

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER 23rd July 2026

Recent events

White Horse Scatter

Richard Sansom reports: There was a record attendance again at this year's Scatter with 85 riders & 5 passengers enjoying some of the region's best locations as identified by Clerk of the Course, Richard Bayliffe.

We had over 25 different manufacturers represented from veteran through to current day machines in solo, side car and 3 wheeler configurations. 40% of entrants were day members, so largely new to a VMCC event.

Some 70 gallery images, as taken by the entrants, are now available on the section's website.

<https://westwilts.vmcc.net/White-Horse-Scatter-2026>

A particular note of thanks is given to volunteers from the West Wilts Section who helped run the event on the day, namely:

- o John Bowler
- o Chris Jefferies
- o Matt Young
- o Carol Bayliffe
- o Linda Muir
- o And of course, Keith Johnston

As well as volunteers from outside the Section:

- o Mark Suter
- o Stephen Bailey
- o Graham Romain
- o Steve Tuber

We would also like to thank Carol, Linda & Alison for the excellent cakes.

In Richard's absence at the meeting, Keith Johnston gave the following update:

Results will be completed by the end of the week and circulated in provisional form to allow any queries from competitors before the final results are confirmed circulated.

Keith thanked Richard and Alison for all their work in making this year's Scatter the largest and most successful to date with so many complimentary comments from the competitors on the organization, route and excellent Refreshments. He also thanked Richard Bayliffe for all his work in setting out the locations for the event. There was a round of applause from members present and an expression of thanks to Richard and Alison Sansom as event Secretaries and Richard Bayliffe as Clerk of the Course.

So that we may look forward to next year's WHS, the date has been booked with the Three Magpies for 11th July 2027.

Richard and Alison have advised that they wish to take part as entrants in 2027 and therefore will be standing down from their role. As a Section, we will therefore need volunteers to step up to continue this long-standing event. This is the opportunity however to review our organisation of the event in order to make it more attractive to prospective volunteers, without losing the existing ethos or scope. Richard, Peter and Keith will be developing some proposals to this end.

Other recent events

- July's gentle green lane ride was the Two Combes Tootle, from Castle Combe up to Battlescombe on a mix of little-used back roads and green lanes; with return along the Fosseway. A good run of about 70 miles, though the section around Battlescombe was adjudged "not gentle"!
- Kevin organised a coffee morning at Malmesbury which was successful as always with 20 attending.
- Bike night at Castle Combe was also well attended with a great range of bikes on display. We shared our stand area with "Bike and Brew" albeit only Kevin had thought to bring a flask. Many thanks to Martin and Jeff for setting up, and to Rob Jones for arranging easy entry for the club. We managed, among bikes of all ages and types, to include a Benelli 750 Sei, Laverda RGS and Guzzi Le Mans mk.1, two 750 Tridents, three Douglasses and a 1910 vintage Triumph model H.
- July mid-week run – Martin Hirst reports: Thanks to all who supported the Treasurer's run, crossing the Severn bridge towards Chepstow, with coffee stop at the excellent Hips Harbourside on Lydney Docks, and lunch at The Hunter's Inn near Tewkesbury. A return leg via tea stop at the Hunter's Hall Inn with a total of 147 miles. 18 bikes started the run, 3 more joined en route and only one Velocette broke down (sorry we lost you, see you next time!)

Coming up

- Calne bike day Saturday 25th July – West Wilts Stand is in the usual location near Sainsbury's, masterminded by Martin Hirst. 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. John Wiggins noted he had been asked by "Wilts and Somerset Bike and Trike" to help man their stand as they only had 2 members available. This should not be too onerous as it is next to the West Wilts stand and they will have space for an extra bike or two should we need it.
- Thursday 30th July – Breakfast Meet at the Flying Monk brewery café near Hullavington/Norton, SN14 6EU, 10am to Midday.
- Thursday 6th August – mid-week run has changed [Tim James will do his run later in the year after the harvest season busy period is over]. The run will be from Morrisons Chippenham out towards Hungerford with coffee stop at Cobbs, lunch at the Royal Oak at Bishopstone, and return route to Chippenham. Total a bit over 80 miles of mainly quiet back roads. Rob MacNevin has kindly agreed to lead the ride with Jon Hall as tail marker. We've tried out the route and it should be a good ride, suitable for any machine. An initial show of hands showed 10 of those present planned to attend. Menu will be circulated separately for pre-orders.
- Green Lane Runs: Tuesday 11th August is a Gentle (half-day) Green Lane Run being led by Keith Johnston, starting at Melksham with coffee stop at Jenny's café. Full details will come on GL WhatsApp group on 4th August. The Green Lane Run planned for 18th has been cancelled.

Special events in August

- 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.