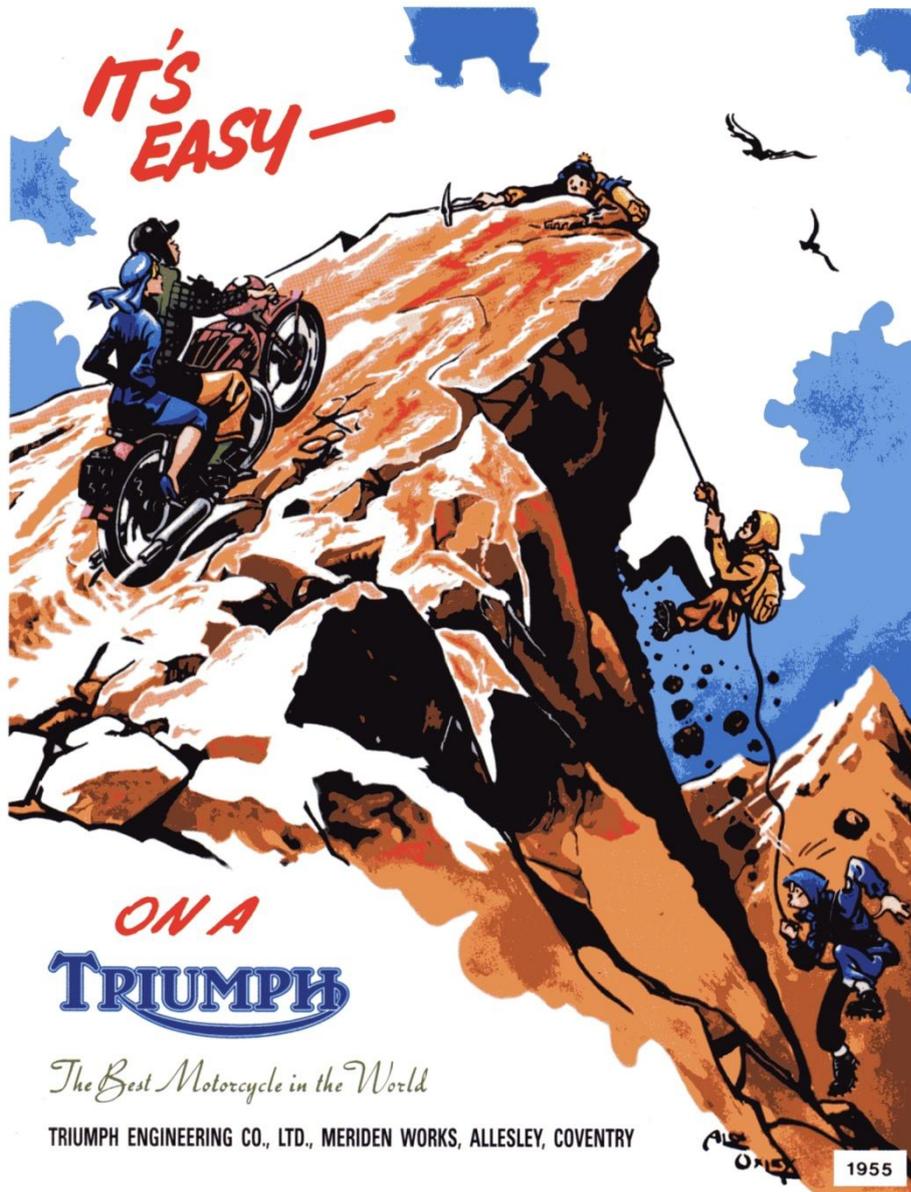


VIBRATIONS!



November 2017



Triumph Owners M.C.C.

Northants Branch

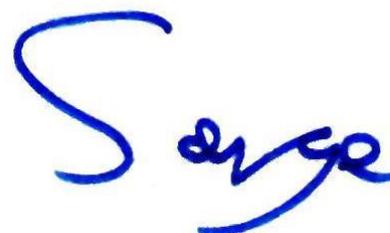


Scribblings

Well the skin graft I mentioned in the September issue didn't last long. An infection a couple of weeks after the operation caused a fluid build up that prevented the skin from bonding to the scalp; killing it off. All the dead stuff had to be cut away, leaving a sizeable hole in my head that is only now slowly being filled with new flesh (some of you have seen the photographic evidence).

