

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Newsletter 26th March 2026

Recent events – Colin Smith reported that the Wandering on the 19th March to the Lamb in Urchfont went well, with only one recalcitrant starter – a B31 that is – which nevertheless made it to the end; and a total of 18 bikes. The Café meeting at Honeystreet on March 24th organised by Kevin Phillips was attended by 33 on motorcycles plus one member on a mountain bike.

Looking forward – the April mid week run is scheduled for Thursday 2nd starting from Morrisons, Chippenham at 09.30 for 10.00. The 70-80 mile run is being led by Simon Hewitt with planned stops at Choppers Café and Cobbs near Hungerford. Simon is checking the route and timings and will advise of any changes.

VMCC Baton Relay Rally - Peter Fielding as VMCC South Midlands Regional Representative formally handed over the Rally baton to Chairman Derek. Arrangements have been made for the Baton to be handed over to South Cotswold Section on Sunday 12th April, via an informal meeting at the AV8 café at Kemble (official handover is at 11am). All are very welcome. As part of our 80th anniversary celebration the baton will be passed on to another Section within the South Midlands region each fortnight. The final handover will be from the Moonrakers Section.

Other short term diary dates

The next Section meeting is Thursday April 9th. Note all meetings now until October are evening meetings, 7:30pm.

There is a Classic Bike track day event at Combe Race Circuit on Fri/Sat 10 & 11 April; no doubt there will be an informal gathering on Friday morning at the Circuit café.

The next Wandering is Thursday 16th April, to The Pheasant in Chippenham (SN14 0AE).

The next café meeting is Tuesday 21st April, at CTL, just North of Cirencester (GL7 5DT).

There will be two gentle green lane runs in April, see dedicated Green Lane WhatsApp group for details.

And finally, please note it's the Felix Burke weekend incl. the Cotswolds Road Trial on 18 & 19th April – starts in Andoversford; see VMCC Cotswolds webpage/Facebook for details.

Presentation from Somerset & Avon DocBike - The Section then enjoyed a presentation from Brett Callaghan, Deputy Director and Trustee of the National DocBike charity and Regional lead for Somerset & Avon DocBike. Brett was supported by Elaine and Dana who are also members of the team. <https://docbike.org>

Brett explained that DocBike was originally founded in Dorset by Dr Ian Mew in 2018. Since then, a further 8 DocBike groups have been launched including his own in Somerset & Avon. The DocBike mission is; injury prevention, provision of roadside care and research. The local DocBike charities work alongside their local air ambulance services. Wiltshire is yet to launch a DocBike charity but there are positive conversations taking place.

Brett shared some fascinating statistics largely drawn from the Dorset experience but applicable to any rural county. Motorcyclists make up 1% of road users and yet 24% of those killed or seriously injured on our roads.

Brett offered to return to the Section in the Autumn to run a BikerDown course at the Bell. This offer was greatly appreciated and accepted.

Brett kindly distributed a range of leaflets about the work of DocBike and also gave the Section 50 crash cards. Brett reminded us that these cards should not be put in pockets but inside our crash helmets. The remainder of the cards will be brought to the next Section meeting.

A highly successful evening raised £72 for the Somerset & Avon DocBike Charity, thanks again to the presenters and to all for your donations.