

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER 27th Sept. 2026

Recent events

- On Sunday 13th Sept. the final VMCC Relay Baton Handover from the Moonrakers back to West Wilts. Took place at Honeystreet – thanks to Colin Smith, Peter Fielding and other attendees for completing the loop.
- The Gentle green lane run on 15th was a '60 mile gallop around Wiltshire' with some new (to the owners) bikes being tested out and with thanks to the 5th (?) emergency services Judy Dommert-Knight for kind recovery call-out response.
- The Treasurer's short run on Thursday 17th Sept. was to the Berkeley Arms at Purton; Martin reports: "the weather held well for my Treasurer's Gentle Run led on behalf of West Wilts VMCC. Fourteen riders left Chippenham for a back lane meander to our regular coffee stop Leaf & Ground, Dursley, before the short trip to the Berkeley Arms for a light lunch. A trip to Purton isn't complete without a short walk to the Ships Graveyard on the banks of the Severn before the return journey stopping at Burton Farm Shop for a final afternoon tea stop. Thanks to all who came along for another enjoyable day."
- Tuesday 22nd Sept. we returned to Honeystreet Mill café for the section coffee morning. 25 members and friends enjoyed the usual good food plus very warm sunshine.

Coming up

- Thurs October 1st – mid-week run is the Memorial Run, led by Tim James. Departing Morrisons 10am Sharp, heading down towards Somerset with coffee stop en route at the Pickleberry Café near Bratton BA13 4RP and looping back for lunch at The Fox & Hounds, Devizes SN10 3HJ **[advance orders are required for lunch, menu was distributed earlier this week]**. A reasonably short and gentle run suitable for all bikes.
- Thurs 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).
- Thurs October 15th – Wandering is now to The Thames Head Inn (on the A433 near Kemble/Tarlton) as the planned venue the Daneway Inn sadly remains temporarily closed. Details to follow at next meeting/newsletter.
- Tues. 20th October – Café Meeting at Crown's Café, REME Museum, Lyneham SN15 4PT, 10am to noon.
- Thurs 22nd October – Section meeting with the first of our Autumn/Winter events: a talk by John Young - not on Tridents or even Elephants this time, but on Quasars, the feet-first Reliant-engine semi-enclosed motorcycle conceived by the late Malcolm Newell, creator of multiple feet-first machines from his home workshop in Heddington. Only around 20 Quasars were manufactured, in Bristol and then Calne. John recently acquired one and plans to bring it along.
- Thurs 29th October – yes it's a 5-week month so a Breakfast meet at the Flying Monk café near Hullavington SN14 6EU; 10am to midday.

AOB

- Christmas lunch. Based on various discussions we will return to Old Royal Ship at Luckington, where they can accommodate us comfortably in a single room. Saturday 5th December at 1pm has been provisionally reserved for us. **The prices have been held the same as last year:** £34.95 for 2 courses or £39.95 for 3 courses; both of which include tea or cafetiere coffee plus a mince pie to finish. The menu will be distributed shortly.

- White Horse Scatter 2027:
- 1. In order to streamline cross-checking of entries and payments received, the Section was asked to approve the principle that the WHS Secretary (whoever they may be) be given 'read-only' access to the Section bank account. As noted at the last meeting, this is one of several changes being made to simplify and reduce the overall amount of administrative work for the WHS. The meeting gave its approval.
- 2. 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 last meeting, all members were asked to consider whether they would take on either role, and to contact either Keith Johnston or Jon Hall in the first instance.
- Bristol bike show: after discussion it was decided that the section wouldn't run a stand at the 2027 show. A vote of thanks was made to Kevin and Carol Phillips for their hard work in organising and running the section stand previously.
- As a side note it was confirmed that the section would aim to attend the Calne bike day and Kingswood (Bristol) one day show in 2027. Both dates are tbc. It was also suggested that we attend the Atwell-Wilson museum (Calne) open afternoon/evening if it occurs in 2027 (ride-in or stand tbc).