



**VIBRATIONS**  
NOVEMBER 2023

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Fun in the sun in Skegness with TOMCC groups from across the UK

### RTTW 2023

Remembering the fallen with 6900+ bikes and 12,000 people at the national arboretum

### BIRTHDAY ADVENTURES

Tomy M described his off-road adventure with the Triumph Team in Wales



## SKEGFEST 2023

### NORTHANTS TOMCC JOINED OTHER TOMCC GROUPS IN SKEGNESS

Once again members of Northants TOMCC came together to head to the seaside, to enjoy fish and chips, the odd drink and lovely ride outs at Skeg Vegas, the Vegas of the North.

Despite a down pour on the way there, the rest of the weekend was fine, with plenty of opportunities for fun in the sun.

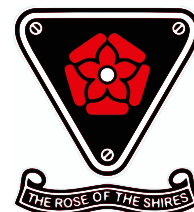
Thank you so much for your contributions this month. It tends to get a bit quieter as we head into winter months, so please do consider contributing an article about the trips and events you've enjoyed or are planning for the future, why not put down a few words, fill up the gaps with some interesting pictures and send it off to [TOMCC-Vibrations@hotmail.com](mailto:TOMCC-Vibrations@hotmail.com). Your contributions are always appreciated.

Note that Les has decided to stand down as Club Secretary in the coming year. Any considering standing for the role can find details of the duties in this month's Vibrations.

A further reminder for help please - Les B is putting together the final chapter of the HISTORY STORY UPDATE of the Northants TOMCC. He is missing the Years 1990-1994, can old friends assist with some input, please, from Vibrations and or Nacelle or even Memory Lane. Contact Les at [leslie.barras@btinternet.com](mailto:leslie.barras@btinternet.com)

*Kirstie & Mark*

**TRIUMPH OWNERS M.C.C. NORTHANTS BRANCH**





# INTRODUCTIONS

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our recent new members

Mick Vokes - Kettering  
Shane Williams – Kettering  
Julie Watson – Northampton  
Fraser Neeson – Northampton  
Rickie Anne Gee – Middleton Cheney

Stephen McEleney – Northampton  
Craig Harris – Wellingborough  
Richard Campling – Northampton  
Jonathon Salmon – Rushden  
Duncan Shaw - Corby

# EVENTS LIST – THE BIG LIST

in addition to the events below find out more about ad hoc ride-outs via the branch's Facebook page

## NOVEMBER

Wed 1st	7.30pm	Club Night	The Crown Hardingstone
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:40am		Sycamore Café, Great Billing, NN3 9EX
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

## JANUARY 2024

Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am ride at 12 noon	Chilly Willy	Waterside Cafe, Bedford Road, Northampton, NN4 7AA
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**Christian  
Motorcyclists  
Association**



**Bikers Remembrance  
Service  
& Ride of Remembrance**

**10:40am      12<sup>th</sup> November**

**Sycamore Café, Great Billing  
NN3 9EX**




# Chilly Willy 2024

**Northampton  
Active**

Bedford Rd,  
Northampton NN4  
7AA



Arrive from 10am onwards.  
Ride starts at 12 noon after  
rider briefing at 11:40am.  
There is plenty of hardstanding  
for bikes in our parking area.  
Waterside Café have lots of hot  
and cold food and drinks  
available to buy from 10am.  
Inside / outside seating  
available and toilets.

Please fill up with fuel  on  
the way in, as there are no  
Petrol stations close by.



your local  
air ambulance

Derbyshire · Leicestershire · Rutland  
Warwickshire · Northamptonshire

**January 7th 2024**

**This will be the 10th anniversary of the Chilly Willy charity Ride for  
Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.**

**Due to safety concerns, we are relocating to Waterside cafe at  
Northampton Active, which suits our needs better.**

**Thank you to All Seasons and Sycamore Café for a fantastic 10-year  
run.**

**In these difficult times, we really do appreciate all contributions that  
have been made by our Biker Communities, Clubs, friends and families.**

**We will continue to do our best to help save lives, by supporting and  
raising money for Air Ambulance**



# NEC CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW



NOVEMBER 10TH – 12TH 2023

Hi Northants,

this is Denis from the Meriden Branch of the TOMCC inviting all members to take part in the NEC Classic vehicle show on our TOMCC Stand on November 10th - 12th 2023.

