



Peashooter

The Newsletter of the Norton Owners Club - Surrey Branch

www.surreynoc.org.uk

Issue 3 - January 2009



Fancy Test Hill in 2009? - Yes - We're booking Brooklands!

Highlight of the new 2009 Surrey Branch Programme has to be the Special Brooklands Day in May 2009. We have met with Brooklands motorcycle event coordinator, John Bottomley, and have booked a special event, allowing members and our guests to use the test hill, returning by a section of banked track to the base of the hill and starting all over again, in two time windows during the day (pre and post lunch).

The museum will cover first aid, course layout, health and safety, marshalling etc. and essentially give us the museum for the day although the public would still be allowed in. Both we and the public will be able to see working Nortons in all their glory. Each entrant will be charged around £10 and get TWO entry tickets free, one for rider and one for "mechanic".

We have agreed with the National Norton Owners Club that they will assist us financially and we will throw the event open to all Norton Owners nationwide. All in all, not a bad deal and the test hill is NOT a piece of cake and of course, the museum is very worth seeing. A special booking form will shortly appear on our website- So if you fancy your bike's chances don't delay!



We're moving to the Star!

Surrey Branch has a new meeting place! From next month all our member's meetings will be at "The Star" at Malden Rushett close to Junction 9 of the M25. Unfortunately such has been our success, that we've grown too big for The Royal Oak, and our thanks go to Tina and Colin for all the great hospitality they've given us since our launch.

The Star has recently undergone a total refurbishment and it's absolutely lovely. Cosy open fire, wooden floors, leather armchairs and sofas, daily papers and real coffee on offer. The staff are nice and friendly. The food is great with plenty of vegetarian options and a varied menu. There's a big meeting area too, and a huge Car park. Treasurer Dick also speaks warmly of the Real Ale! Getting to the Star is simple - Turn North from Junction 9 of the M25 towards Chessington. The Star is ¾ mile down on the left..



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Golden Lion Children's Trust

Motor Cycle Toy Run - Sunday 7 December 2008

The Golden Lion Children's Trust is a Gatwick based charity, was founded in 1973 by the employees of British Caledonian Airways and others who worked at Gatwick Airport. The first event was a day trip flight to Jersey for disabled children of Ingfield Manor School. Because of their disabilities, none of the children had flown before or could ever expect to do so. Since then, the charity has arranged many more flights to numerous destinations and coach trips all around the UK, all for similarly disabled and disadvantaged children.



The annual Toy Run was started in 1981 by Turners Hill MCC and has run every year since on the first Sunday in December. When membership numbers reduced three years later, the event passed on to Rocket MCC. For the past few years, the event has started at The Motorcycle Workshop premises in London Road, Bolney, meeting at 10.30am for an 11 am start. The route follows the A272 to Cuckfield, the B2036 through Balcombe to Tinsley Green before joining the A23 and finishing at the Gatwick Manor Hotel.

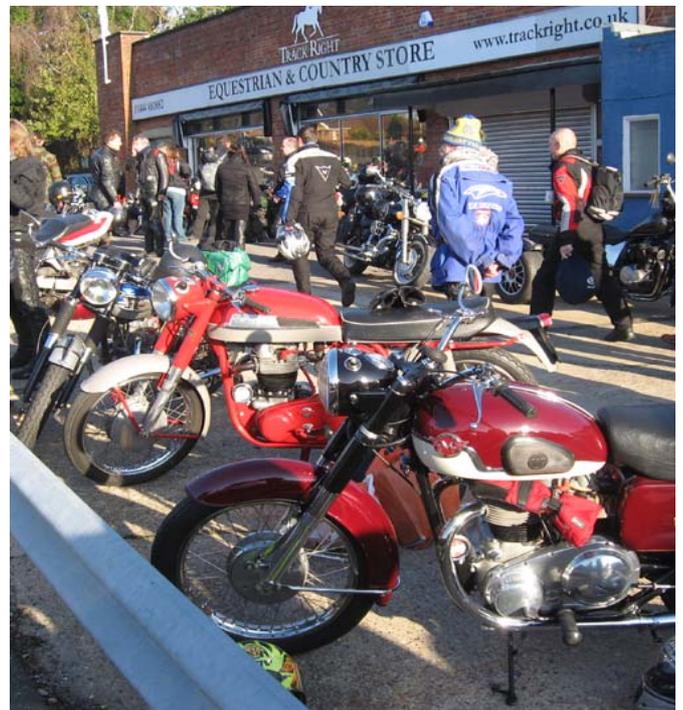
Requirements for joining the ride are an unwrapped toy, to be donated at the finish. There a team of helpers sort the toys into 'lots' of four before wrapping them into a parcel to be handed to the children invited to the Golden Lion Children's Trust Late Christmas Party held every January.

