

# VIBRATIONS!



**A look back to 2013 and the Triumph Owners take the Best Club Stand award at the BMF Show.**

## September 2020



**Triumph Owners M.C.C.  
Northants Branch**




# Scribblings

We have had three meetings at the Crown since lockdown eased. For the first two the weather was warm and dry, so we were able to make use of the car park (joined on the second occasion by a contingent from the local scooter club). The third meeting was wet so we had use of the lounge – only 12 people that night but it would have been difficult to get many more in the room whilst maintaining the pub's social distancing requirements.

We must wish then that the club nights over the next couple of months stay warm enough to use the car park, as having a full attendance when indoors could be a problem for as long as COVID-19 does its best to restrict our lifestyles.

The delayed branch AGM will be on 16<sup>th</sup> September. We hope, with your permission, to have a truncated meeting; lasting long enough to accept the Officers' reports for the 2019-2020 branch year and to elect a committee to keep us running for another six months. The idea being that we will resume our regular AGM cycle, with awarding of trophies, propositions, etc, in March 2021 as per the constitution.



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## New Members

Welcome to the following new Branch members, who have joined the branch in the last couple of months.

Philip Evans of Rushden  
David Harding of Rushden  
Jonathan Mellish of Wootton

Alan Roberts of Rushden  
Philip Watson of Northampton



From the 2019 Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride.

This year's event will be on 27<sup>th</sup> September, but not in the usual format. See the events list on the next page.

## Northants Branch Info and News

	<b>Events List</b>
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, Hardingsstone from 7.30pm.
5 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> September	<i>Trifest France (TOGA) – postponed until 2021</i>
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Wrinklies Run.</b> <u>Depart AJ Cycles, Rushden Lakes Shopping Centre</u> at 10.30am for a circular tour lasting 1½ to 2 hours.
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Branch Annual General Meeting</b> at The Crown, Hardingsstone. The AGM starts at 7.45pm in the back garden. Please get there early to get a drink before we get down to business. See back page for details.
Sat-Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> September	<i>MCN Festival of Motorcycling – cancelled. All tickets valid for the 2021 event in May.</i>
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Wrinklies Run.</b> Depart Pure Triumph, Wellingborough at 11am for a circular tour lasting 1½ to 2 hours.
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Distinguished Gentleman's' Ride.</b> Raising money for prostate cancer, and mental health and suicide prevention programmes. No mass rideout this year, details of alternative format here: <a href="https://www.gentlemansride.com/blog/dgr-2020-update">https://www.gentlemansride.com/blog/dgr-2020-update</a>
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Club Night at ???</b> The original plan to hold this at Chelveston is cancelled as the pub has another event on that night.  An alternative venue is being checked out. If this is will be advertised to those branch members living in the north and east of the country who find it difficult getting to Hardingsstone.
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	<i>Ride To The Wall - cancelled</i>
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, Hardingsstone from 7.30pm.
Fri-Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> October	Skegfest – still on at the time of writing. Keep an eye on this Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/482609948949879/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/482609948949879/</a>
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, Hardingsstone from 7.30pm.
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> October	<i>National Motorcycle Museum Live – cancelled</i>
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, Hardingsstone from 7.30pm.
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, Hardingsstone from 7.30pm.
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, Hardingsstone from 7.30pm.
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, Hardingsstone from 7.30pm.

All events are subject to alteration or cancellation to meet what ever the current government guidelines are, particularly with regard to local lockdown measures that may be imposed at short notice.

For meetings at The Crown follow any instructions given by the pub with regard to signing in, temperature checking, where to sit, etc. Hopefully, these will be during dry evening for the next couple of months so we'll all be able to use the car park or gardens as appropriate.

In addition to the Wrinklies Runs mentioned above some people are arranging weekend runs outside of the auspices of the branch. Keep an on on the Facebook page for updates.



# Northants Branch Info and News

## Branch HQ:

The Crown, High Street, Hardington, Northampton, NN4 6BZ.

The main access to Hardington village is from the roundabout at the junction of the A45, A508 and A5076 (ring road). Other access from the Newport Pagnell Road (B526).

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month, starting at 8pm.

## Pure Triumph:

Our local Triumph dealer is based at The Embankment, Wellingborough, NN8 1LD. The company's website can be found at [www.puretriumph.co.uk](http://www.puretriumph.co.uk).

