



# VIBRATIONS

## SEPTEMBER 2023

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## BIG BRANCH BASH 2023

**NORTHANTS TOMCC HAD A GREAT TURNOUT AT BIG BRANCH BASH THIS YEAR**

A great time was had by all at the Big Branch Bash in Greetham, big thanks to Ian and the rest of the South Lincs TOMCC branch for an excellent event and for making us all so welcome. Congratulations to our two winners – Toby for 'Best Naked' and Linda for 'Best in Show' awesome result!!

Thank you so much for your contributions this month, I look forward to seeing more for the numerous activities and events running in September. Don't forget to keep your contributions coming in, if you attend an event you want to share with other Triumph riders why not put down a few words, fill up the gaps with some interesting pictures and send it off to [TOMCC-Vibrations@hotmail.com](mailto:TOMCC-Vibrations@hotmail.com). Your contributions are always appreciated.

A further reminder for help please - Les B is putting together the final chapter of the HISTORY STORY UPDATE of the Northants TOMCC. He is missing the Years 1990-1994, can old friends assist with some input, please, from Vibrations and or Nacelle or even Memory Lane. Contact Les at [leslie.barras@btinternet.com](mailto:leslie.barras@btinternet.com)

*Kirstie & Mark*

## TRIUMPH OWNERS M.C.C. NORTHANTS BRANCH





# INTRODUCTIONS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

There were no new members this month

## EVENTS LIST – THE BIG LIST

IN ADDITION TO THE EVENTS BELOW FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ADHOC RIDE-OUTS VIA THE BRANCH'S FACEBOOK PAGE

SEPTEMBER			
Sat 2nd	10.00am	Breakfast Meet	Pure Triumph Wellingborough
Sun 3rd	10.00am	ABF Charity Event	Triumph Factory Hinkley
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Sun 10th	09.00am	Fish & Chip Run	Hunstanton
Wed 13th	9.30am	Breakfast Meet	Hoar Park
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Peterborough Branch Bike Show	The Bull Newborough
Wed 20th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Sun 24th	9.30am	Country ride to Piston & Props	Sywell Aerodrome (Tim Kitchen)
Fri 29th	09.00am	McMillan Coffee Morning	Salford Village Hall (Paul Ollett)
Sat 30th	10.30am	Breakfast Meet	Pure Triumph Wellingborough
OCTOBER			
Sun 1st	10.00am	Guest Member Rideout	TBC
Wed 4th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> – Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>		Skegfest	Golden Palm Resort, Chapel St Leonards, Lincs
Sun 15th	10.00am	Breakfast Meet	Super Sausage Potterspury
Wed 18th	7.30pm	Club Music Quiz Night	The Crown Hardingstone
NOVEMBER			
Wed 1st	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Wed 15th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Wed 29th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Swan Newton Bromswold
DECEMBER			
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Wed 20th	7.30pm	Club Night - Xmas Party	The Crown Hardingstone



# BIG BRANCH BASH 2023

## FUN IN THE SUN IN GREETHAM

The week started with slightly concerning forecasts of rain, but as the weekend drew nearer to everyone's relief the forecast improved. On Friday lunch time a small group of us gathered at Pure Triumph and set off for a leisurely ride towards Greetham. A little over an hour later we arrived to greet the various riders and passengers that had arrived separately.

The Northants plot rapidly filled up as the first of the 31 attendees arrived, with the 5 vans and campers and the many tents our area was soon bustling. In total 202 TOMCC members joined together for this year's Big Branch Bash from 17 different branches:



Nottingham  
Northants  
Gloucester  
Manchester  
Milton Keynes  
Meriden  
Suffolk  
West Ridings  
Yorvik

South Lincs  
Beacons  
Leicester  
Medway  
North Staffs  
Peterborough  
Surrey  
Wirral

Friday night saw the first of two great nights. Food was excellent, particularly the pie and mash, which was not only delicious but delivered really quickly as the catering crew were well prepared and organised.

After dinner we moved onto with the evening, drinks were plentiful and well-priced, and the Northants crew may have partaken in the odd beverage or two 😊

We also dominated the dance floor, with dozens dancing the night away. The band was excellent, playing many old favorites that tempted even the reticent on to the dance floor.

