

Northumbria Branch Newsletter, March, 2022

We had an AGM, and now you have to pay!!

(If you joined recently, you may not have realised you have to pay, because we had a “free year” because of Covid.) You now are required by our treasurer to pay to the branch the sum of £5.00, as we all are. Our treasurer is SCOTTISH, and if you do not pay, he will inflict upon you a Scottish Curse, the longest and most terrifying in history. He may even curse you a little bit if you send him a cheque and do not pay by bank transfer (Important: put in your name as a reference). Pay to Norton Owners Club Northumbria Branch, sort code 30-93-55 A/C no 01241950. If you really cannot do this, he may accept a cheque just this once. (Contact details at the end). The curse itself is so long and fierce that it is attached at the end of this newsletter. Originally directed at Border Reivers, which sounds a bit like Northumbrian motorcyclists.

What else happened in the meeting?–

Well, quite a lot. It is **nearly** all on the minutes of the meeting Simon sent by email. I send a printed version of this newsletter by snail mail to two members, and for you I will include printed minutes. But the minutes left a few dates to be settled, and Simon has now sent a “year planner” in which some of the dates have now been decided. This is also at the end of this newsletter, AFTER the terrible Scottish curse. (Our 2 postal subscribers – a donation would be nice to cover postage, over the £5 membership, for you two gents. Typically 4 newsletter per year.)

Your foolish scribe has agreed to take on the job of maintaining the web site, which members do not seem to look at anyhow. However outsiders have occasionally found us via the web site, and even joined. It contains all my newsletters. So it will continue on a maintenance basis. – newsletters, some pics of members bikes, BUT our sec is not too happy about putting our events on the site. It is open to the public and we do not want too many strangers/interlopers. The background to this may be that some years ago a camp site owner got upset with us due to a large influx of bikes which had nothing to do with us. So watch out for emails, and very soon there will be a facebook page, members only.

For the web site, see www.nortonownersclub.org, then “branches”, then “Northumbria”.

RE. pics of some of our members’ bikes. I will weed out old ones. If you want your bike in there send me a pic, about and 2 lines max description, and make sure the number plate is not visible.

Another job goes to Derek Turnbull, who is going to be Master of Rides. Watch out for announcements.

We will also re-institute the above-mentioned Facebook page, to be operated by Simon Hadden.

Note also Clive Taylor Memorial Run Sun 8th May (not in the minutes).

For an outing, the “Crown” at Humshagh has a bike gathering (and I gather that old bikes are the theme), 2nd Sunday of the month, starting some time in April. Judging by the car version on the first Sunday, they gather between 11.30 and 12.00

And so, moving quickly on -

An article from Simon Hadden

Poor old Victor Meldrew is dated now, but he’s the chap who was plunged into hopeless situations, week after week, on TV. In every tale, he became unbelievably frustrated and blurted out “I don’t believe it!”. Cue the canned laughter.

After playing with a Norton kickstart, I could wholly empathise with Victor. As purchased, my ES2 came with a kickstart lever that didn’t return to its upright position after deployment. An easy fix, or so I thought, just replace the kickstart return spring.

A new spring was duly obtained, but installation was a problem. Although its diameter was correct, it seemed too short axially. Once one end had been correctly located, the spring had to be grossly distorted axially before the other end could be located in its appropriate position. The odd thing was that it was definitely the correct part number and looked to be of the correct dimensions.

Eventually I managed to get it installed, replaced the housing, and tried out the kickstart lever. A long, swinging kick, TWANG, and the kickstart lever stayed down. Cue the canned laughter.

Obviously, there was something amiss, but what? The previous owners of this poor bike had left evidence of their ham-fistedness all over the machine, from the headlamp shell to the rear numberplate. At a loss for a solution to the kickstart problem, I consulted the NOC online forum for single-cylinder machines. If you don’t know it, this forum is reached via the NOC website and can be searched using keywords. I’ve found it very helpful, particularly for the solutions to conundrums.

Having searched for “Kickstart ES2”, I read that my gearbox should be (and is) a GB101 Laydown gearbox. The twins used a GB8 Laydown gearbox. Both variants used the same inner cases but the kickstart shaft, bush and spring differed. The kickstart bush and the kickstart shaft come in 2 different lengths.

