

VIBRATIONS!



Pure Triumph's Custom Bobber, as seen during the late night shopping on 6th December.

January 2018



Triumph Owners M.C.C.

Northants Branch




Scribblings

In the last two editions of Vibrations I have mentioned the trials and tribulations of a skin graft. Since November things have been progressing well, with the hole in the head now being completely covered by new flesh (amazing what the human body can do). On 2nd January I was given the good news that a thin layer of new skin now covers that flesh so, unless things take a sudden turn for the worse, I won't have to revisit the operating table. All that's needed now is for the skin to grow back to its full thickness – the lack of that being the problem in the first place. Going to be a while before that happens so I'm still going to have to treat it as fragile for another month or two.

At this point I should wish everybody a Happy New Year. 2017 was a great year for Branch events and there's a hope that 2018 will be much the same. There is a committee meeting in early February at which we will get most of the calendar sorted out – if there's anything that you would like to see included please let one of the branch officers know.

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 at the February committee meeting. 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.

Matt Burns of Daventry

Graham Morris of Northampton

Matthew Cooper of Wellingborough

Terry Slack of Northampton

Dan Drake of Brackley

Steve Wickes of Northampton

Bruce Garley of Raunds

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
Wed 17 th January	Club Night at The Crown from 8pm. The annual quiz, set by Gary Bonham, so get your thinking heads on. Bring a pen.
Wed 7 th February	Club Night at The Crown from 8pm
Wed 21 st February	Club Night at The Crown from 8pm: Ladies Night
Wed 7 th March	Club Night at The Crown from 8pm
Sat 17th March	Branch Annual Dinner at Overstone Manor. Meet at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Numbers limited so pre-booking essential – give your name to Les Barras. Make your choice from the menu on the night, including any special offers. There will be a raffle in aid of the local Air Ambulance. Donations of raffle prizes greatly appreciated.
Wed 21 st March	Branch Annual General Meeting at The Crown. See back page for agenda.
Wed 4 th April	Club Night at The Crown from 8pm
Sun 8 th April	National Triumph Owners AGM at Discovery Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. All full members will receive an agenda in the post.
Wed 18 th April	Club Night at The Crown from 8pm
Sat-Sun 21 st -22 nd April	International Classic Motorcycle Show, Stafford
Wed 2 nd May	Club Night at The Crown from 8pm
Fri-Mon 4 th -7 th May	Trifest Somerset. At least half a dozen members will be going.
Sat-Mon 5 th -7 th May	Rushden Historic Vehicle Cavalcade Branch display – give your name to Phil Barton if you wish to put your Triumph on the stand.
Sat 12 th May	WATCH THIS SPACE
Sat-Sun 12 th -13 th May	MCN Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough
Wed 16 th May	Club Night at The Crown from 8pm
Wed 23 rd May	Evening Run to Peterborough Triumph Owners at Stilton.
Sun 1st July	Triumph Day at Jack's Hill Cafe

The popular Thursday morning “Wrinklies Runs” will return in the Spring.

Some other events to look forward to...

Daventry Motorcycle Festival, Ton-Up Day at Jack's Hill, East Carlton Transport Gala, Brackley Festival of Motorcycling, Branch Concours, Branch Open Evening, Ride-outs to various local clubs.

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 Haughton 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 increased on 1st January 2018; the first increase in 5 years. The Full/Past/Magazine Subscription rate is now £22, with Associate Membership at £8.

If you have an old membership form you will still be required to pay the new rates.

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...

