

VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 66

Sept. 2025

This year we have the pleasure of celebrating 2 milestones in the VMCC's history, the 70th anniversary of the Coventry Parade, more of which is written below, and our section's 60th anniversary, which will be celebrated in October. Details of which will be revealed in the next few weeks.

The weather maybe about to change-for the better, according to my garden-loving wife- but we will still get chance to get out on the bikes. So we hope to see you at an event, or two.

Chairman's Chat

70 and not out.....

After several months of planning, we finally celebrated the 70th Coventry Parade on 10th August, and hopefully, everyone who attended the event had a great day out. The new venue at Napton-on-the-Hill ticked all the boxes, with seating, facilities, and a nice green space to display the machines. A big thank you goes out to all who helped on the day.

The big motorcycle news at the moment, is the launch of the 'new' BSA Bantam – a 350cc single cylinder machine. And whether or not, you consider this product to be a proper BSA is open for much Club room debate...personally, I think it looks rather smart. It did occur to me how lucky we are to have these modern convenient motorcycles suited to our needs. The Royal Enfield Hunter 350, Triumph 400, Honda 350 all fairly light and nimble and with an acceptably low seat height. You never know, in 25-30 years time, these mid size Retro motorcycles could be highly desirable in VMCC circles.

David Kendall

Coventry Parade at 70

For the previous 69 years the V.M.C.C. has held an annual Coventry Parade. Over the years it has been held at different locations, and with different organisers. It started as a veteran motorcycle run from Coventry to Birmingham and back again.

Since 1975 it has been organised by the Warwickshire Section. In recent years it has been held in the grounds of historic Coombe Abbey, on the outskirts of Coventry and partly owned by the city. It has taken the form of a display of a wide range of members bikes, who then, one by one, leave for a ride around the countryside following route sheets, then back to the park for judging and a prize giving finale. Last year the hard working organisers of the past decade's events, Geoff and Robert decided to relinquish the role.

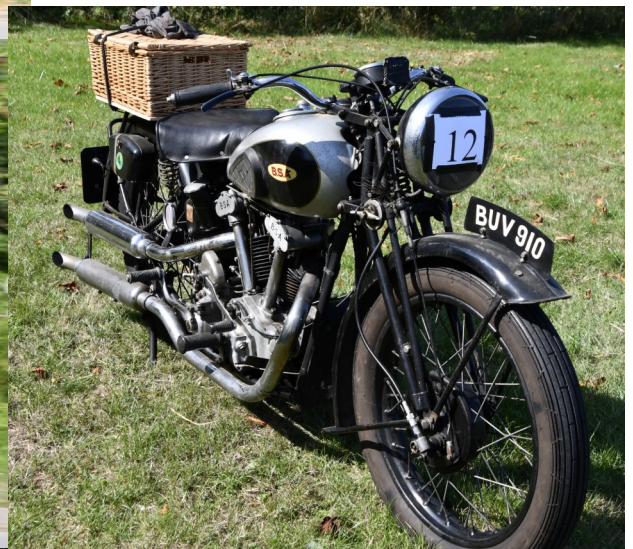
We, the committee, decided that we must run the 70th even if it was the last ever. So we looked for a new location which fulfilled various criteria. With the help of section members we settled on the village hall in Napton-on-the-Hill about 12 miles from Coventry and amidst the Warwickshire countryside. The hall itself is an excellent facility. The grounds have ample parking for cars and trailers etc plus a grassy area for as many bikes as we would ever need. Local catering was arranged, a new scenic route sorted and a commemorative badge was designed by Malcolm to go into the entrants pack. Good weather was promised. After a slow start the members signed up in pleasing numbers. The oldest machine being an 1896 Leon Bollee Voiturette.

The bikes rolled in from around 9.30am. on a bright Sunday morning in August. At 11.00 am the chair of the village committee waved off each rider roughly in age order – the bikes not the riders. Simon, who designed the route, stayed behind to help his wife with drinks for spectators and riders upon their return. Amid much chat about our rides, we then tucked into a splendid buffet. After judging, the awards were handed out to the deserving winners. The only casualty of the day was a late entry Velocette which caught fire as it was preparing to leave late afternoon, but luckily was soon extinguished.

The feedback was totally positive with many pleasing comments on all aspects of the event, so it looks as though we will see a 71st. We welcome entries from anywhere so please look out for it in the new year and join us in the heart of 'leafy' Warwickshire.

This article has been sent in to Vintage & Classic journal for probable inclusion in a future edition.





What else we have done in August.

Sunday 3rd August. The Bill Lacey Run

In the past this has been a quite well supported event but members seem to prefer to make there own way to Evenley village near Towcester. Those that went said that there was a good turnout of bikes from all over to mark the memory of a well known racer and engine builder.

Wed. 13th August. Club night at K.R.C. "bring a bike night"

These Summer evenings encourage members to ride into the rear car park on their machines. On this occasion around 20 arrived covering several decades of manufacture. Photos courtesy of David Kendall and Andy Bean.