However, I think the Northants rendition of "get your crocks off" for Al and Linda was pretty unusual. By the end of the night my knees remembered I'm not quite as young as I used to be. But it made for a decent night sleep despite the forecast rain finally making an appearance in the middle of the night. I was relieved to find my tent kept me dry and cozy, unlike some who had a rather damp night.

Saturday morning was bright and sunny, the scent of breakfast cooking was soon enticing people out of tents, and despite the quaffing and dancing the night before the camp was soon alive and bustling with activity. The queue for the camp breakfast quickly built up, demonstrating the quality of the food on offer. I certainly enjoyed my sausage bap.







Breakfast complete and we gathered with the other branches for the ride out. 81 people joined the ride lead by Ian Waumsley, with the Notts group setting off just before with 23 additional people. In total 101 bikes made the trip to [Ferneley's Dairy Barn Café](#).



The ride was fast paced, and took us through some wonderful twisty countryside lanes, with a minor detour for a surprise road closure. Photos were captured along the ride by MotoPicz, take a look and see if you can spot yourself - [Roadside Photography - Saturday 19th August 2023 - MotoPicz](#)

The destination was fabulous, offering countless flavours of ice cream to delight everyone's senses. I sampled the delicious tiramisu and salted caramel options and they were heavenly. A wonderful treat on a sunny day.

After enjoying our yummy treat the various branches made their own way back to Greetham ready for a little rest and relaxation before another fabulous evening.







But it wasn't rest for all, Bob, Toby and Linda set about cleaning and polishing their bikes ready for the judges visits, with Linda exceeding even Bob's tasking standards, using hot water to do an outstanding job.

Clearly the cleaning was warranted, as a while later we watched the judges do their rounds and issued not one but two rosettes to Northants bikes.

Toby was awarded best naked, although we are assured that they were referring to the bike.

Linda however went one better and came away with best in show! What an excellent showing. I think Northants was the only branch with two winners amongst our number.

Here are a few pictures of the winners:







Well done to Linda and Toby, cracking result 😊

Amongst all of this activity we tried to gather the branch attendees for a picture, not quite managing to gather all together simultaneously but an excellent showing all the same. Chris arrived after the fact (see the back page).

Then it was time to party the night away again with not one but two bands on the Saturday night.

Many branch members attacked the dance floor again, whilst others enjoyed the show. The Hound Dogs put on an incredible display of acrobatics, musical prowess and evening flaming drum kits.

Once suitably exhausted, and mildly merry we made our weary heads to camp, and settled down for sleep. Note to self, ensure that you have ear plugs for future events, unless you want a rude awakening from early risers chatting.

All in all it was a great weekend, I'm looking forward to next year already.

*Kirstie*





# THE NEW TRIUMPH 400'S

SCRAMBLER 400X OR SPEED 400, WHAT'S YOUR PREFERENCE?



While at this year's MotoGP at Silverstone, I visited the Triumph stand and there to my surprise I found the new 400s. I am not one to get resist getting my leg over a new Triumph. I jumped onboard, first the Scrambler is so narrow but feels very comfortable. The reach to the bars is just right, seat to foot peg just right, the seat is big enough for two and at 170 kgs super light. Then more importantly, is the quality and look of a Triumph, I was not disappointed as it has all we have become used to.

Next I tried the street bike. It looks like a mini Speed Twin, it fit to be blunt, though these bikes were on stands and even with my short legs I had both feet on the ground, but don't take my word for it.

So, don't forget to pop along to our dealer Pure Triumph Wellingborough for your exclusive dealer viewing of these incredible new motorcycles. They are the first UK dealer to have these on show till 12th September.

Find out more from the Triumph website:

- [Speed 400 | For the Ride \(triumphmotorcycles.co.uk\)](https://www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk/speed-400)
- [Scrambler 400 X | For the Ride \(triumphmotorcycles.co.uk\)](https://www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk/scrambler-400x)

