

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Newsletter from Section Meeting 10th April '25

Recent events:

The West Wilts section events are now in full swing. The Spring Forward mid-week run had 23 bikes on a 75 mile route around South Cotswold lanes to Frampton Mansell, including new attendee Robin Phillips' lovely BMW R69S. An extra post-lunch loop through Castle Combe and Ashwicke rounded off the day. Keith Johnston led a green lane run South-East towards Salisbury, reckoned by those on it to have been one of the best yet.



Martin Hirst organised a West Wilts stand at the Combe Circuit media day with a good turnout, and various members took the opportunity for a few laps of the circuit at the Classic Bike Burn-up on 11/12th April, with some lovely machines on track. Kudos to Mark Udall for inadvertently joining a trackday group instead of the parade and promptly demonstrating how well his T160 goes and sounds 😊

Forthcoming events

- a. The next Wandering is on Thurs 17th April, destination The Raven at Poulshot SN10 1RW. Colin is leading a run to the venue, departing Morrisons Chippenham carpark at 10am.
- b. First Gentle Green Lane run of 2025 is on Thurs 24th April, kindly led by Rich Kinsey. Details on the Green Lane WhatsApp group.
- c. Next Section meeting is Thurs 24th April, 7:30pm. (no talk).
- d. On 27th April Brian Newbury is leading a Moonrakers run, starting from Wootton Bassett.
- e. Last event for April is the coffee morning on Tuesday 29th April at Sleight Valley Golf Café, Sleight (Devizes) SN10 3HW.
- f. On 1st May it's the Mayday Mayhem Mid-week run, led by Keith Johnston; starting Merkins Café at 9:30am, picking up at the Bell, Yatton-Keynell around 10am. Heading towards Hungerford, lunch stop at Great Bedwyn with coffee stop en route.

g. The following Section Meeting is Thurs 8th May, 7:30pm (all meetings through the Summer will be 7:30pm).

Please note! The May Wandering on 15th May was provisional in the calendar, subject to Wales holiday. Colin Smith will be in Wales; would anyone care to take on the organisation of this Wandering? If so, please contact Colin or Jon Hall.

2. AOB

- a. Section holiday in Wales, 10-17th May. As discussed last time, 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. We are extremely grateful to John Munday and others from Hereford & Mid-Wales VMCC Section who will be leading and joining a run during the week.
- 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 - 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.
- d. Looking further ahead, the Masters of Motoring event will be at Combe on Saturday 7th June and Bowood House on 8th. Led track sessions will be available for those exhibiting machines at Combe. Martin Hirst has an invitation for the Section to put on a stand at both venues and intends to do so. Entry for exhibitors will be free. Again, more info. to follow.

Keith Munns, National Observer with Wiltshire & Bath Advanced Motorcyclists, gave a presentation and discussion on techniques for improving the enjoyment of motorcycling, in particular for the older rider. Thank you to Keith for an interesting and useful presentation, and for dealing well with a varied Q&A session from an audience of 40 people. A collection was taken for Keith's chosen charity, Prostate Cancer UK.

Thank you also to Keith Johnston for arranging the session, and for collating the information on various options for follow-up that individuals may like to take up – please see below.

Both Wiltshire & Bath Advanced Motorcyclists [WABAM] and Wiltshire ROADAR [ROSPA] offer free taster sessions:

WABAM tasters are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 09.30. You will go out for an hour's ride with a National Observer on a 1:1 basis and receive feedback on your strengths and tips on how to develop your riding. They are held at Chippenham Services SN14 6UY. The next one is scheduled for 10th May. Further details are available from David Wicks at tasters@wabam.org.uk

Wiltshire ROADAR holds SkillShare sessions on the first Saturday of each month during the summer. These sessions are held at the Dandy Highwayman Coffee Shop on the A4 in Cherhill, East of Calne, starting at 10.00 and finishing by 12.30 at the latest. Further information is available at <https://www.wiltshireroadar.co.uk>

Wiltshire Police offers Bikesafe sessions throughout the summer, run out of the Police Headquarters in Devizes. The cost is £84 for an e-learning course and a day covering advanced riding theory, practical on-road sessions, feedback and advice on further development. Bookings are being taken now through the national Bikesafe website. The first session is scheduled for Sunday 11th May. Look for Wiltshire courses at <https://bikesafe.co.uk>