Sunday 17th August. Tea and Cake Run

Simon led a nice, fairly short run through the lanes to a favourite venue, Wren Hall near Wroxall.

A dozen of us met in the lay-by at Hatton (almost opposite the lane to the canal locks.) for the leisurely ride to the former Victorian school where we met up with other members who got there early. Whilst the queue was long, it was worth it to sample the wide selection of hand made cakes provided each week by various local groups to bolster their funds. The weather was good as we sat outside to enjoy our confectionaries washed down by mugs of tea or coffee. We were joined by a number of riders from the Midland Section after their own run.



Sorry Dave



also seen at wren Hall



This could be the final instalment of Nigel's trials and tribulations With his fairly rare Japanese machine

Well what a wonderful month it has been in the world of Bridgie the 350 Bridgestone!

She's led me quite the Merry dance over recent months as documented in previous newsletters, but I'm very very pleased to say that after having given the carburettors a thorough clean and setting them back up to original specifications, Bridgie decided that the life of a running bike was much more fun than remaining in a shed!!

She burst into life just a few days ago, in fact last week's VMCC monthly meeting at Kenilworth Rugby Club was the first ride out since her rebuild. She did get a little bit tight on the ride over, I think we had some heat related potential semi-seizing but after a backing off of the throttle and giving her a little time to cool down it seemed to resolve itself.

Sunday we went on Simon's cake run and Bridgie performed flawlessly the entire way despite having to do several laps of the town to find the meeting lay by which was cleverly disguised behind a large group of trees!! The ride home with my belly full of cake was blissful as the powerful 350 twin pulls very very smoothly, and is now is largely rattle free for a lady of her age and gives a very enjoyable riding experience.

I'm very happy that I made the conversion to the gear change pattern by using a linkage to reverse the shift pattern which was previously neutral at the top and all 6 faster speeds going downhill, this is the opposite of what I grew up riding with on all my other Japanese built bikes so I made the conversion so that neutral is at the bottom and all the remaining gears are uphill for going faster it worked beautifully.

I'm very happy and below is a picture of Bridgie in her glorious current condition

Nigel Morris



A brief history of the Warwickshire Section as we approach our 60th celebration.

Compiled by-with the assistance of Brenda Hallard -and written by Simon Dudfield.

On the 20th of October 1965 a meeting was held in the Virgins and Castle pub in Kenilworth. Said gathering, of 14 people, proposed that a Warwickshire section of the VMCC be formed. The main instigator was Mr Don Lafford. And that's where it started. The meetings were held in the Virgins and Castle for many years. Then they moved to Kenilworth Rugby Club, our present meeting place, for club nights.

Over the years the section has provided three Club presidents. Graham Hallard, Harry Wiles and Mike Wills. Also, two vice presidents, Mick Jaggard and the late David MacMahon. Other major events that have been under Warwickshire's jurisdiction, were the Coventry to Brighton run and the Banbury Run.

We recently held the 70th Coventry Parade, our premier event. On a more local level, the section had a large display at the Town and Country show and took part in the Shakespeare Run. But things change over time. One thing that we have adopted since covid, is the pop up meetings. These take place at cafés or pubs. Mainly on Sundays and occasionally on weekdays. If the weather looks favourable on a weekend when we haven't an event, we choose a venue. An email alert goes out to our members. So easy to organise. Another recent idea we have tried, is combined runs with neighbouring sections, Banbury and Midlands We have called them Girder Fork runs, but any m/c is welcome. I was pleased to see 10 or so girder fork MC's taking part out of a total of about 25. Our first girder fork run with Northampton section is later this year. We will celebrate with an Autumn Leaves Golden Anniversary Run.

This is where
our section
started 60
years ago.



Forthcoming events

Sunday 7th September. Genteel Run.

Aimed at smaller, slower bikes, but all welcome, but the pace may be more gentle than usual for our rides. Details will be emailed soon.

Sunday 14th September. Atherstone Motor show.

Not a club event but a good one for motoring enthusiasts. The centre of Atherstone is closed off and is usually full of cars, bikes, steam vehicles etc. Your classic car or bike will be welcome. No booking, just turn up around 9.00am.

Wednesday 17th September. Club night at K.R.C. A talk by Toni and Barry Lee about their racing and instructing in Super cars.

Sunday 21st September. Run to Gasoline Juice Cafe, Weedon

Bec. A quirky cafe full of motoring related artefacts in the site of a Napoleonic armoury. Details will be emailed out nearer the date.

Further ahead: Bring and Buy auction Night, sort your unwanted but saleable items, bring your donations along to K.R.C. and buy other stuff!

Warwickshire Section's 60th anniversary celebration. Watch out for news.

Pioneering Road Safety Initiative To Make Motorcycling Safer Is Underway



A pioneering new road safety initiative that is designed to make motorcycling safer has been introduced in North and Mid Wales.

PRIMEs (Perceptual Rider Information for Maximising Expertise and Enjoyment) are innovative road markings and signage that aim to help motorcyclists make safer decisions when approaching and negotiating bends in roads.