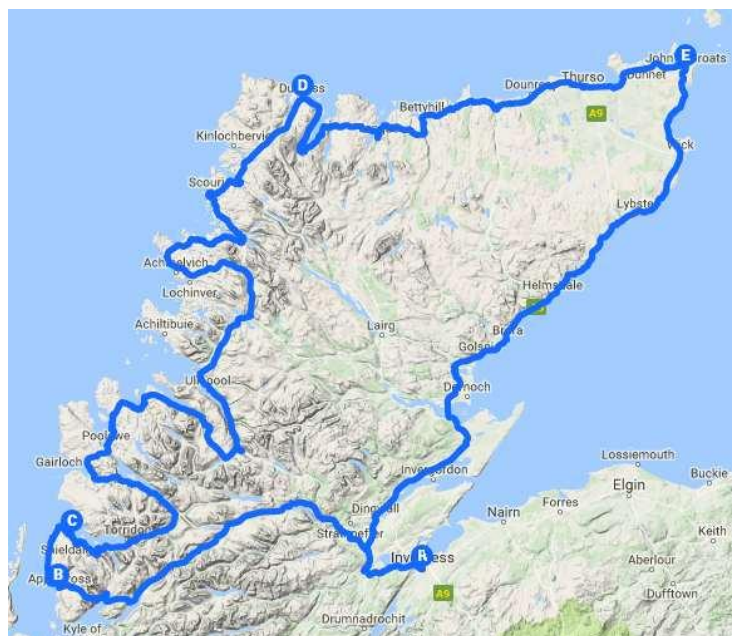
- Maintain the branch accounts
- Liaise with the Auditor to prepare a statement for the Branch AGM
- Reimburse expenses for other branch officers
- Ensure payment of Triumph Owners HQ invoices

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.

A Scottish Challenge

On one night in December, in a popular Northampton hostelry, three branch members were gathered and the discussion turned to Scotland; specifically the North Coast 500. If you're not aware of this, it's a 500 mile circular tour from Inverness through Ross, Cromarty, Sutherland and Caithness which has become an increasingly popular motorcycle tour since its inception in 2014.

There's no actual plan yet, but the sketchy details are to do it by Triumph in early June, with perhaps half a dozen bikes taking part. If you are interested have a word with John Caullay or Sarge.



A day on the beach(es)

It all started on Facebook in search of ride outs. Various moto meets around France were not near enough to be of interest so when a local show advertised some groups I went to have a look. No doubt Hell's Angels are lovely chaps, but their choice of dress and steed are not usually to my taste, so no useful contacts made. A post on Facebook calling all TOMCC members in central France garnered no response, so the chances of a ride out looked pretty miserable.

Then, perchance, a post from a group in southern UK (Jurassic Coast Bikers) last January announced a group ride out to the Normandy invasion beaches for September, organised by Andy Field. A few exchanges later I was accepted to join the group in Caen for the ride. It was a bit far away but what the hell!



The beaches in question, Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword

To cut a very long story short nowadays I can't do more than 250km or so on a bike without suffering the next day, so since the meet was 500km+ from home it was a trailer job. The prospect of loading and unloading the Sprint 900 alone was a daunting, plus possible off road riding, favoured the H***a XL350R. One uneventful 6hr drive later the rendezvous at a local restaurant in Caen proved to be a good craic with plenty of banter, stories and plans for the next day.

First objective - Pegasus Bridge, the target for airborne assault early on D-Day, was a mere 15km away from the hotel. Despite the short run the group got split up by kamikaze antics from French drivers carving up the column. It is rumoured that you can catch the flu from French drivers following you, they are that close!

A coffee at Café Gondrée, the first house liberated on D-Day, at Pegasus Bridge and a visit to the Airborne museum nearby. Onward trip to the Merville battery, which, on D-Day threatened the English/Canadian beaches, was put off until the day after. It is certainly a site worth visiting as its capture was considered key to the success of the eastern landings near Caen, and the exhibitions there are very dramatic.

