

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER from Section Meeting 23rd May 2024

1. People: welcome to Rob Evans as a new member of the West Wilts section.
2. Recent events
 - a. The Green Lane Run on 14th May was around 110 miles, across the Ridgeway and Marlborough Downs to Lambourne with some rutted and muddy but mainly dry going plus a faster return via Salisbury Plain perimeter path, all skilfully led by Keith Johnston - who has offered to repeat some of the route in the summer.
 - b. The Wandering to The Wishing Well at Codrington on 16th May was well-attended with 16 bikes joining the ride to the event led by Colin Smith. The mystery stop was at Egypt Mill in Nailsworth – a great venue with cakes winkled out of a local wholesale bakery through the keen instincts and persuasive powers of Colin and Martin Hirst. Another future repeat probably.
 - c. Castle Combe bike night Monday 20th was well-attended; many thanks to those who set up the Section stand, and to Rob Jones for co-ordinating easy entry for Section members. Rob has advised that more are planned, details to follow.
 - d. The Gentle Green Lane Run on Tuesday 21st was well supported with 10 riders in 2 groups led by Keith J. and Don Adams. An enjoyable ride was reported, with much nonsense talked and only a couple of drenchings among the group.
3. Forthcoming events
 - a. Coffee Morning at Castle Combe race circuit on **WEDNESDAY** 29th May from around 10am onwards, coinciding with a bike track day.
 - b. It was agreed to have an informal gathering at The White Horse in Biddestone next Thursday 30th May, from 6:30pm onwards, all welcome. Thanks to Kevin for prompting another opportunity to get the bikes out in these long evenings.
 - c. June Midweek Ride on Thurs 6th June is to the Drum & Monkey at Upton-upon-Severn WR08 0QP, led by Martin Hirst. Depart Morrisons carpark Chippenham at 9:30am, coffee stop at Tintern railway station, lunch circa 1:30pm. More details from Martin on email & WhatsApp shortly.
 - d. Next section meeting Thurs 13th June at the Bell, circa 6:30 - 7pm onwards.
 - e. Brian Newbury will lead the Summer Solstice Run on Sunday 16th June, meeting at 9:30am at Morrisons car park Chippenham, coffee stop at Malmesbury Garden Centre, ending at the Volunteer Inn in Great Somerford. No need to pre-order for lunch on this occasion, Brian will arrange en route.
 - f. Keith Johnston will lead a gentle green lane ride on Tuesday 18th June – circa 40 – 50 miles over 3 hours with coffee stop/s. Details to come on the Gentle

Green Lane VMCC WhatsApp group – please contact Keith if you are interested in taking part but you are not currently on that WhatsApp group. Keith may also be able to arrange the loan of a suitable machine if you wish to get involved in green lane runs but would prefer to ‘try before you buy’ a bike of your own.

- g. The next Wandering is on Thursday 20th June to The Fox & Goose at Coombe Bissett SP5 4LE. Colin Smith will lead a ride to the venue, starting at 10am prompt from the Red Lion car park in Lacock. Food pre-orders are required, look out for email from Colin nearer the date.
 - h. The Saturday morning ride-in to Williams Automobiles’ new Norton dealership near Horton/Old Sodbury will be on 29th June. Timing will be confirmed but broadly mid-morning. Please do come on a Norton if you have one, but all are very welcome. Numbers need to be confirmed in advance so if you wish to attend (and did not already put your name down at the last club night), please let Jon Hall know by email or WhatsApp etc. Jon will probably lead a short group ride to Williams for those wishing to ride in together, starting from The Bell car park in Yatton Keynell.
4. Other nearby events in May/June:
- a. Dorset section GIANTS Run is Sun May 26th ; The VMCC Banbury run is Sun 16th June; Prescott Bike Festival Sunday 23rd June; VMCC ‘Hereford on the Edge’ navigation event Sun 30th June. See relevant VMCC/Sections or organisers’ websites for details. There will also be another bike night at Castle Combe Circuit in June, date tba.
5. 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 and entries are starting to come in. Please support the event and get your entries in, or contact Keith Johnston if you are able to help on the day.
 - b. Castle Combe race circuit will have a “German day” on 17th August including cars & bikes.
6. AOB
- a. It was previously 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. Martin advised that these have now been ordered.