*Henry*



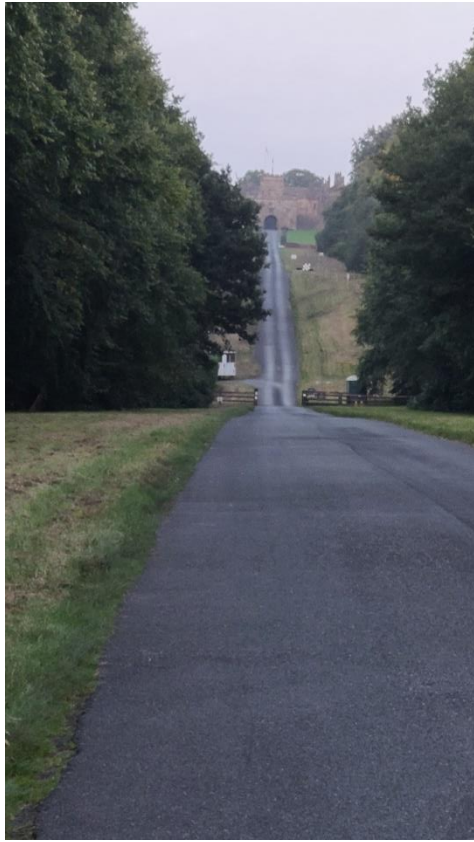
# HOGHTON TOWER SPRINT

3RD SEPTEMBER 2023 - A WEEKEND AWAY WITH DAVE GRUNDY, THE ACCIDENTAL RACER

You have probably worked this out already, but I really enjoy my drag racing. There is no better way to get the adrenaline flowing than lining up next to another bike and pitting your skill against them to get to the finish line first. Drag racing tends to be a battle of big horsepower modern machinery on purpose built tracks like Santa Pod and Melbourne Raceway near York.

However, there is another straight-line sport that is less well known and that is the world of Sprinting.

Sprints tend to be held anywhere that the organisers can find a straight(ish) piece of tarmac on private land, where they can get permission to run those noisy two and three wheeled motorcycles.



One such event I discovered recently is the Hoghton Tower Sprint, which is held once or twice a year at, believe it or not, Hoghton Tower near Preston.

It is an 1/8th mile run up the steep drive leading up to the stately home of the de Hoghton family.

I had spoken to a couple of riders who had previously competed and it sounded like a rather fun thing to do.

So a plan was hatched and an entry sent off.

Sprint races run to slightly different regulations to drag races, so a few minor modifications were needed to bring the Street Triple up to spec. Nothing major, the main change and challenge was mounting the race numbers. The numbers needing to be much bigger than my existing ones, with one on the front instead of the rear. No problem with the side mounted plates, but the front required a bit of thought. I eventually modified a GoPro mount and used my existing GoPro bracket to fix the front plate.

I entered in the B.E.A.R.S (Brit, European and American) under 1000cc class, so was going to be up against S1000RR BMWs, Aprilia RSVR1000 and the like, with the occasional Daytona and Street Triple thrown in for good measure. Stiff competition indeed.



The week before the event I had a call from Jon Crawford, a good friend of mine who usually drag races a Golf VR6. "Do you want company at the weekend?" Now Jon makes a decent cup of tea and as my entry fee included entry for two crew members, I invited him along. If nothing else, a bit of harmless banter on route should help reduce the tedium of a three hour slog up the M6 motorway.

Although this is a one day event taking place on a Sunday, racers have the option of arriving on the Saturday afternoon to set up and get ready for the 7.30am start on Sunday to sign on and get scrutineered.



So, with the Street Triple loaded into the van and caravan in tow, at 10 a.m. Saturday I headed to Kettering to pick up Jon and then trundle 175 miles up the A14 and M6 to my old stomping ground, the beautiful county of Lancashire. Owing to an M6 devoid of traffic and roadworks, we were set to arrive a little early and stopped at Charnock Richard services, where we mortgaged two cookies, a cup of tea and a Costa coffee from Subway (don't ask!!!). As we pulled into the drive of Hoghton Tower we could see just how bloody steep it is. We were still earlier than the official 3pm access time, but we were welcomed in and shown to our pit area to set up and other racers soon started to arrive for the event.



Arriving early allowed us to set up under the trees, a cunning plan as the forecast for Sunday was hot and sunny and shade is helpful when you are stuck in full leathers for most of the day.

As always, we found that motorcycle racers are the best people in the world. Within the hour you are chatting away like old friends, except you know nothing about their families and everything about their bikes. No politics, no bull, just people sharing a common interest. And to cap it off, there's a pub with decent food within a ten minute walk.

Sunday dawned clear and bright and after signing on, the RS sailed through the scrutineering process, which is essentially a safety check and nothing too onerous. If you are in the RWYB class, all you need to do is tape up your lights and mirrors, produce your MOT certificate and away you go (once you have found a way to stick you race number on). Race bikes need the sump lockwiring and the sidestand wired up or removed.