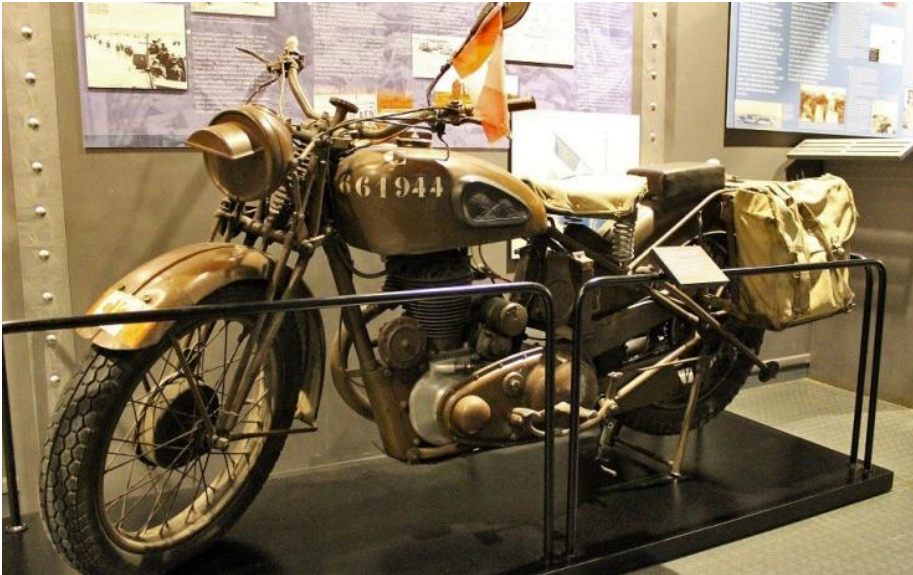


Mint Sprint pauses for coffee

A day on the beach(es)

In view of the fragmentation of the group en route to Pegasus it was decided to rethink the column discipline. As one familiar with the area and French roads the XL350R was designated lead bike, Andy on the Speed triple as tail-end Charlie, and the Buell was the sheepdog. In ushering the group Iain on the Buell gave it full rein. No need to look in the mirrors to check that he was back in No.2 spot, 1200cc and twin Remus "silencers" made more than sufficient announcement of its arrival. Not only that but I could FEEL its approach. Magnifique!

After a very pleasant coastal ride the next stop was the Canadian D-Day museum at Courseulles (Juno beach). No surprise it is devoted to the Canadian contribution, but no less interesting for that. As is par for the course at the museums there is an impressive memorial, dedicated to the Canadian forces that landed here. The Canadians suffered the heaviest losses of any division in the British Army group in the battle for Normandy, and 5400 Canadians are buried there. 340 were killed on the first day of the landings.



Brit Army bike at Juno exhibition.

Onward, along the coast to Arromanches, to where there is a location and feature pivotal to the whole invasion. It was here they constructed a Mulberry harbour (1 of 2) to offload the thousands of tons of material in support. It survived the storm in late June 1944 (the other one didn't) and is still in evidence today.

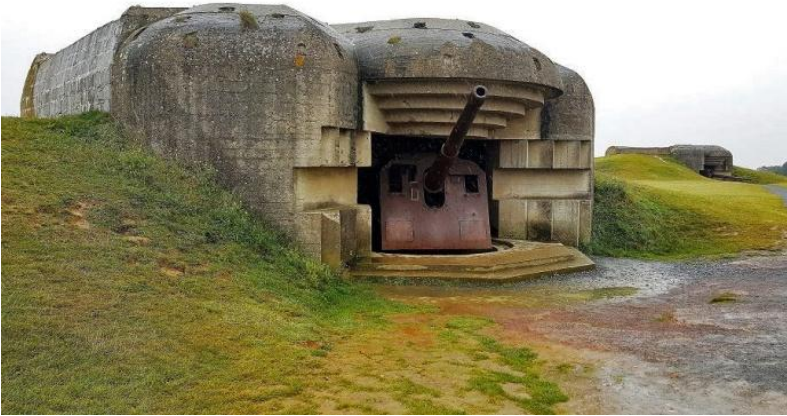


Remnants of the Mulberry harbour still at Arromanches



Time to stretch the legs at Arromanches

A day on the beach(es)



Along the coast are a number of surviving German gun batteries, one of the most chilling being the one at Longues sur Mer showing clearly how much punishment they suffered from bombs and naval barrage. All of them are accessible from the coastal road, providing an idyllic ride with overview of the Channel.

There are museums galore along the route, the Big Red One is one we missed out on route to the main Overlord museum at Colville, near the huge American Cemetery. The collection of material there from both sides is mind blowing. There we had the privilege of shaking the hand of a 90+ year old Canadian veteran, Sydney Foskett, who landed on Juno on D+1 driving a truck. It was his first visit since 1944, apparently couldn't face the memories before, but now, pushed along in a wheel chair by his great grandson; he held court in front of the museum. I salute you sir! There were a few pixels used up on that meeting!

Some of the gang get tanked up at Overlord



The trip onward to Point du Hoc would end the day. This strong point threatened the Utah and Omaha beaches, and featured dramatically in the early combat scenes in Saving Private Ryan. It was a key target for bombing and naval shelling, most of which was ineffective since the strongpoint had been moved slightly inland!

