

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER from Section Meeting 9th May 2024

1. People: welcome to Tony Penzato, Richard & Alison Sansom, Rob Hatto, Clive Todman and Struan McDonald; and to Jeremy Retford, South Cotswold Section chair, who fancied a sunny evening ride out to West Wilts!
2. Recent events
 - a. The Founders Relay Rally West Wilts checkpoint seems to have been relatively well-attended when compared to recent years and surrounding checkpoints; there were 17 bikes (19 riders/pillions) on the Rally plus several visitors riding in. Thanks to all those who came along. We'll run a checkpoint in 2025 if VMCC continues with the event; following Kevin Phillips' suggestion we will schedule a club meeting to coincide with the Rally.
 - b. The Coffee morning at Sleight Valley golf club Café nr. Devizes saw sunny weather and a good turnout of 16 bikes and 19 people in total attending.
 - c. Midweek run 2nd May – Keith Johnston led a 100 mile run on mainly C class roads, with John Adams kindly riding as sweeper. Fourteen bikes rode out to Wendy's community café at Great Bedwyn for lunch with a return route via Pewsey finishing at Barty's coffee shop on Bowden Hill near Lacock. A great ride including the Wessex Downs and Salisbury Plain, with friendly cafes and lovely roads, and only one minor mechanical.
 - d. The off-road skills day at Binegar Quarry organised by Keith Johnston was very well-run, suitably challenging, and enjoyed by all who attended.
3. Forthcoming events
 - a. Green Lane Run Tuesday 14th May will run across the Ridgeway and Lambourne Hills, led by Keith Johnston. Currently all places are taken, see WhatsApp for details and any updates.
 - b. VMCC South Cotswold section has a ride-in at the Thames Head Inn (on the A433 near Kemble/Tarlton) on Tuesday 14th May, from 6:30pm onwards. Jeremy Retford noted it is usually very well-attended and all are welcome.
 - c. Wandering to The Wishing Well at Codrington BS37 6RY on Thursday 16th May, details on email from Colin Smith; **please let Colin have your pre-orders by Monday morning if you wish to eat lunch.** There will be an informal run to the venue departing Morrisons Chippenham car park at 10am prompt, stopping off at a mystery café with industrial heritage connections...
 - d. Castle Combe bike night Monday 20th May, 6-8:30pm. NB pre-booking is required for entry, cost £2; HOWEVER, there's free entry without any online booking faff to anyone in the club, provided their name is submitted in advance. There will be a section stand so please bring your machine along – set up anytime from 5pm onwards. Thanks to Rob Jones for this courtesy - and of course do please put some money in the charity pot while you're there. If you didn't put your name on the list at the meeting on Thursday and plan to attend, please email jonhall850@gmail.com

- e. Gentle Green Lane Run will be on Tuesday 21st May, around 40 miles / 3 hours with coffee stops; with Don Adams' support it is hoped that two groups will be available - details TBA by Keith J.
 - f. Next section meeting Thursday 23rd May at the Bell, circa 7pm onwards. NB we're aiming now to start the meetings at 7:30pm prompt so that it's possible to get at least part way home in daylight as some prefer to do.
 - g. Coffee Morning at Castle Combe race circuit on **WEDNESDAY** 29th May from around 10am onwards, coinciding with a classic bike track day.
 - h. Date TBD – following another top Kevin suggestion, we're organising a Saturday morning (provisionally) ride-in to Williams Automobiles' new Norton dealership near Horton/Old Sodbury to see the latest Norton motorcycle range. This is an addition to the section calendar, date will be confirmed soon. Please do come on a Norton if you have one, but all are very welcome.
4. Future major events:
- a. West Wilts Scamper for girder forked and low power (up to approx. 250cc) VMCC-eligible machines, September 22nd: Reg's are out now, please get your entries in, or contact Keith Johnston if you are able to help on the day.
 - b. The White Horse Scatter Navigation Event (14th July) entry is now up to 32.
 - c. Tim James confirmed that the JOGLE is now full; a reserve list has been created. Final payments are due before 1st July.
 - d. Rob Jones noted that Castle Combe race circuit will have a "German day" on 17th August including cars & bikes; track sessions are available, so dig out your Zundapps and riide.
5. AOB
- a. Speakers for Autumn 2024 will include Steve Allen giving a talk on his father Titch (a talk that was well-received at South Cotswold section last winter); and Ian Clarke talking about his Elephant Rally experiences.
 - b. It was agreed to purchase a new Section banner in brighter colours, and two smaller (more portable) sailflags to make stand set-up easier and more visible.
 - c. Hi-Viz VMCC West Wilts vests – samples are being ordered to check sizing.