Please ask any member wishing to take part to Contact me [chairman@triumphmeriden.org.uk](mailto:chairman@triumphmeriden.org.uk) to exhibit their bike, or fill in the attached form and return as detailed.

All exhibitors will be asked to drop off their bike/s on the Thursday before the show (10th) and pick up at the end of the show on the Sunday evening. All exhibitors will receive free tickets for the show or they may wish to help out manning the stand along with the exhibitors or you may wish to just visit and take advantage of the £4-00 ticket discount using the TOMCC Discount code N23BC118 on line @ [www.thenec.co.uk/whats-on/classic-motor-show/](http://www.thenec.co.uk/whats-on/classic-motor-show/)

Hopping to see as many of you there as possible.

Denis O'Neil, [denisoneil@talktalk.net](mailto:denisoneil@talktalk.net)

or text / phone **07767 137 528**

**CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW 2023**  
THE UK'S BIGGEST & BEST  
10-12 NOVEMBER | NEC, BIRMINGHAM

TO BOOK TICKETS, SCAN ME

**3000 CLASSIC CARS** | **THE UK'S LARGEST INDOOR AUTOJUMBLE** | **300 CLASSIC VEHICLE CLUBS** | **ICONIC AUCTIONEERS & DEALER CAR SALES** | **350+ EXHIBITORS & TRADERS**

**EXCLUSIVE £4 DISCOUNT ON ADULT DAY TICKETS WITH YOUR CLUB CODE\* N23BC118**

\*Exclusive discount code is for club members use only. Applicable to advanced adult day tickets booked online before midnight Thursday 9 November 2023. Code also offers £2 discount on family, child and multi-day tickets. Full ticket information: [www.necclassicmotorshow.com/tickets](http://www.necclassicmotorshow.com/tickets)

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# GENERAL SECRETARY DUTIES

## GENERAL SECRETARIES' DUTY BULLET POINTS

Les Barras has announced his intention to stand down as General Secretary. Anyone considering standing for the post here is a break down of the duties Les currently undertakes.

### CONSTITUTION

- The Branch Executive shall consist of a Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer. They shall take full responsibility for the smooth running of the branch, and be answerable to the National Club.

### BRANCH MEETING

- Meeting organisation & operational running
- Attendance records
- Welcome new members
- Be the go-to person

### BRANCH COMMITTEE

- Committee meeting preparation
- Minutes
- Agenda
- Follow up on actions from minutes
- Liaise with all other club committee members
- Guide Chairman in his role

### WEBMASTER - FACEBOOK

- Webmaster - operations of the Web Page/ file updates etc.
- Facebook administration member
- 

### CLOTHING & REGALIA

- Clothing & Regalia Order and delivery to branch meetings

### ARCHIVE

- Holder of archives documents, folders and ledgers

### EXTERNAL EVENTS

- Organize trophies and rosettes for events
- Annual Dinner / Party organisation
- Prepare Certificates and records for special events e.g. Greasy Fry Up

# THE MACMILLAN RUN

29TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Every year the tiny village of Salford on the fringe of Milton Keynes sets its stall out to raise funds for The Macmillan Nurses charity in support of this most worthy cause that provides professional nursing care in the homes of people with terminal illness.

It is a tribute to the local motorcycling fraternity that every year a veritable fleet of bikers descend on the village to the Mary Agate village hall to support the event and benefit from the team's efforts in the consumption of hot drinks and well filled breakfast rolls as well as a huge choice of cakes and sweet things from the ovens of the many home bakers.

This year I was privileged to lead the ride out from Pure Triumph leaving promptly at 9.45am with our contingent. In my mind preparation is the key to success and having planned a route on an old fashioned but infinitely reliable paper map. I rode it to check out for closures, roadworks and any other impediments a few days in advance of the event.

Satisfied that all was well and with clear skies we set off through Irchester, Wollaston and into Bedfordshire heading South on very minor roads, passing through Turvey, (is there a Topsy anywhere)? and tiny villages with charming names such as Newton Blossomville for the 25 mile run. After overnight rain the road surfaces were in surprisingly good condition.

Our group were first to arrive at the village hall (by chance? I think not), where the volunteer staff dressed in their green Macmillan T shirts were clearly prepared to deal with our voracious appetites and we were soon sitting in the sunshine stuffing our faces and chatting away as is our normal manner.

