

# VIBRATIONS!



**Triumph Bandit 350cc from 1971. It didn't reach production due to the collapse of the BSA Group.**

## March 2020



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

**Northants Branch**



## Scribblings

Our Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March and all branch members are asked to attend. It's your chance to have a say in the way that the branch will be run over the next 12 months. Though many of the existing committee are prepared to stand again it should be noted that all positions are re-elected each year so, if you think that you can bring something new please put yourself up for nomination, whether for one of the named positions or just as a general purpose officer.

There are likely to be a couple of propositions put forward to tidy-up the branch Constitution & Rules; for reference the current version is attached. If there is anything else that you would like to propose it would help if you could submit it in advance to Secretary Philip Wallington: [opperita@btinternet.com](mailto:opperita@btinternet.com)

In February 2019 we organised a successful coach trip to the Coventry Museum of Transport and the Triumph Visitor Centre; which has since been followed up by two more to the National Motorcycle Museum last Autumn and to the RAF Museum last month. Plans are afoot for another trip and the Aston Martin works at Newport Pagnell is one possibility. Once the headquarters of the company, this is now where restoring and servicing of heritage models takes place.

Finally, the Wrinklies Runs are back! See page 9

Sarge

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## New Members

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

Brian Hammond from Flore

Alan Sanders from Raunds

The last time the branch went to Aston Martin...

1981 or thereabouts.

Two people in this photo are current members.



## 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 in bold count towards the annual branch trophies.**

	<b>Events List</b>
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Branch AGM</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Agenda on back page.
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Pure Triumph T-Fest (branch display)</b> . Launch of the new Tiger 900 Range, Thruyton RS, Bud Ekins T120 & T100, and Street Triple 765 R
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Possible run to Shuttleworth Collection.</b>
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. The first of our monthly theme nights: Tigers & Scramblers – all years.
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Triumph Owners MCC National AGM at Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis, Gwynedd (Snowdonia), LL55 4TY. Refreshments provided. Sign in from 10.30am. Members only. Details in Nacelle
Fri-Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> April	British Superbikes at Silverstone, See page 6
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Illustrated talk by Paul Ollett. See also page 10
Sat-Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> April	International Classic Motorcycle Show Stafford. Possible coach trip.
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Breakfast Run to Caffeine &amp; Machine, Ettington, Warwicks</b>
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Possible 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday meet</b> elsewhere in the county.
Fri-Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Trifest Somerset. Several Northants members already booked in. N.B. The Monday is not a Bank Holiday! That will be Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> .
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Theme night: Bonneville (Meriden & Hinckley).
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Branch Run to Norton Owners Club Open Day.</b> At Welford.
Sat-Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Branch Stand at MCN Show, Peterborough</b>
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm.
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Branch Run to BSA Owners Club Open Day.</b> Market Harborough Rugby Club.
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Rushden Station Motorcycle Day
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Theme night: Tridents & Rocket III's
Sat-Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> June	Coventry Moto-Fest
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Branch Run to Ace Café Triumph Day</b>
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Concours d'Elegance</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Trophies for pre & post 1990 machines
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>Club Run to Wellesbourne Mountford Airfield.</b> Includes taxi runs by the Vulcan.

## Northants Branch Info and News

Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Branch Display at Ton-Up Day, Jack's Hill Café, Towcester.</b> 10am-5pm. Get there early to set up
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Theme night: All Meriden machines
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> July	World Superbikes at Donington
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Rideout to Blaze Inn Saddles, Burdrop, Banbury, OX15 5RJ
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Triumph Day at Jack's Hill Café.</b> 10am-2pm. Early arrival to set up.
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Branch Open Night &amp; Barbecue</b> at The Crown, Hardingstone. All welcome.
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Branch Display at Founders Day Rally.</b> Stanford Hall.
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	<b>Run to the Sand (Hunstanton)</b>
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	<b>Run to Bedford Triumph Owners</b> at Wilstead on A6 south of Bedford
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Theme night: Thruxton and Triton
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> August	Northants Bike Show (provisional date)
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Brackley Festival of Motorcycling (branch display)</b>
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm.
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Moto GP at Silverstone
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Theme night: Custom and Bobber
5 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> September	Trifest France (TOGA) at Vercors
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm.
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Distinguished Gentlemens' Ride</b>
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Ride To The Wall
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm. Theme night: All Meriden machines
Fri-Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> October	Skegfest
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown, High Street, Hardingstone from 8pm.



# Northants Branch Info and News

## Branch HQ:

The Crown, High Street, Hardington, Northampton, NN4 6BZ.

The main access to Hardington village is from the roundabout at the junction of the A45, A508 and A5076 (ring road). Other access from the Newport Pagnell Road (B526).

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month, starting at 8pm.

