



# An Ace opening

**THE FATHER AND SON TEAM BEHIND ACE CLASSICS CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THEIR NEW SHOWROOM WITH A SPECIAL GUEST.** WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES ROBINSON



Kev Rushwoth and Johnny Giles, after John's 'ride in'.

The father-and-son team behind Ace Classics, Cliff and Kevin Rushworth, celebrated the opening of their new showroom, adjoining their existing St Mildred's Road, Lee, South London, premises – on the side of the south circular – with a 'do' on the evening of November 24 with family, customers and even a rock and roll band in attendance.

However, the star guest was undoubtedly Johnny Giles, the now 82-year-old former Triumph works campaigner. John was reunited with the 1958 Trophy he rode in the Welsh Three Day Trial and ISDT – in fact, he wasn't just reunited with it, but rode it through the doorway of the new shop, through a paper 'curtain', to declare the place 'open'. Only problem was, he did it so quickly, no one managed to get a picture!

Ever happy to talk Triumphs, John explained that he still has seven of the Meriden-made machines, from the 1951-68

era when he was a works rider. He talked about how the last of the 'all' Triumph Daytona 500s was his favourite of the machines he rode, mainly because it was so much more comfortable than the Cheney framed – and more focused – machines which came after.

Other tales involved how he left his apprenticeship with Rolls-Royce and Bentley just before finishing, because they wouldn't let him go to a trial, and he also relayed how in 1953 the ISDT fell when he was in the middle of his National Service. War Department personnel were not permitted behind the iron curtain, so after Triumph wrote to his commanding officer, Colonel Goode, he was 'demobbed' from the army (where he was a motorcycle instructor) by MI5, giving back his uniform and other paraphernalia before, on his return to Britain post trial, going back into the army and re-collecting his service material.



The ISDT Triumph's tank badge – it was drizzling outside.



Hiro Maeda from Lewis Leathers turns up to the opening.



The 'old' shop has guests congregating.

Kevin Rushworth commented: "My dad has known John for years, and so have I now, and we couldn't think of anyone better to open the new shop.

"We called him up and he agreed to it straight away. He's amazing, isn't he?"

The shop expansion has come in the wake of another good year's trading, with Kevin explaining how a cache of pre-unit Triumphs, brought in from America, have all been snapped up before they've even landed in the UK.

The new building is to be more of a showroom, allowing additional machines

to be displayed, some for sale and others just for the delectation of shop visitors. Among the machines for inspection on the first night were a beautiful Triumph Grand Prix, a very rare swinging arm road racing TR5R and also the Trophy (408 BWD) which was road tested by the Press in 1961.

Ace Classics has a vast range of products available, mainly for pre-unit Triumphs while its 2013 calendar is now available too. Have a look at [www.aceclassics.co.uk](http://www.aceclassics.co.uk) or 0208 8698 4273. ■



Triumphs on display.

## Ace Classics (London) Ltd



**1968 T120 BONNEVILLE** painted in the late 1950s. Colours Azure Blue & Pearl Grey this bike is mint. £17,500



**1968 T110** Featured by Hughie Macaux using lots of MGCS parts very nice bike. £9,750



**1968 T100** Speed Twin Matching Numbers ride rarely. £11,995



**1967 T100** Fully restored. £3,495



**1961 AJB MODEL 51** very nice bike. £3,995



**1968 BSA Super Rocket**. £11,995



**1961 VILLIERS** The Ultimate Cafe Racer. £19,900



**1979 DUCATI CARIBIAN** nice original bike. £5,500



**1964 Harley Davidson Heritage** Bonnet, 100th anniversary limited. £16,750 see price for British Classics

**BIKES COMING SOON!**

1960 T120 BONNEVILLE £14,000  
 & X 1968 TR6R £12,000  
 1964 T110 £12,000

**OUR NEW SHOWROOM IS NOW OPEN**  
**Monday-Friday 9:00 - 6:00. Saturday 10:00-6:00**  
 We are always on the lookout for bikes so if you have a British Classic for sale give us a call or we can sell your bike for you on a Sale or Return basis at sensible rates.

**OPEN DAY - SAT 2nd FEB.**  
 Free tea & coffee

[www.AceClassics.co.uk](http://www.AceClassics.co.uk) ~ 020 8698 4273  
 101-103 St Mildreds Road, Lee, London SE12 0RL  
 Ace opening hours: 9am-6pm Mon-Fri | 10am-6pm Sat | Closed Sun