I take my hat off to the efforts made by the villagers in this small community who so selflessly undertake this challenge every year even during the Covid period. I was told that in 2022 the sum raised exceeded £6,800.00 a fantastic amount from a single 'stand-alone' event and well done to all at TOMCC.

*Paul Ollett*





# DUKES ARMS RIDE OUT

PHOTOGRAPHS – NIKKI MARSHALL

Those of us who rode out in mid-July will recall the trip through the local lanes and will remember that although the evening began very wet it soon dried up and offered perfect conditions for photography. You may have seen the report of the event in the August edition of 'Vibrations'.

Our photographer Nikki Marshall, visited the Crown for the club night on 5th September bringing along the proofs of her efforts and what a splendid set of action pictures they were. Nikki was taking orders and was delighted at the uptake from the members of TOMCC.

For whatever the reason not everyone was able to be present at the Crown on 5th September but all is not lost and no doubt Nikki will be bringing the completed prints at some date in the near future but as a fore taster you will see one of her pictures reproduced elsewhere in this copy of 'Vibrations'.

Nikki Marshall lives in Rushden and is an amateur photographer but the quality of her work is to a professional standard and who knows we may like to have her visit us again at some point.





# RIDE TO THE WALL 2023



## REMEMBERING THE FALLEN AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

As usual on the first Saturday in October the biking community gathered to remember the fallen at the national arboretum. We gathered early in the morning at the Northampton M1 services, over 200 bikes, big and small, and riders of all ages.

The weather was unusually kind, typically it is a rainy event but this year the sky was cloudy, the air was fresh, but the rain held off and we set off in pleasant sunshine.



the middle lane of the M1. Arriving at the arboretum parking was already filling up, and we were directed into the park, along a rather muddy and slippery path next to a river. One of the people directing us kindly said "be careful, someone ended up in the river before", I wasn't sure whether to believe her, but it definitely kept me focused and firmly away from the edge.

In total over 6900 bikes and 12.000 people attended this year

Safely parked up we made our way into the heart of the arboretum, viewing the new memorials, and enjoyed a warming cup of tea.

As Al couldn't join the event this year we made sure to capture some flag pictures to encourage him to join us net year. *Kirstie*



As usual the Northants event was ably supported by the HOGs, with dozens of club members directing riders and other traffic, leading and tailing the ride.

Northamptonshire police also provided an escort and a rolling road block to allow all of the bikes to get out together and to take over









# SKEGFEST 2023



SKEGFEST 13<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

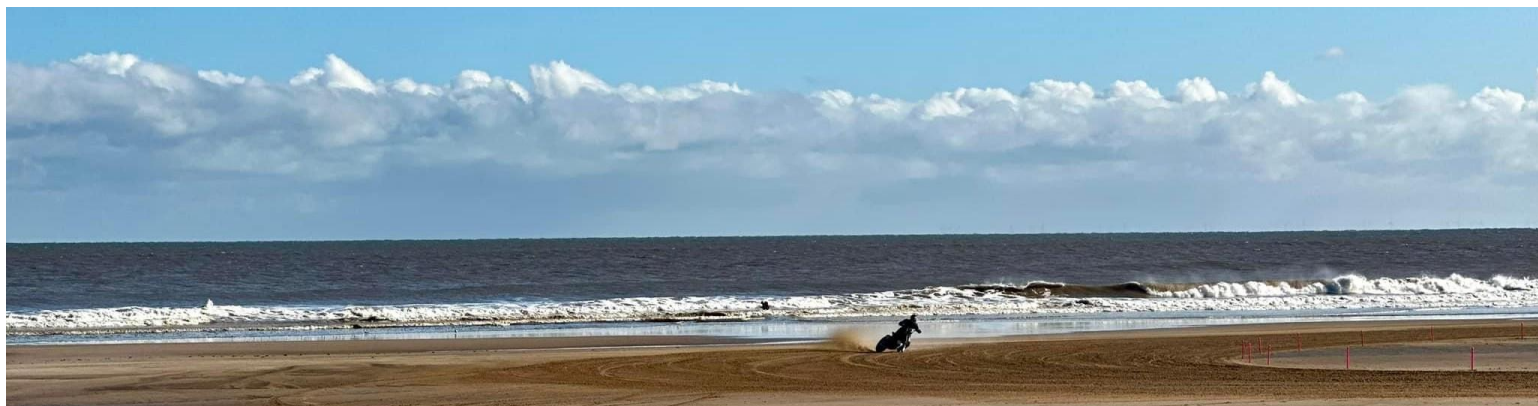
This October saw many of the Northants TOMCC members joining with other TOMCC groups in Skegness for this years Skegfest. This year we had a new location of Golden Palms. The site had several eateries, shops, and entertainment. Food was good, particularly the breakfast at the café, which was amazing value.

