



VIBRATIONS

JULY 2023

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### WALES TRIP 2023

The Northants TOMCC group enjoyed the sunshine and delightful roads in Wales.

### GILKS CAFÉ

Kevin volunteered to lead a ride out to Gilks café, including a trip to Industry & Supply

### ABR FESTIVAL

12 thousand + bikers enjoy offroad riding, beer and great music in the heart of Warwickshire.



## 2023 WALES TRIP

### NORTHANTS TOMCC HIT THE ROADS IN WALES ONCE AGAIN

A fabulous turnout for this year's TOMCC trip. The week was filled with a variety of well-planned ride outs, sunshine and tasty food. A great time had by all.

I hope you have all had plenty of opportunities to get out on two wheels in the glorious sunshine that June brought.

Mark and I have had a great month, starting with the Daventry Bike Festival, but the highlight was the Adventure Bike Rider Festival at Radley Hall in Warwickshire. No broken ankle this year but it was not without drama. I would particularly like to thank Steve P and Al P for their kindness in rescuing me from the roadside and helping me safely on my way to the festival.

Also, congratulations to Sue joining her first ride out under her own steam this weekend.

Thank you so much for your contributions this month, I look forward to seeing more for the numerous activities and events running in July.

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.

*Kirstie & Mark*

TRIUMPH OWNERS M.C.C. NORTHANTS BRANCH





# INTRODUCTIONS

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new club members this month

Chris Leach - Woodford  
Jonathan Bayes - Irchester

Duncan Billingham - Hackleton  
Ian Lilley - Rushden

# EVENTS LIST – THE BIG LIST

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

JULY			
Sat 1st	10.30am	Breakfast Meet	Pure Triumph Wellingborough
Sun 2nd	10.00am	Breakfast Meet	The Square St. Neots
Mon 3rd	7.00pm	Milton Keynes TOMCC	The Station Inn Woburn Sands
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Club Night - Concours	The Crown Hardingstone
Sun 9th	TBC	Grimethorpe Classic	Bourne
Wed 12th	9.30am	Breakfast Meet	Hoar Park / Huggies Speed Shop
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Hermitage Care Home Thrapston	Meet Pure Triumph Wellingborough
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>		Essex Treffen Rally	Dog & Partridge Orset
Sun 16th	09.00am	Dambusters Flight	Woodhall Spa
Wed 19th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Sun 23rd	10.00am	Founders Day (VMCC)	Stanford Hall
Wed 26th	7.30pm	Summer BBQ Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Sat 29th	10.30am	Breakfast Meet	Pure Triumph Wellingborough
Sun 30th	10.00am	Guest led ride	Sunday 100 rideout (S Patenall)
AUGUST			
Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Club Night - Scramblers	The Crown Hardingstone
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	11:00-16:00	Rushden Bike Festival	Rushden, Hall Park
Wed 9th	9.30am	Breakfast Meet	Hoar Park
Sun 13th	9.30am	Breakfast Meet	Rutland TT
Wed 16th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Fri 18th to Sun 20th		South Lincs - TOMCC Rally (Big Branch Bash)	Greetham Ctr. Oakham
Sat 26th	10.30am	Breakfast Meet	Pure Triumph Wellingborough
Sun 27th	10.00am	Guest Member Rideout	TBC
Wed 30th	7.30pm	Club Night – Meriden	The Swan Newton Bromswold
SEPTEMBER			
Sat 2nd	10.00am	Breakfast Meet	Pure Triumph Wellingborough
Sun 3rd	10.00am	Breakfast Meet	GILKS Garage Kinton
Sun 3rd	10.00am	ABF Charity Event	Triumph Factory Hinkley
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone



**SEPTEMBER cont**

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
Sat 23rd/Sun 24th		Piston & Props	Sywell Aerodrome
Fri 29th	09.00am	McMillan Coffee Morning	TBC
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





# TOMCC WALES TRIP 2023

## NORTHAMPTON TOMCC ENJOYS THE SUNSHINE IN WALES



Considering the only holidays I have had in Wales have ended with rain and misery, I was a little apprehensive about joining the trip to Morfa Borth; despite being told that last year was lovely. I needn't have worried; from the first day until the last we were *mostly* lucky and had cracking weather.

Leaving from the Red Lion truck stop, our trip over was steadily led by Bob, who did a great job of keeping us all together. A couple of quick stops on the way for comfort and food and we were in Borth just in time for the promised thunderstorms. Some of us got drenched unloading our bikes, while others were fortunate to have travelled the day before and were watching the rain from the safety of the bar in the clubhouse.

