

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Meeting Newsletter 26th Feb. 2026

1. People

Apologies from Derek Daniels.

2. Forthcoming events

- a. Thurs 5th March – the Spring Forward mid-week run. Will be up into the Cotswold hills with coffee stop at the Jolly Nice farmshop café around 11am, lunch at the Sherborne Arms at Aldsworth around 1pm. Return route will be directly along B4425 through Bibury to Cirencester (aiming to be ahead of any rush hour traffic) and A433 with tea stop at AV8. Start point will be **The Bell car park, Yatton Keynell**, departing 10am; please arrive early to allow time for signing on and briefing. Any last pre-orders now please if eating at the Sherborne Arms.
- b. Thursday 12th March – evening meeting 7:30pm at the Bell. We are trying out an informal ‘bring and buy/swap’ event. Please bring along items (intending it to be mainly motorcycling parts/clothing or workshop equipment/tools/trinkets) for sale. NB (i) sales are to be between individuals, not involving club treasury – but if you do sell items, a donation to club funds would be appreciated; which goes primarily towards costs of heating the barn at our winter meetings. (ii) all items are to be removed from the barn at the end of the night.
- c. Tues 17th March – full day green lane run re-scheduled from the 10th – well subscribed already but see Green Lane WhatsApp group for info.
- d. Thursday 19th March – Wandering to the Lamb at Urchfont SN10 4QU. Ride to the venue led by Colin Smith will leave Morrisons Chippenham at 10am.
- e. Tuesday 24th March – café meeting at Honeystreet Mill Café, SN9 5PS, 10am to midday.
- f. Thursday 26th March – evening meeting and DocBike presentation, kindly arranged by Keith Johnston. This relates to the requests in 2025 for a “Biker Down!” session on dealing with riding incidents; a number of “CrashCards” will be available on the night.

3. Bristol classic bike show

Thanks again to Kevin and Carole for organising the excellent stand. We had a good location and display with Bath Classic and Douglas clubs adjoining. If attending next year, we would like volunteers to give a bit more presence on the stand on the Saturday.

Note: costs for the show were modest and Martin was able to secure additional VMCC 80th Anniversary banners free of charge. However, we bought additional lighting (£26) to improve the display; the meeting gave retrospective approval for the expenditure. It was noted that the last financial review in January indicated the forecast holding as agreed at the AGM, approximately breakeven income and expenditure in year.

4. White Horse Scatter

The White Horse Scatter is now full but a reserve list is being created, so if you’d like to be added to the reserve list, please contact event secretaries Richard & Alison Sansom on whitehorsescatter@gmail.com

5. West Wilts Scamper

Entries are now open for the 2026 West Wilts Scamper; event information and entry forms are available on the section website or from Jon Hall – message 07771 820175 or email jonhall850@gmail.com.

6. AOB

- a. Following past discussions regarding group rides and the drop-off system, a short “10-point” guidance note and link to Youtube video have been prepared by Keith Johnston, along with further guidance for ride leaders, tail end markers and participants. These are attached. While most are familiar with the system and good practice, please take some time to read the notes and watch the video. In discussion one point was amplified – the importance of the second

rider (turn marker) stopping in a **clearly visible** position to indicate the direction to the following riders. This is especially important where the turn is into a side road off a fast main road; a turn marker any distance down the side road may not be seen by subsequent riders.

This guidance is to give us all the best chance that our group rides will run smoothly and enjoyably for everyone, without avoidable hold-ups or the group getting separated en route.

- b.** Rob Jones noted there will be a media day at Combe race circuit on Saturday 21st March and VMCC West Wilts will be welcome to have a stand (or simply a presence) there.
- c.** Martin Hirst had received an offer to have a drone video made, free of charge, of the Scatter and Scamper events, for general future publicity use. It was agreed to take up the offer.
- d.** Mark Pimble has kindly donated a number of original Lucas diagnostic manuals to the section. It is to be decided if these will be retained for general use by section members when needed or auctioned (within the section) at some point to contribute to section funds.

7. Mystery items

A great selection of mystery items was brought along by attendees; practically of which left the audience stumped. The items took us across many fields, from engineering design, manufacturing and maintenance to measuring the lift potential of thermals, moving Concorde, electronic warfare and hammer/thumb interaction prevention. Thanks to Colin Smith for the idea.