

Celebrate 50 Years of the Norton Commando with Peter Williams at Ardingly on Sunday 29/10/17

It's 50 years since the launch of the Norton Commando at The Earls Court Show in 1967, surely one of the most popular Nortons ever made. At our next event at Ardingly on Sunday 29th October, at the suggestion of Surrey NOC, we're celebrating 50 Years of the Norton Commando.

Norton Guru Peter Williams is our Guest of Honour and in honour of Peter's visit bikes booked in to appear include his innovative original 1973 JPN Monocoque, a genuine Thruxton Commando, an original 1963 500cc Dunstall Domiracer, one of the first fastback Commandos made and a Seeley Commando. These will take part in the popular Fire-Up Paddock. Norton works rider Peter will be on hand all day, and is bringing copies of his recently republished autobiography 'Designed to Race'. This book was out of print for many years; with copies fetching extremely high prices on the internet, but now's your chance to buy a signed copy direct from the author.

We're also welcoming Peter together with other Norton employees to 'Question and Answer' session, hosted by noted collector Mike Braid and including the testers and designers from the AMC Plumstead factory where the iconic Commando was put into production. Works testers booked in so far include Bill Brooker, Nick Hyde and Alan Jones together with design shop developers Bob Cakebread and Bill Cakebread, the author of two books on AMC.

There'll also be two Fire-Up sessions on the day, giving you the chance to hear the legendary Peter Williams' JPN Monocoque; Thruxton Commando and many more Commandos!

The celebrated JPN Monocoque Norton (bike ref 001) was the first 750cc stainless steel chassis built and raced by Peter Williams in the F750 races in 1973. Peter won a Formula 750 TT on the Isle of Man and 3 out of 6 Transatlantic rounds with this bike, while his team-mate Dave Croxford was British 750cc champion on it, the Commando engine competing against Japanese multis. The bike came second in the 1973 TT with Mick Grant and was later crashed spectacularly at Silverstone by Dave Croxford. The engine is a standard Commando 73 x 89 bore and stroke with a 5-speed gearbox and outrigger primary transmission. It's fitted with 18" DID cast mag wheels and JPN front forks with Koni rear shocks. The ignition is by Lucas, as used on F1 cars of that period. It was rebuilt by P&M Motorcycles (Richard Peckett and Peter McNab) in the mid-nineties.

Another iconic Norton on display will be a genuine 1963 Dunstall 500cc Domiracer, with Norton Lowboy frame, 500cc twin cylinder Norton engine with 4MTT magneto, Amal GP carbs, 5-speed Schafleitner gearbox, Oldarni front brake, Manx forks and rear wheel.

Other news is regular stallholder Gordon May is back from his solo overland journey from the UK to Vietnam on his 1941 Matchless. His new book 'Overland to Vietnam' is just published, and you can meet Gordon and his travel-stained ex-Army 350cc Matchless G3L in the Show Hall. You can buy your signed copy of 'Overland to Vietnam' direct from the author. Gordon also offers a range of goggles, motorcycle clocks and gel-pad seat covers for all motorcycle adventurers!

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Show Details: The South of England Classic Motorcycle Show & Bikejumble

Date: 10am Sunday 29th October 2017. 10:00 - 14:30 (last admission 13:30)

Venue: South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TL

Location Eight miles from M23 junction 10, sign-posted SOE / Wakehurst Place. Nearest train stations are Haywards Heath and East Grinstead, busses 270 & 272 stop at the showground, but check Sunday timetable www.traveline.info

Entrance to the Showground is via the North Gate, opposite the Gardener's Arms pub.

Entry: Gates Open 10 am and admission is £6 adults; £5 65-and-over; kids under 16 free.

Features: Five indoor halls of motorcycles & bikejumble: Large indoor all-motorcycle

show for pre-1980 motorcycles with Club Stands and hundreds of machines on display. The Royal British Legion will be providing a Helmet Park in aid of the RBL in The Stockman's Building.

Large indoor and outdoor Bikejumble with new and used spares, bikes, clothing & accessories for sale. Free BikeMart display-to-sell area for private vendors. Cheap garage clear-out stalls available - just £10, must be pre-booked.

Free BikeMart display-to-sell area for private vendors, [enquire for details](#). Cheap garage clear-out stalls are available - just £10, must be pre-booked, see www.elk-promotions.co.uk to download a booking form.

Great range of catering (previous events featured a Hog roast, fantastic Italian smokerie, a bakers stall, toasty sandwiches and Real Coffee in addition to standard burgers). Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome.

Free parking, including disabled parking facilities and priority disabled access scheme so you don't have to queue!

If you'd like to enter your pre-1980 classic into the Show, and can do so before 1st October, then you'll be sent a pass which will let you in for absolutely NOTHING. Visit www.elk-promotions.co.uk to download a free entry form. We're especially looking for Commandos this time!

Contact Details:

Website: www.elk-promotions.co.uk

Email: events@elk-promotions.co.uk

Phone: 01797 344277

Address: ELK Promotions, PO Box 85, New Romney, KENT TN28 9BE

More Info:

- <http://www.workingatamc.london/index.html>
- <https://www.pressreader.com/uk/classic-bike-uk/20161228/281586650256578>
- <http://www.guskuhn.net/GKMLtd/Racing/PeterWilliams.htm>
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- <http://surrey.branches.nortonownersclub.org/>