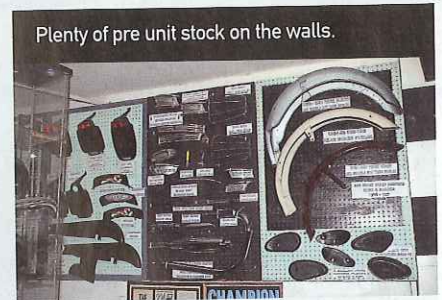


# Ace Classics

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS: RUSSELL LEE



Wonderful period look to Ace Classics shop front.



Plenty of pre unit stock on the walls.



Plenty of pre unit stock in the showroom.

Despite residing on one of the Capital's busiest thoroughfares, the South Circular Road, you cannot miss the pre unit Triumph enthusiast's Mecca, Ace Classics.

Started in 1991 by Cliff Rushworth, the story is not uncommon. Cliff was disappointed with the quality and service he was getting while pursuing his pastime of restoring pre unit Triumphs so he decided to open his own shop selling items from UK based suppliers where the quality could be monitored more closely.

Fast forward to the present day and the shop is now run by Cliff's son Kevin. Kevin exudes the air of a chap in love with his job. Totally knowledgeable and at ease with all things pre unit Triumph, Kevin took time out to tell about the business.

If you're restoring a pre unit Triumph, any model, any year, you will probably be dealing with these guys at some time during the project. Ace Classics can supply pretty much any of the running gear and nuts and bolts to show standard. Restoration to concours standard with a great emphasis on attention to detail is fairly evident on the bikes on show in the shop. However, not all the machines are for sale, approximately half are owned and ridden by the family Rushworth.

One particularly eye catching bike on show was a 1954 T110, Johnson Motors American spec racer that is set to make its race debut at the prestigious Goodwood Revival meeting this month. Despite Kevin having limited racing experience he received an entry and he is waiting to hear with whom he'll be teamed up in the

'Pro-Am' style race. The bike was built in collaboration with Dick Smith, who runs Baron's Speed Shop and this machine will hopefully showcase their race building and tuning talents. A recent shakedown at the Festival of 1000 Bikes at Mallory Park proved useful and showed the bike was reliable and had a reasonable turn of speed.

As well as the shop, Ace Classics has a very well set up and functional website ([www.aceclassics.co.uk](http://www.aceclassics.co.uk)) where everything you'll need for a pre unit Triumph can be found. Spares make up a large part of the business, with parts despatched to all parts of the globe. Likewise, merchandise like T-shirts and calendars can be ordered via the website.

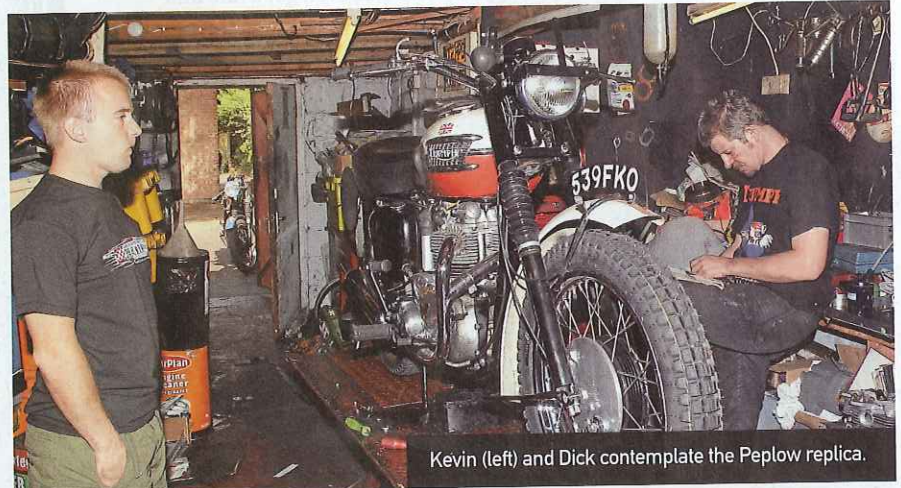
Bike shows and autojumbles play an important part in getting parts out to the masses and Kevin's team can be found at all

the regular haunts like Kempton Park, Netley Marsh, Stafford, Shepton Mallet etc where, if you can't get to the shop, they will bring items along for you to collect.

Repairs and servicing are carried out on the premises and at the time of my visit there was a Roy Peplow ISDT replica on the bench, complete with almost a spare everything taped or bolted to it!

The week's not complete without a Friday night ride to the nearby Blackheath tea hut. A dozen or so pre unit fans head to the popular motorcycle meeting place to chat and enjoy a brew.

So, if pre unit Triumphs are your thing, you could do worse than head along the South Circular, to 103-105 St Mildred's Road, Lee, London SE12 0RL to be precise, or give Kevin a call on 020 8698 4273. ■



Kevin (left) and Dick contemplate the Peplow replica.