

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER 10th July 2026

Recent events

- July's Wandering was to The Old Mill at Withington, North-East of Cirencester. Colin Smith led 16 bikes on a ride to the venue with coffee stop at the Classic Motor Hub. A really enjoyable route and we avoided causing any congestion in Cirencester by splitting into 3 groups on different routes through the town centre. Some consternation, especially among locals in Black Jack street which was pedestrianised several years ago, but no congestion. Plus it smoothed out the queue for coffee and gave some of us more time to admire the fabulous vehicles at CMH. Colin led a good run back from Withington after lunch too, on the twisty A435; others leaving earlier took the more direct White Way and found it dug up, with a tricky single-track diversion in place. Gold medal to Chris Wastell for piloting his Indian Chief past boggle-eyed oncoming cars and challenging gradients.
- July's Green Lane Run was a full day ride for 9 bikes of 120 miles to the Test Valley, going via Middle Wallop with lunch at the air museum, led by Keith Johnston with John Adams leading a second group. A sweltering day but greatly enjoyed by all.
- Kevin Phillips organised a "pop-up" café meeting at Combe race circuit to coincide with a bike track day on Wednesday 8th, with some members including Kevin getting out on track – another good turnout and this format has proved a great addition to the regular events.
- Last but not least, Jeff Berning expressed his thanks to each of the magnificent seven riders who made up the motorcycle escort at his son's wedding, which was enjoyed by all. Notable thanks to Martin Hirst who was simultaneously riding his Dart-JAP and hosting the club stand at Castle Combe; and Jim Gaisford who also promptly dropped his professional duties at the circuit and joined the group bang on time.

Coming up

- Sunday 12th July – White Horse Scatter – entries are full but spectators are very welcome at the start/finish point: The Three Magpies, Sells Green near Melksham SN12 6RW, from around 8am to 4pm. There's always a really interesting mix of machines, best times to catch them in the event field are from around 8:30am as entrants begin to depart and then from around 2pm as the first machines start to return for the special test.
- **Note 1: additional volunteers to help with the special tests and general organisation at the event field will be welcome – contact Richard Bayliffe if you can help, even for a couple of hours, from 1:30pm onwards.**
Note 2: the evening pre-event social at the Three Magpies will NOT be going ahead.
- Tuesday 14th July – gentle green lane ride will be the Two Combes Tootle, from The Bell past Castle Combe up to Battlescombe on a mix of little-used back roads and green lanes; with return along the Fosseway. Details on green lane WhatsApp group.
- Thursday 16th July – is now the Treasurer's run to the Drum & Monkey pub at Upton-upon-Severn (food menu to follow for pre-orders). Start is 10am prompt from Morrisons car park Chippenham – please arrive early for pre-ride briefing; and fuelled-up. Coffee stop at Lydney Docks, and afternoon tea stop at The Hunter's Hall Inn (nr. Nailsworth/Tetbury). The route will be via Chepstow, with no motorway apart from the short hop over the M48 Severn Bridge from Aust.
- Martin Hirst noted that Wells Classic M/C club has its annual Tortoise & Hare event over the weekend of 18/19th July. Entries are now closed but spectators welcome. See separate attachment for more information.
- Monday 20th July – There is an MPS track day at Castle Combe, with special guests including Steve Parrish doing demonstration laps and interviews. Free entry.
- Tuesday 21st July – Café meeting at Malmesbury Garden Centre (SN16 9JL) 10am to midday.

- There is a bike night at Castle Combe race circuit on Weds. 22nd July, 6-8pm. As ever, check social media on the day if weather is dodgy; and the magic words for free entry on the gate are “West Wilts VMCC”. Many thanks to Rob Jones.
- Calne bike day Saturday 25th July – West Wilts Stand is now fully populated (in the usual location near Sainsbury’s) and we understand that bike movements after 8:30am will be more restricted this year, so it may be more difficult to ride right up to the stand during the day.

Special events in August

- 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 Llandrindod Wells. Things are firming up for mid-August, with people making their accommodation bookings now. **Note: alternative B&B accommodation is also available, see <https://www.riverbankbedandbreakfast.com/>** . Please contact Richard Sansom (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 (£5) 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 **any** bike under 250cc, starting from the Bell in Yatton Keynell) and there are modified routes this year plus options of gentle green lane sections. For more info. contact Jon Hall.
- Jon Wiggins 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. Start/end point is The Sally Pussey’s Inn on the A3102 Swindon Rd. just East of Royal Wootton Bassett. First machine away at 10:30am.