One of the main "attractions" which remained was St Mère Eglise (famous site of the American paratrooper John Steele who snagged up on the church tower), the American Airborne museum and the Utah Beach museum. Time had run out so the group decided they would take in those on their homeward run to Cherbourg on the Monday.

Sunday was earmarked for a trip to Bayeux tapestry and cathedral, with the nearby Museum of the Battle for Normandy (which tells the tale beyond the squabble over the beaches). The weather was awful, the tapestry not to the taste of those who braved the rain, so the cathedral it was. Needing Sunday afternoon to get home I left the group after lunch for the long drive home.

Pains me to say it but the H***a never missed a beat, though its obstinate starting would have made an electric start very welcome. The run home was wet, windy and a monotonous end to a great ride out in fantastic company.

A day on the beach(es)

There are many more D-Day sites than we visited, many quite specialised in their exhibits, but for those not aware Normandy has much to offer in between those homage visits to the beaches, museums and memorials - picturesque coastal villages and ports such as Barfleur, Deauville and Honfleur, the cathedral and tapestry at Bayeux, Calvados farms and production plants, the beautiful Albâtre coast, Impressionism (Monet) centre, and while you're at it the Rommel HQ at La Roche Guyon and the architecture/history of Rouen. Loads to do and see and more than enough for a long weekend ride out!



The introductions, starting left nearest camera:

Turned to camera Iain – Buell, Turned to camera Bob – Street Triple 675, Slouching Ashley – Trike (big Honda engine), Sunglasses Jeff – Spring ST 1050, Drinking Gavin – Harley, Behind Bob Mike – Honda 350, Reflective jacket Andy – Speed Triple and trip organiser, and John – Honda 250 Dream.

Taking the picture Charlie Harris, he of the Mint Sprint, and to whom I am indebted for most of the photos.

Mike Arnesen

And if you are thinking of riding in France in 2018...

All motorcyclists must wear gloves when riding in France. This applies to riders and pillion on all machines, failing to do so puts you at risk of a fine and points on your licence. The gloves must also be European EN 13549 2015 certified.

As from April 21st 2018 all Motorcycle clothing must be PPE approved.

A new Crit'Air anti-pollution regime is in force and applies to both French and foreign vehicles including motorcycles. If your Motorcycle is older than 2000 it is banned from riding in Paris, Grenoble and Lyon altogether from 8am to 8pm Monday-Friday. The sticker costs €3.70 plus postage (€4.80) NO sticker you get a €70 fine. If your Bike is new you still need to buy a sticker.

December: Christmas Party and Wild & Woolly Scramble



2018 Northants Branch Annual General Meeting

The 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Northants Branch of the Triumph Owners M.C.C. will take place on Wednesday 21st March at The Crown, Senwick Road, Wellingborough. All members are asked to attend.

The meeting will start at 8.30pm.

Agenda

1. Chairman to open the meeting and take apologies.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting* and matters arising.
3. Executive Officers' Reports:
 - a) Secretary
 - b) Treasurer
 - c) Chairman
4. Election of Officers (see page 6):
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) P.R.O.
 - e) Scribe
 - f) Runs Captain
 - g) Membership Secretary
 - h) Webmaster
 - i) General Purpose Officers
5. Election of Branch Auditor
6. Election of Branch Honorary Members
7. Presentation of Awards:
 - a) Triumph Trophy (for general attendance by a full member)
 - b) Navigator Trophy (for general attendance by an associate member)
 - c) Triumph Rider's Trophy (for attendance by a full member on a Triumph)
 - d) Club Person of the Year
 - e) The Double Digit
8. Propositions (taken from the floor or, preferably, in writing in advance)
9. Any Other Business

Notes:

All Officers posts are open for nominations (self-nomination is permitted) and may be filled by any Branch Member. Any Branch Member may put forward propositions. All nominations and propositions must have a seconder.

7a, 7b and 7c are awarded by points accumulated throughout the year. 7d is awarded by vote of members present on the night.

* Last year's AGM minutes were published in the May 2017 issue of Nacelle. If you do not have that a copy can be obtained from Ian Sargent. Copies of the current Branch rules and constitution may also be obtained from him.