



# Newsletter

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June 2015

## Recent Events:

Fort Augustus Camping Trip 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Dan Peck and my wife Sandra and I left Oldmeldrum around 3.30 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May for Fort Augustus; we decided to go via Huntly, Dufftown, Craigellachie and Carbridge turning off at Daviot to take the B851 and B862 taking us directly to the Cumberlands Campsite. Arriving in bright sunshine we pitched our tents and settled down for the evening, most of the other club members joining the camping weekend arrived around the same time.

Saturday dawned bright but a bit chilly as there had been a frost during the night, undeterred and after a good breakfast we set off for Mallaig with the intention of crossing over to the Isle of Sky, however on arrival at Mallaig we found that the ferry was fully booked and not wanting to wait until much later in the afternoon for the next ferry we retraced our route back to Lochailort then taking the A861 all the way to the Corron ferry then on to Fort William on the A82, after a short stop in Fort William we set off for Fort Augustus having spent an excellent day of riding interesting roads and taking in some superb scenery along the way. After a pleasant evening meal at the campsite restaurant we retired, some to on site accommodation and some to their tents.

Next day Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> we set off for home this time with Alan Smith retracing our route back to Huntly where we turned off deciding to take the more interesting route home via Rothienorman.

My wife Sandra and I had a really good camping weekend enjoying the company of our fellow club members and some exceptionally scenic countryside.

Thanks to John and Janis Addison who led the run(s) taking us along some interesting and sometimes challenging roads.

Those who attended the camping weekend were:

Dan Peck, Barry Milliner, Eddie Jaffrey, John and Janis Addison, Jacqui and Tony and Alan Smith.

Photos of the weekend can be found on our website at:

["http://gallery.gcmcc.co.uk/#!album-6"](http://gallery.gcmcc.co.uk/#!album-6)

## Last club night run

2<sup>nd</sup> June, Alan Smith kindly arranged a visit to Rab Sheperds Garage Esk Motorcycles Gowanlee Croft Auchnagatt Ellon. Rab has a well-appointed and large workshop with excellent facilities with the ability to carry out a wide range of work covering engine and gearbox overhauls, welding repairs, manufacture of exhaust systems and full restorations. Thanks to Alan who arranged an interesting evening and to Rab who opened up his workshop for all club members who managed to attend.

Rab's website can be found at:

["http://www.esk-motorcycles.co.uk/"](http://www.esk-motorcycles.co.uk/)

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NEXT MEETING:

7<sup>th</sup> July 7 for 7:30pm at the Oldmeldrum British Legion

**Next club night run 7<sup>th</sup> July.**

7<sup>th</sup> July Grampian Transport Museum, having received a visit during our 3<sup>rd</sup> February club meeting from Bill McGregor of the Bon Accord Motorcycle Club when Bill asked our club to participate as much as possible in the success of the Alford Motorcycle Convention, it was decided that for the July club meeting we would meet at the Oldmeldrum British Legion 7 to 7.30 and join a run to the Grampian Transport Museum where we would meet Bill who will show us around the facilities and discuss further how we can help with the convention due to be held in September.

Note that for those who stay closer to Alford than Oldmeldrum it would make sense if so desired to meet at Alford, the choice will be yours.

Be prepared for an extended evening, I am not sure if the museum café is open at night so just in case you might want to have your tea before leaving home, there is fuel available in Inverurie and when nearly at Alford.

I think the evening has the potential to be very interesting so please try to attend if at all possible.

**Isle Man 2015 TT Trip:**

I have documented my son and I recent trip to this year's IoM roads races, see attached, apologies in advance for the frequent mention of Norton Motorcycles 😊

And finally, you will have seen my e-mail concerning Haddo House and their plans to hold a "Hit the Road Bike Show" Friday 26th June, to Saturday 27th June, I have attached an entry form as it is still not too late to enter, if you are undecided please try to attend as it is for a good cause and requires our support if it is to be a success

Safe Riding  
Tony

**Please see attached the 2015 GCMCC events calendar.**

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## Grampian Classic Motorcycle Club 2015 Events Calendar Please watch out for updates in the monthly Newsletters

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7<sup>th</sup> April, First run of the year to Tarves, Bob Prodger

18<sup>th</sup> April, Large Lunch at Deans of Huntly, meet there around 12:00 to 12:30 with a run afterwards, destination to be confirmed

3<sup>rd</sup> May, Ride Route 96, full details in the February Newsletter

5<sup>th</sup> May, Evening run Crawford Logan

10<sup>th</sup> May, Annual Cairn O Mount Rally

23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May, Fort Augustus Camping trip; Cumberlands Campsite Lochness, Glendoe Road, Fort Augustus, PH32 4BG, for those wanting B&B there are numerous places available in the local vicinity, more details will be provided closer to the date

2<sup>nd</sup> June, Evening run Maurice Clarke

7<sup>th</sup> July, Evening run to the Grampian Transport Museum to discuss the Alford Motorcycle Convention scheduled for September

2<sup>nd</sup> August, Garioch Vehicle Restoration Society Show Oldmeldrum. The organisers have suggested that we enter individually, they will arrange for us to be displayed as a club, please see attached entry form which can also be found on the GVRS website, paste gvrs.net into your browser and look for the Rally plate

4<sup>th</sup> August, Evening run, Mick Elstone

16<sup>th</sup> August, Annual BBQ more details to be provided closer to the date.