At least it didn't prevent me from making two recent overseas trips.

Planning for 2018 branch events is in hand. If you have any ideas for rideout destinations, local or further afield, please let one of the committee know so that they can be incorporated into the calendar. I would guess that most of the shows we displayed at this year will be repeated again so there will be very little opportunity to add any extra ones in.



33 Argyle Street, St.James, Northampton NN5 5LJ
Tel: 01604-582468

e-mail: Sarge.Northampton@btinternet.com

New Members

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

Colin Bailey of Harpole

Stephen Paine of Brackley

Jamie Gambrell of Hartwell

Jeff Thomas of Broughton

Andrew Graham of Rushden

Membership Renewals

The Branch only sends membership forms off to HQ for processing twice a month (normally on the weekend after a club night). So, if you are posting off your renewal it will generally be quicker for you to send the form and cheque direct to the HQ address in Horley rather than to the Branch Membership Secretary.

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

Alternatively, you can renew on-line via the club's website: <http://www.tomcc.org/Membership.aspx>; paying by credit card or PayPal account.

And if you do send your renewal to me make the cheque out to Triumph Owners MCC and not to Ian Sargent!

Northants Branch Info and News

Non-club members are welcome at all events unless specifically marked otherwise. Listen out for details at club nights, or check with committee members beforehand in case of short-notice alterations or cancellations. Except where indicated, club nights start at 8pm.

| | Events List |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Thu 9 th November | Breakfast Run to Shuttleworth Collection. Organised by East Northants Classic Club. 9.30am from Market Square, Higham Ferrers. Full English (or Vegetarian) Breakfast on arrival for £6.95 |
| Sun 12 th November | Remembrance Sunday Service and Ride of Remembrance at Jack's Hill Cafe. 9am. |
| Wed 15 th November | Club Night at The Crown from 8pm |
| Sat 18 th November | Motorcycle Live at the NEC. All the new 2018 expensive shiny stuff. Daily until 26 th November. www.motorcyclelive.co.uk/ If you can get a day off work, mid-week is far less crowded than the weekends |
| Wed 6 th December | Club Night at The Crown from 8pm |
| Wed 20 th December | Club Night at The Crown from 8pm. Our Christmas Bash, with food. Last club meeting of the year. All partners welcome. |
| Tue 26 th December | Wild & Woolly Scramble, Home Farm, Blisworth. Practice at 10am, racing at 11am. Wipe mud off boots at mid-day. |
| Wed 3 rd January | Club Night at The Crown from 8pm |
| Wed 17 th January | Club Night at The Crown from 8pm |



The squadron of Northants Branch machines at the Skegness TriFest in October.

See write-up on page 7.

Plans are already in hand for a repeat appearance at the May 2018 event in Somerset.

Northants Branch Info and News

Branch HQ:

The Crown, Senwick Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1NJ. The pub is on the south-east side of Wellingborough, a 5 minute ride from the A45 and the southern section of the A509. It's only a few hundred yards away from Pure Triumph, so if you know where the dealer's showroom is our HQ will be easy to find.

Meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, starting at 8pm.

Please park motorcycles in that section of the car park to the right of the pub's front door.

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.

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. 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.

Steve Houghton is the webmaster. If you have any content for it please have a word with him.

We also have Facebook page: 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 Steve. 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

Triumph Owners MCC events website: www.tomccevents.co.uk

Triumph Owners Clothing (temporary):
<http://tomcc.org/Home/News/173e4e78a56044ccbec9c899e0997d3c>

The club also has a page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/4526704577/.

British Motorcyclists Federation: www.bmf.co.uk

Triumph Motorcycles: www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk



Northants Branch 40th Anniversary pin badges still available. £3 each from Sarge. Add £1 for postage if not collecting from a club night.

Northants Branch Info and News

Northants Branch Clothing Range

The range of Northants Branch clothing: T-Shirt, Polo Shirt, Sweatshirt, Hoodie, Fleece, Business Shirt and Baseball Cap; can now be purchased on-line rather than having to wait until the next club night. Each item can include the ordinary branch logo or the 40th Anniversary one shown here:

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

Ordering instructions:

On the web page, click on the Garment you want to purchase then fill in the size, badge version and back print (if required).