## Pure Triumph:

Our local Triumph dealer is based at The Embankment, Wellingborough, NN8 1LD. The company's website can be found at [www.puretriumph.co.uk](http://www.puretriumph.co.uk).

*On production of a current Triumph Owners membership card, Pure Triumph at Wellingborough will give a 10% discount on the following items: Clothing, Oxford Products, Helmets, Oil products, Labour on Servicing.*

## The Branch on the Internet:

Our website can be found at: [www.northantstomcc.org.uk](http://www.northantstomcc.org.uk). Most pages are public but there is one small section that is restricted to branch members only, accessed via the password that is advised separately.

We also have Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/northantstomcc/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/northantstomcc/)

If you go on any branch events please make a conscious effort to take a photo (high quality mobile phone OK) then send it to Sarge and Les Barras. This will ensure the newsletter and website have something to show when writing the reports.

## Other Internet Links:

Triumph Owners MCC national website: [www.tomcc.org](http://www.tomcc.org)

Triumph Owners MCC events website: [www.tomccevents.co.uk](http://www.tomccevents.co.uk)

Triumph Owners Clothing: [www.tomccmerchandise.com](http://www.tomccmerchandise.com)

The club also has a page on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/4526704577/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/4526704577/).

British Motorcyclists Federation: [www.bmf.co.uk](http://www.bmf.co.uk)

Triumph Motorcycles: [www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk](http://www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk)

# Northants Branch Info and News

## Membership Renewals

If your club membership is due for renewal here are the best ways of dealing with it...

- 1) Renew on-line via [tomcc.org/Home/Membership](http://tomcc.org/Home/Membership) with a credit card, debit card or PayPal account. You can also get a £2 discount using this method.
- 2) Fill in the membership form that was sent to you, then post it direct to the HQ Membership address at Horley, as shown on the form. Include a cheque made payable to Triumph Owners MCC.
- 3) Fill in the membership form and hand it to the Branch Membership Secretary at a club night. Payment by cheque or cash. Memberships renewed this way are only sent to HQ a couple of times a month, so will take longer to process than 1 or 2 above.

Don't worry about the money as the Branch receives the same amount per member regardless of the method used to renew.

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## Northants Branch Clothing Range

The range of Northants Branch clothing: T-Shirt, Polo Shirt. Sweatshirt, Hoodie, Fleece, Business Shirt and Baseball Cap; 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.

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## Silverstone BSB Easter Weekend 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Invitation from the Northants Honda Owners...

We have again been offered discount tickets for the BSB weekend and would like to invite the Triumph Owners to join us

3-day Roving Grandstand seating, Access to the Open Paddock, Free Bike Parking within the internal display area, Giant Screens around the circuit. All this for £10.00 (plus £1 postage)

Booking Deadline: I need to receive your booking & monies by 15th March 2020 at the very latest.

Let me know how many tickets you require

Mike Fensome (07914-720545 or [chairman@northants.hoc.org.uk](mailto:chairman@northants.hoc.org.uk))

## Northants Branch Info and News



The Northants Branch will be on display at the MCN Show this year and has free weekend admission/camping tickets to anyone who wants to attend and show their bike over the 2 days. For those going for one day, Day tickets can be ordered by the club at a discount price of £11.50.

We need a minimum of 8 bikes on show each day, arriving by 8.30 am for display at 9am. Machines can't be moved until 30 minutes after the show close each day. Display hours are 9am to 5pm each day.

The branch needs your support throughout the weekend, set up entry will be from gate 4 from 12pm Friday 15th May. Support is needed on each morning to get ready our display, as well as manning of the club stand throughout the day. Breakdown of the stand will be from 5.30pm on Sunday 17th May.

Contact Henry for more details by email [john.richards600@btinternet.com](mailto:john.richards600@btinternet.com); by text 07971-348288; or by Facebook Messenger.



Triumph Day is back at Jack's Hill Café again for 2020, on 12<sup>th</sup> July from 10am until 2pm. As in previous years, we need support from Branch members to help with the set-up and with the job of packing as many machines into the car park as possible.

This will be our second visit to Jack's Hill Café. Two weeks before Triumph Day it's Ton-Up Day, so again we are looking for branch members' Triumphs to put on show: classic and retro to match the theme of the day. Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June from 10am to 5pm.

