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SPECIAL EDITION. March 2025 Issue 81



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2025 Bristol Classic Bike Show.



Things weren't looking good as loads of our show stands spent the weekend in the back of Andy's broken-down van. Hope you're soon back on the road Andy. For the full story please see our Chairman Chris's account, [Banwell - A Tale of Woe.](#)

But with ingenuity, determination and a big roll of hazard tape our stand looked brilliant.



Bikes on display

JPS. Chris Tait
650SS. Howard Robinson
Navigator De-Luxe. Toni Bawdon.
Electra. Alan Byrom.
Domi88. Keith Bolton.
Manx. Andy Savage.
ES2. Joe Elliott.
750 Commando. Oliver Williams.
88. V.M.Baker.



Domi88. Keith Bolton.



2025 Bristol Classic Bike Show.



Hope you all enjoyed the show. It is a great time to catch up with biking friends and there's always something interesting to see even if you only get as far as the outside bike park and decide the £20 entry is a rip off.

Inside the various clubs presented their stands with lots of hard work which was great. Also, private entries this year were very impressive. It was noticeable that the trader's stands were very depleted inside the halls and outside. I was disappointed with the catering quality, service and price. Watching the Sunday afternoon auction was interesting but revealed a slump in prices. You can see the results on Dore and Rees website.

Our show-stand attracted loads of visitors. We heard stories from people who had enjoyed Nortons over the years as well as the inevitable questions from owners wanting help with maintenance. A huge attraction of course was the excellent cakes and biscuits thanks to Pat Elliott. XXX



Everyone enjoyed a great value meal at The Farington Inn Saturday evening.

We captured a romantic moment when Chris and Joe shared a late Valentine's Day Sundae.





Banwell - A tale of Woe.



In order to set up our stand at the Bristol Bike Show, we have to collect carpet, scaffolding, turntable, electrics etc. from their home in Banwell (nr W-S-M). Previously Martin Treasure had provided a home for this equipment in his large garage in Midsomer Norton. When he sold up and moved, we had to find a new home for this stuff, a moment we were dreading.

Fortunately, Terry Adams offered us storage in a garage at the bottom of his garden in W-S-M, very pleasant, and we were usually offered coffee and sandwiches when we arrived. However, Terry then had to move, but kindly offered us a shed in an orchard that he owned in Banwell. The shed was OK (and we are very grateful), but getting to it involved a 50-yard trek over a usually water-logged field which got increasingly muddy after each journey to the van. We had to park by the entrance. This journey obviously had to be done twice (taking and returning), and it was usually raining when it happened. Moving some of the heavy stuff was a real pain - the turntable and metal scaffolding were both heavy and awkward.

Just giving you a bit of context - obviously you can see that the visit to Banwell was not a favoured choice of things to do, particularly when the weather was particularly foul. This time Tony L, Andy S, and myself, arrived at the orchard entrance 11amish. Both Tony and Andy had brought their vans. Andy from Brushford (Exmoor). Andy's was the main carrier, as Tony was converting his into a camper, and already had two bikes on board. In order to facilitate loading, Andy had to reverse into the entrance. He started this manoeuvre, and then the van would not move. The clutch slave cylinder had failed. I immediately saw this as an act of God - and started dancing - even Tony smiled. The result was that we had to pack a minimum amount of stuff into the limited space in Tony's van, and leave all the heavy stuff (scaffolding, turntable etc.) Whooppee!!!!

To be honest this turn of events had some advantages for our stand, as the backing graphics were not obscured by the scaffolding, in fact the stand looked great, but we still did not win a prize! Andy's van was eventually recovered, and is currently (25/2/2025) awaiting repair. Andy could have done without another dose of bad luck!

Chris D



Christmas 2024. New Year 2025 Round Up.



Boxing Day 2024

After a very foggy ride, we were given a lovely warm welcome at The Wishing Well Codrington. In true Christmas spirit I found myself admiring Frank's Harley with the big tank and raised bars. Tony Lockwood wrote;

'Joe's always on a mission going to a pub 😂

There was about 35 other like-minded bikers, Alan B on his Meteor, Andy B going Commando, Toni B on her RE, Carole BMW, me on my Ariel NG, Bob and Mandy Gould on their Commando, Joe on his BMW, Mike Evans Hinkley Triumph and a bit later Chris Tait on his Zero. Dave Rood, Keith Boulton and Pete Goodman arrived by car. Landlord Kevin had made the pub very welcoming with a roaring log fire making it nice and warm and some bar snacks available with a special boxing day menu, the baguettes were quite popular as a long one cut into 2 could feed 2 for £5. Chris Tail had already been to CTL motorcycle and Cafe just outside of Cirencester. Reported some 50 or so bikes with some race bikes started up, might be something to consider for next year but it would mean an early start so would not suit all.'