This year the weather was kind to us albeit a tad on the chilly side, unlike last year when we were met with very heavy rain. I had been concerned at the frosty conditions first thing in the



morning, but by 10am the road outside my house was changing from white to grey. Furry toy strapped on the pillion seat, two kicks and the 1940 16H roared into life. My neighbours curtains were still closed, but they would now be awake! I gingerly rode out to the Brighton Road and off to Bolney, not leaning on the corners and carefully watching the speed - I didn't want to miss the ride by dropping the bike on ice.

Numbers were up slightly with around 200 riders meeting at The Motorcycle Workshop for a chat and a cup of tea before the off. Another chance to meet old acquaintances before the usual bad weather of the New Year! Many different bikes of all vintages, but a surprise was that there were no Commandos although there were half a dozen Nortons. A ten minute warning was called, time for a last pee and back to the bike to prepare for the off.



To my surprise it was a pleasant and largely uneventful ride. Well worth undertaking in warmer weather when a little more speed could be used on the undulating, twisty roads. As it was we took things carefully in the icy conditions. The public were out to watch us and we waved to many children lining the route. Carefully riding through Cuckfield, we spotted a temporary speed trap, but were waved through with a smile by the officers, gun pointing away from the road. We only broke convoy when we reached the outskirts of Crawley where weight of traffic broke us into batches, but by the time we reached the hotel, we were back in a single group.

A hearty welcome and grateful thanks from the Golden Lion Children's Trust before very welcome mince pies and hot drinks and another chance for a chin wag. I can thoroughly recommend this run and would urge you to add it to your itinerary for next year. I will certainly be back next year. -

Chris Barraclough

The Peashooter Guide

January

January 4th 2009

The BRITISH BIKE & CLASSIC CAR RESTORATION SHOW returns to Donington Park Exhibition Centre. 01484 452002 or www.classicshows.org

January 14th

It's Brit Bike Night at the Ace Café in north London with the with Triumph Royal Enfield clubs. Starts 6pm.

www.ace-cafe-london.com

January 25th

There's an AUTOJUMBLE at Whitewebbs Museum of Transport in Enfield. Opens 9am to 2pm, admission £2. 07956 252691

26th January Surrey Branch Club Night - 8.00pm **Club Meeting. Special Guest Speaker : Eric Patterson (See Below)** The Star - Malden Rushett - Steve 01372 807670

29th January – 1st February 2009

London Motorcycle Show - It's the biggest bike show in London and the South East, the Show takes place at ExCeL, between 29th January – 1st February 2009 ExCeL London is just 1 mile east of Canary Wharf and 1 mile west of London City Airport. It's accessible from the M25, M11, A13 and A406 (North Circular)

January 31st

The EGP AUTOJUMBLE opens 10am at Kempton Park racecourse near Sunbury. Huge bikejumble with around 250 outdoor and indoor stalls, five mins from J1 off the M3. Admission £5. www.egp-enterprises.co.uk / 01344 883961

Guest Speaker at our Club Night on 26th January is the organiser of the Kempton Bike Jumbles, **Eric Patterson.**

Old motorcycles have always been Eric's hobby. He is a knowledgeable enthusiast of British Bikes with specific interests in those built in the thirties right up to the sixties.

His first motor cycle was a 1937 Wolf 125cc that was soon followed by an ex army BSA M20 which he rode in the Windsor Great Park woods in the early sixties, much to the annoyance of the game keepers!

Eric has spent his life sampling different bikes and has lost count of the many machines he has ridden. He has a particular obsession with JAP V-twins and Cotton pre-war singles. In September 2008, Eric took his JAP powered Norton racer to the famous Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, where he smashed the class record of 100.022 mph previously held by an Indian and then beat his own record the next day which now stands at 121.8 mph.

