



Northumbria Branch Totally Rambling July 2022 mid-season Newsletter

Stop Press!

Jen, the wife of Richard (the master-fettler and amazing racer) has been accused of EATING TOO MANY PIES!! It is alleged that this resulted in the wheel coming off the classic sidecar in which she was riding, and which Simon (the Hadden one) had been classically driving (from the motorcycle side). They all slid to a halt, and nobody was hurt. As to who accused Jen of eating too many pies, your scribe's lips are sealed, but, secretly, he rather thinks that if Jen ate just a few MORE pies, she would look even nicer than she does already!

Stop even More Press!

Bob, our chairman, has called Carole Nash twice in a day – and from different countries. Is this a record? On the German Autobahn, a puncture, and he was not going to do his tyre repair stunt on the hard shoulder with traffic whizzing past at Mach 2.5. And, again, it was Carole Nash, just after crossing the Dutch border, when the trusty Commando became less trusty and started producing horrifying NOISES! The collection service was fine, until Bob had to persuade the collector not to take the Commando to a motorcycle workshop, which would not have had a clue about Commandos, and to take it to the ferry at Ijmuiden instead. But sense prevailed and the bike was pushed onto the boat, - and off at the other end, where Richard the ace fettler (above mentioned) arrived with a trailer.

Previously Ginetta, who is NOT a big pie-eater, and who rides behind Bob, had arrived at the Czech rally with her arm all wrapped up, which was the result of a low speed miscalculation by Bob, with respect to some gravel by the roadside (there but for the grace of God - - -) Said event had also necessitated a detour via Linz, where resides a seller of British bike bits, who provided Bob with a replacement for the, now knackered, gear lever. And Bob and Ginetta are still married!

(Footnote re the place name "Ijmuiden": It appears that nobody who is not a local can pronounce this place name correctly. Your scribe was told that during World War 2, the Dutch resistance got Germans (pretending to be Dutchmen) to pronounce "Ijmuiden", If not a real Dutchman, they go it wrong, with unfortunate consequences for the German.)

The Wooler weekend

Well, it just happened. And this year we lacked the nice old combination which Simon (still the Hadden one) brought last year so we could drive it ROUND and ROUND and ROUND the camp site at 9 p.m. Its absence was a result of the above pie-induced incident. All were happy. The traditional rain appeared during the barbecue, leading to cries by Judy of "Deploy the Screen!", at which point the roll-up screen for the front of the gazebo was unrolled and held aloft by volunteers, above the catering. And here is a picture of them doing it.



We also acquired two new members/victims – being Keith and Varne. And your scribe has printed so many pictures of campers at Wooler over the years, he decided to print something else this time. Camp site residents. (Barbecued duck was not offered at the barbecue because the feathers get in your teeth)



There was also the Clive Taylor Memorial Ride

And – nothing went wrong on this occasion either! Unlike last year, with people getting lost, an exhaust pipe trying to detach itself, etc. Your scribe was the lead rider, and therefore this success was entirely due to his excellent leadership. A very good turn out. Good weather, and, compared to last year, there was a great deal less idleness, as a respectable number climbed up to Ros Castle to admire the view. Simon seems to want to institute this route as the regular route of this particular ride, and, even if a bit repetitive, it is through particularly attractive countryside. The toast to Dr Clive Taylor was duly drunk.

With so many new members, many will ask, “who was Dr Clive Taylor?”. OK, here goes –

Clive was our branch secretary, following Dave Wardle. A small, slight man, built a bit like an elf, with hardly the weight to kick over his Commando. He was a Doctor, but of philosophy, a PhD, and he headed a lab at the old Newcastle General Hospital, working on respiratory diseases. Respiratory diseases?? – it suddenly clicked: “You Study snot!!!” – agreed – it was a snot laboratory! He was also a huge nature lover – wild flowers, little furry animals and he was an enemy of invasive species. I once accused him of spending his spare time helping hedgehogs across motorways.

It was when he, Bob Tym and your scribe were riding to Ardfern, in Argyll, for a weekend on the scribe’s boat that he was killed by a car coming the other way which suddenly swerved into the oncoming traffic right in front of him. The closing speed was probably 80+ miles per hour. There is more to tell about the

event, if you get me or Bob drunk enough. There is a bit more on the web site – look at www.nortonownersclub.org, then branches, then Northumbria, then newsletters, then 2 postings – Jul.2011 contains my piece on Clive and the entry, “Obituary”, Bob’s.

We did the first memorial ride after the event, in early September, by this route, on a lovely day when all the heather was in bloom, and it had been the scribe’s hope that we could make the event a “regular” in memory of our friend. And, thanks to all the loyal supporters of the ride, it seems to have come to pass.

Ride-outs:/rides-out?

Simon has been hyper-active in organising “ride-outs”, and Derek Turnbull has been roped in as an additional ride out organiser. It is not possible to report on all of them – the scribe managed to join some, but these rides keep things going in various directions, even to an ice cream parlour. The last big one was to Alston, or near Alston to meet Cumbrians – resulting in no Cumbrians, but we did get apologies for absence, so Cumbrians **Do Care**, and we must try again some time.

