

VIBRATIONS!



T160 Trident spied at the National AGM at Llanberis in September.

November 2021



Triumph Owners M.C.C.

Northants Branch



Scribblings

This issue arrives in your e-mail inbox a few days later than normal. The reason being that I took some time off from club duties to get married and go away on holiday!

A few branch members came along to the reception. Sorry we couldn't invite any more of you as the size of the room and the size of our budget were both at their limit.

Our wedding car was provide by one of the branch's founder members, and the service was conducted by the wife of another ex-member.



The Summer and early Autumn saw a good turnout at both the club nights and the ride-outs. Hopefully, the club nights through the Winter will continue to see a good count of members, though the ratio of 2-wheels to 4-wheels in the car park may favour the latter.

We have a comprehensive list of evets provisionally arranged for 2022 and that accompanies this newsletter as a separate attachment. All events in that list are subject to change and we welcome any other suggestions that brnch members may have.

Sarge

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New Members

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

Ian Allen of Brixworth
Nicola Audley from Arthingworth
Philip & Sandra Davison Od Northampton
Linda Francis from Milton Malsor
Sean Geraghty of Broughton
Michael Hooton from Wellingborough

Debbie Jilbert of Wilton
Chris Parr from Northampton
Andrew Rolls of Brithdir
Dave Swansborough from Northampton
Kerry Taylor from Wellingborough
Tony Wharton of Rushden

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 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.

	Events List
Wed 17 th November	Club Night at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm
Wed 1 st December	Club Night at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm
4 th -12 th December	Motorcycle Live at the National Exhibition Centre. https://www.motorcycletlive.co.uk/
Wed 15 th December	Club Night at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm. Christmas Party & Music Quiz by Paul Humphreys. All branch members, and their partners, welcome. Christmas jumpers optional.
Sun 26 th December	Wild & Woolly Scramble. Northampton's Boxing Day hangover cure. At the time of writing the venue has yet to be confirmed.
Wed 5 th January	Club Night at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm
Sun 9 th January	Chilly Willy Charity Ride. Meet 10am at Billing Garden Village for 12pm departure. Proceeds to the Air Ambulance.
Wed 18 th January	Club Night at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm
Wed 2 nd February	Club Night at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm
Wed 16 th February	Club Night at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm. General Knowledge quiz with questions set by Bob Swann.
Wed 2 nd March	Club Night at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm
Sat 12 th March	Annual Branch Dinner
Wed 16 th March	Branch Annual General Meeting at The Crown, Hardingstone. 7.30pm
Wed 30 th March	Club Night at The Swan. Newton Bromswold. 7.3-pm

In addition to the above calendar, many ad hoc rideouts are being arranged via the branch's Facebook page.

Northants Branch Info and News

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).

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, starting at 8pm.

For those months where there is a 5th 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.

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

The Branch on the Internet:

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

We also have Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/northantstomcc/

Other Internet Links:

Triumph Owners MCC national website: www.tomcc.org

Triumph Owners MCC events website: www.tomccevents.co.uk

Triumph Owners Clothing: www.tomccmerchandise.com

The club also has a page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/4526704577/.

British Motorcyclists Federation: www.bmf.co.uk

Motorcycle Action Group: www.mag-uk.org

Triumph Motorcycles: www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk

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

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.

The Isle of Man by Bike and Train

Nestling in the Irish Sea, some 2 hrs by fast ferry from Liverpool, the Isle of Man is a place of great charm. Famous of course for the TT Motorcycle Races held in June during normal years and the not quite so famous Manx Classic, featuring racing motorbikes from bygone ages with these races held in late August. There are other events involving classic sports cars and cycle racing recently brought to prominence due to the efforts of champion sprinter Mark Cavendish who trains on the Island.

Recently I visited the Island and naturally took the opportunity to ride the circuit, it would have been rude to not have done so and I can honestly say that I have enormous respect for the ability of those bold enough to tackle the 37¼ mile circuit especially when considering the quick lads can do it in 18 minutes.

Not so brisk for my gentler ride and many stops on the way round but nevertheless it was an ambition realised. Away from the urban and speed restricted areas there is no speed limit on the Island's roads and I was able to let the bike have its head from time to time. My modest 80 mph over the mountain was good enough for me to enjoy the experience with only minor risk always with a wary eye for wandering sheep.