After picking up our bags from Paul's caravan and having a few glasses of prosecco there courtesy of Linda, we made our way to the clubhouse to eat. This was the first time we all got together to eat food and spill drinks (sorry Andy, sorry Paul!). Thankfully, we just managed to dodge the rain on the way back to the caravan that night.



Tuesday brought the warm sunny weather, and the roads were thankfully dry just in time for our departure to Bala Lake. Sadly, Big Al couldn't join the ride as he discovered he'd got a flat from a screw embedded in his back tyre, so there was a slight delay as this was repaired. He was told he couldn't get another fitted until Friday, which was a disappointment. Thank you to Mark for inflating my tyres before the trip and to Henry, who had spotted (the day before) that my chain needed

tightening (again!), and then Bob offering to fix it the next day.

Paul led a swift ride to beautiful Bala Lake. The roads were fantastic and, apart from the odd patch of gravel, had no potholes! The group had a short stop at the Loch Cafe, where most of us normal people got a drink and a snack, and a couple of nutters stripped off for a dip in the lake: well, I suppose it was a hot day! Phil also made the rookie error of leaving his keys in his top box... which were kindly passed to him at one of the traffic light stops.





The ride back from Bala went via the practically empty A4212 to Trawsfynydd before turning down to Dolgellau along a straight stretch of the A470. From there the group rejoined the A487 and back to Borth for a drink in The Railway. It was a fab day's riding and topped off by a meal on the veranda at the Victoria Inn, where we watched the sun go down but sadly didn't see any dolphins (or seals :-D). What we did see was a stunning looking dragon in the sky as the sun set.



It took four men to tighten and lube my chain with cooking oil on Wednesday morning - all before 9am - thanks to Paul, Bob, Andy and Geoff for not showing their horror at my lack of maintenance. Wednesday's trip took the group to Barmouth and Tywyn by first taking the A487 up to Machynlleth and then further up through Dolgellau on the A470 before arriving in a very picturesque Barmouth. A stop at the Lobster Pot on the edge of the harbour on a boiling hot day was very welcome, along with consuming drink and snacks,

before some of the group decided to visit Harlech Castle, while the other half carried on to Tywyn. The road to Tywyn was interesting and crossed (in my opinion) a very dodgy wooden floored bridge, although others in the group loved it. Thanks to Paul for paying our 50p fee to the bridge trolls.

Parking on Tywyn's hot and dry seafront, the group had drinks and food from the hole-in-the-wall ice-cream and hotdog bar, and sat in the sun on the promenade, chatting to bike friendly passers-by. Andy became a bit unwell, so sat in the shade and was fussed over by local ladies, as Wick (the hero!) kept him company until he was able to continue.

From Tywyn, the rest of the group headed back to Borth via the A493 and A487, with the customary drink in The Railway while we waited to see if Andy needed picking up in the van. That evening we had all booked into Borth Tandoori for a meal, which was very nice - with special mention to the poor woman who did an excellent job of serving us, before again heading to The Railway for a last drink. Special mention to Sue who had a lot of fun and was, how can I say it? very merry by the end of the night!



Thursday's trip saw the group heading south on the A487 towards Aberystwyth and then down to Aberaeron, which to me was a highlight of the trip. A beautiful harbour, lined with houses of all colours, Aberaeron was so lovely with the sun reflecting off the low tide. The group stopped at the Harbour Master, sadly just missing breakfast and were too early for lunch, so had a drink before deciding what to do next.





One of the options was to go to Cardigan and New Quay but a small group, led by Bob, decided to go cross country to Devil's Bridge and have a drink/snack in the cafe there. We got there just in time, as the train rolled in with a load of visitors causing a big queue for food. The water fall at Devil's Bridge is over an hour's walk, so deciding we didn't really have the time, we took a short walk down to the smaller falls 200 yards down the road.



Hot and bothered, we cooled down a bit before heading on to the Elan Valley, to a place Linda had visited before. There are two parts to the Elan Valley, so sadly we missed the one she wanted, but still had some lovely views from the dam and a ride around some great roads before heading back to Devil's Bridge and the road home. It was hot and sunny all day, so it was a surprise to hear that Big Al, who had been able to get his tyre changed a day early, drove back through 'rain like stair rods' and got completely soaked. The rest of us didn't see any rain at all.