For more Jack's Hill events go to: <http://www.jackshill.co.uk/>

# Northants Branch Info and News



## **BIRMINGHAM & WOLVERHAMPTON T.O.M.C.C.**

Present the 37th

# **Thunderbird Rally**

**Friday 26th June – Sunday 28th June 2020**

**At: Wolverhampton Rugby Club, Castlecroft Road,  
Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV3 8NA**

**Rally Tickets £20 In Advance, or On The Gate.**

**Ticket Price Includes: Free camping Friday & Saturday nights.**

**Rally Badge and Free Tea & Coffee all weekend**

**Friday night disco**

**Saturday ride out with lunch provided**

**Saturday Afternoon Concours at rally site**

**Saturday Evening Hog Roast**

**Saturday night Disco, Live Band and Presentation of Awards**

**Cheques payable to: Birmingham & Wolverhampton TOMCC**

**Enquiries and bookings with SAE to:**

**John Mildenhall, 5 Avon Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 4RJ.**

**tel: 07929 546860 email: [jl.mildenhall@btopenworld.com](mailto:jl.mildenhall@btopenworld.com)**

**ALL MAKES WELCOME**



# The Wrinklies Runs 2020

The Wrinklies Runs for this year are under new management; being shared between Barry Gambrill and Chris Dickens. Thanks to Norm who has done a fantastic job running them the last 3 years.

The runs this year will start in May and finish in September, if anyone wants to lead a run before or after these dates you are welcome to do so, just let me know so it can be put in the program.

Meet at the selected WEDNESDAYS at Pure Triumph Wellingborough at 10.45, with full tanks to depart at 11.00, for runs of up to 50 miles and taking about 90 minutes. The destination will be a pub or café for a lunchtime drink and chat. Can't guarantee that food will be available in all the pubs. If you cannot make the run you are welcome to go straight to the venue and meet us there.

All food and drink must be paid for by the individual members – we won't be running a bar tab.

We will be using the DROP OFF system for all the runs so please ensure that you stop where the leader indicates and DO NOT leave until the back marker arrives.

Barry Gambrill

Date	Venue
13 May	All Seasons café, Northampton, NN3 9EX
27 May	The Pheasant, Keyston, PE28 0RE
10 June	The Spread Eagle, Piddington, NN7 2DA
24 June	The Crown Inn, Tur Langdon, LE8 0PJ
8 July	The Greyhound, Milton Malsor, NN7 3AP
22 July	The Cross keys, Kings Cliff, PE8 6XA
12 Aug	The Bull Inn, Clifton upon Dunsmore, CV23 0BH
26 Aug	The Bell Inn, Gumley, LE16 7RU
9 Sept	The Royal Oak, Walgrave, NN6 9PN
23 Sept	The Kings Arms, Polebrook, PE8 5LW



## Goa, India 21st November to 4th December 2019

I have been privileged once again to join a motor cycle tour in India for an 822-mile circuit of the smallest state on the Indian sub-continent. This was my third such tour in India and I must say that the country has a fascination for me. I am convinced that there is no better way of exploring this country of great diversity than from the saddle of a Royal Enfield 500cc Bullet all 27 bhp of it.

Goa has long been a popular destination for British tourists seeking sunshine and marvellous beaches at a low budget. It was a place to visit during the sixties and seventies where the Hippy generation would chill out immersed in the local culture and little doubt a good many other things. In recent times the well-publicised collapse of Thomas Cook travel agents has had a serious impact on Goa's economy and it appears that these days the greatest numbers of tourist there are from Russia.

It would be a mistake to visit the state of Goa and stay on the coast line as magnificent as the beaches are but there is much to see inland far away from the Yoga specialists and alternative therapies.

I shall not dwell on the difficulties of my flight out there other than to say there was a delay in departure from Heathrow which caused me to miss my connecting flight from New Delhi to Goa but it is the nature of travel that such difficulties are sent to try us and must be overcome as was the case with me.

My tour started from the town of Panjim, not exactly on the coast but close by and apart from the traditional commercial fishing industry based there they also cater for the tourist industry with large floating Casinos on the river.

I was billeted in a comfortable 3-star hotel to begin which is where I met my fellow riders, Bruno & Jean-Luc who were both French and Carsten, from Germany who spoke perfect English with an American accent having been partly educated in the USA. Our tour leader was Deepak from Delhi and the mechanic, Brijesh also from Delhi. To complete the group, we had a backup driver to carry our luggage from place to place also equipped with a never-ending supply of water to slake our thirsts and help us swallow the dust of the Indian roads.

On Vintage Rides tours there are no language barriers and we are all Bikers, most French people have some English even if they don't show it off very often and the tour leader is bi-lingual in any case but the fraternity of the Biker is truly international and your background is immaterial, we just all ride motorbikes.

Having been introduced to our mounts at the hotel, all of which were under two years old and a short briefing we set off on Sunday morning with our first stop being the filling station to top up at about 70p per litre. With Vintage Rides one pays a fixed sum which covers all meals, hotels, bikes, fuel, third party insurance and the tour leader. In India there is a culture of tipping for services and we each paid a small supplement of a few pounds to the tour leader to distribute as the situation required.



## Goa, India 21st November to 4th December 2019

To begin with away from the town the roads were reasonable tarmac surfaces with the occasional pot hole to trap the unwary. The traffic drives on the left the same as the UK, but not always and the best advice is to expect the unexpected. This could be anything such as cattle laying on the carriageway or strolling leisurely across it and perhaps the off tuk-tuk or small bike heading towards you on your side of the road. On major roads slow moving lorries occupy lane 2 and everything passes them in lane 1.