*On production of a current Triumph Owners membership card, Pure Triumph at Wellingborough will give a 10% discount on the following items: Clothing, Oxford Products, Helmets, Oil products, Labour on Servicing.*

## The Branch on the Internet:

Our website can be found at: [www.northantstomcc.org.uk](http://www.northantstomcc.org.uk). Most pages are public but there is one small section that is restricted to branch members only, accessed via the password that is advised separately.

We also have Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/northantstomcc/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/northantstomcc/)

If you go on any branch events please make a conscious effort to take a photo (high quality mobile phone OK) then send it to Sarge and Les Barras. This will ensure the newsletter and website have something to show when writing the reports.

## Other Internet Links:

Triumph Owners MCC national website: [www.tomcc.org](http://www.tomcc.org)

Triumph Owners MCC events website: [www.tomccevents.co.uk](http://www.tomccevents.co.uk)

Triumph Owners Clothing: [www.tomccmerchandise.com](http://www.tomccmerchandise.com)

The club also has a page on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/4526704577/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/4526704577/).

British Motorcyclists Federation: [www.bmf.co.uk](http://www.bmf.co.uk)

Triumph Motorcycles: [www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk](http://www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk)

# Northants Branch Info and News

## Membership Renewals

If your club membership is due for renewal here are the best ways of dealing with it...

- 1) Renew on-line via [tomcc.org/Home/Membership](http://tomcc.org/Home/Membership) with a credit card, debit card or PayPal account. You can also get a £2 discount using this method.
- 2) Fill in the membership form that was sent to you, then post it direct to the HQ Membership address at Horley, as shown on the form. Include a cheque made payable to Triumph Owners MCC.
- 3) Fill in the membership form and hand it to the Branch Membership Secretary at a club night. Payment by cheque or cash. Memberships renewed this way are only sent to HQ a couple of times a month, so will take longer to process than 1 or 2 above.

Don't worry about the money as the Branch receives the same amount per member regardless of the method used to renew.

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## Northants Branch Clothing Range

The range of Northants Branch clothing: T-Shirt, Polo Shirt, Sweatshirt, Hoodie, Fleece, Business Shirt and Baseball Cap; can be purchased on-line.

Some items can also be done with a large back-print for an additional fee.

To order click on this link:

[www.customkit.co.uk/northants-triumph-owners-club-52-c.asp](http://www.customkit.co.uk/northants-triumph-owners-club-52-c.asp)

**Club Night Ordering:** If you would prefer not to go on-line you can place an order with Les Barras at one of our club nights. Your selection should then be ready for collection at the next club night.

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Almost ready for the off at the 26<sup>th</sup> August Wrinklies Run.



# Tiger 900 Reviewed

After testing the new Tiger 900GT I decided it was time to change the 800 XRX. I thought the 800 was a great bike but the new 900 knocks spots of it in every way. It is lighter and the engine has been moved forward and down so lowering the centre of gravity and it can certainly be felt when quickly changing direction. I decided not to go for the GT PRO as 1) it was a lot more expensive and had extras like heated seats, Triumph connect and electronic suspension that I didn't want and 2) didn't have things that I did want.

I have fitted Triumph's TSA (Triumph shift assist) which means you only need the clutch to initially put it into gear then you can change up and down without the clutch, my wrist really likes this. I've also fitted Triumphs rack and done a mod to it so it will take my Kappe box (thanks Facebook 900 owners' section for the information). I've made and mounted my own sat/nav mounting to take my new Garmin XT, which is miles better than the old Zumo, with a bigger screen and doesn't vanish when the sun hits it. Incidentally the new Triumph screen which is bigger than the old one also doesn't have this problem any more. I made my own side stand foot enlarger which initially wasn't available to buy, for a lot less than the one that you now can buy – and I had the fun making it. I've fitted front and rear fender extenders, rear hugger, headlight protector, centre stand, upper and lower crash bars and spots which I mounted via my own bracket to Triumphs mounting in the upper crash bar. I have fitted a Sound Bomb horn, which I had on the 800, as Triumph's you can hardly hear.

I know I'll get stick about having a dead cat on my seat again but I've had Easyrider custom make me a new cover for the seat. Couldn't use the old one as the seat is a different shape and I sold it on eBay.

Well it's now has the spec I want it and it still cost me less than the PRO model.

I did the last Wrinkle run on it and have done a few runs on my own and, so far, I'm loving the new bike.



**Barry Gambrill**

## Tales From Hardingstone: Smoke and Steam Part 2

We left the story (May 2020 Vibrations) at the end of 1960, with me the owner of a 1934 Scott motorcycle.

I loved it 'cause it looked like it had just come off the race track. That was the problem, my best girlfriend hated it. I admit that when, I first bought it, it did not a passenger seat so a small rubber and canvas pad and clip-on footrests were fitted – much to her disgust. She objected to the lack of rear suspension and the habit of the pilgrim pump to deliver oil mist from the carburettor bellmouth to her stockings and undies.. No, she wouldn't wear jeans and suggested a car.

Horror of horrors!! I had no licence for a car so it meant taking a test. I decided to give her her marching orders, but once more fate intervened.

I was coming home from work down Cheyne Walk towards Victoria Prom. I stopped at the traffic light and was first in the queue. I noted that traffic coming up Victoria Prom was heavy and stretched back quite a way. The lights changed and off I went. I saw that a tipper lorry was coming up the hill on my side of the road. Now, on that side of the road the railings are attached to the kerb. I had a choice of the railings, the two lanes of stationary traffic on the right, or the mad man with the tipper coming straight at me and filling the rest of the road. The only alternative was a parked car, the last car of a row parked up by users of the cattle market. I needed to get up behind it but the tipper was rapidly approaching and giving no sign of stopping so I had to speed up. I knew that I was going to hit the car (a Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith) and I did.

The Scott went up the sloping boot of the Rolls. The sudden stop caused me to take off and through the flu screen that was bolted to the handlebars; shattering it with my face. The bike bounced back after rearing up like a frightened horse and crashed on top of me, breaking my left leg.

When they examined me at the hospital, I also had a badly broken nose and broken leg. I was admitted to the ENT ward with my leg plastered from ankle to thigh. Not a pretty sight. The facial damage was caused because I wore a pudding basin helmet that did not protect my face.

We were all able to sue the mad Polish lorry driver, whose clutch had failed and who had tried to drive to his destination without stopping. I received the princely sum of £600 and was able to buy a Triumph 5TA with Avon full fairing and Rodark panniers. It never let me down. O loved it and so did my best girlfriend – she eventually became my wife.

**Bert.**



Triumphs I have owned: 1927 500cc Model N, 1942 3HW, 1959 Thunderbird, 1968 Daytona, 1978 T140 Bonneville.

# Branch Annual General Meeting

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Northants Branch of the Triumph Owners M.C.C. (postponed from 18<sup>th</sup> March) will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at The Crown, Hardingstone. All members are asked to attend.

The meeting will start at 7.45pm in the back garden of the pub.

## Agenda

1. Chairman to open the meeting and take apologies.
2. **Special Proposition:** *“That this Annual General Meeting, postponed from 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, only deals with the following agenda items: the minutes of the 2019 AGM, the officers’ reports, election of the new officers and election of the new auditor. Those appointments lasting until the next AGM in March 2021”.*  
  
If this proposition is passed, items 3-6 inclusive will be dealt with on the night. Items 7-10 being deferred to March 2021.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.
4. Executive Officers’ Reports:
  - a) Secretary b) Treasurer c) Chairman
5. Election of Officers:
  - a) Chairman b) Secretary c) Treasurer d) PRO, e) Webmaster, f) Membership Secretary, g) Scribe, h) Runs Captain i) General Purpose Officers
6. Election of Branch Auditor
7. Election of Branch Honorary Members
8. Presentation of Awards:
  - a) Triumph Trophy (for general attendance at a branch event by a full member)
  - b) Navigator Trophy (for attendance by a member on the Wrinklies Runs)
  - c) Triumph Rider’s Trophy (for attendance at a branch event by a full member on a Triumph)
  - d) Club Person of the Year
  - e) The Double Digit
9. Propositions (taken from the floor or, preferably, in writing in advance)
10. Any Other Business

Philip Wallington, General Secretary

**For item 3:** The minutes of the 2020 AGM were distributed via e-mail in August. A copy will be available for review on the night.