



# Newsletter

August 2017

## In the summertime, when the weather is....?

Finish that couplet off to reflect your own experience of Summer 2017 - I wouldn't commit mine to print as I know you have a sensitive disposition.

Our Applecross camping weekend was a little earlier this year to make sure it didn't clash with the International/Begonia. I don't think anyone arrived dry and certainly my new, expensive Alpinestars waterproof suit was letting enough rain in that I was wet through within an hour. I suspect it wouldn't keep out sma' tatties, never mind the rain.



In total there were around 20 hardy (and slightly damp) souls although not everyone stayed for the whole weekend. As usual, there was a good selection of 'bikes, including a pair of very interesting "street scrambler" twins. I didn't get a chance to speak to the owners, but maybe the next time.

Ann and I left on Sunday morning after a tasty breakfast at the Junction, a new cafe/bar which has opened in the village. (Excellent coffee and cake all day and somewhere different for a pint at night.)

The rain started to clear a bit once over the Beallach and by the time we were enduring the torturous traffic near Dornie, it was drying enough to start enjoying the ride. We pushed through the worst of the convoys and had the climb from Sheil bridge up to Cluanie with an almost clear road. Suddenly, with a clatter and rattle I lost all drive and coasted with the engine still running into a lay-by. I knew I had lost the chain and was hugely relieved not to see a puddle of oil leaking out a smashed case. Ann pulled in behind me and said she saw something come out the back of the 'bike

followed by the chain. I jumped to the conclusion that the chain would be US, so being

armed with Carole Nash breakdown recovery and a strong mobile 'phone signal, I opted not to run back up the road to collect the remains and then attempt to route it back over the sprockets. Its an unpleasant job at the best of times, not improved by lying in a dirty puddle being eaten by midges. I was astonished (and more than a little sceptical) when the dispatcher told me the recovery van would be with me within the hour.

I settled in to wait and, an just over an hour later a properly equipped motorcycle recovery van arrived to take me and the Commando all the way home. While waiting several people stopped to offer help and Bert even stopped to pick up the chain and drop it into my hand!

I would like to be able to say the postmortem revealed sub-standard chain, some flaw in manufacture or damage caused by hitting something on the road, but the truth is the chain was worn out and I should have replaced it before leaving. Instead, I tried to squeeze another few hundred miles out it and paid the cost.

In the big scheme, this time the cost was the embarrassment of the Commando returning home on its shield. I know well enough that it could have been much, much worse. The broken link now sits on the "shelf of shame" with other bits of mechanical mayhem.

Note to self: MAINTAIN YOUR 'BIKE YOU SLACK OLD DOOB!!!



Latest addition to the shelf of shame

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## Forthcoming Events

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If you are intending to camp at Yetholm in September and haven't let me know, would you please drop me an email so I can forward a list to the campsite.

We have booked dinner for Saturday night at The Plough Inn at 19:00. Again, places are limited so please let me know if you will be joining us - the owner is booking us into the dining room, perhaps for the protection of other guests.

The TVNOC will be enjoying an early Christmas dinner in the company of Norrie Miltons sidecar crew again this year. Same venue - the Killin Hotel - the price will be the same as last year, £120.00 dinner, bed and breakfast per room, or £60.00 per person dinner, bed and breakfast.

The Hotel will hold the rooms for us until the 15th September and after that it will be "pot luck".

If you fancy it, contact the Hotel direct (01567 820296) and let them know you are with the Norton/Milton group.

They will need a card to secure the booking.

September 08th-09th  
TVNOC Borders weekend  
Town Yetholm, near Kelso

September 24th  
SCMCC Autumn Classic Gathering  
The Four Seasons, St Fillans

October 22nd  
TVNOC Huntlygowks lunch meeting  
Tullybanocher café, Comrie

December 09th  
Christmas Dinner  
Killin Hotel, Killin