lots of **interesting** bikes.

Camping is on site for exhibitors (maybe non-exhibitors too if still space free), from midday Friday, with a separate gate, so you can enter or leave when you like. Camping fee? – free to exhibitors. If non-exhibitor, just make a donation. Food etc at the Mill or the show (day) or you'll have to look in the village in the evening.

The down side: The show must avoid claims from ambulance chasers. So there is an exhibitors' entry form procedure. So please give your sec. your entry form before **7th June** (Form enclosed). TO MEEE! Not to Wesley Turnbull, as on the form. NB If you are camping, put it on the form.

More health and safety: There is no riding round between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. So you have to arrive before 10 and leave after 4. But it is a bit unfair to leave early, since the public will have paid to see **you**. BUTT! There is plenty to do all day! You get in free! You get to bore the public about your bike!

Sorry this sounds complex – but bikers support charities. And we get to display Nortons to the general public. Please lend your support and, before the 7th June deadline, make a commitment that you will come.

9th Sept. Clive Taylor memorial ride, departing from the "Shoes" 9.30, with meal at the "shoes" for those who want it. (Please let your sec. know in advance if you plan to stay for the meal so we can book). Sorry – no meal subsidy from the branch.

22-24 Sept Joint camp with Edinburgh and Tayside Branch, Salutation Inn camp site, on A 698 between Berwick and Coldstream.*.

The site is just on the Berwick side of where the B6470 crosses the A698.

NB Also a couple of rooms available in the pub and also a static caravan with 3 rooms. To book one of these contact the Inn 01289 382291 or e-mail: phil.thewindsorcastleinn@hotmail.co.uk. If booking make sure to name the pub – they run two. If coming, please tell your sec.

(Your sec. had no idea about this camp until he saw it announced in writing! Anyhow a good idea. Also some stragglers from the planned Land's End- John'o'Groats ride might also join us.)

30th Sept (Sunday) Kamtrek treasure hunt. More details later.

Other events:

1st April. Main Club AGM, National Motorcycle Museum. Bob Tym hopes to go – John cannot.

12-13 May Scottish Bike show, modern and classic, Lanark. I said Edinburgh will be exhibiting. Which they hotly deny! Someone must have told me so, or how could I have known about the show and its date? It still could be of interest – web site said the organisers hope to make this into a Scottish Stafford show.

1-4 June National rally, near Colchester. Bob hopes to go to learn about how to run rallies. John away

29 June – 1 July. Dave Wardle will be organizing a camp at Ugthorpe Hall, Near Whitby. NOC **branch** members welcome (-numbers). Probably big BSA club meet on site. Interested parties, contact Dave May-June. Tel. 01670 820424

6-9 July NOC International rally, Skipton.

NB, as well as members who go for the full event, Brian is planning to do a “day run” down on the Saturday, to join up with “Ride-out” at the rally. Others wanting to do likewise, contact Brian.

27-29 July Dave Wardle will be organizing a camp at Coniston. We are invited, but contact Dave first!

Branch members invited, again. However pre-reservation needed. Those wishing to go contact Dave to advise you are coming, and for details about how to reserve. Tel. 01670 820424

1st w-e in August: generally the “Red Row” gathering of bikes, by Druridge bay. Tyne Valley Classic Bike club usually do their show/gathering at Stamfordham on the Sunday

20-21 Oct – Brunton Steam rally. Members usually attend.

Richard Johnston’s racing programme (on 350 manx or his version of a Dommiracer)

Bob Mac classic racing weekend at East Fortune is the same weekend as the Otterburn show. But Richard says there is racing on the Saturday, so you could have a racing day on the Sat and and “Show day “ at Otterburn on the Sunday. He’ll be there if he can sort out his mechanical crises. Also plans to race in Germany:

Oschersleben, near Magdeburg, 28-29 July and **Schotten**, near Giessen, 18-19 July. Also in Belgium: **Gedinne** 21-22 July and **Chimay**, 30th June - if you are interested in a longer ride – I’m sure we will wish him many wins!

OK what else from the AGM? (9 attended – 2 apologies for absence)

Branch Ride-outs: First ride out Wed 2nd May. Continues as the Wed after the club night. Meet at the “Shoes 6.30. Notice by e-mail to include the destination pub, so late arrivals can go straight there. We will need to text Ken and Tony. Davie Clark has volunteered to organize and lead ride-outs when John is not available. (First likely date for Davie, 6th June). – thanks, Davie’s contact details: ‘phone:0191 236 7599, mobile: 07771 882816 e-mail (which he does not check regularly!): davie.clark@tiscali.co.uk

NOC National rally 26-29 July 2013. BIG SUBJECT, can’t cover it all here. Details best left to the expanded committee. However will be 2-5 August, held at Morpeth Rugby club.
IT IS APPROVED BY THE AGM THAT WE HOLD THIS RALLY

Visit to Stuart Rankin’s Saxon Forge, May club night. **THIS “MEET” IS TO LEAVE THE “SHOES” EARLIER THAN OUR USUAL CLUB NIGHT TIME – I.E. 7.30.** Will ride back to the Shoes after the visit.

Money: We are fine - £769.91 in the bank. But need to protect a good “Float” to cover any cash flow issues while organizing National rally 2013. So, sadly we cannot use this to have a monster party (maybe after the rally?). Branch subs can stay at £5.00

Officers: Bob continues as chairman, John is secretary and is no longer “acting” (can you tell the difference?). He’ll also keep scribing. Simon Murray continues as treasurer which he can handle even though mostly in Greece (but regularly here since he has a wife and house in UK, and his bikes – order of priority?)

Additions/supporters to the committee. With the expected work on the 2013 rally and so as to keep brainstorming while Simon is away, Mick Prentice, Alan Millar and Brian Hutchinson have volunteered to join in with the committee, though not formally elected as “officers”. Does election matter? – HUGE THANKS TO ALL THREE!!

Committee meetings. There is an open invitation to up to 2 additional club members to join committee meetings if they wish – first come, first served! Committee meetings to be announced in advance by e-mail, and minutes circulated on e-mail afterwards. If you have no e-mail, sorry - - -

Christmas “Bash” provis Thurs 20th Dec – we’ll do it again. A great success but we decided not to subsidise the buffet this year. Again, need to keep a good cash balance to give a “float” over the time of the rally. It was only £5.00 per person, so we hope this does not put you off. We’ll try to arrange the furniture differently.

Web site. Bob and John to have a session so John learns how to post events into the programme. Probably in the next month or so.

Directory of local services, for web site. Brainstorm at club night?

Articles for Newsletter. A plea: if you do not just want to read about what your sec was up to on a particular date, GIVE ME NEWS. Also I started some “My First Norton” articles. I wrote up my own to get the ball rolling, then Clive Taylor mark 1 (He of the hat), gave me an article. Then it stopped. To be fair, Brian had given me an article on his bike a couple of years back, but does nobody want to boast about his first Norton????

Finally the Cabaret:

Dave Wardle demonstrated a mighty Wimshurst Machine, complete with stunning sparks. (When you wind the handle, the little buckets at the bottom fill with electricity! - Bet you never saw a bucket full of electricity before - When they are full, huge sparks leap between the two ball-things on rods at the top!!)



And a special appearance was Clive’s Commando, now back in the club, having been bought by Davie Clark, who has joined the branch. (He must have, because he paid his £5.00 subscription!). Welcome home, Commando. And, Welcome, Davie!

Enclosures:

- 1: Leaflet form Northumberland county council re. their expert riders’ scheme. They want to keep us alive.***
- 2: Miserable attempt at summarising important events from Morgan’ s guide.***
- 3: Application form for Otterburn show – return to branch secretary, not Wesley Turnbull as on form -***

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