That left plenty of time to cook breakfast before the riders briefing at 9.15 and racing starting at 9.30. I find Sausage, bacon, egg and tomato to be a most excellent start to a day's racing.

At Hoghton, you have to ride down the course to get to the startline, so bikes are taken down one or more classes, usually around 20 bikes at a time, ready to start their runs. Each class getting two practice runs in the morning and then three timed runs after lunch, the fastest of which counts for your placing.

Classes include classics by engine size, modern (post 1980) and even supermoto and juniors up to 125cc. Everything from 1930s Ridges and lots of classic Triumphs and plenty of Hinckley Triumphs and modern day superbikes.

No burnouts are allowed on the tarmac, but there is a burnout block provided for those that wish to warm their tyres. When called to the start, a marshal uses a board to line you up with the timing gear and an assistant places a chock behind to stop you from rolling back. Unlike drag racing, where your reaction time is crucial, with sprinting it is irrelevant. It's just you against the clock, so when the marshal moves his board and says you can start, you have up to thirty seconds to set off, giving you plenty of time to settle yourself and prepare the launch. The clocks only staring once you have set off and tripped the timing beam.







The photos really don't show just how steep the hill is. A friend of mine, much cleverer than me, worked out that the half mile drive rises about 400 feet, which equates to about 1 in 6. Mind you, he also said I would struggle to get under eight seconds, so maybe he's not that smart after all.

All my runs throughout the day were under eight seconds with my biggest problem getting grip off the line. And keeping the front on the floor, but that's easier to deal with.

For the record, my two practice times were 7.489 and 7.806 (loads of wheelspin all the way through first) and my timed sessions in the afternoon, 7.668, 7.535 and 7.437.

For comparison, the class winner, Bob Mercer riding a Daytona 675 race bike, had times of 7.700, 7.749(practice), 7.271, 7.603 and 7.571. His 7.271 winning time just 0.166 of a second quicker than my best time, giving me second place in class. Which, for a first time at an event and not knowing quite what to expect, put a bloody great smile on my face.

To cap it off, my best time of 7.437 gave me the 4th fastest time of the day overall – only beaten by Bob Mercer (again) on his GSXR1000 in the superbike class and John Dixon on a ZZR(almost twice my capacity)1400. (He also won the over 500cc classic class on his Rob North Trident).



I can honestly say, the Hoghton Tower Sprint is one of the best events I have attended. If you are into bikes of any era, there is something there to grab your interest. The event is well organised, well attended and inexpensive. Spectator entry is a measly tenner, with proceeds going towards the house restoration fund. Competitor entry is just £70 with just an additional £15 to enter an extra bike or class. Next year I will be entering the Modern Supersport class as well.

I would encourage all of you to stick this on your calendar and consider a weekend road trip up north. There are some great biking roads around the area to play on and you can watch some sprinting and have some fun. Better still, put yer big girl pants on and have a go. You won't be the slowest and you might just enjoy it.

And finally, my next drag race meeting is the National Finals at Santa Pod, 22 – 24 September. I can either consolidate my second place in the championship or mess up completely and end up 6th. Here's to the former!

*Dave G*



# AND THERE'S MORE...

A FEW MORE EVENTS THAT CLUB MEMBERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MONTH

## Rushden Classic Rally



The annual bank holiday Rushden Classic Rally, held at the Railway shed has always given visitors a good display of some amazing bikes. Around a dozen of us turned on various bikes and not all Triumphs, to fill the grounds with classic and modern bikes of all ages.

Only two members went on the ride-out, so after a look around and a catch up with people you see year on year at this event. It was off to the bar, to put the world to right, or just remembering the good old days of how bad those bikes were.

*Henry*





# AND THERE'S MORE..

PHOTOS AVAILABLE FROM PAUL OLLETT'S RIDE OUT TO THE DUKES ARMS, WOODFORD



Nikki Marshall captured some excellent photographs during the recent ride out.

Nikki is happy for members to contact her directly and can be reached via her email address: [nicola\\_skinner@btinternet.com](mailto:nicola_skinner@btinternet.com)

Thinking about planning a ride why not give Nikki an email to see if she's available to help commemorate the event.

*Paul O*



# MUSIC AND ART

## WHAT DOES THE BRANCH LIKE?



A few months ago, I asked members at a couple of branch meetings to tell me their favourite songs and work of art. The idea was a bit of fun to generate chats amongst us and to give a view of who we are and where we came from.