Where one approaches a village or inhabited area there are speed bumps and frequently a series of them across the road and the same when departing the area. Not too bad if you see them coming but a real jarring if you don't. These are not the gentle mounds we know as 'sleeping policeman' but a much more acute obstacle to cross. The Bullet has a 'heel & toe' gear lever which I am not fully accustomed too and there was a tendency when 'riding' the bump for the heel to come down on the gear pedal and change up one gear or find one of the many false neutrals for which the Enfield gearbox is renowned. It was disconcerting to say the least.

Away from the major towns there was so much to take in and being on a bike led along by a guy who clearly knew the ropes there was much to see that escapes the gaze of the usual tourist. In remote villages there is overt squalor and the most primitive conditions. The rural landscape is devoted to agriculture and grows diverse crops. We rode through rice paddies and beside vast stands of sugar cane, cotton, bananas, vegetables and sunflowers with other crops I could only guess at.

Always the ever-present cattle, never fenced into field enclosures and free to roam. Oxen are still widely used for a host of tasks from tilling the fields to towing carts loaded high with anything you could imagine. Occasionally there were vast herds of goats being driven along the village roads by groups of youths who were not at all concerned with keeping part of the road free for other users. Nothing for it but to ride the bike carefully through them all using the front wheel to nudge them out of the way. Sometimes there would be pigs too and not always in the villages but sometimes running the streets in the towns, in and out of the traffic.

Amongst all this abject poverty life appears to continue harmoniously and although the homes clearly did not have running water or for that matter any other concession to sanitation the population gets on with life and did not appear to mind us ignorantly pointing our cameras at them. I suppose there is no greater display of contrasts that in spite of the privations many have mobile phones and advertising hoardings are promoting 4G levels of service. In the mornings it is common to see young children smartly dressed in colourful uniforms striding purposefully to their schools so there is hope for future generations but it seems that education is a privilege not open to all youngsters.

Our tour encompassed several visits to ancient architectural sites including a series of rock temples hewn into red sandstone cliffs at Badami. Then onto visit the UNESCO world heritage site of the Hindu Empire 'City of Victory', a vast complex of temples, palaces a beautifully constructed bathing pool and huge semi derelict swimming pool dating from the 14th century. Quite separately we visited a huge Hindu temple complex with magnificent stepped tower dating from the 15th century. Shoes off for this one and a guided tour by a man who spoke heavily accented English at a great rate of knots. (Well at least I think it was English)!!

Generally speaking, with one exception our accommodation was in good clean hotels with individual rooms. Hot water was not always available and one place did not have a bar so we improvised and sent the mechanic out to buy a load of Kingfisher beer in bottles. This brew comes in two strengths of 4.8% or 7.2% and our mechanic had the presence of mind to get the stronger one. The exception was at Palolem where we stayed in beach shacks which may be alright if you are a hippy but myself, I am more accustomed to clean conditions and no sign of rats in recent occupation of the property.

So, there you have my Goa tour in a nutshell, dust and dirt, spicy food, friendly people happy to take your money, occasionally strong beer and an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.

*Paul Ollett*

# 2020 Northants Branch Annual General Meeting

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Northants Branch of the Triumph Owners M.C.C. will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at The Crown, Hardingstone. All members are asked to attend.

The meeting will start at 8.30pm.

## Provisional Agenda

1. Chairman to open the meeting and take apologies.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting\* and matters arising.
3. Executive Officers' Reports:
  - a) Secretary b) Treasurer c) Chairman
4. Election of Officers:
  - a) Chairman b) Secretary c) Treasurer d) PRO, e) Webmaster, f) Membership Secretary, g) Scribe, h) Runs Captain i) General Purpose Officers
5. Election of Branch Auditor
6. Election of Branch Honorary Members
7. Presentation of Awards:
  - a) Triumph Trophy (for general attendance at a branch event by a full member)
  - b) Navigator Trophy (for attendance by a member on the Wrinklies Runs)
  - c) Triumph Rider's Trophy (for attendance at a branch event by a full member on a Triumph)
  - d) Club Person of the Year
  - e) The Double Digit
8. Propositions (taken from the floor or, preferably, in writing in advance)
9. Any Other Business

**Notes:** All Officers posts are open for nominations (self-nomination is permitted) and may be filled by any Branch Member.

Any Branch Member may put forward propositions. All nominations and propositions must have a seconder.

7a, 7b and 7c are awarded by points accumulated throughout the year. 7d is awarded by vote of members present on the night.

\* Last year's AGM minutes were published in the May 2019 Nacelle; copies are available from I. Sargent.