

VIBRATIONS!



Norman says that it's a long way from Corby.

November 2016



Triumph Owners M.C.C.

Northants Branch

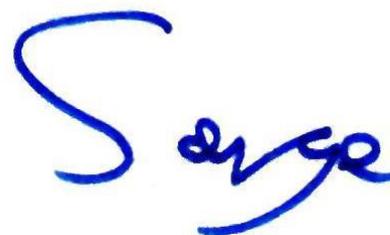


Scribblings

For many people the riding season has come to an end, with just the odd trip out to look forward to if the weather looks reasonable - though I'm sure that there will be a few hardy souls who will keep going all through the winter. Looking back through the branch reports in Nacelle I get the impression that the branch has had one of its best years for rideouts and shows, along with a consistently good turnout of members and bikes at The Crown.

The next committee meeting is on 28th November and one of the items on the agenda will be planning next year's events. If you have any suggestions for evening or weekend rideouts let one of the branch officers know before then and we'll see if we can fit it in the calendar.

My Scottish travels were detailed in the last issue and September saw three other branch members take their bikes north of Hadrian's Wall. You can tell from the front cover where Norman Waples got to, while Gary Bonham's adventures can be found on page 7. The third member was John Gibbs, who took in various places between Moffat and Applecross; including at least one of the islands. A couple of his pictures appear on the next page.



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New Members

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

Stephen Bowyer of Burton Latimer

Mark Robinson of Irthlingborough

Jerry Fitzpatrick of Brackley

Paul Rogers of Sywell

Henry Richards of Irchester

Gordon Taylor of Northampton

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	
Wed 2 nd November	Club Night at The Crown. 8pm onwards
Sat 5 th November	“NMM Live”: the National Motorcycle Museum’s annual free open day. 8.30am-5.30pm. Details here: www.nationalmotorcyclemuseum.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/NMM-Museum-Live-A4-Timetable-Online-Version-Oct16.pdf
Wed 16 th November	Club Night at The Crown. 8pm onwards
Sat-Sun 19 th -20 th November	Classic Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre. www.thenec.co.uk/whats-on/classic-motor-show/
Daily 19 th -27 th November	Motorcycle Live at the National Exhibition Centre. Will Triumph spring any surprises? The Triumph Owners MCC will also have a stand this year. Details and advance tickets at: www.motorcyclelive.co.uk
Wed 30 th November	Ladies Night at The Crown (provisional)
Wed 7 th December	Club Night at The Crown. 8pm onwards
Wed 21 st December	Club Night at The Crown. 8pm onwards. Our little Christmas Bash.
Mon 26 th December	Wild & Woolly Scramble at The Arm Farm, Blisworth
Sat 1 st April	40 th Anniversary Party at AJs Diner, Wellingborough
Sun 2 nd April	Triumph Owners National AGM, Wellingborough



Pictures from John Gibbs' Scotland trip.

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.

We are in the process of transferring to a new webmaster so the website may not get updated for a while. More news next issue.

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 (mobile phone OK) and send it to Sarge. 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 website: www.tomccstore.com

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

Bike Nights in Northamptonshire:

Jack's Hill Café Bike Night, A5 north of Towcester: First Friday of each month.

www.jackshillcafe.co.uk

Earls Barton Classic Car and Bike Meet, Whites Nurseries, Clay Lane: First Wednesday of each month April-September, 4.30pm to 9pm. www.classicbikemeet.co.uk/. £3 per person admission

Billing Bike Night, Billing Garden Village, The Causeway, Great Billing. Every Wednesday from April. www.allseasonscafe.co.uk

AJs Diner Bike Night, 141 Leyland Trading Estate, Irthlingborough Road, Wellingborough: Every Thursday 7pm-10pm. www.ajsdiner.co.uk

Northants Branch Info and News

Northants Branch Clothing Range

All items come with the branch logo embroidered on the front, as shown here. Items 5 & 6 also include the large back-print (though this can be left off if requested). Items 1, 2 & 3 can have the back print added for an additional £7.50 per item.

