

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Newsletter 11th Sept. '25

1. People

Welcome to Elliot May and Brian Hall, both VMCC members recently joining West Wilts events.

2. Recent events:

- a. West Wilts Scamper 2025 took place on Sunday 31st August. We had 35 entries this year, with 32 starters on the day taking a mix of the 40 and 75 mile routes (and some doing both). The bikes ranged from 1910 to 1992 with an average age of approx. 80 years and over 20 different marques represented. Thanks to all entrants and helpers for a successful event. Three informal awards were made on the day:

- Best girder/rigid entry: Jon Wiggins with his 1910 Triumph Roadster
- Best under-250cc entry: Tim James with his 1956 DOT TDX
- Spirit of The Scamper: Cath Sumner with her 1930 BSA Sloper

Jon Wiggins' award was presented at the meeting (Tim and Cath's having been presented on the day). Congratulations to all. We plan to run the Scamper again in 2026; feedback/ideas are invited but based on positive comments we plan to include some optional gentle green lane sections that connect directly with the road routes. Net income from the event was £117 which will go to Section funds and act as a reserve for the 2026 event, with thanks to all entrants for their contribution.

- b. The September midweek run was organised by Richard and Alison Sansom, a well-led and gentle run alongside the Severn for 17 bikes. Coffee stop at The Black Shed, Slimbridge, onto Sharpness to enjoy views across the Severn estuary, lunch at the excellent The Swan at Tytherington, and a further enjoyable stop at the very welcoming and hospitable Williams Automobiles with a tour of their showroom/workshop facilities and latest Norton models.
- c. The green lane run on 9th Sept. was led by Jon Cull in Keith's absence with a mix of gentle and more adventurous trails South from Bath and into the Mendips with lunch at Salt & Malt overlooking Chew Valley lake. A great ride out with lovely scenery and another testament to the durability of the Honda CRF.

3. Forthcoming events (~4 week look-ahead)

- a. Castle Combe Bike night Monday 15th Sept. - **POST-MEETING NOTE:** unfortunately this event has been cancelled owing to adverse weather forecast.
- b. The Atwell-Wilson Museum in Calne has a free entry open evening on Wednesday 17th Sept., from 4pm to 7pm approx.
- c. Thurs 18th Sept. Wandering to The Hatchett Inn, Lower Chute. There will be a group run to the venue, led by Colin Smith. Starting at Morrisons Chippenham car park and leaving at 10am prompt, there will be a coffee stop en route and lunch at the Hatchett Inn Lower Chute.
- d. Reversing the swap on 9th Sept., Keith Johnston will lead the gentle green lane run on Thursday 28th Sept., details as usual will be posted (next week) on the Green Lane WhatsApp group.

- e. Next section meeting Thursday 25th Sept., 7:30pm at The Bell.
- f. Tuesday 30th September – café meeting at the very popular Honeystreet Mill Café, Honeystreet SN9 5PS, 10am to Midday.
- g. Thurs 2nd October – mid-week run will be the Return of the Treasurer's Run – kindly led by Martin Hirst, destination Upton-on-Severn. The ride will depart from **The Fox & Hounds, Acton Turville** at 10am prompt, and will call in (but not stop) at Aust services en route. The morning coffee stop will be the Old Station at Tintern.
- h. Thurs 9th October Section meeting will include a talk by Steve Allen of the VMCC on his father "Titch" Allen, founder of the VMCC. **The meeting will also include presentation of trophies from the 2025 White Horse Scatter.** All are welcome; the meeting will start as normal at 7:30 with the talk to follow at about 8pm. Please come along and support the Section and our speakers, and congratulate White Horse Scatter award winners.
- i. The Castle Combe motorcycle race weekend is 11-12th October. Plans are to be finalised at the next meeting for West Wilts VMCC Section attendance.

4. AOB

- a. Dorset section VMCC has its 'Last of the summer Wine' run on Sunday 14th Sept., departing Hinton St. Mary village hall at 10:30am. Contact Nick Hoare 07747 622020 if interested.
- b. The Flat Tank section has a run on 18th Sept., weather permitting, starting from The Black Shed at Slimbridge. All pre-1931 machines are welcome.
- c. Colin Smith noted that Lynn Little's funeral arrangements are not yet known. It was agreed that the Section would send flowers, subject to family contact/wishes.