

<http://www.tomccmsl.co.uk/>



Thunderbird Times

February 2011

Newsletter of the Mighty South London branch of the **TRIUMPH** Owners Motor Cycle Club

A quiet month doesn't seem anybody has done anything interesting mainly due to the weather I suppose. Erum Waheed sent the picture below of Triumph-mounted Wallace & Gromit cut out of a bit of hedge, somewhere in Birmingham (!) and also the newspaper cutting. Does anybody remember the Triumph dealer pictured? The branch sent a group to the Edward Turner plaque unveiling referred to, see Thunderbird Times October 2009, on the website. And please don't forget the AGM 22nd March.....

Isle of Wight Weekend

An update from Bob -

There is a good selection of B&B, or Hotels if camping is not for you. I have looked online at Ferry Fares and Red Funnel run hourly from Southampton to East Cowes. The return fare with a Motorcycle is £16.50 each way. The journey takes 1 hour. The trip from East Cowes to the campsite is approx 1/2 hour. On that basis I would estimate if you were to leave home 10am, arrive at Southampton by 12 with ease, get the 1300 sailing and arrive on the island by 1400 hours.

I came across a useful book called Motorcyclists Welcome. There are several biker friendly B&B places to stay on the island. The Braemar Hotel at Shanklin, 11 bedrooms all en suite, private car park, from £30 pp www.thebraemar.com St Brelades Hotel at Shanklin, 15 en suite rooms from £40 pp www.st-brelades-hotel.co.uk. The Bedford Lodge Hotel at Shanklin 12 en suite rooms, from £ 30 pp www.bedfordlodge.co.uk. The Abingdon Lodge Hotel in Ryde, 13 en suite rooms from £35 pp, www.abingdonlodge.co.uk



EVENTS

Mar 19th Kempton Park Autojumble
Mar 20th Pioneer Run
Mar 20th South of England RealClassic'
Show/bike jumble, Ardingley

Mar 22nd AGM 8.30 PoW

CLUB CONTACTS:

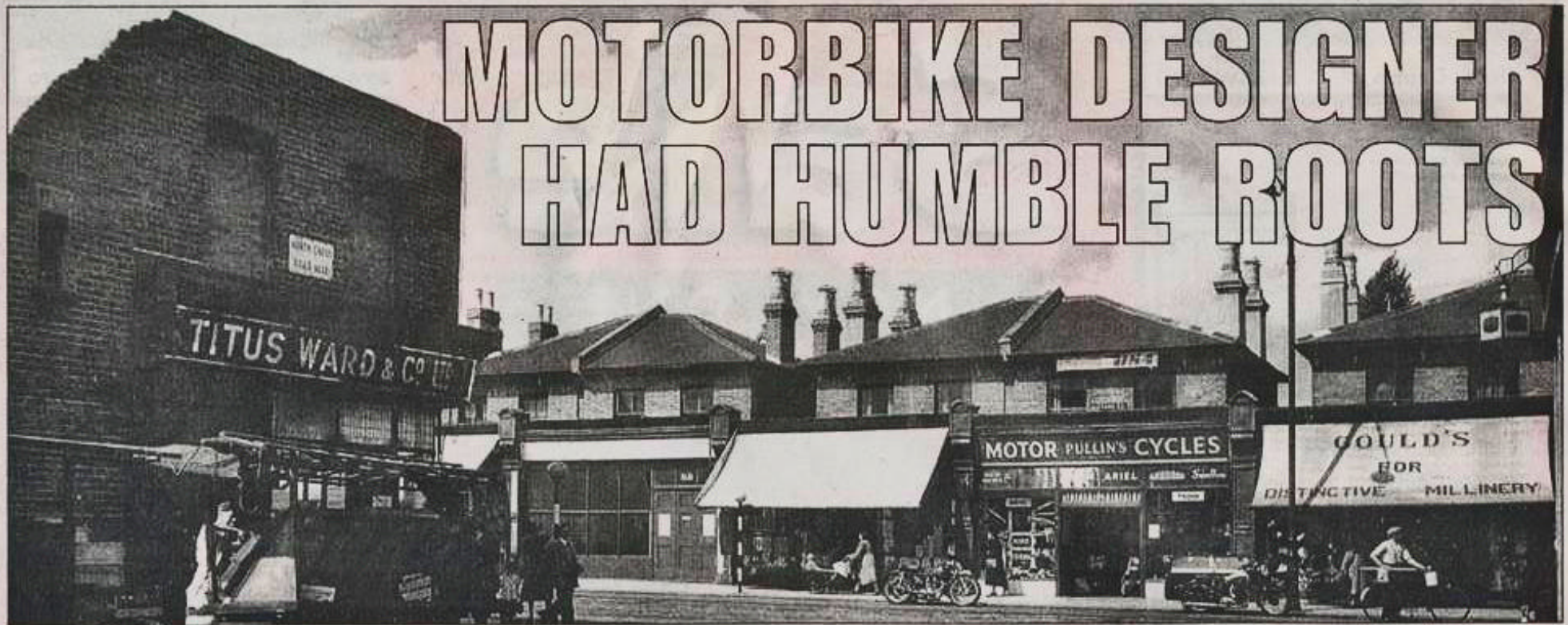
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THE CLUB:

Meets at the Prince of Wales, **98 Morden Road, London SW19 3BP** (020 8542 0573) every Tuesday from 8.30 pm

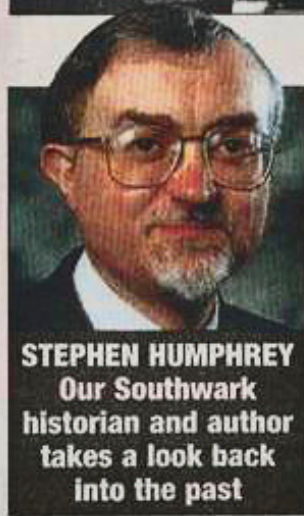
South London Memories

MOTORBIKE DESIGNER HAD HUMBLE ROOTS



WAR DAMAGE: Lordship Lane at the junction with North Cross Road in 1948

14672/C



STEPHEN HUMPHREY
Our Southwark
historian and author
takes a look back
into the past

LORDSHIP Lane in 1948 was still scarred by wartime bombing, as the building on the left-hand side of today's picture shows.

The scene is the junction with North Cross Road at a time when bomb sites and rationing were still part of daily life.

The shop occupied by Gould's in this photograph is called Jolie a Pied today. The modern lamp post stands exactly in the same position as the old one we see here. Likewise, to the left, the Belisha beacons from 1948 are in the same place as the pedestrian crossing lights today.

Belisha is derived from Leslie Hore-Belisha (1893-1957), who introduced the beacons when he was Minister of Transport from 1934 to 1937.

The zebra stripes that went with them came later, but well before the Beatles crossed Abbey Road in 1969.

The agreeable Victorian buildings to the left of Gould's no longer exist. Numbers 84-90, going south, made way for the present Iceland building.

The office door of the building has number 84 inscribed on it. That number once belonged to Pullin's, the motorcycle dealership that is central to our picture.

You will see that Pullin's was an agent for Ariel and Triumph motorcycles. These old and distinguished brands

were celebrated locally in 2009.

On October 25 that year, a Southwark blue plaque was unveiled in Philip Walk, Peckham Rye, to Edward Turner (1901-73).

He designed the Ariel Square Four and many famous Triumph machines, including the Speed Twin, the Tiger and the Thunderbird.

As if this was not enough, he designed the Daimler V8 engine.

From the 1930s to the 1960s he served as the highly successful managing director of Triumph Engineering Co Ltd in the Midlands.

He had been born near East Street in Walworth and grew up well versed in his grandfather's business as a blacksmith and his father's work

running a small engineering works in Philip Walk.

Turner once said that he "knew his metals".

In the Triumph factory he famously machined the exact form of a fillet, which a metal turner had tried to achieve with great difficulty.

The honour to Turner was first suggested by Erum Waheed, who has been tireless in his promotion of the man and his motorcycles.

We should indeed be proud that this significant part of British industrial history began in Peckham and became a world-beating enterprise.

Future articles will enlarge on the subject by showing exactly how it all came about in the 1920s.