New Year's Day 2025

Not so popular on a wet January 1st was the meet up at Bitton Station. Those that did go were treated to a celebration blast from all the train whistles in unison with every other preserved railway.





Farington Inn 2nd January 2025

A comparatively new tradition for us is our New Year 2nd January trip to The Farington Inn. Tony Lockwood writes; 'Nice little chilly run out to the Farrington Inn, Carole and I met up with Joe Elliott on ES2 and Paul Dyer on his Velo at Waitrose. A gentle sunny ride down due to all the traffic around.

Got to the pub at 12 Meeting up with Martin Treasure on his TS250 Suzuki already

propping up the bar 😁. Later joined by Alan Byrom on his Honda step through, Garry Tyler 500T and Owen Jones on his Commando. In cars were Dave Rood and mum, Paul and Sue Thomas, Colin Spence and Alex Morgan so in all a total of 14 members.

All meals were good with fish and chips for Daves mum should have been called whale and chips as the fish piece was huge. Prices were very good also, making the whole meal very enjoyable.'



Christmas Meal. Limpley Stoke 2025.

The Club's customary Christmas meal was apparently enjoyed by everyone despite the difficulties with road works and getting through the snow which meant many of the raffle prizes were stuck in Andy's van stranded a mile short of the hotel in a snowdrift. There are certainly some smiling faces here.





Club Meeting Room.

For the past fifteen years, or maybe even longer, the Club has met each Wednesday evening from 8pm at the Bridge Inn, Shortwood. We have enjoyed some great times there. We have always been made welcome by successive landlords and landladies. I am sure everyone has great memories of our regular club nights and special events in the function room, Presentation Nights in the summer, Mince Pie Nights at Christmas, AGMs etc. And who can forget that lovely September day in 2023 when we celebrated our 60th Anniversary with a BBQ in the garden?

The Bridge Inn closed for a while just after Christmas 2024 and so we found ourselves homeless while waiting for a new landlord at the Bridge. A couple of pubs were tried, The Hollybush at North Common and the Butcher's Arms at Longwell Green. Then we tried the Queen's Head in Hanham, a Wadworth's pub. We were made very welcome. There is good parking and a comfortable bar area where we can have our own table(s) reserved each week. and subject to further investigations re special events etc we believe it meets our needs if we find that the Bridge Inn is no longer suitable under the new ownership or if we desire a change anyway.



On 19th February the Club met at the Bridge Inn and met the new landlord, Mike. Unfortunately, it was clear the pub still had to get sorted out. The function room is unusable at the moment, there has been no change to the bar area where we meet and, worst of all, there was no draught beer as they had run out. So, it was decided that for the next four weeks we would continue at the Queen's Head. So that is the position until the 19th March at least. Then we will check the situation at the Bridge and come to a decision based on Member's preferences. Please



try and come along to one of our Wednesday evenings at the Queen's Head, 29 Lower Hanham Road, Hanham, Bristol BS15 8QP during the next three weeks so that we can make a decision, whether to stay there, return to the Bridge or look for a new venue. It's your opinion that matters. Our Annual General Meeting has been booked for April 23rd at the Queen's Head. (See Editor's Diary).



Agony Aunt's Column.

Alan Elstob writes;-

What do you do when you take off your tank and seat and are confronted by this rat's nest? Slept on it and decided it's working so let's focus on mechanicals this year and leave electrics until 2026. Hope this doesn't prove to be a bad decision.



Well Alan,

I could give you the benefit of my experience but that would probably make you more depressed. If you think under the seat looks bad, wait 'til you take the primary chain-case off. It's a whole new experience owning a lightweight. Not sure I can help you, but I think I know a man who can.

Ed.



Family News.

Best wishes to two of our members who have spent time in hospital recently, Phil Lord and Alan Elstob. We do hope you were given the best treatment possible, you received every comfort the NHS could afford and are now well on the road to recovery. See you both out on your bikes again soon.



Newsletter Editor.

Where's the Wit?

Where's the Wisdom?

Where's the Wine Gums?



Sorry if the newsletter is not up to the usual standard. Let me explain. Tony has now moved to the top floor executive suite of Norton Towers as he has taken over the position of Secretary of your club.