February

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th February 2009

The 9th CLASSIC JAPANESE MOTORCYCLE SHOW returns to Donington Park Exhibition Centre for those with interest in Jap classics as well as British Bikes! Big two day show, supported by the VJMC. Club stands, private entries very welcome to join concours competition, over 150 trade stands plus indoor and outdoor auto jumble. Road, racing and off-road Japanese classics of all ages. Opens 10am to 5pm both days. www.classicshows.org / 01484 452002 Admission £8 adults, £3 children age 7 to 14

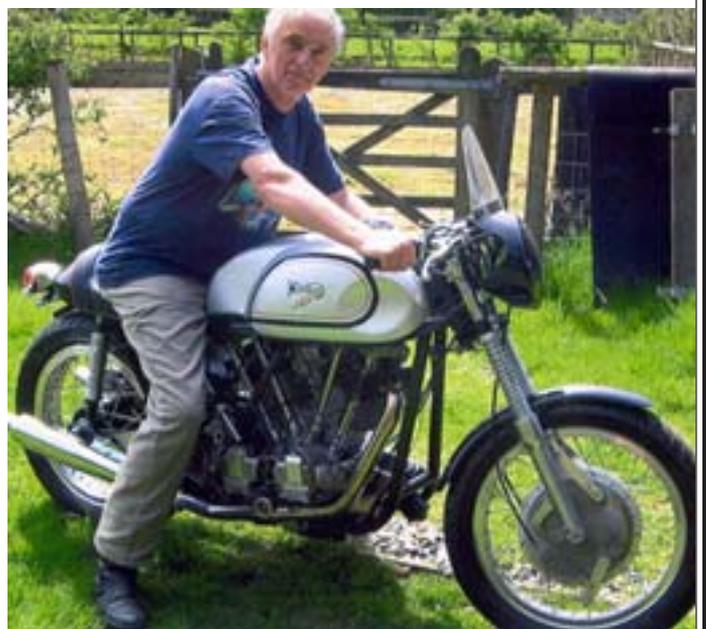
Sun 15th Feb 2009

M.A.G. Fred Hill Memorial Ride-Out from Ace Café departing 1pm, www.ace-cafe-london.com

23rd February - Surrey Branch Club Night - 8.00pm **Club Meeting** with Special Guest Speaker (tbc) - The Star - Malden Rushett - Steve 01372 807670

February 27th and 28th, March 1st

The ALLY PALLY MOTORCYCLE SHOW returns to London's Alexandra Palace at Wood Green, N22 7AY for three full days featuring all aspects of motorcycling, modern and ancient and in-between. Includes manufacturers and dealer displays, off-road and racing bikes, streetfighters, customs and classics, touring, trade stands, accessories, tuning and modification stalls and more. 2000 free parking spaces on site or easy access via tube or train (free shuttle bus from station to main entrance). Discounted tickets available in advance from 0845 230 5177. Gate admission £15 adults, children age 5 to 14 £5. 01484 452002 or www.classicshows.org



ADVENTURES ON A NORTON...

"the good samaritan"

It was on one of those dark, cold winters days in 2007 that my mate Jeff and I decided that, come the Spring, we would ride our Nortons, his a '29 Model 18, mine a '35 Inter, up the east coast of Britain, around the top and then down the left hand side for a bit of adventure, booking only the first night's accommodation and leaving the rest to fate.

We had both retired in the previous year and had ridden to the Jampot Rally on the Dutch/German border in May, me on my Inter, Jeff on a 119 decibel '26 Big Port AJS sprinter. Neither of us had lights, each thought the other had brought a map and we could only carry what we could tie to the bikes or on our backs. It was good fun, we got on well.

However, as the time for our round the country adventure neared, we noted that the medium range weather forecast was for torrential rain (this turned out to be the week before the west country flooding) and Jeff was having issues with builders renovating his house, so we begrudgingly decided to throttle back our ambitions and just take 4 days away, towards Ludlow for starters we thought. Why Ludlow?, because neither of us knew where it was of course.

We set off under grey skies and by the time we passed through Henley, it was raining and by Stow on the Wold it was pouring and continued so all the way to a pub we found somewhere in Shropshire, where we stayed the night. We were soaked, pints of water in each boot, 2 pairs of gloves already used up. A few beers, a good meal and a night's sleep, we woke up in the morning, raring to go. It was still pouring, our leathers and boots just as wet. The pub chef gave us Somerfield's carrier bags to wear between socks and boots...class!

We decided to ride towards Wales and the rain stopped. As we dived down a long hill on our first dry road, Jeff passed me at speed but with a silent engine. When he came to rest, probably a mile further down the hill, I noticed he had lost his inlet pushrod. Luckily, I found it a few miles up the road and triumphantly brought it back, the top collar being badly chipped." Great" says he, but the bottom collar and spigot was missing. Back up the road, 15 minutes later returning empty handed. "I suppose it's not still on the bike" says I. There it was. Now we found that the rocker adjusting screw had sheared off so we searched our pockets for a replacement bolt. No joy, so we started to strip his bike from the rear to find a bolt with the right thread...7/32th BSF! We found one as the rain started, the carb clamp bolt. Triumphant and now very wet again, we tried to start the bike, knowing that the unhardened bolt would not last long but better than nothing.