21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August, Ullapool Camping, for campsite details see below, more details will be provided closer to the date:

Broomfield Holiday Park  
West Lane  
Ullapool  
Ross Shire  
Scotland  
UK  
IV26 2UT

PHONE 1: (+44) 01854 612020  
PHONE 2: (+44) 01854 612664  
Calling times: please only use  
these numbers between 9am  
and 7pm unless emergency.  
FAX: (+44) 01854 613151  
[scross@broomfieldhp.com](mailto:scross@broomfieldhp.com)

6<sup>th</sup> September, Alford Motorcycle Convention

8<sup>th</sup> September, Evening run Tony Duffield

12<sup>th</sup> December, Xmas Bash, more details to be provided closer to the date



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for Scotland  
a place for everyone



**HADDO HOUSE**

**Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeen & Grampian AB41 7EQ**

**Phone: 0844 493 2179**

**Email: [ibiedma@nts.org.uk](mailto:ibiedma@nts.org.uk)**

HADDO “HIT THE ROAD” BIKE SHOW is a two day event featuring, vendor stalls, activities and classic and custom bike exhibitions. If you would like to be part of the exhibition please complete this form and email it along with at least two images of your motorcycle to [ibiedma@nts.org.uk](mailto:ibiedma@nts.org.uk) with HADDO “HIT THE ROAD” BIKE SHOW in the subject line.

Name of Owner:
Address:
Postcode:
Tel No: E-Mail:
Bike Make and Model: Year:
Reg. No: CC:
<p>Would you consider riding your bike on a parade around Haddo Country park?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES <input type="checkbox"/>                      NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Tell us about your bike:

Entry is free and entitles you to two festival passes per bike displayed and a free parking permit.

**Exhibition set up dates/time:**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, between 8am and 5pm

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, between 8am and 10am

**Exhibition removal dates/time**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of June by 8pm or Monday 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m.

Bikes can be removed from as soon as the organisers deem it's safe to do so.

Public visitor opening hours to the show are:

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am to 5:00pm

The exhibition halls will be securely guarded at all times and locked down overnight on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## Rotavating in the Isle of Man

This will disappoint the gardeners of this world as it is not a story of Manx Horticulture but refers to a phrase first used (as far as I am concerned) by a pal enquiring about my biking plans for the weekend using my Norton Rotary Commander such as “doing any rotavating this weekend?”.

My most recent rotavating event was when my son James and I attended the 2015 IoM TT a spectacular event not only for the year that Hutchy came good again one of those “where were you times when Ian won his ninth TT, change that to tenth hang on now there’s an eleventh” and when we thought it could not get any better the Morecambe Missile John McGuinness won his 23<sup>rd</sup> TT in the senior in record time a remarkable display by one if not the best motorcycle road racers of all time.

Leaving our home north of Aberdeen for Heysham we rode through high winds and heavy rain, the Commander is great in wet weather with the body work diverting nearly all the spray and the warmth from the engine keeping my toes toasty but in a cross wind it can be a bit like riding a barn door, I’m sure we spent most of the journey at 45 degrees. We eventually arrived at the ferry terminal in time to catch the 0215 ferry, an ungodly hour but the only crossing left even though we had booked well in advance “book early to avoid disappointment” is true when attending the TT, once we arrived in Douglas and being far too early to get into our lodgings we decided to ride the course, even at such an early hour the sports bike boys and girls were out flying past at huge speed the TT does indeed bring out the worst in some folk needless to say the Commander completed the course in a refined and the stately manner, that’s the story I’m sticking to and my son has been sworn to secrecy.

The next few days were spent enjoying the fantastic weather some excellent racing a tour of the island and a visit to the Isle of Man Motor Museum Jurby where there is amongst a number of really interesting cars and bikes an F1, a most enjoyable experience made even more so by the attention received by the Commander, Guy Martin is a great bloke and finds the attention from the media and general public trying, I now know how he feels; everywhere we went interested folk wanted to know “is that a rotary?” the French contingent asked “le moteur rotatif?” our German friends said “Wankel Motor?” and some find chaps from Sweden said “is that a rotary, we do not have any in Sweden and when asked if they wanted to own the only rotary in Sweden they declined, to be fair I would not have sold my bike it means far too much to me. There were also a number of our fellow countrymen who showed interest with tales of when they visited Shenstone, many said they had always wanted a Commander and even when queuing for the return ferry crossing with bikers each side there would be a tap on the shoulder with a thumbs up.

The journey back home was uneventful with dry and sunny conditions, the Commander was happy to cruise at 4500 RPM a nice steady 75 MPH, during the whole of the trip having completed nearly 1000 miles the bike performed impeccably and even the clackity clack sound from the gearbox when idling and on the overrun did not seem any the worse for the journey.

Now safely in the garage I will change the oil in the primary chain case, gearbox and enclosed rear chain, clean the pugs and give the Commander a bit of a spruce up ready for the trip to the NOC National Rally in Wales at the end of June.

Happy Rotavating

Tony Duffield

### French Admirers