We headed out a little later than the main group, and it was a journey of two halves. The first half was in glorious sunshine, sunglasses required. But at around the half way point the forecast rain found us. We pulled over to don waterproofs, and thank goodness we did. A few minutes later the heavens opened and this continued for the rest of the journey. We arrived not just damp, but with gloves filled with water. All I can say is thank goodness the caravans were well equipped with great heaters. By the next day all of kit was warm and dry.

On Saturday Ian led a ride out in the sunshine, which many of the group joining.



Sunday saw some of us taking off down the coast to watch sand riding on the beach, with some impressive skills on display as riders hazarded sand and waves to best each other.







I always think a UK seaside holiday is never complete without a game of crazy golf. So I thoroughly enjoyed losing terribly with a round of crazy pirate golf with some suspicious reprobates 😊

As you can see we enjoyed a few sherbets and merry times with TOMCC members. The 2024 date has already been advertised, why don't you consider booking your caravan so you have something to look forward to for 2024.

*Kirstie*





# TONY'S BIRTHDAY OFF ROAD TIGER ADVENTURE STORY

DATE OF RIDE 29/09/2023

After owning a Tiger explorer from 2013 to 2020 a Gen 1 model as they are now called, I always fancied doing the Triumph adventure 1 day off road experience to see what the bike could really do, but something always got in the way. The cost, the fear of falling off on granite, I did contemplate riding my own bike at one stage but then again, the fear of the cost for damaged parts put me off again. So, I never got around to it and then for my big 60th birthday a few of my friends / very good riding mates chipped in and treated me to the day out.

With the day booked earlier in the year for Friday the 29th sept and researching the venue which is 15 miles from Swansea, and the day starting at 8am, a two day hotel break was booked in Ystradgynlais (a place I can't pronounce) to my pillion Elaine's delight who then giving it some thought as she does, she suggested we take her car just case I fall off and broke a bone and couldn't ride or drive home, I didn't do either!

We left on Thursday taking the A roads to Hereford where we stopped for lunch and a quick stroll around to stretch our legs, then again back on the A roads to the hotel The Ynyscedwyn Arms another name I can't pronounce.

So we arrived at the hotel and headed for the bar to check in and was asked to wait 5 minutes where we get talking to a guy from Manchester who we noticed was wearing a triumph T-shirt, and his wife. It turned out Mark happened to be on the same adventure bike day as me (he rides a black speed triple) with his wife Lisa who had by chance been walking their dog and decided to pop into our hotel bar for drink and dinner about the same time we arrived.

The girls got talking and arranged to meet for lunch the next day, so Elaine had company in the afternoon after her walks around the village in the morning, and Mark who offered to pick me up and drive to venue, so it works out well. The Triumph family eh.

Mark was prompt and keen to get there on Friday morning, being the last pair to arrive at 8.05 the rest of the guys were just as keen.

I must say this is not a cheap day out, some £310 for the day plus I opted to hire all the riding attire for an extra £60 paid on the day.

The day starts with the usual signing in and driving license check with free coffee whilst waiting.

Then a tour around the facilities, into the changing room where there is a locker with my name on, with all the kit for riding off road in my size which I had ordered when making the booking consisting of starting from the bottom up, a pair of off road boots a set of shin and knee armour, light weight trousers, a zip up body armour vest with elbows, shoulders, and a back plate, over this was a triumph off road lightweight shirt and this was all covered in a two piece rain suit. We use our own crash helmet.

By now I'm dressed, and the sweat is rolling down my cheeks, both sets 😊😊.

From the changing room we then ventured into the carpark where we met our instructors for the day and our trusty steeds are the Triumph 900s, all lined up with our names on the screen and a bottle of water strapped under a pair of Rok straps on the pillion seat.







Keith our lead instructor welcomed everybody and introduced himself and the rest of the team for the day. Hank would ride middle of the pack and Sam taking up tale end Charlie position.

All 3 were riding the 1200 shaft drive Triumph Tiger explorers for the day.

After a quick introduction to our bikes for the day we had time for fine adjustments to the brake, clutch levers and seat height if need be. I did change mine for a low seat being short legged.