	Item	Price
1	T-Shirt	£12.00
2	Polo Shirt	£14.50
3	Business Shirt	£25.00
4	Fleece	£25.00
5	Sweatshirt	£26.00
6	Hoodie	£29.50
7	Baseball Cap	£12.00
8	Sew-On Patch	£6.00



Clothing should be ordered via Les Barras at one of our club nights. All being well, what you order at one club night will be available for collection two weeks later.

Triumph Owners MCC 2017 National A.G.M.

On the 2nd April 2017 the Northants Branch will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of the Triumph Owners Motorcycle Club at the Wellingborough Old Grammarians Memorial Sports Ground, Sywell Road, Wellingborough. The event shouldn't cost the branch a penny as HQ give us a budget for room hire and catering all we have to do is organise and host the meeting. The room is booked and will be set out ready for us. To further the burden on the committee and branch members we have decided to go for outside catering so, along with the onsite bar, all aspects of feeding and watering our visitors is covered.

Where we will need assistance from our members is erecting direction signs to the venue and car parking duties, a couple of hours either Saturday or Sunday is all that will be needed. The committee will be asking for volunteers nearer the date so keep your eyes peeled for the request in a future edition of Vibrations.

Next year is also the 40th anniversary of the Northants Branch and it was suggested that we put on something to celebrate this. Rather than have a separate event we will do this as part of the AGM weekend, with a Rock & Roll night at AJs Diner in Wellingborough on the night before the AGM. All AGM delegates who are stopping over will be invited to join us.

Pure Triumph Christmas Shopping

Last year Pure Triumph held a successful late night opening in the run-up to Christmas. It's hoped that it will be repeated again this year but it hadn't been finalised at the time of writing. Details will be advised to members as soon as we have them.

The Trifest Fiasco - September 2016

Wednesday 14th

Set off at 9.30 for the motorway slog up the M6 and made a pitstop at Windermere for lunch. Spent the afternoon exploring the lakes then headed up for my first overnight stay at Moffat, a lovely border town, where the local brew of Bellhaven was sampled. Bike running great returning 58-65 mpg.



Moffat

Thursday 15th

A fantastic breakfast was had at The Famous Star Hotel (the worlds narrowest hotel according to the Guinness Book of Records) then, with John Gibbs who was enjoying Scotland so much he forgot to turn off at Glasgow to visit his daughter (he will get down there at the weekend), we rode up to Fort William where I am staying tonight. I rode with him towards Strontian (he was on his way to Tobermory). Roads and weather fantastic and a new record was had today on my ever improving Tiger 1050 - due to the nature of the roads around Loch Lomond, Loch Linnhe and the single track down to Strontian the bike achieved an amazing 66.4 mpg! I am loving it more and more. John and I parted at 4.30 as rain was forecast for 6pm onwards so I made my way back to Fort William for more Bellhaven and a nice meal...the rain never came.



 **Glen Coe**

Fort William



The Trifest Fiasco - September 2016

Friday 16th

It rained all night so woke to wet roads. Breakfast was had, filled up the Tiger which is running great - I am really gelling with it on this trip - so smooth, easy to ride and brilliant mpg. On the road for 9.30 - a gentle day today as it's only 90 miles to Ullapool - going to take the coast road and have lunch at Gairloch. Lunch was a meal deal from Morrisons, I got there early to obtain mayo free sandwiches. The ride was biking heaven, tiger running great, out of this world scenery and great weather. Lunch was indeed at Gairloch then a lovely road, which I was mostly the only person on the 60 miles to Ullapool and arrived at my B & B at 4pm. Walked into town at 7pm to find all the other Triumph owners who will meet at the Seaforth Hotel where we will discuss tomorrows routes.



