

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Newsletter 14th May 2026

Recent events:

- The Breakfast Meeting on 30th April at the Flying Monk Brewery Café was popular as ever, a great venue that always manages calmly to handle a large influx of classic motorcyclists with vintage hearing and possibly vague recollections of their orders.
- May Day Mayhem on Thursday 7th May. Keith Johnston led a ride around Cranborne Chase, around 125 miles in total, starting from Three Bears Bakes in Shaw, and choosing great roads and scenery; and excellent food stops. Despite extensive planning and re-routing, the tar gods intervened with an unscheduled road closure at zig zag hill – maybe next year! Plaudits to Andy Milk for making his own way to Ginny's café at Boyton in time for a big boy's breakfast (some story about a power cut at home); and welcome to Dave Holmyard who saw us at Ginny's mid-cycle ride, seized the moment, pedalled home for his nice Bandit and joined the run.

Coming up: short term diary dates

- The **May gentle green lane run on Tuesday 19th May** is being organised by Jeremy Hole, and will be into the Chew Valley and Mendips area. Details and arrangements via the Green Lane WhatsApp group as usual.
- Also on **19th May it's the first Bike night of 2026 at Combe**. Free entry at the gate for VMCC members. Section 'stand' set-up from 5:30pm, gates open 6pm. NB the organisers may cancel at short notice if the weather is poor so check Social Media on the day.
- **21st May Thursday, Wandering is now to The Grill on the Hill at Swanborough** (SN6 7RN), from 1pm. Weather permitting, Colin Smith will lead a ride out there via a coffee stop, leaving Morrisons Chippenham at 10am. **Lunch pre-orders to Colin by Monday 18th May please.**
- **Friday 22nd May – Motorcycle track/tuition day at Castle Combe race circuit.**
- **Sunday 24th May** – multiple local events: **Douglas owners' club Cavalcade** at Kingswood heritage museum, Bristol, 10am. VMCC **Bristol section has its Ray Cordy memorial run** starting from The Wishing Well in Codrington (BS37 6RY), leaving 10:30am; all are welcome. More info. from Mike Smith on michael.smith650@proton.me
- **Coffee Morning Tuesday 26th May is at Slight Valley** – 10am to midday.
- Finally another reminder that on **Sunday 31st May it's the Cotswold Signpost Rally** (road-based scatter navigation event) based from Quenington near Cirencester, a sister event to our White Horse Scatter. More info accompanies this newsletter and/or see VMCC Cotswold website.
- Peering over into June, the **mid-week run on Thursday 4th June will be to the Sammy Miller motorcycle museum**. The run will start at Starbucks/Greggs near Melksham and go directly to Shaftesbury then cut across to Cranborne (coffee stop) before running down through the New Forest and its scenic drives to the museum. Return route via Wilton (tea stop) back to Melksham. About 150 miles in total with c. 3hrs lunch/museum stop. To fit in the New Forest scenic drives and the museum we will leave Melksham at 9:30am. Full details to follow nearer the date.

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- LEJOG **VMCC 80th celebratory/charity ride** by Aberdeenshire member Jeanette Bradley on her Guzzi V50. Jeanette (with partner Ross in support van or riding his backup AJS model 31 if the V50 breaks down :-o) will be passing through Wiltshire on Wednesday 27th May. They plan to stop for lunch at The Flying Monk café (arriving between 12:30 and 1pm, departing about an hour later). They would love any local members to come and say hello and/or join them for part of the ride; from the Flying Monk their route goes past Malmesbury, through the Cotswold Water Park and past Cirencester to Bibury and Burford. This is not a section-organised event but individuals may like to go along.
- Further ahead: **Volunteers are wanted to help with marshalling** - just a 2 hour stint - of the Calne bike day on Saturday July 25th. Please contact Martin Hirst if you can help.