

# VIBRATIONS!



**Gene Romero 1947-2019**

**July 2019**



**Triumph Owners M.C.C.**

**Northants Branch**



# Scribblings

A cautionary tale:

A V5 arrived in the post at my address with somebody else's name on – never met him, don't know who he is. I sent it back to the DVLA saying that he nor the car were at this address.

Two days later a penalty charge notice arrives from Barking & Dagenham Council as the car had been flashed in a bus lane. I wrote back to Barking & Dagenham to say that the car was not at this address the man in question did not live here. A few days later another letter arrives from Barking and Dagenham. The penalty charge had been reissued in my name!

I wrote back to ask why as I was not nor ever been the owner/registered keeper. The reply was basically that because the car was registered at my address and I admitted to being the sole resident I was now responsible for payment of the fine. The only way out of this is to get a letter from the DVLA to state that I was not the registered keeper on the date that the offence was committed.

I'm also now wondering how many other traffic offences will be committed by the car owner, knowing that he's never going to receive any of the fines.



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

e-mail: [Sarge.Northampton@btinternet.com](mailto:Sarge.Northampton@btinternet.com)

## New Members

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

Clive Albon from Wootton

Mark Leeding from Gayton

Stephen Harris from Chapel Brampton

Rod Martin from Market Harborough

Kevin Johnston from Northampton

Torquil Warner from Murcia, Spain

Steve Kallis from Northampton

Geoffrey Warren from Brixworth

Tony Kuca from Northampton

Torquil re-joins after a couple of years absence, now that he has got his move from France to Spain sorted out. Tony was one of the branch's founder members and is back in the fold after three decades.

---

## 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.

## 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.

	<b>Events List</b>
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Triumph Day, Jack's Hill Café, Towcester (our big event).</b> 10am-3pm. Meet 7.30am for those helping with the running of the event.
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Evening Run</b> to Norton Owners, The Wharf, Welford. No run, make your own way there. Meet 7.15pm at Premier Inn, Kettering (A14 Junction 7) or make your own way there.
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Wrinklies Run to The Bell, Gumley, LE16 7RU.</b> Meet Pure Triumph at 10.45am with a full tank of fuel.
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Evening Run to Milton Keynes Triumph Owners</b> at The Lake View, Great Linford, MK14 5AH. Depart 7.30pm from Olney Market Square.
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Open Evening &amp; Barbecue at The Crown, Hardingstone.</b> From 8pm. Our annual invite to other Triumph Owners branches and local clubs to pay a visit.
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Founders Day at Stanford Hall
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Wrinklies Run to The Anchor, Great Barford, MK44 3LF.</b> Meet Pure Triumph at 10.45am with a full tank of fuel.
Sat-Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> August	East Carlton Transport Gala. No branch display this year.
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Evening Run to Bedford Triumph Owners,</b> Red Lion, Wilstead. Meet at John White Golf Centre on the A6 south of Rushden at 7.15pm
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm.
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Evening Run to BSA Owners,</b> The Barley Mow, Cosgrove. Meet Pure Triumph at 7.15pm.
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Wrinklies Run to The Boat Inn, Birdingbury, CV23 8HQ.</b> Meet Pure Triumph 10.45am with a full tank.
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Northants Custom & Classic Show at The Bell, High Street, Little Addington, NN14 4BD. Usually a few branch members there. <a href="https://northantsbikeshow.com/">https://northantsbikeshow.com/</a>
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Run to Stilton Bike Show (Peterborough Triumph Owners)</b> at The Talbot Inn, High Street, Stilton, PE7 3RG. 10am from Pure Triumph, or 10.30am from Thrapston services.
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> August	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm.
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Wrinklies Run to The Mad Cat, Pidley, PE28 3BX.</b> Meet Pure Triumph at 10.45am with a full tank

**Events in bold are branch events, others are for information only.**

# Northants Branch Info and News

## 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.

## 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

## 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.

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)

## 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.

---

## Gene Romero

American motorcycle racer Gene Romero died on 12th May after suffering from Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Specialising in Flat Track and "TT" Steeplechase races, he won 12 AMA National Championships in a 16-year racing career. Many of his early wins coming onboard Triumph twins.

He also raced for Triumph at Daytona in 1970 and 1971 on a Trident, coming second on both occasions. This month's cover picture is from the 1971 race (note the apparent lack of gloves). Gene did finally win at Daytona in 1975, but by then he had switched to Yamaha.



# TriFest Somerset 2019

St Audries Bay Holiday Club was again the venue for this May Bank Holiday event and a first visit for Joanna and myself. I'd decided last year that although it's fun riding to events, especially if there's a group of you, it's financially beneficial and in some cases more comfortable to use our motorhome rather than pay for accommodation - towing our Bonneville (providing camping is available).

The touring park here is adequate with the benefit of a great location overlooking the bay. We arrived Friday with the intention of staying until the following Thursday. Steve Patenall and Simon & Carol Tuckley also chose to make the weekend an extended holiday also.

Friday night was a relaxed start to the weekend with most members chatting and drinking in the bar, not many ventured into the entertainment hall where a disco was in full swing. I guess the journey there after a week's work and the opportunity to remake old acquaintances found most folk in the other bar.

Saturday arrived and several rideout options were available with two planned to incorporate this year's 70-year celebration certificate... a simple registration was required to participate.

Paul Humphreys had decided to lead our group on a different tour popping in to Triumph Taunton for lunch and checking out any deals offered (Steve and I bought caps at half price). We then visited one of Paul's secret pubs in Watchet, Pebbles Tavern. Well worth a visit to taste their real ales and cider. Our group consisted of myself, Robert, Paul, Simon T, Steve P and Alan. We'd adopted Alan on Friday night after his Birmingham club failed to show...nice chap. Anyway, after a cheeky pint it was back to camp and upon arriving at the campsite gate I'd clocked exactly 70 miles, qualifying me for the 70-year certificate...nice one Paul.



Saturday evening, I guess is the main party night at these three-day events and four of us had booked the gala dinner. There had been mixed reviews on this event from a few of our club's established members but being new to the game we wanted to try it out. We were seated with two other couples from the Yorvik Vikings. Most of their group were also participating in this meal and they numbered over twenty members...good turnout. The meal was ok but the dessert was disgusting. Anyone who ordered the apple crumble was in for a shock. Somehow the custard had been seriously burnt, to the point that it was giving off such an acrid odour it was making your eyes water. The amazing thing was that as dish after dish was returned, more with the same custard on top (waitresses eyes streaming) kept coming out...Not good.

The evening's entertainment was a band called Old Skool. These guys could certainly play but for me it was too loud and poorly mixed. I asked around and we all felt it sounded like a blurry noise. Again, the majority of the people there stayed in the other bar. If you're going to have music at a level that restricts any conversation between each other, it's got to be entertaining and it wasn't. Those that did stay looked pretty unimpressed.

Sunday looked to be another dry day, which was handy for the Concours. Paul took a trophy for Best of Show. Organised Ride outs were also available for those who had missed Saturday's escorted trips.

## TriFest Somerset 2019

It was decided amongst our group to have a barbecue on Sunday which worked well, although Paul & Robert did struggle to drag themselves from the bar (celebrating Paul's win I suspect) but another top up of charcoal resolved the problem...



I thought the weekend was fun although I'm not sure about these band choices as we get older. On Sunday night they held a music quiz and after, the DJ played a more 'middle of the road' style music that immediately brought out the dancers...something he'd failed to achieve all weekend!

After the weekend, those of us that stayed on were able to still enjoy the dry weather and although the air was cold, we had some great rides across Exmoor.

Michael Stanley.





# Tales From Hardingstone

Once upon a time...

No, that's not a good start. Question is, where do I start?

I blame my school teacher Mr "Balsa Wood". Not his real name, he was the woodwork teacher. One day whilst in detention (an often occurrence), he said "I've been watching you" (OK I thought) "writing out lines" (he carried on) "is not doing you any good. So, you have an hour's detention, do something useful and clean my motorcycle."

From then on it was my job. The motorcycle was a James 125cc. This was in 1952. No one was allowed to touch it except me. He showed me how it started, how to change gear with the lever on the handlebars, and so on. I was hooked. I had to have one. I did and more so, but I would like to move to 1963...

I purchased an ex-army Triumph 3HW 350cc OHV motorcycle for £12 as a commuter. I used it until I married and moved away from my parents' home, leaving the old bike standing in the garden. Dad was not pleased and after a while he said "I have called the scrap man to take away the motorcycle." God no! I had forgotten all about it. Off I sped and retrieved it to my house.

By this time, I was a member of the VMCC so I started to research the bike. I found that it was manufactured at Meriden in 1942, in the first batch of army bikes. It was released to the army Central Vehicle Depot at Ashchurch but where it went from there I don't know. I was told by the man I bought it off that it had been used by John Barratt at Sywell during the war. He was an important member of Barratts Shoes management and exempt from armed forces duty, but he joined the Home Guard and was a member of the Northampton Motorcyclists Club.

Anyway, it next appeared on the civilian register in 1947 in his name (so I was told). Bit did John use it at Sywell and was he the first civilian owner? I would love to know.

Does anyone have any old photos of a 3HW. Better still, does anybody have any old bits as I am rebuilding here and hope to have her on show soon.

"Bert"

Not a member of the branch, but I'm sure that some of you will have spoken to "Bert" at The Crown

## A 3HW, but not the one in question.