Seaforth Hotel, Ullapool

Saturday 17th

A very disappointing start to today....no organisation.....nobody leading the rides and no start times. I ended up riding by myself (again) down to Applecross where I met Mike, the national vice chairman, and we had a very nice ride doing 200 miles but mpg fell by almost 10 because the roads only needed 4th gear for most of the day and once again very nice weather. Off on my 45 minute walk into Ullapool for the Triumph disco. They say it is going to rain tomorrow, may still ride as there is nothing else to do in Ullapool if you are staying all day.



Over the pass from Applecross



Gairloch

The Trifest Fiasco - September 2016

Sunday 18th

Awoke to yet another nice day. After breakfast my plan was to ride to Durness 65 miles from Ullapool on my favourite UK road, then went across to Tongue before it was time to head back. Once you are this far north there are very few roads that I haven't been down previously but I managed to find a single track road back to Ullapool. 45 miles into my 85 mile journey I experienced the first rain of my trip. I stopped at a little village called Lairds to put on my waterproofs then rode to Ullapool arriving at 5pm. I left at 6 for my long walk into town for dinner and beers. Sadly the only thing to be gleaned from this trip is biking heaven, but I already knew this, BUT what a waste of time and money, another day riding around on my own.



Tiger @ Durness

Monday 19th

Leaving to go back to Fort William so a lesson in how to kill time will shortly be coming into force. The one thing I can take from this trip is knowing the Tiger has been great it's comfortable, handles well, powers up the hills in any gear, is amazing on fuel and I KNOW it will always start. Stopped off at Inverness on the way for some chain grease, the only thing I forgot to pack. Set off at 6pm for the 1.5 mile walk into Fort William which took 1 hour and on arrival several Doombars were needed and a good meal in Wetherspoons, I then admitted defeat and got a taxi back.

Tuesday 20th

Only 170 miles down to Moffat today which means more waiting around but on reading the paperwork I can get into my hotel after 1 o'clock (a real bonus) I picked up a meal deal from Morrisons which I ate at Alexandria, just short of the Erskine Bridge, as after that it is all motorway. Weather is still amazing but I get the feeling that you wouldn't want to ride up here in a couple of weeks as it was real cold riding through the glens. Arrived in Moffat at 2pm and spent the afternoon relaxing in my room. I asked for a 7.30 breakfast so I could make an early start having already filled the Tiger with petrol. Out at 7 for a meal and a few beers before my 285 mile journey tomorrow. Hope to be home by teatime.

Wednesday 21st

Had an early breakfast and was on the road by 8.15. 285 miles from Moffat to Northampton and even though I stopped 3 times I was home by 2pm which I didn't think was too bad considering my bad knees. The bike has been brilliant I did 1750 miles in the week averaging 62 mpg, that will do for me!

Gary Bonham

Pistons & Props at Sywell, 24th-25th September

We set up on the Friday afternoon after a lot of messing about trying to find out exactly where to put our Gazebo, many thanks to all who turned up to help.

I only managed the Saturday but it was a very good day with 11 bikes on show. The drag and custom cars were very impressive, with big booming engines and great paint jobs.

Some interesting bikes also, the one that took my eye was an MV which was made to look like Ago's 500/3 racer but it was infact a twin with 3 exhausts.

We had three distinguished guest's come to our stand, who all worked at Meriden...

Mrs Skip Peacock, who worked in the machine shop.

Bill Fannon, a Mechanic for the race team. He was Malcom Uphill's Mechanic when he won the 1969 TT, and John Cooper's Mechanic in 1971 when he won many major events all over the world on the Trident/R3

Darrel Pendlebury, a tester whos ejob involved taking bikes out on to the road every day. Those that that did not make the grade were sent to the race shop; one such bike becoming Malcolm Uphill's winning T120. Darrel was not just a tester at Meriden but a very good road racer He rode for Bennetts at Triumph dealer in Atherstone riding T120's and Tridents in the Isle of Man and international meetings.

All three spent quite some time with us telling some great stories of their time at Meriden.

The Sunday started wet but got better as the day went on. All in all a good weekend for us with a lot of interest in our stand.

Phil Barton.

Photos by Chris Dickens:

