

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER from Section Meeting 27th March 2025

1. Recent events:

Thanks to Colin Smith for organising and leading the Wandering of the Spring Equinox to the Westbrook at Bromham, via a new and well-liked coffee stop the Sticks & Stones near Pewsey. A very good turnout with 26 bikes and 35 people in total joining.

The café meeting at Honeystreet Mill was again really well-attended with some new faces and interesting bikes like Steve Holbrow's Yamaha Serow fire appliance. Thanks to Kevin and Carol Phillips for organising these events. [Pictures below, courtesy of Di Walker]

2. Forthcoming events

- a. The next mid-week run is Thursday 3rd April, the Spring Forward run. The ride will start from Morrison's Chippenham carpark at 10am, and loop North through Sapperton with a coffee stop at The Jolly Nice Farm Shop Café, then back around Nailsworth to lunch at the Salutation Inn near Castle Combe around 1pm. About 70 miles mainly on lanes and B roads. With luck, at some point we will get to ride alongside Stanley Woods, surely a treat for Velo owners and historic racing enthusiasts! Subject to interest, a further 20 mile afternoon loop will probably be on offer leading to another popular farm café. **Pre-orders are required for lunch, menu attached, please email Jon Hall with your choice if you're planning to have lunch at the Salutation Inn.**
- b. There is a green lane run on Tuesday 8th April. This is a full day run being organised by Keith Johnston. Details as usual will follow on the Green Lane WhatsApp group.
- c. The next Section meeting is Thursday 10th April, again evening (7:30pm). We will have a presentation and discussion with Keith Munns, National Observer with Wiltshire & Bath Advanced Motorcyclists. The topic will be techniques for improving our enjoyment of motorcycling particularly for the older rider. He will encourage discussion of the human factors and the adaptations we can make to ensure we continue enjoying our riding. We will also hear about further support available in Wiltshire. This will conclude our series of talks and films etc. until October.
- d. The next Wandering is on Thurs 17th April, destination The Raven at Poulshot SN10 1RW.
- e. First Gentle Green Lane run of 2025 is on Thurs 24th April, kindly led by Rich Kinsey. Again, details to come nearer the time on the Green Lane WhatsApp group.
- f. Following Section meeting is Thurs 24th April, 7:30pm.
- g. Last event for April is the coffee morning on Tuesday 29th April at Sleight Valley Golf Café, Sleight (Devizes) SN10 3HW.

3. AOB

- a. Section holiday in Wales, 10-17th May. All monies have now been received, thank you. Keith Johnston noted that several ride-outs have been organised; Keith has put out a call for volunteers to organise and lead further ride-outs during the course of the week; and will be setting up a dedicated WhatsApp group.
- b. Our friends in the Douglas owners' club have the Douglas Cavalcade at the Kingswood Heritage Museum at Warmley (BS30 8XT) on Sunday 25th May - viewing from 10am; road run for Douglas motorcycles starts at 12 Noon.

- c. Castle Combe Race Circuit events: Rob Jones noted that Combe is keen to encourage and support local motorcycling groups. Rob talked through events of interest at the circuit over the coming months:
- Media day 5th April – this is mainly car-related but both West Wilts and Bath Classic plan to have stands. Stand set up is from 9am, and the event runs to about 5pm. No need to pre-book, just turn up and tell security staff you are with VMCC or Bath Classic club.
 - “Classic Bike burn-up” track day event is Fri/Sat. 11/12th April. Spectator entry is free. There may be ‘led’ laps available for those interested – please see the Classic Bike Track Days website for more information.
 - The first Combe bike night is Wednesday 14th May. NB entry is by pre-booking only. However, Rob has kindly arranged for free and easy entry to the event for members of West Wilts VMCC. More info nearer the time.
 - Looking further ahead, the Masters of Motoring event will be at Combe on Saturday 7th June (and Bowood House on 8th). We will again have a stand at combe (not at Bowood). Led track sessions will be available for those exhibiting machines at Combe.
- d. Hi-Viz vests: Martin Hirst noted that further VMCC West Wilts hi-viz vests are now available in a range of sizes – the discounted price for VMCC members is still available.
4. Ian Clarke: There was a warm welcome again to Ian who had kindly agreed to give a presentation/talk, this time his subject was the Elephant Rally and his exploits and experiences of it. An entertaining talk with photographic evidence of much human endurance and numerous mechanical frailties over ten years and multiple BMW-powered combinations.



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