The bike would not start, the mag being full of water. As he was stripping it down, I quipped that we needed a grey bearded motorcyclist with a van, and a workshop just up the road, to come by. "Expletive dream on" says a wet Jeff. We didn't know exactly where we were and the terrain was exposed and quiet, maybe 6 cars in 2 hours passing by. And then it happened. A white van pulled up and a head, with a long white beard popped out of the passenger window. "I



My mate Jeff and I on the Healy Pass in western Ireland

thought Nortons never broke down, hee hee. We are just taking a bike to be MOT'd and if you're still here in 20 minutes, Dave will pick you up, he has a little workshop up the road". 20 minutes later Jeff's bike was in the van and off we went up the road. The small workshop turned out to be 2 factory units and a state of the art engineering business, I even rode in and parked inside out of the rain.

Having removed our wet gear, Dave sat us down in armchairs with a hot cup of tea. "I'll get one of the lads to turn and harden an adjusting screw and shrink a collar onto the pushrod top". Within an hour it was done and the bike rebuilt. Dave would not take anything for the work. After thanks and farewells, we were preparing to leave when Dave said to me, "I recognise that Brooklands Can on your Inter, I've ridden behind it". We went through everywhere we had been and then realised all three of us were regular riders in the "Irish" ie..the Irish National Rally in Kerry....small world.

A few months later, Jeff and I rode the same bikes to the "Irish", met up with 4 Brooklands VMCC mates, (and with Dave in a bar in Glengariff), did the rally and rode home, about 1500 miles with a smidgen of off-roading thrown in. In those few days in Ireland, we had a snapped valve spring, two of us "came off", another was knocked off, another ran into the back of another, we ran over a dog, lost a silencer and an indicator, and had a cracked mag on the way home. But that's another story for the future, working title, "No country for old men" methinks.

The good Samaritan was Dave Watkins of Rhayader Precision Ltd, telephone 01597 811056 ..."turning, milling, keyways, gears, parts for vintage vehicles, one-offs....", a true enthusiast and a Norton rider in at least one "Irish". I cannot recommend him enough.

Dave Gibson



Club Social Night at The Royal Oak in November- From left to right - Geoff Cole, Peter White, Tina Young, Tom Webster, Andy Dowd, Dick Thurley and Colin Wood

Harvey Ward has just contacted me to apologise for his recent absence from the Norton scene, using as his excuse the fact that he had been whipped into hospital for emergency surgery. He is out again and recuperating at home, but still a bit fragile as he is nursing 50+ stitches. Congratulations to Harvey on having this maintenance done during the cold season and Best Wishes from all his riding mates for a full recovery. Harvey is on email and I am sure would welcome a little contact with the outside world. harvey.ward@hotmail.com - *Peter Ashley*

Motorcycle Parking Tip of the Month- If you're visiting the South Bank - use the National Theatre underground car park. It's free for bikes. It's a difficult area otherwise! - *Dave Cooper*

Note From The Editor

Sincere thanks to everybody who kindly made submissions for inclusion in the Peashooter. I apologise for some overdue acknowledgements and if I have missed anybody, then please accept my apologies. (I have been experiencing some teething problems in trying to understand how Gmail handles emails compared with Outlook). Nevertheless, I look forward to receiving more copy for the next Edition and on behalf of all the Editorial staff wish everybody a Happy New Year.

- *Tim Laight*

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EndPoint



...Remember a motorcycle is not just for Christmas...

My Tiny Hand Was Frozen

I don't know quite how prophetic Puccini was feeling when he wrote Madam Butterfly, but he encompassed in Mimi's famous aria exactly what I have been feeling recently. I have shocking circulation in my hands and despite the protection afforded by the handshields on my sc**t*r no combination of gloves plus liners keeps me warm for more than about half an hour.

Since I use the aforementioned two-wheel motorised transport in the course of my work I do not always have the choice whether to go out in cold weather and so I have had HotGrips fitted. To say that I have attracted considerable derision from some of my so-called friends in SNOG is somewhat of an understatement but I have broad shoulders (and waistline). I also have warm hands.

In addition, I bought a pair of quilted overtrousers from GetGearing in Leatherhead which my daughter observed look like a duvet and make me look and walk like a rather overweight deepsea diver who's had a few. But has warm legs.

Still, In the Bleak Midwinter and all of that. Don't mock it till you try it!

Tim Laight - Almost a Biker