In other words, the shaft and bush must match, or the spring won’t fit properly. I had the correct (long) shaft, together with the wrong (short) bush. No wonder the spring wouldn’t fit properly. You can see the different shafts and bushes in the accompanying picture (courtesy of Peter McDermott, on the forum).

Having installed the correct bush, the spring fitted without too much effort and has functioned correctly since. Victor would approve, I think.



And – from our esteemed secretary, Simon -

Norton Dominator 99 – BVK 348B



So, it started with an email from Sean Mulloy about not being able to attend the AGM and mentioning there was a Norton Dominator being advertised at his local auction and ended with myself and Graham Orr heading to Boldon Auction Galleries to look at the bike which was being auctioned off on the 2nd March. The bike is advertised as:

A Norton Dominator 600cc Motorbike, declared manufactured 1961, mileage 17,529, matching engine and frame numbers, with extensive paperwork and enamel badges.

When we got there, the bike was proudly sitting at the front of the auction house being admired by visitors to the showroom. It seemed as if the bike hadn't been used for quite a while as it was very dusty. Graham tinkered with it and the auctioneer then said we could try and start it – the battery was charged, but even after flooding the carb, it failed to fire into life, although it felt as if there was good compression as it was kicked over.

Then the auctioneer said we could have a look at the history file and we were presented with a huge wad of documents, including the original log book and spare receipts etc. When we looked, it was interesting to see that the original owner had purchased the bike from 'Kens' and the owner was a Mr R **Twinn**! Well, we thought that is not a common surname, so I rang our Mr Dave Twinn and asked if the bike was his dad's – but no it wasn't, it was however Dave's cousin! Robert Twinn lived in Fencehouses when he bought the bike and he is now over 80 years old living in Stanhope! I took a few pictures of the bike and the original log book and emailed them to Dave who said he will let his cousin see them when he next sees him. It's a small Norton world.



It seems that the bike is being sold by the estate of someone who has passed relatively recently. All we know is that his name was John and I think he was the second owner having purchased the bike in 1982. Post script – The bike sold for £5,500 at the auction, including the auctioneer's premium and VAT, means that it sold for £6,655.

Anti- wet sumping tap with cut-out switch, author Simon Hadden, again!!!

(Fighting wet sumping seems to be a theme just now – but there is another cure: ride the bike more often! – scribe)

As purchased, my ES2 had a tendency to wet sump. After a few days of standing, half the contents of the oil tank would have leaked into the sump.

A way around this is to fit a tap into the oil feed pipe. This can be closed when the engine is not running. I've always been uneasy about such a tap. I'm sure I'd forget to turn it on at some point, which wouldn't do much good for the engine.

Some years ago, a German pal of mine, showed me an oil tap on his Matchless twin. It had an electrical connection, that disabled the magneto when the oil supply to the engine was shut off. The kit had been relatively easy to fit, as the magneto on his twin featured a connection to a kill-switch on the handlebars. In effect, the oil tap operated like a second kill-switch.

Unfortunately the magnetos on many singles don't feature this connection and I never thought any more about this, at least not until the leaky ES2 arrived on the scene.

Such a valve would be ideal, I thought. An Internet search highlighted a similar solution for singles, that used a modified points cap to enable a magneto cut-out.

The first picture shows the interlocked valve installed, with the red lever being turned through 90° to open or close the valve. When the valve is closed, it makes a connection to earth and disables the magneto.

Arrangements at the magneto are shown in the second picture and the wiring is shown in the accompanying diagram. It's all very simple – what could possibly go wrong?

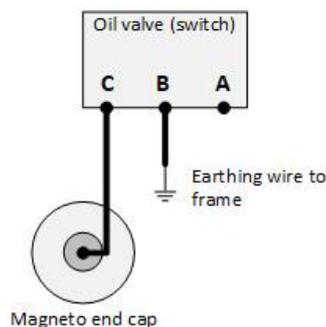
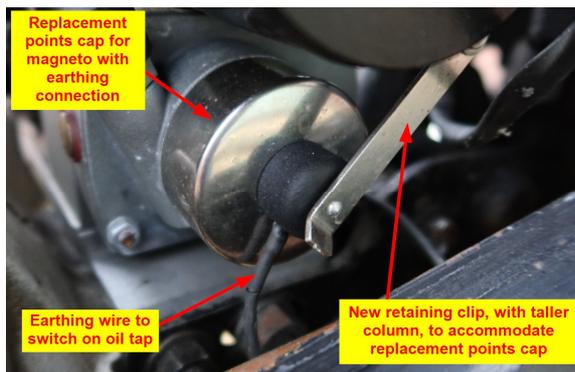
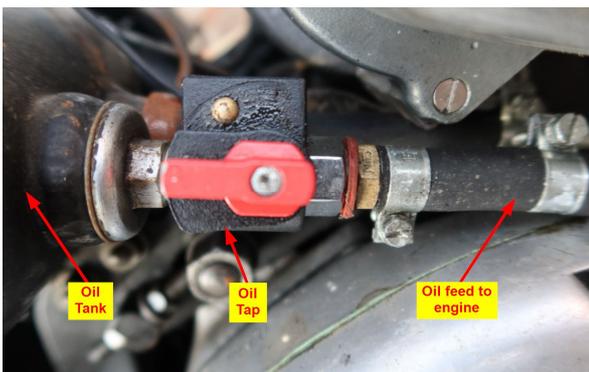
Well, a few things are worth noting before fitting this particular tap.

- If the valve is fitted directly to an earthed component (such as the oil tank), then there's no real need to connect an earth connection to the switch. The magneto will be earthed via the valve's body and then via the oil tank, connected to the frame. However, it's little effort to add the wire for a "belt-and-braces" earthing connection.
- The switch contains three screwed connectors, but these are rather flimsy. Each screwed connection had been soldered to a thin terminal on the switch, without any reinforcement. When one pushed down on any of the screws with a screwdriver, a shear force was applied to the relevant soldered joint, which very soon gave way. I ended up opening the switch, removing the screwed connection blocks and soldering the wires directly to the switch's terminals. Fortunately, the switch has a cover held in place by a screw, so it can be removed and put back.
- Care should be taken to ensure that the switch faces outwards, when fully screwed on to the oil tank. A spacer might be required, and PTFE tape is helpful to ensure oil-tight seals at either side of the tap.
- BSP adaptors might be needed to fit the tap into an existing oil line.

The tap and magneto points cap available from:

[//www.themagnetoguys.co.uk](http://www.themagnetoguys.co.uk) and [//shop.kingpincomponents.co.uk](http://shop.kingpincomponents.co.uk)

Other similar taps with cut-out switches are available from websites such as www.feked.com



The Continuing (and losing?) campaign against the scribe's gremlins

Ride bike to Jan club night. Misfire again, but only if I open the throttle a bit. Return early in case of total breakdown – ok if below 50 mph on the flat. Faster gives misfire.

Home, and think. Tried everything else. Have previously had trouble with capacitors breaking down and have heard of coils breaking down under load too. Replace both with spares – capacitor from NOC. Previous capacitor of unknown age, Honda make, fit by NOC branch in Ottawa in 2006.

Sounds rejuvenated in yard. Set out North towards Ashington. Running beautifully. Engine now warm and try open throttle on dual carriageway, S. of Annitsford roundabout. Misfire, and engine dies. Stuck at edge of busy dual carriageway. Eventually for some reason get roar of life. So, slowly round roundabout to return. Engine dies. Am at edge of a footpath and can just push bike off the road but cannot get up steep slope of the path, or park bike on its side stand due to the slope. Think to call Lizzie, but a car stops and a

young man helps push the bike up the sloping path onto the level. Become a roadside workshop. Fuel? Remove and check main jet and pilot jet, and dump fuel from carburettor bowl. Little arm in points sticking? Slightly slack off tiny nut. Electric failure? – measure 6v arriving at coil. AOK, I am on 6v. Check spark at plugs. It is there but looks weak. Eventually despair and, ignominy, call Carole Nash and get rescued. Driver is a bikes man, new bikes and old. Suggests NOC capacitor, unknown make without markings, could be duff. Made in China? Has had occasion where he blew out 2 capacitors in a couple of days.

Check at home – still 6v at coil but bike dead. Go to Honda shop to try for equivalent to the old Ottawa capacitor. Return with Honda capacitor. Fit capacitor. Start. Sounds great – exhaust actually quieter too – better combustion? Start putting tools into battery box (piece of camper mat laid over battery to insulate from tools). Notice broken connection at battery terminal. These are small gel batteries like for domestic cordless vacuum cleaners etc, with spade terminals. To avoid the spades possibly backing off due to vibration, I had lashed them into position with baby cable ties. One connector is the type with a branch (second tab) to allow for attaching 2 wires (pic below). The tab had snapped off and had presumably been held in contact by the cable tie, producing a rattling contact. (I hate spade connectors). Replace “tab” connector with big fat yellow one with end of all wires stuffed in the same hole and squished.

Was the NOC capacitor crap? Temporarily wire it in and the bike starts. Test ride up military road, with Honda capacitor fit, include some bursts with wide open throttle. AOK. CAN I NOW GO TO THE CZECH RALLY??? (Gremlins, where are you hiding?)



Spade connector with tab

And here is the terrifying Scottish Curse of the bishop of Glasgow:

"I curse their head and all the hairs of their head; I curse their face, their brain, their mouth, their nose, their tongue, their teeth, their forehead, their shoulders, their breast, their heart, their stomach, their back, their womb, their arms, their legs, their hands, their feet, and every part of their body, from the top of their head to the soles of their feet, before and behind, within and without."

"I curse them going and I curse them riding; I curse them standing and I curse them sitting; I curse them eating and I curse them drinking; I curse them rising, and I curse them lying; I curse them at home, I curse them away from home; I curse them within the house, I curse them outside of the house; I curse their wives, their children, and their servants who participate in their deeds. I (bring ill wishes upon) their crops, their cattle, their wool, their sheep, their horses, their swine, their geese, their hens, and all their livestock. I (bring ill wishes upon) their halls, their chambers, their kitchens, their stanchions, their barns, their cowsheds, their barnyards, their cabbage patches, their plows, their harrows, and the goods and houses that are necessary for their sustenance and welfare."

"May all the malevolent wishes and curses ever known, since the beginning of the world, to this hour, light on them. May the malediction of God, that fell upon Lucifer and all his fellows, that cast them from the high Heaven to the deep hell, light upon them."

"May the fire and the sword that stopped Adam from the gates of Paradise, stop them from the glory of Heaven, until they forebear, and make amends."

"May the evil that fell upon cursed Cain, when he slew his brother Abel, needlessly, fall on them for the needless slaughter that they commit daily."

"May the malediction that fell upon all the world, man and beast, and all that ever took life, when all were drowned by the flood of Noah, except Noah and his ark, fall upon them and drown them, man and beast, and make this realm free of them, for their wicked sins."

"May the thunder and lightning which rained down upon Sodom and Gomorra and all the lands surrounding them, and burned them for their vile sins, rain down upon them and burn them for their open sins. May the evil and confusion that fell on the Gigantis for their oppression and pride in building the Tower of Babylon, confound them and all their works, for their open callous disregard and oppression."

"May all the plagues that fell upon Pharoah and his people of Egypt, their lands, crops and cattle, fall upon them, their equipment, their places, their lands, their crops and livestock."

"May the waters of the Tweed and other waters which they use, drown them, as the Red Sea drowned King Pharoah and the people of Egypt, preserving God's people of Israel."

"May the earth open, split and cleave, and swallow them straight to hell, as it swallowed cursed Dathan and Abiron, who disobeyed Moses and the command of God."

"May the wild fire that reduced Thore and his followers to two-hundred-fifty in number, and others from 14,000 to 7,000 at anys, usurping against Moses and Aaron, servants of God, suddenly burn and consume them daily, for opposing the commands of God and Holy Church."

"May the malediction that suddenly fell upon fair Absolom, riding through the wood against his father, King David, when the branches of a tree knocked him from his horse and hanged him by the hair, fall upon these untrue Scotsmen and hang them the same way, that all the world may see."