Keith said we would be using the drop off system in and around town, he also mentioned to give the sheep a very wide birth when passing and not to ride to close to each other as they tend to turn around and run back across the road into the oncoming rider.

There were eight riders and three instructors for the day and a fourth man Matt in the support van with a spare bike just in case, it wasn't needed! We left the Adventure center around 9am and were soon getting the feel of the bikes now riding a few miles on the roads around town as I'm settling in and getting comfortable on the bike and looking up after checking my mirrors and speed as you do.

I spot this woman on my left in the distance walking very fast, well faster than the normal person, strange I thought for this early in the morning and I got closer I recognized her, it was my mad wife Elaine out for a yomp as I call it. So after a toot and a wave going by, we head into the

valley and very soon we turn off the main road to start climbing up the hillside on single track roads between fields and through farms and at one stage getting a very short chase with a loud bark from the farmer's dog.

My first taste of the water should we say.

Before I know it, it's 10.30 and were pulling into a country layby where Matt had set up the support vehicle ready for a short coffee break out the back of the van. This was a very welcome rest on the legs to get off the bike and we had just been practicing standing up riding across some gravel tracks giving us a chance to get Keith to go over his standing up instruction from earlier, legs bent, arm bent, soft grip on the bars, don't lean too far forward, chest in line with petrol cap on tank, feet not too far forward on the pedals so you can reach the brake and gear change..

After coffee and a comfort break watering the trees, we were soon heading back up the Brecon mountains where Keith took us over an old Roman road which had now become a rough track and worse in places with deep water filled gulley's.

Now I was glad for Keith's advice on standing up and the big off-road boots with waterproof trousers to keep my feet and legs dry going through the deep rock gulley's.

Me up to the knees in it

The next stage was riding through the deep tractor ruts where you had to choose the left or right wheel rut and scoot along riding and using your legs to walk you through at pace, again, trickier than you think. We carried on riding through the rocky road which is like a dry riverbed where before in the water you could not see the rocks, you just wait for the bounce of the handlebars and hoped for the best, that you stayed upright and didn't get a wet A\*\*\*!

Now your eyes are fixed on every stone which felt like a rock and every rock felt like bolder and every boulder felt like a mountain, ok not quite a mountain, but you know what I mean with the rocking and the movement of the handlebars was enough to make your teeth chatter on top the nervous sweat running down your face.

Keith and the guys talked through and showed us how to do it on the bigger 1200 bikes and they made it look so bloody easy. To them it was just another day, for me, a cross between tension and first-time nerves.



Drone lunch break photo

So after a quite substantial lunch of a fresh made sarnie, small pasta pot, packet of crisps, banana, flapjack biscuit, and a bottle of water and Matt putting the kettle on again for coffee as well.

We were ready for the Rocks and rocky road ahead, we hadn't gone long when Keith pulled us all over for further instructions on how to ride down the rocks and refreshing our minds on the standing up procedure and adding will be using the stop and go, for this to space the riders out. With Sam at the top, Keith would go first and park up and walk back half way up to guide and point out the best line to take, with Hank near the bottom of the run for final guidance and to give the all clear to Sam.

The last piece of advice given was, when starting off let the bike ease into first gear and roll off using yours and the bikes weight, to control the bike only using the rear brake to slow down and control the bike. This sounds simple, I can do that I'm thinking, on a full belly, then I'm thinking, well if this goes T\*t's up I won't be hungry.

Looking for the best line



So off we go on the rocky road, a dry riverbed type with trees hanging over from either side and the bike soon picking more speed than I would have liked, with the ever changing rocky road there was no track to follow for ease, and with the overhanging tree branches coming thick and fast at you, I'm trying to duck and weave and it seems every time I duck down we hit a rock and I bounced up just missing tree branches, I think you could have seen the whites of my eyes through my dark screen visor, if you could have seen the look on my face.

At this point I released my right foot was too far forward and the lower engine bars were stopping me from finding the rear brake and the front of my foot is tapping thin air, at this point the Oh s\*\*t thought running through my very taught face being too nervous to lift my foot up and ride one legged to reposition. This leaving me no choice but to grab a handful of front brake.

