

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Newsletter 8th May '25

1. Recent events:

Brian Newbury's run via Minety, Malmesbury, Tetbury and Badminton to the Fox & Hounds at Acton Turville for lunch was an enjoyable relaxed run with 10 riders taking part. The coffee morning at Sleight Valley was well-attended as usual with 21 bikes and 27 people. The Mayday Mayhem Mid-week run was led by Keith Johnston over a c.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. A record 42 bikes of all ages and capacities had a great run with three good stops, including the finish at Barty's Cafe, Bowden Hill. The blazing sunshine, heat and hills took a toll on two bikes, with a third bike and custodian spending the afternoon at Cobbs farmshop café; but all finally returned home safely. Keith has a gpx file of the route available to anyone wishing to repeat it or parts of it. Recent group rides have flagged up the need for all riders to be familiar with and correctly apply the 'second rider drop-off system' – as an intro. or refresher to this please see the link in the covering email which takes you to a short Youtube video.

2. Forthcoming events

- a. 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. Forecast looks pretty good! All info is on the dedicated WhatsApp group.
- b. 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.
- c. The gentle green lane run on Thursday 22nd May is fully subscribed and will strike North from Castle combe towards Battlescombe – details on dedicated WhatsApp group.
- d. Section mtg. is Thursday 22nd, 7:30pm at The Bell, Yatton Keynell.
- e. This being a 5 week month there is a Breakfast meeting! Thursday 29th May at the Flying Monk Brewery Café (on the Hullavington – Sherston road), 10am to midday.
- f. Looking into June, it's the annual New Forest Run on Thursday 5th June, led by Peter Fielding. This will be a full day run to give time to reach the New Forest (with lunch stop en route) and enjoy the various wonderful roads through the Forest. Start: Starbucks, Commerce Way, Melksham SN12 6AD at 10am; please arrive fuelled-up for a prompt 10am start. For ease of navigation, Peter will lead a return route back to the start point.

Please note! There will be no Wandering in May owing to the Wales holiday. The next Wandering will be on Thursday 19th June to The Millstream at Marden. Details to follow.

3. Other events

- a. There is a Golden Valley club trial at Chavenage (nr. Tetbury) on Sunday 11th May., spectators welcome.
- b. 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 all those who've given me names so far]. There will be a West Wilts VMCC stand arranged by Martin Hirst, set-up from 5:30pm onwards.
- c. Andover Norton has an open day on Saturday 17th May, free entry with some of its machines on display and one Martin Hirst demonstrating a John Surtees bike.

- d. On Sunday 18th May it's the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride for various charities at various locations. Jon Wiggins is riding his 3.5hp Triumph in aid of mental health charities – please see link for donations in the covering email to this newsletter.
- e. 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.
- f. Also on 25th May it's the Dorset Section's annual GIANTS run for girder forked machines (see VMCC website for information), with excellent café food available at the start point; there is also a social ride on 24th May.
- g. The Masters of Motoring event will be at Combe on Saturday 7th June and Bowood House on 8th. Martin will discuss with Rob Jones; Section arrangements for Combe will be finalised at the next meeting.

4. AOB

- a. **The funeral of Colin Sawyer will take place on 20th May. Riders are invited please to join the funeral cortege which will leave 32 Sheldon Rd. Chippenham at 10:30am and travel to St. Paul's church (Chippenham) and onwards to the cemetery. Please contact Brian Newbury if you require further information.**
- b. As previously reported, entries are going well for the White Horse Scatter (13th July – open to all machines) – Keith noted there are now 64 entries, 33 being first time entrants; and are in double figures but still low 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 for these events – contact Richard Sansom (email whitehorsescatter@gmail.com) for the Scatter and Jon Hall (jonhall850@gmail.com or 07771 820175) for the Scamper.
- c. Further volunteers wanted for the White Horse Scatter:
 - i. A non-riding volunteer to help John Bowler and Keith run the special test at the Three Magpies between 2pm and 5pm – Derek Daniels kindly volunteered for this.
 - ii. Anyone able to donate cake/s for the event hospitality – please contact Richard Sansom as above.
- d. Calne Bikemeet Saturday 26th July: Martin Hirst is making arrangements with the organisers; Chris Wastell kindly volunteered to act as a marshall. Martin has already arranged for a range of bikes to be displayed but noted that he anticipated having further space so 'the more the merrier'.