"May the malediction that fell upon Nebuchadnezzar's lieutenant, Olifenus, making war and savagery upon true christian men; the malediction that fell upon Judas, Pilate, Herod, and the Jews that crucified Our Lord; and all the plagues and troubles that fell on the city of Jerusalem therefore, and upon Simon Magus for his treachery, bloody Nero, Ditius Magcensius, Olibrius, Julianus Apostita and the rest of the cruel tyrants who slew and murdered Christ's holy servants, fall upon them for their cruel tyranny and murder of Christian people."

"And may all the vengeance that ever was taken since the world began, for open sins, and all the plagues and pestilence that ever fell on man or beast, fall on them for their openly evil ways, senseless slaughter and shedding of innocent blood."

"I sever and part them from the church of God, and deliver them immediately to the devil of hell, as the Apostle Paul delivered Corinth. I bar the entrance of all places they come to, for divine service and ministration of the sacraments of holy church, except the sacrament of infant baptism, only; and I forbid all churchmen to hear their confession or to absolve them of their sins, until they are first humbled / subjugated by this curse."

"I forbid all christian men or women to have any company with them, eating, drinking, speaking, praying, lying, going, standing, or in any other deed-doing, under the pain of deadly sin."

"I discharge all bonds, acts, contracts, oaths, made to them by any persons, out of loyalty, kindness, or personal duty, so long as they sustain this cursing, by which no man will be bound to them, and this will be binding on all men."

"I take from them, and cast down all the good deeds that ever they did, or shall do, until they rise from this cursing."

"I declare them excluded from all matins, masses, evening prayers, funerals or other prayers, on book or bead (rosary); of all pigimages and alms deeds done, or to be done in holy church or be christian people, while this curse is in effect."

"And, finally, I condemn them perpetually to the deep pit of hell, there to remain with Lucifer and all his fellows, and their bodies to the gallows of Burrow moor, first to be hanged, then ripped and torn by dogs, swine, and other wild beasts, abominable to all the world. And their candle (light of their life) goes from your sight, as may their souls go from the face of God, and their good reputation from the world, until they forebear their open sins, aforesaid, and rise from this terrible cursing and make satisfaction and penance."

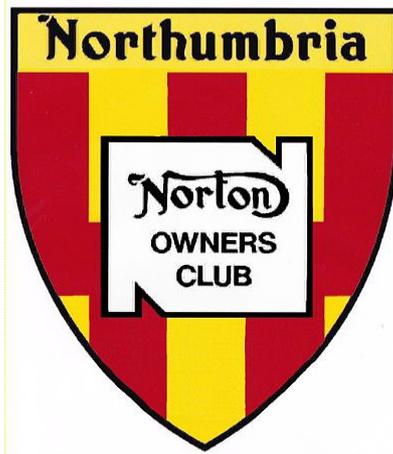
Officers - - -

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: John Powell. 0191 281 8116. Mob 07802 257800. jnoandlizpowell@yahoo.co.uk



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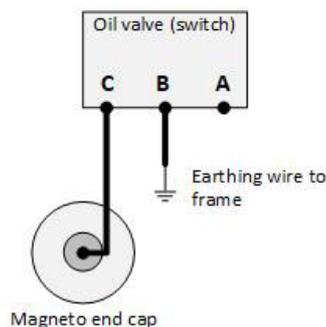
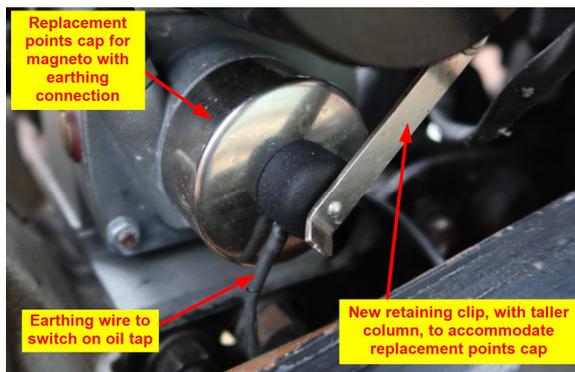
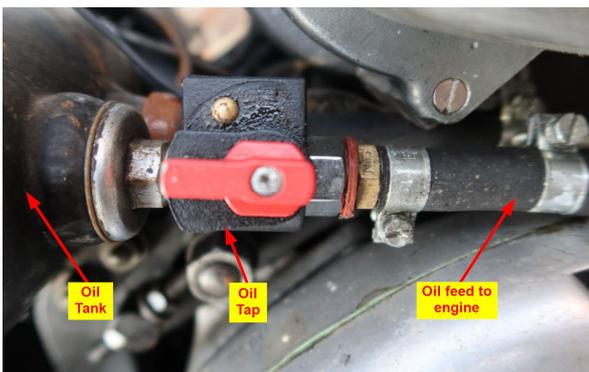
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Ride bike to Jan club night. Misfire again, but only if I open the throttle a bit. Return early in case of total breakdown – ok if below 50 mph on the flat. Faster gives misfire.

