



# Vinegar is not just for chips!

For those of you facing the dilemma of having to prise/jack/lever/hammer/gemmy/ask nicely - the barrels to let go of the studs so they can be removed, this may be of some interest.

I was given this piece of information a little guardedly, by Martin Egginton of ME Motorcycles in Burton-upon-Trent. I did check with him that it was OK to inform others of his method though. Martin runs a business in BoT that, other than selling new bikes, covers most motorcycle activities including service and repair, custom builds, rebuilds etc.

I have in the past, read of many different release fluids being poured or trickled down the studs to help free them off, some with greater success than others. Martin's favourite trick is to use distilled vinegar; no, not the brown stuff you shake over your chips, but the clear variety. I understand that this has a higher level of acetic acid. It would seem that vinegar is a really useful fluid. Check it out on the interwebingness thingy.

Now I'm no chemist but, I guess it's the acetic acid that does the job. Martin tells me that it turns the oxidised aluminium into a paste, rather similar to tooth paste and does it within a few days. I assume the length of time required may depend on the level of corrosion?

So if you have barrels that don't want to be parted from the crank case, vinegar and a puller plate may be the answer. Who knows? You may not even require the puller plate!

My 'M' model seized up on me as I was on the way back from a Kettle Club event at Cholmondeley Castle on the 3rd September, so if my barrels prove reluctant to move, I'll be giving the vinegar a try!

**Nick Lowe** - Club Secretary