There were a lot of roadworks in progress during my visit last September with the smooth surface being replaced and new white lines. Of course, there are no 'cats eyes' on the circuit and white lines are essential for night time driving.

Having been blessed with some beautiful weather I was able to enjoy stunning scenes, memorably the view back down the mountain whilst parked at the Guthrie Memorial and looking over the seaside town of Ramsey to the lighthouse at far distant Point of Aire on the Northern tip of the Island.

Prior to that I had negotiated the Ramsey Hairpin, challenging at any speed and stopped at the next corner 'Waterworks' to take more pictures, this time gazing up towards the distant foreboding mountain of Snaefell.

I was able to try the circuit in excellent weather but later in the week the mist was down on the high ground and it was a time for great caution. It is not unknown for such conditions to be present on TT Race days so how they cope with it must require an iron nerve.

During any of the big events on the island traveling around can be a bit restricted but seeing it 'out of season' as it were there is wealth of other things on the engineering side as well as beautiful places to visit in remote corners all over the Isle of Man.

Among these and probably not quite so well-known are the four railways on the island, these being the Manx Electric railway, Snaefell Mountain railway, Douglas Bay horse drawn tramway and the Douglas, Castletown Port Erin steam hauled narrow gauge railway. All of these means of transport run regular scheduled services in different locations on the Isle of Man. Visiting the Island to see my brother who lives on the West coast, literally looking at the Mountains of Mourn I was shown some of these places.

I was also privileged to share a 'Dining Experience' on the steam hauled Heritage line with my brother and we arrived at Douglas Station on Banks Hill in the town centre for a 7.00pm departure on a Thursday evening. As we were early there was plenty of time to explore the station and surrounds while the engine was being coaled and loaded with water for the journey to Port Erin, fifteen and a half miles distant to the South.

The railway has been trading constantly since 1873 and we were to be hauled down the 3'0" narrow gauge track by locomotive No 4 "LO GH". The railway buildings are of the Victorian period with red brick and wrought iron architecture and all kept in pristine condition in the manner becoming a well-run nationalised company. The railway is owned by the government of the Island.

The beautiful red, coach painted side tank engine with gleaming bras and copper fittings pulled seven matching dining cars including a bar. The carriages are about three quarters normal size but have plenty of room to move about for both passengers and staff. A selection of pies were on offer for our meal all served with peas and mashed potatoes on the outwards journey.

The Isle of Man by Bike and Train

The little engine coped very well with the gradients at the beginning of the journey and trundled along its merry way through the rolling landscapes and increasing urban developments without this special service needing to make stops at any of the nine Halts or Stations along the way. All the smells of hot oil mixed with steam and coal smoke gave a nostalgic atmosphere adding to the pleasures of the evening. The return journey was completed with the serving of a dessert course on the way and due to the time of year nightfall precluded the view from the windows. The round trip had taken just short of four hours.

Many will know of the Isle of Man's claims to fame with their unique currency based on sterling but impossible to spend elsewhere and the natural resource they have with 'Manx kippers'. What may not be quite as well-known as these and the motorcycle racing is this little gem of a steam hauled heritage railway and the many other secrets that are waiting to be discovered.

Will I be going back soon? Well yes indeed and I have already booked my ferry for the Manx Classic 2022 and if you asked me why I would have to say "The Fairies made me do it".

Paul Ollett



Some say that the Isle of Man looks a bit like a mole scrabbling to reach the surface.

Skegfest 2021

It was hoped that somebody would do a full write-up of Skegfest but I'm told that most people only have a hazy recollection of what went on. Phil Barton provides this brief note...

"On the Saturday none of our members went on the official ride out, which was probably a good thing as it went a bit wrong. Several of our members did their own thing, going on a 90-mile ride ending up at Sutton on sea for ice cream. Phil Short, Chris Halford and myself went down to Skeggy sea front and enjoyed the warm sunshine. Sunday started a bit damp but no one seemed bothered as the bike show was indoors. We supplied the Trophies which went down really well with all the winners, and again the Northants branch had the best club turn out, thank you all for supporting us, roll on next year."

