

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Newsletter 11th June 2026

Recent events:

- The May mid-week run to the New Forest and Sammy Miller's museum was well-attended – one large deluge but otherwise good riding weather and we managed to explore the New Forest lanes and drives as well as a good time at the museum. Well done to Struan MacDonald for nursing his A10 to Sammy's with broken clutch lever mount; and full marks to the museum staff for digging out a new lever assembly free of charge.
- The ride to the Banbury run attracted a well-formed but small turnout, still a very enjoyable day. Simon Hewitt plans to lead a run to the Mallory Park Festival of Motorcycling on Sunday 5th July. The event and location implies a similar long day and circa 200 miles total distance, principally using the A429 Fosseway. The run will be discussed at the next meeting to get an indication of interest.
- The June green lane run was an excellent mix of green lanes and byways with some entertaining sections and fords and lovely Cotswold scenery. Another CRF-fest but with John Adams' new Beta Alp plus Jim's special B44 engine wafting Castrol R. Thanks to Keith Johnston for a brilliant full day's riding.

Coming up

- Castle Combe circuit has an MPS track day on Tuesday 16th and a Combe track day on Wednesday 17th; entry is free for spectators.
- Note the Gentle Green Lane Run on Tuesday 16th June will not take place owing to clash with other Summer events. The next Gentle GLR will be in July (Tuesday 14th July).
- June's Wandering on Thursday 18th June is to the Who'd A Thought It in Lockeridge (SN8 4EL). Lunch pre-orders to Colin Smith by Monday 15th please. Colin will lead a ride to the venue via a coffee stop, departing morrisons Chippenham at 10am.
- June's café meeting Tuesday 23rd June is at AV8 Café, Cotswold Airport (GL7 6BA – access off the A433), 10am to midday.
- The next section meeting is Thursday 25th June, 7:30pm at The Bell as usual. NOTE: in connection with the White Horse Scatter, following requests from some entrants, there will be a workshop session looking at route navigation and planning. This will be on 25th June, in the barn at the Bell, 6:15 to 7:15pm. All are welcome. [Note: last year's locations will be used as examples for the workshop, to avoid creating any unfair advantage in this year's event for those attending the session].

Other events in June and onwards

- There is the informal Poulshot gathering of classic and interesting vehicles on Wednesday 17th June, with bacon/sausage rolls and chips on sale outside The Raven. All old/interesting vehicles very welcome. More info on WhatsApp group [thanks Matt!]
- On Saturday 27th June, we are planning to have a motorcycle escort for Jeff Berning's son's wedding; riding from Lucknam Park to Biddestone. All very welcome to join. Meet outside the Bell Inn at 3pm to ride as a group over to Lucknam Park; then the escort ride departing Lucknam at 3:30pm. A handy follow-on to...
- ..earlier on Saturday 27th it's the MPS Motorsports Summer Bash at Combe race circuit. There will be a VMCC West Wilts stand, **set up at 8-8:30am**, and general entry is free to the event. Rob Jones noted that top riders including James Toseland will be doing demonstration laps, and potentially there will be parade laps for classic bikes open to VMCC members for a small fee/contribution; this will be decided on the day. There will also be interviews with racers incl. Terry Rymer and Keith Heuwen in the evening. See mpsmotorsports.co.uk for more info.
- Ray Payne has proposed an informal run to a Poole Bike Night, which take place every Tuesday from about 5pm – Ray will announce via the WhatsApp group near to the date.

- 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.
- Section informal 2026 holiday #2: as previously noted, Richard and Alison Sansom are planning to repeat the successful Spring trip to mid-Wales, based at the Metropole hotel in Llandindrod Wells. Things are firming up for mid-August, with people making their bookings with the hotel now. Please contact Richard (email cressman@live.co.uk) for more information if you're interested in joining.
- The West Wilts Scamper – Sunday 23rd August - entries are currently fewer than 20, but noting that many section members from previous years are yet to re-enter. There is no entry deadline and entry on the day is always possible, but it helps the organisers to have entries early where possible please. The format is similar to previous years (a route-mapped run for girder fork or rigid frame machines or VMCC-eligible bikes under 250cc, starting from the Bell in Yatton Keynell) but there are modified routes this year with options of gentle green lane sections. For more info. contact Jon Hall.
- Jon Wiggins noted he is organising a Flat Tank and Low-Powered Run for Swindon Moonrakers on 9th August, starting in Royal Wootton Bassett. The spirit of the event is for machines as noted, but the run is open to VMCC-eligible machines up to 250cc.

AOB

- Martin Hirst has a spare ticket going FREE for the "Brooklands Revisited" event this coming weekend 13th/14th June. Please contact Martin directly if you would like to make use of it.
- Jim Gaisford noted he is planning to sell several of his bikes including a Scott, a Victory, a 197cc Francis-Barnett, a rare 150cc F-B, and a 125cc Honda twin. Please message Jim directly if you are interested [if you don't have Jim's contacts, please contact Jon Hall in the first instance for contact details].