

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER 9th April 2026

People – Welcome to Lee Woodhams (and his very nice aircooled Ducati Monster).

Awards from the VMCC AGM

- Congratulations to Jon Wiggins who received the Harry Knight award and trophy for best Veteran machine rider,
- Congratulations to Keith Johnston who received the E.E. Thomson award for outstanding effort in promoting and organising club activities; including the West Wilts section green lane group and the celebration/re-creation of the running of the 1926 ISDT through Wiltshire.

[Photos on VMCC West Wilts Facebook!]

Recent events – The April mid-week run over Marlborough downs to Burbage and Hungerford, organised by Simon Hewitt, took in great roads and was well-attended. Keith Johnston led a Gentle Green Lane ride out to see the West Woods bluebells. [Bluebell lovers might also like to visit Bowden Hill near Lacock or Daneway banks near Sapperton – tarmac roads only though!] Kevin Phillips organised a pop-up coffee morning at the Combe track day this week – at least 35 turned up over the morning in the sunshine; more pop-up's to follow through the summer as track events and weather conditions dictate. These will be advised in the week preceding the date, by WhatsApp and email.

Looking forward:

VMCC Baton Relay Rally – Sunday 12th April handover - Arrangements have been made for the Baton to be handed over to South Cotswold Section on this **Sunday 12th April**, via an informal meeting at the AV8 café at Kemble (café open from 10am, official handover is at 11am). All are very welcome, please come along and support!

Regular Section events –

- The next Gentle Green Lane Run, Tuesday 14th April, is being led by Rich Kinsey – a Fosseway loop starting from the Bell (9:30 for 10am departure), with coffee stop at Malmesbury Garden Centre. Details and arrangements through the Green Lane WhatsApp group.
- Wandering Thursday 16th April is to the Pheasant on Hungerdown lane in Chippenham (SN14 0AE). Colin Smith will lead a ride out via a **NEW** coffee stop, starting from Morrisons, Chippenham at 09.30 for 10.00. **Pre-orders required for lunch – by email to Colin Smith by Sunday 12th please.**
- Café meeting Tuesday 21st April at CTL just North of Cirencester (GL7 5DT), 10am to midday.
- Next section meeting Thursday 23rd April, 7:30pm at the Bell as usual.
- Breakfast Meeting Thursday 30th April, Flying Monk Brewery Café on the Hullavington to Norton road (SN14 6EU), 10am to midday – yes it's a 5 week month so time for a visit to the ever-popular Flyer!

Other short term diary dates

There is a Classic Bike track day event at Combe Race Circuit on Fri/Sat 10 & 11th April. Parade laps are available for classic bikes (ie over 25 years old) at lunchtime on both days. A donation of £10 to the Joey Dunlop Foundation is requested. **Parade riders must attend a pre-ride briefing at 11am.** Riding gear must be boots, full face or clipped-down flip-up helmets (no open face) and good jacket/trousers, but full leathers are not required.

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.

AOB:

Section Holiday 10-17th May, Kendal, Cumbria: This is looking all set to proceed, with final commitments and payments in about 10 days time. Currently there are 2 rooms remaining available should anyone else wish to join the holiday.

Combe race circuit: Rob Jones noted that the first Combe bike night is planned for Tuesday 19th May, 6pm onwards. VMCC members can turn up at the gate and state they are VMCC West Wilts to be allowed free entry on the gate; no need to pre-book. The Section will have a simple stand for parking/display of bikes in the paddock (set up from 5:30pm). Note (a) in case of bad weather the event may be postponed at short notice so look out for any updates nearer the time, (b) there may be 2 or 3 further bike nights through the summer.

Rob also noted there are multiple track days through the year – dates and details on Combe Race Circuit website – including MPS track days with some top professional riders present; and Saturday 27th June combines a track day with a family fun day and special guests.

Crash Cards: Following on from the recent DocBike talk, Keith Johnston brought along a further batch of 'crash cards'. **He stressed that the card must be placed inside the helmet [NOT kept in your wallet etc.] and the accompanying green sticker affixed to the outside of the helmet.**