

# NORTON OWNERS CLUB

## YORKSHIRE BRANCH

Dear members,

It is almost upon us again. By which I mean that Christmas will shortly be with us, with its attendant cold, wet weather. Of course, as we are all adherents to the great god Sodd (and, therefore, subject to his Law), my central heating system has been on the blink for some time. H.E.S.'s engineers (?) have been out five times but I believe that it might now be cured. I am sorely tempted to don my biking gear in the hope of being warmer than I am when writing this missive.

On a personal level, my prostate cancer appears to be something of a museum piece and the staff of the Oncology Unit at St James' have made it clear that they do not wish to see me for another twelve months - *a view, I suspect, expressed by some of my fellow Branch Members!!!!*

Better still, after a couple of very embarrassing situations, whilst on Branch Ride Outs, I believe that I have solved the problem/s by which I have been plagued for so long. In spite of cleaning out my petrol tank in the usual manner (it took more than thirty shakings with nuts and screws, and swillings before all traces of previous attempts to line the tank, were removed), my carb was still choked by tiny black particles. I went through the cleaning process again, before mixing the liquids supplied by Wildes, and providing the tank with a glass-like internal lining.

I had also found that my professionally overhauled magneto did not deliver the big fat sparks that it might have done in years gone by. This, I believed, was caused by the use of cheap, Far Eastern HT pick-ups, which were damaging the slip rings. Enough is enough, I cried, and I purchased a Pazon system. Once I had set the timing correctly (and welded the A/R unit in full advance), she would fire up first or second kick ..... and tick over when still cold.

Furthermore, I was no longer enamoured of the likelihood of having my garage floor well lubricated with the usual oil (from the primary chain case). I therefore purchased a belt drive system from Bob Newby and after a few minor problems, I had the engine running more quietly and smoothly than within riding memory. Of course, by the time everything is right, the late Autumnal weather sets in and, at my age, I am NOT taking the old 99 on long trips. WUSS, I may be but I am not taking her on ANY trips until the weather improves!!!

Our Branch membership remains healthy, with a monthly meeting attendance of around twenty bodies. Next year will mark the tenth anniversary of the present incarnation of the Branch and we hope to hold a celebratory camping weekend near Hawes. The details will be circulated in due course.

The majority of our Branch Members seem to be in good health but three deaths have marred the lives of people with whom we have had close links in the past. Rona Rendle (partner of the late Stuart Earnshaw) has informed me that a close friend of hers and Stuart's was killed in a motorcycling accident. This incident has set her back, she informs, me and has expressed a wish to be excluded from Branch communications. This wish will be respected. Two of our long-standing members, Edwin Channel-Napier and Bill Easton lost their wives, earlier this year and both have been very badly affected by their loss. Peter Driver, the Branch Treasure, has assumed the role of Branch Pastoral Officer and keeps an eye on any member who may have problems.

Our thoughts go out to Rona, Bill and to Edwin at this time - and hopefully, other times also.

I would thank Andy Lodge who, in his role as Branch Secretary, maintains Branch communications both internally and externally. Peter Driver had been the Branch Treasurer since the formation of the Branch, more than nine years ago and continues to keep our finances in good order. Thanks Guys.

May I finally wish you, and your families, all the very best for the Festive Season, and for the New Year. May your riding be happy and safe.

Barrie Blayney (Branch Chairman)