Aln Valley railway:

I have heard rumour of a rather disappointing turn-out by the general public at the last event, but previously it has been very busy, so Tony and Danny must be hoping for better things. The railway has also been selling sleepers to help fund the railway project (Scribe owns 2, but is not sure which ones). There is a further gathering, an open day, on the 24th of July – lots of old vehicles would be very welcome to enhance the display,

“International Rally”, in the Czech republic.

Attended by your scribe, with Lizzie on the back, Bob and Ginetta, and Gary and Amy from Northumbria. With only the 6 of us from here, I cannot justify a long report. But, if you have the time, and, yes, it can cost a bit, these are the best rallies of all. People from all over Europe and sometimes beyond. LOTS of bikes, and the chance to sample new places and scenery. I mean, we all know about Prague, but who has heard of Telc (Pronounced Telch)? A lovely walled town, where innumerable Nortons were on display on the market square – well – it was even bigger than a square. And with real interest from huge crowds, loudspeakers speaking loudly in a medley of languages about the bikes, and an attempt to (very noisily) ride a Manx Norton back on forth through a path cleared through the people, at a controlled speed on rough cobbles – resulting in lost control and one rider hitting the deck in a very public manner. But these rallies are also an excuse for a tour. Each of our bikes took different routes, and there it too much to report here. But here are 3 pics –

The display at Telc



View of Bob and Genetta, in Telc, from the top of a very high tower.



And here, the “Bastei”.



(Your scribe just had to divert to revisit the Bastei, near Dresden. He last visited the Bastei when the factory director of the People’s Non-stick Coating Company of the, then, German (not very) Democratic

Republic, took him there for a “jolly”). (I had better be careful here – this company was in Dresden, visited regularly by the scribe when Putin was chief KGB man there, and Putin probably has all manner of incriminating recordings and tapes.)

And, for the misogynists amongst us, 2 loo doors from a coffee stop in Bavaria:



Next rally: at the Southern tip of Sweden – less mileage than this year’s. Visits to Hanseatic cities possible en route – Bremen, Hamburg, Luebeck, Rostock, and also Copenhagen. Plus maybe a pause in Holland amongst a people who somehow manage to be totally relaxed, and who treat life with the lightest touch, and where nevertheless, things seem to be run totally efficiently.

John Park’s Garage.

John keeps turning up at the door, begging coffee, usually when your scribe is wandering around in his underpants. There is much activity in John’s garage. He is keen to get it mentioned in the newsletter. Unfortunately a telcon did not reach him, probably he is away, so the full report on his garage will follow in the next edition. (Scribe now going to be away)

(Richard the king of fettlers is a major supporter of John and his motorcycles). John has also been under the medics, resulting him in now being “side valve” replacing “underside valve” (as opposed to “overhead”) like the way most of us are built. He’s still strengthening up from the Op. but doing well.

The “Kamtrek”

This event has been put back to late September, probably the 25th. During the Wooler gathering, it became clear that a lot of members did know what it is.

We actually inherited this event. It was originally organised by the “Seaton Sluice Hells Angels (geriatric) Society (or SHAGS), and is a kind of treasure hunt. It is open to all comers, on bikes new or old, but it has a sting in its tail – the winner has to organise next year’s – you definitely want to come in 2nd!. Your scribe has been stitched up so many times that he has organised three. But it is actually fair – we cannot always enjoy things without doing our bit as well, to make them happen (preach-preach).

Well, NOC people won a couple and the SHAGS people then seemed to have dropped out. So we inherited the event.

Your scribe thinks it the most enjoyable event of the year. The trouble is that Lizzie on the pillion gets competitive and tries to win!

Each event is run on a theme (Clive Taylor once did one taking us all around the disused rural railway stations of Northumberland). The clues are found at various places on the map, and the locations of the clues are given out ahead of time so you can work out your route. (Normally you only have to do a portion

of the clues, so you can meander at will). Actual clues are given out on the day. A couple of social meet-ups are programmed in. There is a trophy (a beautifully mounted knackered camshaft).

The event has been suffering from diminished support of late, and if we do not support it, we lose it. Also it is quite a big job for the organiser to set out the route (though this does justify some rural rides).

So – it is open to all, so not only come yourself, but invite any mates you have with 2-wheeled vehicles to join in. And what a great way to wind up the season!!!

Next???

A camping weekend in Cumbria, looking for Cumbrians – 13-15 July. Details will come from Simon

Aln Valley Railway open day – 24th July

Camping weekend with Scots, Yetholm. Need to book in to the camp site. Town Yetholm. Google Kirkfield Caravan Park and you can now log in to book.

Said Kamtrek, probably 25th September

And many rides as posted on email

And, of course, club nights.

Officers - - -

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

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

Money scrounger: Alan Millar. Tel 01670 853223 mob 07734402110 better text than e-mail, though e-mail is a_m_millar@hotmail.com

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