Home, and think. Tried everything else. Have previously had trouble with capacitors breaking down and have heard of coils breaking down under load too. Replace both with spares – capacitor from NOC. Previous capacitor of unknown age, Honda make, fit by NOC branch in Ottawa in 2006.

Sounds rejuvenated in yard. Set out North towards Ashington. Running beautifully. Engine now warm and try open throttle on dual carriageway, S. of Annitsford roundabout. Misfire, and engine dies. Stuck at edge of busy dual carriageway. Eventually for some reason get roar of life. So, slowly round roundabout to return. Engine dies. Am at edge of a footpath and can just push bike off the road but cannot get up steep slope of the path, or park bike on its side stand due to the slope. Think to call Lizzie, but a car stops and a

young man helps push the bike up the sloping path onto the level. Become a roadside workshop. Fuel? Remove and check main jet and pilot jet, and dump fuel from carburettor bowl. Little arm in points sticking? Slightly slack off tiny nut. Electric failure? – measure 6v arriving at coil. AOK, I am on 6v. Check spark at plugs. It is there but looks weak. Eventually despair and, ignominy, call Carole Nash and get rescued. Driver is a bikes man, new bikes and old. Suggests NOC capacitor, unknown make without markings, could be duff. Made in China? Has had occasion where he blew out 2 capacitors in a couple of days.

Check at home – still 6v at coil but bike dead. Go to Honda shop to try for equivalent to the old Ottawa capacitor. Return with Honda capacitor. Fit capacitor. Start. Sounds great – exhaust actually quieter too – better combustion? Start putting tools into battery box (piece of camper mat laid over battery to insulate from tools). Notice broken connection at battery terminal. These are small gel batteries like for domestic cordless vacuum cleaners etc, with spade terminals. To avoid the spades possibly backing off due to vibration, I had lashed them into position with baby cable ties. One connector is the type with a branch (second tab) to allow for attaching 2 wires (pic below). The tab had snapped off and had presumably been held in contact by the cable tie, producing a rattling contact. (I hate spade connectors). Replace “tab” connector with big fat yellow one with end of all wires stuffed in the same hole and squished.

Was the NOC capacitor crap? Temporarily wire it in and the bike starts. Test ride up military road, with Honda capacitor fit, include some bursts with wide open throttle. AOK. CAN I NOW GO TO THE CZECH RALLY?? (Gremlins, where are you hiding?)



Spade connector with tab

And here is the terrifying Scottish Curse of the bishop of Glasgow:

"I curse their head and all the hairs of their head; I curse their face, their brain, their mouth, their nose, their tongue, their teeth, their forehead, their shoulders, their breast, their heart, their stomach, their back, their womb, their arms, their legs, their hands, their feet, and every part of their body, from the top of their head to the soles of their feet, before and behind, within and without."

"I curse them going and I curse them riding; I curse them standing and I curse them sitting; I curse them eating and I curse them drinking; I curse them rising, and I curse them lying; I curse them at home, I curse them away from home; I curse them within the house, I curse them outside of the house; I curse their wives, their children, and their servants who participate in their deeds. I (bring ill wishes upon) their crops, their cattle, their wool, their sheep, their horses, their swine, their geese, their hens, and all their livestock. I (bring ill wishes upon) their halls, their chambers, their kitchens, their stanchions, their barns, their cowsheds, their barnyards, their cabbage patches, their plows, their harrows, and the goods and houses that are necessary for their sustenance and welfare."