Click on ADD TO CART

In the Shopping Cart page double-check your order then GO TO CHECKOUT

One more chance to check your order or Checkout Securely

Enter your e-mail address and password to set up an account

You can now go to > Delivery Details > Order Summary > Payment Details

At the Payment Details you will see 3 Options:

Pay Pal-Click and Pay > Go to Order Complete

Credit Card-Click and Pay > Go to Order complete

Debit Card-Click and Pay > Go to Order Complete

Or you can pay by phone during office hours using your credit card, you will see > Telephone > Click here and the order will be placed and ask you to phone 01327 311125 (office hours) and make your payment. You will be asked if you want Delivery or Collect

When your order has been placed you get an order confirmation, with unique number to quote, which will be copied to you in an e-mail.

If your order gets mucked up during all this, click on Cancel to return to the main Custom Kit page and start again. Select Club wear and then select Northants TOMCC.

Northants Branch Info and News

Membership Fees from January 2018:

The club's membership fees increase on 1st January 2018 – which is the first increase in 5 years. The Full/Past/Magazine Subscription rate goes up from £20 to £22, with Associate Membership rising from £7.50 to £8.

If your membership is due make sure you get it renewed by 31st December, otherwise you will have to pay the increase. If you really want to save money you can take out the 5-year membership instead of the 1-year, that way you get 5 years at the current rate.

2018 Branch AGM – two lots of fresh blood required:

Les Barras and Phil Short have both been on the branch committee for many years but will be standing down next March, which means that the Northants Branch is looking for a new General Secretary and a new Treasurer.

For those who might be interested in taking it on the main duties of the Secretary are...

- Publish the agendas for the Branch AGM and committee meetings
- Take the minutes at the Branch AGM and at committee meetings, and distribute them
- Deal with general correspondence
- Assist the Chairman with his duties in helping keep the Branch running smoothly.

And the Treasurer...

- Maintain the branch accounts
- Liaise with the Auditor to prepare a statement for the Branch AGM
- Reimburse expenses for other branch officers
- Ensure payment of Triumph Owners HQ invoices

Though many of the committee positions have been held by the same people for several years it should be remembered that each post is up for re-election each year. The incumbent is not automatically reappointed unless no other candidate has put themselves forward, so if you fancy getting more involved with Branch affairs don't be afraid to put your name in the ring.

An unusual mode of transport encountered by the editor in September.

Wearing of lifejackets compulsory, but thankfully not put into use.



TriFest Skegness

It's Friday 13th October. The Street Triple is loaded ready for the off, to meet up at Corby at 9am. Phil Barton is waiting, ready to go, 2 minutes later Steve and Julie Rattley arrive. Phil now leads us on a steady uneventful ride to Skegness, arriving just on 1pm. Checking in at reception we find the key is available so we can move on to the weekend abode. The caravan is a three-bedroom superbly fitted model. Bedding is supplied but not fitted. After dumping our gear and sorting out, we nip back to the fish shop we passed near reception, make a purchase and back to the caravan. I can say the fish and chips were handsome. We now have to wait for John Caullay who was due to arrive later as he had to work that day.

John was later than expected, arriving just before 9pm. At this point we made a rapid beeline for the bar and entertainment. By this time most members had arrived and the place was packed; it was good to see so many friends from all over who I had not seen for some time. By this time it was late and, after a couple of beers, we made our way back to the caravan to get some sleep.

Saturday had been arranged as a ride out to the Aviation Museum where Just Jane, the Lancaster Bomber, is kept. The main party was doing a long run there and back but Phil B and I decided on a shorter route due to our situation. The other branch members decided to travel with us and again Phil B led us on a really nice steady ride with all the views of the countryside. At the museum there were Triumphs everywhere, it was a great turnout of members. Inside the museum we wandered around all the display areas and a close up look at the Lancaster. We also bumped into an old member: Pete Robinson, who had recently moved to Mablethorpe.

On the ride back we stopped at a motorcycle shop we'd spotted on the way in but unfortunately it was closed, so Steve suggested a pub which was known as a bikers' pub that he knew of. Again unfortunately after a ride round we were unable to find it so home we went. Back at base it was a shower and change before the evening's entertainment.

