

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER 24th April '25

1. Recent events:

The Castle Combe Classic Bike Burn-Up attracted a few West Wilts members along with some taking the opportunity to get on track in the parade laps or in the track day groups – or in one case both for just a tenner! [Tridents only ;-)]. The Wandering to The Raven at Poulshot was well-attended, with a run in sunshine to the venue via the Indigo café at the fishing lakes near Dauntsey. The first Gentle Green Lane run of 2025 was led by Rich Kinsey on a well-liked route around Salisbury Plain, All Cannings and Devizes.

2. Forthcoming events

a. On 27th April Brian Newbury's run starts from Morrisons Chippenham car park, departing 10am. Route via Lyneham banks, Minety, coffee stop at Malmesbury, then onto Tetbury and Badminton, to the Fox & Hounds at Acton Turville for lunch.

b. The next coffee morning is on Tuesday 29th April at Sleight Valley Golf Café, Sleight (Devizes) SN10 3HW.

c. On 1st May it's the Mayday Mayhem Mid-week run, led by Keith Johnston. Keith notes: This is a 100 mile route in north and east Wiltshire and touching West Berkshire, via a network of quiet roads and sweeping B roads through some of the most picturesque downland in Wessex. Members can join the ride at either the start, Merkins Cafe or at The Bell, Yatton Keynell. We will also be stopping at Nurden's garden centre café on the North edge of Malmesbury. Unfortunately our previous lunch stop in Great Bedwyn has closed permanently, but the alternative offers a superb menu and lots of parking. We will be using the Drop Off system and John Adams has kindly agreed to act as 'sweeper'.

The timings are:

09.30 - 10.00 Sign on at Merkins Cafe near Bradford on Avon

10.30 Pick up at the Bell

11.00 Coffee (/pick up) at Malmesbury Garden Centre

13.00 Lunch at Cobbs Farm Shop www.cobbsfarmshops.co.uk

15.30 Finish at Barty's Cafe, Bowden Hill [above Lacock]

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

e. Section holiday in Wales, 10-17th May. All is in place and Keith Johnston noted that group rides will be available on several days, all of which are optional and informal. One ride will be led by a member of the Herefordshire & West Wales section so please do join that if you can. All info is on the dedicated WhatsApp group.

f. The café meeting in May is on **Wednesday 21st May**, at Castle Combe Race Circuit, to coincide with a bike track day. Entry to the circuit is free; time 10am to midday as usual.

Please note! There will be no Wandering in May owing to the Wales holiday.

2. Other events and AOB

a. 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- just let Jon Hall know if you wish to attend. [thanks to those who've given me names so far]. There will be a West Wilts VMCC stand arranged by Martin Hirst, set-up from 5pm onwards.

- b. Douglas owners' club has 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. The Masters of Motoring event will be at Combe on Saturday 7th June and Bowood House on 8th. Section arrangements tbc.
- d. Entries are going well for the White Horse Scatter (13th July – open to all machines) but slow for the West Wilts Scamper (31st August – for girder forked or rigid rear bikes, or VMCC-eligible machines less than 250cc). Please get your entries in if you are interested – contact Richard Sansom re. the Scatter and Jon Hall re. the Scamper. Richard noted that Beeline has donated a MotoII bike satnav unit for a prize draw into which all riders and volunteers will be entered. Richard also noted that arrangements are largely in place for the White Horse Scatter but donations of cakes for the event will be gratefully received - so please get baking. An event Newsletter for the Scatter is attached.
- e. Jon Cull noted that two well-known local trials riders had recently passed away. Colin Sawyer, who people may also recall from Sawyer's cycles in Chippenham, and George Greenland, a skilled rider and gifted engineer who built the twin cylinder engines for Wasp Motorcycles.