"May all the malevolent wishes and curses ever known, since the beginning of the world, to this hour, light on them. May the malediction of God, that fell upon Lucifer and all his fellows, that cast them from the high Heaven to the deep hell, light upon them."

"May the fire and the sword that stopped Adam from the gates of Paradise, stop them from the glory of Heaven, until they forebear, and make amends."

"May the evil that fell upon cursed Cain, when he slew his brother Abel, needlessly, fall on them for the needless slaughter that they commit daily."

"May the malediction that fell upon all the world, man and beast, and all that ever took life, when all were drowned by the flood of Noah, except Noah and his ark, fall upon them and drown them, man and beast, and make this realm free of them, for their wicked sins."

"May the thunder and lightning which rained down upon Sodom and Gomorra and all the lands surrounding them, and burned them for their vile sins, rain down upon them and burn them for their open sins. May the evil and confusion that fell on the Gigantis for their oppression and pride in building the Tower of Babylon, confound them and all their works, for their open callous disregard and oppression."

"May all the plagues that fell upon Pharoah and his people of Egypt, their lands, crops and cattle, fall upon them, their equipment, their places, their lands, their crops and livestock."

"May the waters of the Tweed and other waters which they use, drown them, as the Red Sea drowned King Pharoah and the people of Egypt, preserving God's people of Israel."

"May the earth open, split and cleave, and swallow them straight to hell, as it swallowed cursed Dathan and Abiron, who disobeyed Moses and the command of God."

"May the wild fire that reduced Thore and his followers to two-hundred-fifty in number, and others from 14,000 to 7,000 at anys, usurping against Moses and Aaron, servants of God, suddenly burn and consume them daily, for opposing the commands of God and Holy Church."

"May the malediction that suddenly fell upon fair Absolom, riding through the wood against his father, King David, when the branches of a tree knocked him from his horse and hanged him by the hair, fall upon these untrue Scotsmen and hang them the same way, that all the world may see."

"May the malediction that fell upon Nebuchadnezzar's lieutenant, Olifenus, making war and savagery upon true christian men; the malediction that fell upon Judas, Pilate, Herod, and the Jews that crucified Our Lord; and all the plagues and troubles that fell on the city of Jerusalem therefore, and upon Simon Magus for his treachery, bloody Nero, Ditius Magcensius, Olibrius, Julianus Apostita and the rest of the cruel tyrants who slew and murdered Christ's holy servants, fall upon them for their cruel tyranny and murder of Christian people."

"And may all the vengeance that ever was taken since the world began, for open sins, and all the plagues and pestilence that ever fell on man or beast, fall on them for their openly evil ways, senseless slaughter and shedding of innocent blood."

"I sever and part them from the church of God, and deliver them immediately to the devil of hell, as the Apostle Paul delivered Corinth. I bar the entrance of all places they come to, for divine service and ministration of the sacraments of holy church, except the sacrament of infant baptism, only; and I forbid all churchmen to hear their confession or to absolve them of their sins, until they are first humbled / subjugated by this curse."

"I forbid all christian men or women to have any company with them, eating, drinking, speaking, praying, lying, going, standing, or in any other deed-doing, under the pain of deadly sin."

"I discharge all bonds, acts, contracts, oaths, made to them by any persons, out of loyalty, kindness, or personal duty, so long as they sustain this cursing, by which no man will be bound to them, and this will be binding on all men."

"I take from them, and cast down all the good deeds that ever they did, or shall do, until they rise from this cursing."

"I declare them excluded from all matins, masses, evening prayers, funerals or other prayers, on book or bead (rosary); of all pigimages and alms deeds done, or to be done in holy church or be christian people, while this curse is in effect."

"And, finally, I condemn them perpetually to the deep pit of hell, there to remain with Lucifer and all his fellows, and their bodies to the gallows of Burrow moor, first to be hanged, then ripped and torn by dogs, swine, and other wild beasts, abominable to all the world. And their candle (light of their life) goes from your sight, as may their souls go from the face of God, and their good reputation from the world, until they forebear their open sins, aforesaid, and rise from this terrible cursing and make satisfaction and penance."

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: John Powell. 0191 281 8116. Mob 07802 257800. jnoandlizpowell@yahoo.co.uk