The bike dipped as Keith said it would and I luckily came to a stop and stalled the bike on a large right angled turn crack in the landscape, I was just about holding to the bike upright and where I did manage to straighten myself and look up there was a tree branch of about 3 inches in diameter right in front of my nose horizontally inline with my screen, a lucky one there I thought to myself,

with no time to stop I found neutral and off we go again to a long run of decent over the rocks.

Keith the instructor was already parked and off his bike by the time we all pulled up with him gesturing us to gather a little closer, we rolled forward and turned the engines off, my second mistake of the day. After our final repeated instructions about descending rocks and using the back brake ONLY I find myself being in P1 for the decent run, the second time in a few minuets the Oh s\*\*t thought went through my mind.

So here I am at the top looking down what seems like a very long steep run, the instructor Sam is holding me back (it doesn't take a lot) from going whilst Keith takes up his guidance position.

I'm now remembering what Keith said at the beginning of the day, if anybody doesn't fancy any of the obstacles, they would ride the bike for us just hold your hand up, a big 😊 comes across my face then realize I can't do that. What would the others think of me? So now I'm at the top of the decent with the weight of the bike tipping down and I'm holding it back on the front brake, I'm also in first gear holding the clutch in with my other hand with Sam patting me on my back to go as Keith is now waving and pointing out to me the line to follow. At this point I realized there are no tracks on a large rocky terrain.



Off I go following what think he's pointing at, after a few meters down and bouncing around I glance up at Keith only to see him waving and patting downwards with both hands, ok slow down I'm now thinking and remember to use the back I said myself, only to find my foot with its large size 11 off road boot only to be too far forward again to find the back brake again.

I've left myself no choice but to use the front brake again. I'm lucky I've managed to slow down enough for Keith to stop waving his arms at me, I pass him on my right-hand side, I'm now halfway down and I can see Hank beckoning me on and pointing at the line to take to the bottom of the run, I'm there I've made it, I'm on loose gravel now, what a solid feeling!

That was probably one of the longest 5 seconds ride of my life 😊 I park up and watch the other guys nervously wait to take their turn to come down.

Now looking back up the granite rock it didn't look that steep and there is a sort of line to take so I'm saying to myself, what was all the fuss about as I'm swiping the sweat off my brow.

All the guys managed to run down the slope with no off's and a big well done to all from Keith and him say that's the hardest bit now done for the afternoon.

Well you've never seen 8 nervous faces turn to happy smiley 😊 in an instance.

We now head off back onto single track tarmac roads over the mountains heading for the military roads as Keith called them. Apparently we are going on the edge of a MOD firing range where in the distance we can see a mock east Germany village built in the 60s.

We're soon on some of the smoothest tarmacked mountain roads you'll find in Wales. We stop at the end of the MOD range to allow Matt to get into position to take some more drone footage for their FB page.

We set off now homeward bound and again I find myself in P2 following Keith heading down the mountains. I now get the sense Keith was having a little me time and was quite relaxed by the speed we were picking up, not over the limits but a very fluid ride using his local knowledge of the sweeping and twisting single track roads down the mountain.

We pull in at the bottom and he jumps off his bike stating we're just wait for the rest of the group to catch up before hitting the main A road back to base.

I told him how much I enjoyed that last bit of road just keeping him in my sights, he nodded and said I guess so as you never left my mirrors, I replied I don't often get a change having a pillion passenger on a bigger heavier bike, with a nice 😊. With all the group now gathered Keith explained the last part of the day would be riding back to the adventure center with a fuel stop on the way to top up the bikes for the next adventure group of riders.

We did see a few 20mph road signs, but they seemed to be on side roads we never used.

And guess who we saw and passed yomping along just down the road from the adventure center on our return Yes that mad woman I know and love Elaine.

Arriving back at the center we pulled into the carpark for a debrief, feed back of the day, and a round of applause for each individual when collecting their riders' attendance certificate and then a group photo. Keith said the ride was about 100miles with 20miles of that off road for an adventure taster day.

After drop off at the last roundabout and last in, they chose me and my bike for the team photo.



After a hot shower I headed back to my hotel where I met the yomping woman who claimed to have worked up a large wine thirst where we sat for a couple of hours chatting about our day.

I hadn't plan to stay that long at the bar, but the beer tasted good the seats were comfy and my bones were aching a little

It was a great day, the staff and the facilities were great, and our instructors for the day Keith, Hank, Sam were fantastic nothing was to much trouble from the moment you arrived until you left.

Matt who was running it for the day and drone pilot and support van, coffee and lunch provider and lastly, thanks to the mechanic guy whose name I can't remember who swapped the seat on the bike for a low one.

Overall, when you add it all up for the day £310, along with the kit hire of £60 (you could use your own kit) it is a lot of money.

But when you see what you get for your money, in my opinion it's worth it.

And finally, the Triumph Tiger 900 bikes run faultlessly with no issues and with only one rear broken indicator lens cover missing for the day (not on my bike). They can't complain too much.

*Tony*





# RALLYING IN SUNNY SOMERSET

## MORE FUN ON TWO WHEELS



Those who find their fun on two wheels have through motorcycling unwittingly joined a fraternity and although I make a wild assumption it is something easier to get into than to get out of. Those who do, as far as I can tell are usually forced out of it by old age, infirmity or the 'Grim Reaper' himself, if indeed it is not herself in these modern enlightened times.

There is such a lot to see in the UK but I have been known to wander abroad across the herring pond to visit our kindred in Europe. Sometime ago I joined a group of Brits riding into France to participate in a biker's rally in the centre of that fair land. Since then, I have been back quite a few times always to a different location but meeting up with the same group of enthusiasts, some French some Germans, a couple of Irish and even a Belgian thrown in for good luck. The French rallies are always held over 4 days starting on Ascension Day (6 weeks after Easter) and they are so well organised as to put greater gatherings to shame.

Back in the UK there is a 'home' match that happens in the second week in September with 2023 being the first time this could happen since the scourge of Covid put a stop to nearly everything except Downing Street parties.

Some readers of Vibrations may remember my earlier article, 'Camping for Beginners' and my floundering to learn the ropes, at times literally, of living under canvas. Now with the passage of time and graduation to a better tent I can actually say I am enjoying it but twice a year is probably enough for those not accustomed to spending their holidays crawling around on hands and knees.

This year after a cracking break in France, staying in the Pas de Calais last May, it was time to consider September and the delights of Somerset. This year the dates chosen for the home match were 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September. So it was with some glee that I had loaded up the bike with all the camping essentials and headed off for Tuckers Grave Inn near Frome, deep into cider country.



It was going to be a relatively cheap stay with my ninety-five quid buying me 3 nights camping including 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners. All pretty basic meals but reasonable fare, nothing fancy.

At Tuckers Grave Inn they press and ferment their own cider, some of which is quite palatable and others as rough as the rear end of a Badger (so they tell me). However, I took a liking to a brew called 'Mind yer 'Ed' which at 6.5% lived up to its name. Caution is the watch word if you are going to be riding the bike the following day!



We had an organised ride out on Friday for 70 miles with about 60 riders in convoy first to view the impressive White Horse carved into the hillside at Bratton Camp, Wiltshire visible from Westbury and then on to National Trust property Stourhead House and its famous gardens. The weather was stinking hot so I didn't feel the need to wander far in my leathers and in truth never got much further than the ice cream shop.

On Saturday I was free to do my own thing and as Bristol was so close, being only 20 miles away I took a ride there to view Brunel's masterpiece SS Great Britain, truly a wonder of its time and worth every penny of the £22.00 entrance ticket that allows you access for the



trying to pack up a wet tent more challenging and already some riders with a long way to go were leaving as bikes, mostly heavily loaded headed off site and into the distance.

At home with the tent eventually dried out and my sleeping bag aired, all has been put away for next year. I am told that next May the Rally will be close to the French Alps and Italian border. Its going to take me a while to get down there as it is over 800 miles each way but I know I will have a terrific time in the company of some very friendly people who like me enjoy to ride motorcycles.

*Paul Ollett*



following 12 months at no extra cost. Again, the sun was splitting the paving stones and I was pleased to find a bar with air con to enjoy some lunch. Bristol docklands have been renovated and it is a vibrant area with so much going on.

The evenings were spent back at the campsite with our international companions all swapping their stories of past victories and adventures until it was time to open the tent flap and clamber into the sleeping bag. I can only marvel at the sleep-inducing powers of 'Mind yer ed'.

Sunday dawned with just a sprinkle of rain overnight, enough to make





# THINKING ABOUT 2024

[DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN'S RIDE 2024](#)



Pop it in your calendar now, and start tapping up your sponsors, it's time to start thinking about what you're going to wear for the Distinguished Gentleman's ride 2024. Will it be tweed, where's your waistcoat got to and how long will it take to perfect your classic tash.