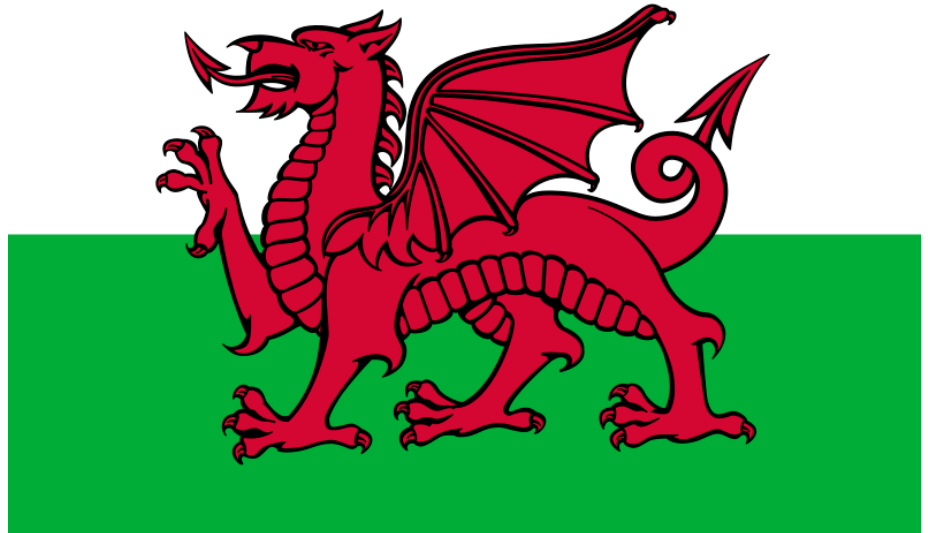


Thursday evening was spent on the beach, with some of the group organising a barbeque (the most excellent spuds Steve, thank you), and some having fish and chips, but all drinking alcohol. We all had one final drink in The Railway before saying our goodbyes.



On Friday, the group left for home at different times; Linda and I headed off to Pistyll Rhaeadr falls, while others left really early and returned via the motorway etc. Overall though, it was an amazing trip, excellently organised by Paul, and I would definitely be interested in exploring the area again one day. Some great roads, beautiful scenery, good food, lots of alcohol, great company and many laughs; it was a very successful and memorable week away.

*Nicky*





# GILKS CAFÉ RIDEOUT

## FIRST TIME LEADING A TOMCC VOLUNTEER RIDEOUT



ride to see that we had gained another 'Yellow jacketed' tail rider. Apparently, it was one of the vintage club who had got confused and joined the wrong ride. He finally figured it out and turned off to try to catch them up.



Rootes Group Garage and it is still filled with memorabilia from that era.

The cafe was extremely busy with cars and bikes, but we all got served with Tea, Cakes and ice creams on a very hot day.

We lounged about for approximately one hour before mounting up and heading for our final destination, Triumph day at Industry and Supply at Weedon where the ride ended.

As I was trolling through the club Facebook page, I saw a message asking for a guest lead rider.... So I volunteered my services to lead a ride into my part of South Northants to Gilks Cafe at Kineton.

I started the ride at McDonalds, Towcester.

It was a bit chaotic to start with as the Northants Vintage club was also meeting there for their own ride out.

I waited for them to leave before venturing out on to the back road to Greens, Norton, Blakesly and Maidford. On through some beautiful villages and amazing views.

At one point I looked to the back of the



After going through Preston Capes, we headed over to 'Bandit country' Warwickshire!

Meandering through Fenny Compton and .Avon Dassett, we headed up hill to ride across the ridgeway towards Edgehill, site of the famous battle in 1642.

There are some fantastic views over the village of Radway and the Warwickshire countryside.

From there we rode down the Knoll towards our first destination, Gilks Cafe.

This retro cafe is well worth the visit. The present owners Grandfather ran it as a







It was great to meet up with TOMCC Milton Keynes Colossus, who had also organised a ride to Weedon.

Had a great day, great turnout, the sun was shining, couldn't ask for better.

*Kevin Gee*





# ADVENTURE BIKE RIDER FESTIVAL

A VERY CIVILISED MOTORBIKE FESTIVAL IN THE HEART OF WARWICKSHIRE



It's that time of year where thousands of bikers descend upon Ragley Hall for the ABR Festival 2023, Mark and I joined over 12 thousand others for a few days camping, and adventure bike fun. Some of you might remember that I put a spanner in the works for last years ABR by breaking my ankle a few weeks before. This year was rather less dramatic but not without its own dramas.

Due to an unexpected work commitment at short notice, we agreed that Mark would head off earlier and get the tent set up and I would bumble along later. As they say, the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.

Mark called me once he'd arrived, having started to pitch the tent and discovered he was missing the tent poles, a rather frustrating omission. And that was just the start of the trials and tribulations for the day.

I rushed home and hopped into my bike kit, eager to head off. I'd opted to take my Himalayan so that both of us could take her around the offroad trails. Within a few minutes I was loaded up and ready to go, heading off in the bright sunshine, whilst chatting to Mark on my comms system as I went.

