

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER from meeting 25th Sept. '25

1. Recent events:

- a. Thurs 18th Sept. saw a great and well-supported Wandering to The Hatchett Inn, Lower Chute. Colin Smith led a run of 15 bikes via Marlborough to the venue, with stop off at the ever-popular Honeystreet Mill Café. The return route took in the Unhinged Café at Avebury, where the ley lines interfered with our Treasurer's Triumph Tiger electrics (more shielding required Martin), but only for as long as it took to return with a trailer whereupon the Tiger was magically cured.
- b. Keith Johnston, on his lovely Cotton Triumph led a group of seven ranging from experts to novice on the September Gentle green lane run, based around Salisbury Plain. Outstanding views and so much enjoyed that the route was extended to further lanes around the Deverills and Longleat. Main hazard of the day was the Gert Lush all-day breakfast but Matt Young was undaunted. Mike Floyd's phone went awol at some point on the ride but cheerfully it was later found by walkers and recovered. Final positive of the day seemed to be that Stewart Muir had a good first ride off-road but will not be adding a trail bike to his garage - so presumably now has space and funds for another road bike instead. All's well that ends well.

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

- a. Tuesday 30th September – café meeting at Honeystreet Mill Café, Honeystreet SN9 5PS, 10am to Midday. It's definitely the place to be on Tuesday, never mind other cafes.
- b. 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 route will not use the M4 (just the M48 across The Severn Bridge). The morning coffee stop will be the Old Station at Tintern, and afternoon tea stop at the Silver Fox. Please let Martin have your lunch choices from the menu sent out previously on email and WhatsApp.
- c. 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.
- d. The Castle Combe motorcycle race weekend is 11-12th October. The event is run by the NG Road Racing club; there will not be any club stands.
- e. Thurs 16th Oct. Wandering to the White Hart at Ashton Keynes – details to follow at next meeting.
- f. Tues 21st Oct., Café meeting at Crowns Café, Lyneham
- g. Thurs 23rd Oct., Section Meeting and Talk by John Young on 'Son of Sam' with bike on display. The talk will be in aid of a Children's Hospice charity.

- h. Sunday 26th October, Forest of Dean Run led by Jim Gaisford – one of our rare weekend runs and very popular - details to follow at next meeting.
- i. Thursday 30th October, “5th Thursday” Breakfast Meeting at The Flying Monk nr. Hullavington.

3. AOB

- a. Martin Hirst noted that the VMCC Flat Tank section had a good run the preceding weekend; also noting it's the Pioneer Run on 5th October.
- b. The Cheddar autojumble is on Saturday 4th October. Note: a suggestion was made for further discussion that the section might consider taking a joint stand at a future autojumble. It was also suggested and agreed to hold a bring and buy/swap sale of motorcycling-related items at some future meeting (to be arranged for 2026).
- c. Unfortunately no further information has yet been forthcoming regarding Lynn Little's funeral arrangements.
- d. Steve Sheard suggested it would be useful for the section to have an index of good suppliers/providers of services related to motorcycle repair and maintenance. This was unanimously agreed and Jon Hall will set something up that can be emailed to section members on demand and also made available via Facebook. Further suggestions to build on databases held by Bath Classic club and Cath Sumner will be followed up.
- e. Tim James raised the possibility of organising a Section holiday for 2026, subject to interest and other personal commitments. There was a long and positive discussion on this, with a general consensus that (like the recent End-to-End) it is likely to be well-supported; that a week in May/June is probably the preferred timing and that The Lake District, as suggested by Tim, would be a good destination, using a known hotel (again, from the E2E) as the base for the week. At present this remains a possible event only; more info to follow between now and the meeting on 23rd October.
- f. White Horse Scatter – Keith Johnston, having served for many years as Clerk of the Course for this premier event, indicated his intention to step down for 2026, while remaining on hand to support a new Clerk of the Course. A call for expressions of interest, together with a role description, will be issued shortly.