The general feedback was either I can't think of any or how can I think of only eight tracks plus what is art. I have noticed that there have been some discussions already and a lot of memories jogged about music and groups that had been forgotten with the passing of irresponsible youth

Suffice to say that overall, the dance and hip hop generations was not over represented in favour of classic pop and rock. Probably could have guessed that just by

looking at pictures on the Facebook pages. However, there were a few surprises that is contra to the general public's view of a rough tough motorcycle club (as is the desire to eat ice cream after a ride out). I think the list could guide anyone or DJs playing at our events.

Thanks to all those who contributed. If anyone who hasn't already joined in and wants to submit a late entry catch me at a meeting or send it via Facebook. I will update on any significant swings in the results.

So, to the details, here is the results of the Northamptonshire jury:

## TOTALS

227 songs 14 works of art

MOST POPULAR	1ST	2ND	3RD
Music Decade	70s	80s	60s
Music Type	Rock	Pop	Punk & New Wave
Music Artist	Fleetwood Mac & Abba	Rolling Stones	
Music Track	Dancing Queen & Sweet Child of Mine	Take it to the Limit & Bat Out of Hell	
Art Type	Surrealist		
Art Artist	Dali	Munch	



And to prove the impartiality of the survey nobody picked any of my choices but as my parents and children have commented 'why do you like that weird stuff?'

*Tim*

PS – Have you ever conducted a survey that showed you are a data geek?





# GREASY FRY UP CHALLENGE

## ANY EXCUSE FOR A NICE RIDE

Following on from the success of the 2021 National TOMCC challenge event "CUP OF TEA", and 2022's "PINT OF BEER" challenge we have arranged a similar challenge event to run through 2023 just for Northants Branch members.

### The Challenge

Ride your Triumph in and around Northamptonshire, including adjacent villages and towns, where their first letter forms part of the spelling of **GREASY FRY UP**.

At each location take a photograph of your bike adjacent to the town/village sign which denote the letter in GREASY FRY UP.

For example – "**F**"RY could be a picture at "**F**"LORE.

### ENTRY SUBMISSION

When you have completed your route through Northants and have taken all 11 Photographs for each letter of **GREASY FRY UP**, send them in an e-mail to Branch Secretary Les Barras at: [secretary@northantstomcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northantstomcc.org.uk). Please include the date that you finished the challenge.

## EVENT TIMING

You have until the end of December 2023 to complete the challenge. It's up to you whether you do it all in one day or over a number of rides. If you have more than one Triumph, then you can use different machines for different sections.

## CERTIFICATE

All Northants Branch members who complete the "GREASY FRY UP" Challenge will be awarded a certificate of achievement.

Any questions please ask any of your Branch Committee

*Les*







# NORTHANTS BRANCH INFO



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Any queries about membership or other matters you can reach us via [northantstomccmembership@btinternet.com](mailto:northantstomccmembership@btinternet.com)

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.

## BRANCH HQ:-

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

The main access to Hardingstone 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.

For those months where there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday there will be an additional meeting at The Swan in Newton Bromswold, near Rushden.

## 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/)



## 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)

Motorcycle Action Group: [www.mag-uk.org](http://www.mag-uk.org)

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

## Northants Branch Clothing Range

The range of Northants Branch clothing: T-Shirt, Polo Shirt, Sweatshirt, Hoodie, Fleece, Business Shirt, Baseball Cap, and new Beanie hat; 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.

# HAVE YOU EVER ....

Have you ever ridden to a club night in the rain?

Have you ever pinched the web of your thumb with a pair of pliers?

Have you ever shot the brake retainer spring to the moon?

Have you ever inhaled a fly?

Have you ever thought of your own Have you ever?

With thanks to Ed Hertfelder's Duct Tapes Cycle Magazine in the 70s

Why do things the easy way, when with a bit of effort you can really make it difficult for yourself!!

Have you ever thought that one more bike would be enough?

Have you ever seen a custom that was exactly right?

Have you ever wished you had used a new bungee?

Have you ever sat in the car on holiday with the family when the bikes came passed?

Have you ever had one too many cups of tea or glasses of coke for the number of layers you were wearing?

Have you ever had a conversation over a beer with another biker with no common language?

Have you ever worked out which grease to use where?

Have you ever ridden with your son/daughter?

Have you ever ridden with your dad/mum?

*Tim*