[SKEFEST 11<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024](#)

And don't forget to put dates in the diary for next year's Skegfest. Enjoy sunny 'Skeg Vegas' what more could you ask for but fish and chips by the sea side, pleasant company and plenty of enjoyable bike routes.





# TOMCC 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

SHELSLEY WALSH MAY 17TH-19 2024



The branch is attending this event for the weekend, a place has been booked in the pits to display our members bikes.

Members can book in advance to demonstrate your bike for FREE up the famous hill climb track, by emailing the Nacelle editor at [editor@tomcc.org](mailto:editor@tomcc.org).

If you like to stay for the weekend, there is FREE camping for tents, vans, campervans and motorhomes. On site food, bars, and live music Saturday night or just visit for the day.

The branch will discount pre-booked tickets for the entry price of £35, depending on your stay, you will receive a commemorative program and badge of the event.

There are plenty of places to stay in the area, more details of the event can be found in the

October issue of Nacelle.

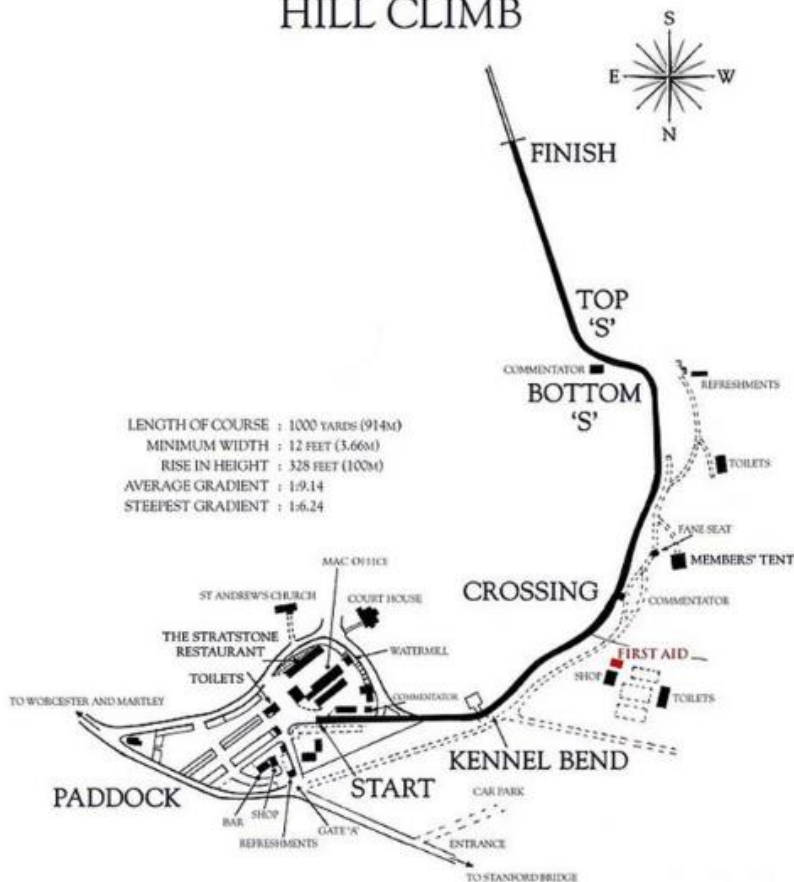
We have now 5 bikes booked for a demonstration ride up the hill, if you have any questions then see me at a branch meet.

Why not come along and support the club and celebrate TOMCC's 75<sup>th</sup> year.

Thanks

*Henry*

## SHELSLEY WALSH HILL CLIMB







# 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.

# HAVE YOU EVER ....

Have you ever considered a sidecar?

Have you ever understood imperial bolt sizes?

Have you ever agreed on the exact year that the factory changed something?

Have you ever tried a pre-war bike and got all the controls right before the bend?

Have you ever found a new hill when pushing to the local petrol station?

Have you ever thought maybe they are right and I am too old for this?

Have you ever wondered if you would pass your test now?

Have you ever hired a bike near the beach with good brakes?

Have you ever got annoyed with everyone calling scooters mopeds?

Have you ever thought can't wait for electric future?

Have you ever tasted petrol?

Have you ever bought a new battery before the old one failed?

Have you ever remembered who borrowed that tool?

Have you ever put on so many warm layers that you could bend your arms?

Have you ever blipped your throttle to clear pedestrians out the way?



*Tim*