But as I said the best laid plans, barely 4 miles from home my bike dash flashed and went out and I lost power. I coasted over to the side of the road where I spent some time trying to restart her, but nothing doing. After a few attempts it was clear this bike was going nowhere. I was stranded at the roadside in sunny Daventry.



I put a little SOS message out on the TOMCC Sunday 100 group, Steve P kindly offered his trailer to help me get home, and Al P volunteered to help too. The gallant gentlemen set off on a lengthy journey to hunt out me and my (not so trusty) steed. Between them they made light work of getting the bike on the trailer, strapping her down firmly and we were on our way back to my house. Both Mark and I are so very grateful for the support and kindness from our TOMCC friends.

Minutes later I had thrown all my luggage into the car, with the addition of the tent poles and I was underway again. I finally arrived at the ABR gates at 9:25pm and they are supposed to be shut at 9pm. This time my luck held and





the kindly staff on the gate let me through the gates into the maze of tents and bikes. Thank goodness at that point Mark was able to direct me to the pitch and we set about getting the tent up before it got too dark.

Tent up and luggage stowed we were finally able to head over the huge beer tents and numerous food stalls to enjoy our evening. Beer was plentiful and quite reasonable at £3.50 a pint, food was a not as reasonable in price but there were copious options to choose from, and plenty of tasty grub.

Throughout the weekend the live music was excellent, starting with The Beat on the Thursday night and continuing with multiple bands each day.

Each day was filled with numerous talks and presentations on many stages, with presenters from Ryan F9, Richy Vida, Steph Jeavons, Vanessa Ruck aka Girl on a Bike, Elspeth Beard and my favorite Itchy Boots. I was lucky enough to take a picture with Itchy Boots before her talk, others queued for over an hour for photos and autographs after her talk. What an amazing lady, travelling the world alone and creating videos for the masses to enjoy from the safety of our own homes.



For those who wanted more active adventures the ABR offers over 30km of off-road trails that you can take your own bike around, or you could take a test ride from one of the many manufacturers on offer. Triumph brought a plentiful supply of bikes this year, they certainly proved popular as they were booked up throughout the weekend.

Again, this year Girl on a Bike arranged a photo for female bikers. This number only represents a small proportion of the women in attendance, it felt like about 15-20% of the attendees' we women this year.

This festival feels very safe, with wonderfully clean facilities from the loos to showers. We've already booked for next year, can't wait, but hopefully with fewer dramas 😊



*Kirstie*



# MANOR CLOSE THRAPSTON

A RIDE OUT TO MANOR CLOSE THRAPSTON = WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023



Manor Close Residential Home



The Duke's Arms, Woodford

We are invited to visit Manor Close Residential Home, Thrapston for a Summer evening ride in to display our bikes to the residents.

Manor Close is a local retirement home and the staff have generously offered to welcome us to show our bikes.

Departing Pure Triumph at the Embankment, Wellingborough at 6.00pm for a short ride out using quiet country lanes to arrive in time for 6.45pm.

After showing off our shiny machines for 30 minutes to the residents we'll make a short journey to the Duke's Arms, Woodford where we've negotiated a special price for a Pie or Burger and a Pint for the trifling sum of £10.00

We need to know numbers to reserve our bar snack at this popular venue and need a £5.00 deposit in advance to be refunded against the price for your meal choice on the day. Please complete the tear off strip along the bottom and hand it with your fiver to Bob Swan.

I would like to join the ride out to Manor Close and the bar snack on Wednesday and give my £5.00 deposit for the evening.

Name: ..... £5.00 x ..... = £

Pie or Burger (delete as applicable).....

*Paul O*





# 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.

# TOOLS AND HOW TO USE THEM

## AND THEN THE ~8&^#@ HELL TOOL:

Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling '~8&^#@ Hell' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need to do the job.

# HAVE YOU EVER ....

Have you ever tried speedway after hitting the wet diesel on the roundabout?

Have you ever wished you hadn't started the '5 minute' adjustment before starting a ride?

Have you ever finished a rebuild when you planned?

Have you ever had to choose between engine or lights or too fast for the fog?

Have you ever ridden across a new roundabout on your favorite ride?

Have you ever borrowed your mum's tights on a winters day?

Have you ever got scared riding pillion?

Have you ever lent your bike to your brother and get it back working better?

Have you ever bought exactly the right part at an auto jumble?

Have you ever ridden a 125 again and have so much fun?

Have you ever ridden a Villers engine bike and realise why the British Motorcycle industry went bust?



*Tim*