Our evening started with a meal and drink in the restaurant, and general chat with others. We then moved into the theatre where a singer was the main entertainment. Later on Phil B, Steve and Julie take the caravan key, leaving John and myself drinking and chatting. I believe it was gone one when I decided to guide John back, but who is going to guide me? Between us we managed it. John still does not know how as, on Sunday morning, he could not find his trousers or shoes. After a search we found them neatly folded away in the wardrobe, shoes as well. He put this down to my example as he never folds and puts away as I did that night – and might add do normally (although the wife may not agree with me).

The others went for breakfast and a photo shoot organised by Paul Golding; then it was time for John and Steve to sort their bikes out as they had to leave Sunday, for work on Monday. This done we said our goodbyes and it left Phil B and myself to ponder over the rail trip to the brewery that had been organised. We decided against it as we were not sure of the walking involved, and neither of us are A1 on that subject. We ended up with a quiet day watching a film on the TV, with the evening spent packing and in the bar enjoying a drink and a bite to eat.

Monday morning we went for breakfast to find it very quiet as most would appear to have left early. We said our goodbyes to those still there, loaded up, returned the caravan key and headed for home, Phil B again leading the way. A steady ride and we didn't stop until Stamford, where we had a bun and tea at Morrisons. We then carried on to Thrapston, where Phil headed off for Kettering and I carried on to Rushden.

Home at last. The weather for the weekend had been marvellous, not October weather at all. No rain, sunshine and mild. All in all it was a great weekend: good company, good food and beer, and great entertainment. I look forward to a repeat next year.

Phil Short.

Motorcycle Theft

Earlier in the year I attended a meeting at Kettering Police social club regarding stolen motorcycles. We have not had a meeting like this for many years because of all the cut backs.

Sergeant Shaun Marshall opened the meeting, saying that in 2016 there were a total of 440 Powered Two Wheeler theft's in Northamptonshire. That's 189 in Northampton area, 96 in Kettering, 31 in Corby, 18 in Daventry. Only 48% of machines were recovered.

Several people at the meeting who have had a motorcycle stolen complained that the Police did not turn out and did little to help them. Even when the location of the stolen machine was reported the Police did not respond. The Police say they need proof beyond all doubt (it would seem then that the thief has more rights than the victim).

PREVENTION is the key to keeping your pride and joy.

Ensure you purchase security chains, locks and ground anchors bearing the "sold secure" logo.

Have Datatag on your motorcycle.

Use a Thatcham approved alarm and immobiliser.

Fit a Tracker

Interestingly, a rep from a Tracker firm gave a talk saying that in the last 5 years 92% of motorcycles recovered had a tracker fitted.

SECURE YOUR MOTORCYCLE AT HOME

A Garage is the most secure place to store a motorcycle at home but make sure you use your locks and chains. Fit an alarm to the garage. On an up-and-over door use mortice bolts on the bottom corners of the doors and into the frame. Other doors should have BS 5-lever mortice lock and hinge bolts.

Consider bricking up any windows.

And lastly did you know that you can register your off road motorcycle for FREE with the DVLA by completing form V55/5 and declaring your machine will NOT be used on the road.

Phil Barton.

MOT Exemption Changes from 2018

Owners of some classic bikes will be spared the annual trip to the MoT station after the government announced plans to exempt vehicles over 40 years old from the annual MoT test.

Previously vehicles manufactured before 1960 were exempt from the annual inspection but the new rules mean some 50,000 or so more bikes do not need an MoT test.

The new rules, which come in during May 2018, bring Britain in line with most of the rest of Europe and will work on a rolling 40 year basis. As of next spring, all bikes built before 1978 will fall under the new rules, meaning that classic bikes like Triumph Bonneville's, Honda's iconic CB750 and the Kawasaki Z1 will, in theory, be cheaper to own and run.

The 40 year rule also applies to vehicle excise duty (road tax), which are exempt from any fees, although riders will still be required to have valid insurance for their classic bikes.

These new regulations also apply to classic cars and do place an emphasis on owners to ensure their vehicles are in a roadworthy state. While an MoT certificate will no longer be compulsory, drivers and riders may still present their vehicles for a voluntary MoT test and it remains their responsibility to ensure that their vehicles have no defects that would see it fail the government tests when they take to the public roads.

Matt Embleton