

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER 10th Sept. 2026

Recent events

- The Harvest Moon mid-week run to Frampton-on-Severn via Williams Automobiles and Coaley Peak was well-attended with 27 riders setting off and 20 continuing from Williams onward to lunch. A great run and thanks again to Richard Sansom for leading and Mark Udall for being tail rider. As ever, Williams Automobiles were extremely hospitable and gave an interesting overview of developments with the new Norton range.
- September Green Lane Run was a revised route for a smaller group avoiding the more chalky & slippery Lambourn end of the downs in the early rain but taking in lots of woodland including the lovely West Woods. Thanks to Keith Johnston who is also leading a gentle green lane run on Tuesday 15th – details on Green Lanne WhatsApp group as usual.

Coming up

- On Sunday 13th Sept. it's the final VMCC Relay Baton Handover from the Moonrakers, at Honeystreet Mill Café SN9 5PS – gathering from around 10am; handover will be 11am. Colin Smith will do the ceremonials. Please come along and support this last stage of the Baton Relay, at one of the best locations in our area.
- Gentle green lane run on 15th as noted above – details on Green Lane WhatsApp group.
- The Treasurer's short run will be on Thursday 17th September (in place of the Wandering originally shown in the calendar). This will be suited to older/smaller and slower machines. Meet 09:30 at Morrisons Chippenham for 10am departure. Destination The Berkeley Arms at Purton, via coffee stop at Leaf & Ground. Possibly visiting the nearby "ships' graveyard" on the Severn in the afternoon. Pre-orders are needed for lunch, menu has already been emailed out, replies to Martin Hirst (on martin.hirst748@gmail.com) ASAP and no later than Monday 14th please.
- On Tuesday 22nd Sept. we're back to Honeystreet Mill café for the section coffee morning, 10am to noon.
- Next section meeting Thurs 24th Sept, 7:30pm, the Bell
- October 1st – mid-week run is the Memorial Run, led by Tim James. Departing Morrisons 10am, heading down towards Somerset with coffee stop en route at the Pickleberry Café near Bratton and lunch at The Fox & Hounds, Devizes [pre-orders will be required for lunch, menu will be distributed next week].
- October 8th – Section meeting and presentation of White Horse Scatter 2026 Awards (this is a change to the diary; the planned fundraising auction will take place at a future date).

AOB

- Xmas lunch. Based on discussions we will return to Old Royal Ship at Luckington, where they can accommodate us comfortably in a single room. Menu has not been produced as yet but Saturday 5th December at 1pm has been provisionally reserved for us.
- White Horse Scatter:
 - 1. Charity donations: £200 to LARA, £100 to Air ambulance charity and £50 to DocBike had been proposed by the WHS organisers and were unanimously agreed at the meeting. Total WHS26 donations are thus £350. It was noted that after deducting those donations the 2026 WHS event will still return just over £350 to club funds; and overall in the year across all activities we expect the club to make a profit of £120.
 - 2. Changes to format and admin. arrangements have been developed by the 2026 organisers to simplify the operation of the event in 2027. These will retain the spirit and fundamentals of the event, while reducing the administrative effort involved and requiring fewer volunteers on the day. It was agreed that the WHS should go ahead in 2027 providing that the key roles can be filled to organise it.
 - 3. Currently there are vacancies for both principal roles, i.e. Event Secretary and Clerk of the Course. Past organisers Peter Fielding and Keith Johnston have offered to support and guide volunteers taking up either

post for 2027. There being no volunteers at the meeting, all members are asked to consider whether they would take on either role, and to contact either Keith Johnston or Jon Hall in the first instance.

- Bristol classic bike show, Feb. 2027. Following on from the previous meeting, regarding attendance on the Saturday, there were two volunteers to man the stand on the Saturday. The cost of having a section stand is approx. £38 (nominal charge for electricity supply) and it was agreed that, if Kevin and Carol Phillips are willing again to organise the stand, the section would like to be represented.
- Martin Hirst confirmed that he would organise the section stand again at Calne in 2027, and also attendance at the 2027 Kingswood event. Both of these have no entry fee.
- Chris Wastell noted that the Moto Guzzi Club GB has an “anything Guzzi/bike-related” autojumble on Sunday 20th Sept. , 10am to 1pm at Berryfield Village Hall near Melksham, SN12 6GF. Free entry (donations to the village hall for tea and coffee welcomed) for sellers and buyers. Why not go along and see if you can replace those lost Morini petrol caps, Guzzi side panels, Triumph components, Velocette oil, etc.
- There is also a Bath Classic trial on Sunday 20th; spectators welcome