So, the bottom of the barrel has been well and truly scraped and I have taken his old job in the basement preparing the newsletters.

Subject to approval by the members at the Branch AGM I will be editor of the newsletter. I plan to prepare the next one at the end of April after the AGM. In the meantime, please send any contributions as a 'Word' file to me at alanbyrom.ab@gmail.com

Tell us about yourself, your history, your family news, your problems, your skills and services you are willing to share, your poems and short stories, your bike(s), what you've done with them, your rides, your holidays, stuff you're trying to flog, bits you need etc.etc.etc

But don't forget the best link to keep right up to date with what's going on is through Whats app. The BNOG event page provides important news from the Club Secretary and is a one-way flow of information. But the BNOG communication page is yours to share stuff with other members. If you aren't receiving Whats app messages or you don't know what it is, then best to contact;

Tony Lockwood on 07905 998885. Better still, turn up at our Wednesday evening club nights.

Alan Byrom. Editor.

Editor's Diary.

Here is a list of upcoming events that caught my eye. For full details check the appropriate websites.

Wednesday 12th March. Viewing Day. Bike sale at Haynes Motor Museum.

Thursday 13th March. Bike sale at Haynes Motor Museum.

Saturday 29th March. VMCC Autojumble Cheddar.

Saturday 5th April. Brecon Classic Motorcycle Show.

Sunday 6th April. Norton Owner's Club AGM. Gaydon. Take your member card.

Wednesday 23rd April. 8pm BNOG AGM. Queen's Head, Hanham BS15 8QP

Sat 26/Sun 27 April. Stafford International Bike Show.

Sat 26/Sun 27 April. Westbury (Wilts) Transport and Vintage Gathering. Bratton.

Sunday 22nd June. Norton Day. Prescott Bike Fest.

4th/5th/6th July. NOG National Rally. Keynsham.



Services for Members.

BRISTOL BRANCH TOOLS LIST

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. 2x2 piston ring clamps | 16. chain link extractor |
| 2. commando clutch puller | 17. set of combination spanners whit |
| 3. sump bung spanner | 18. 3/8" to 1/2" adaptor |
| 4. commando engine sprocket puller | 19. 3/16" whit socket |
| 5. commando clutch plate lock ring | 20. 1/4" whit socket |
| 6. crank oil pump gear puller | 21. 5/16" whit socket |
| 7. valve spring compressor | 22. 2 x 2" long 3/8" drive extensions |
| 8. timing light | 23. 1 x long extension 3/8" drive |
| 9. torque wrench | 24. oil filter strap |
| 10. sump / gearbox socket | 25. 3/8" wobbly drive |
| 11. hydraulic bearings puller | 26. timing gear puller |
| 12. valve seat cutter | 27. clutch centre puller |
| 13. valve rocker spindle puller | 28. clutch lock ring socket |
| 14. exhaust c spanner | 29. clutch c spanner |
| 15. TDC gauge | 30. engine strip video |
| 31. gearbox strip video | 32. Rear shock spring compressor |
| 33. Wheel building jig | |

We also have DVD's of Commando Engine and Gearbox rebuilds.

Keith Boulton is our man looking after the tools if you need to loan any of the above please contact Keith either via,

email: - kebnorton@hotmail.co.uk

or

Phone 01454 778864 (daytime please and leave a message)

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Ultrasonic carb cleaning, Bead, Soda and Alumina grit blasting, Gas welding, MIG & TIG welding, NDT, Wheel building, Lath/Milling work, Spark plug Heli Coil inserts (+ other sizes available) and polishing.

Please contact me for further details: - Tony Lockwood 0117 9492097 or mobile 07905 998885.

Branch members! are you having a problem with your old Norton's?

Give me a call: - Keith Boulton 01454 778864 or 07875243520

Engine rebuilds, gearbox rebuild, forks rebuilt etc.

Paul Wolf Magneto and Dynamo repairs. Clutch and Throttle Cables made to order, Welding and Brazing. Tel; 0117 9836702.

Cables. Just as a reminder we, the Bristol branch, have a small stock of popular cables for various models. The stock is currently held by Paul Wolf, the idea is that if you are out on a club run in the evening or on a Sunday when all the normal shops are closed we may get you out of the poo!



A couple of local firms members have recommended.

Martyn Reeves

137 Church Road
Redfield Bristol
BS5 9LA

telephone 0117 955 2813
facsimile 0117 9414161

10% discount on production of current club magazine and branch membership card. Please speak to Martyn first for discountable items.

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