Following a highly successful trial in Scotland — where over 32,000 motorcyclist journeys were analysed across 22 sites — [the Welsh Government](#), in partnership with the [North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent](#) (NMWTRA), has rolled out PRIME markings at four key sites in North and Mid Wales. These are:

- A487 Pantperthog, Gwynedd
- A5 Coed Bwlch, Rhysgog, Llangollen.
- A483 North of Llanbadarn Fynydd
- A483 Glascoed Hall, South of Newtown.

Evidence shows that PRIMEs, which use subtle and well-placed visual cues, have a measurable and positive impact on rider behaviour, including:

- Significant reductions in speed
- Improved road positioning on approach and at the apex of bends
- Safer braking behaviour

Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, Ken Skates said: “We are delighted to be trialling this new road safety initiative for the first time in Wales.” “Evidence shows that motorcyclists are amongst the most vulnerable road users, especially on roads with sharp bends. PRIME is an effective way to help reduce risks and support riders to make safer choices on the road, so it was right thing to do.”

The initiative is strongly supported by North Wales Police and Dyfed Powys Police who have long worked to reduce motorcycle collisions across their force area. Inspector of Specialist Operations at Dyfed-Powys Police, Dawn Fencott-Price said: “We welcome the trial of this innovative initiative to improve motorcyclist safety on our roads. During 2024 there were twenty-five collisions resulting in one or more people killed – an increase of 66% on 2023. “This is a low-cost intervention which has been proven to significantly improve road safety for riders when used in the right road conditions. One death on our roads is one too many – and reducing the number of motorcyclists who are killed or seriously injured on our roads is our priority.” This first Welsh trial marks a major milestone in adopting data-driven, cost-effective safety improvements for vulnerable road users. If successful, PRIME markings could be expanded across the wider Welsh road network.

Paul Morgan CBE, BMF's Government Liaison Executive said: Project Prime is an innovative road safety initiative that uses road markings to help motorcyclists better navigate bends. The road markings consist of a series of "gateway" chevrons placed at the approach to a bend, which are designed to encourage riders to adopt the best road position and speed before entering the bend. Previous trials in Scotland have shown showed significant improvements in riders being able to navigate sharp bends safely through better road positioning, correct speed selection and the use of appropriate braking. This is an excellent safety initiative, supported by the BMF, which will be of benefit to all motorcyclists, from the beginner to the more experienced."

Contact Information

Sian Reynolds

Senior Press Officer

Welsh Government Press Office

0300 0253 031

Sian.reynolds@gov.wales

For Sale or Wanted

George has a **Summer House** to give away for **FREE**! It's 6' x 6' square with corner cut off for the glazed double doors. 2 sides are solid, 2 sides are partially glazed. Made of wood in reasonably good condition. He can't help to dismantle it or remove it, as he's recovering from surgery. Phone George in Rugby 07816 448494



Motorcycle Lift, similar to Machine Mart item £60 ono. Call Peter 07891786261



Erde Twin Motorcycle Trailer

Made in 2020 and in excellent condition. I have added an aluminium walkway to make loading easier. The walkway and wheel troughs are easily interchangeable to allow for different configurations.

I also fitted prop stands at the rear to make the trailer more stable when loading or unloading. I will include an additional folding ramp which is much better than the ramp, which is also included. Trailer no longer needed hence sale. Located in Bromsgrove. £500 ONO John 07814 949262

2018 MOTOLUG COLLAPSIBLE MOTORCYCLE TRAILER

Complete with a jockey wheel, spare wheel and loading ramp.





Price: £700 o.v.n.o.

Contact John Newitt
on 07884 253788

Givi E45 top box

45lr, It'll take a full face helmet and more. It has two keys and the correct base plate to go with it. Just bolt it on your rack and lock your stuff up. Not new but all working well.

£50

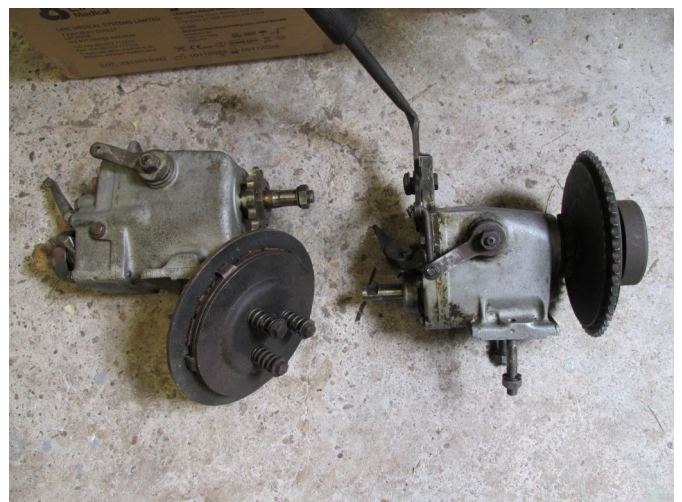
Tony 07504 901 937
or nortones41000@gmail.com



2 vintage 3 speed Albion gearboxes, with some clutch parts; both bottom fixing, original fitment not known, one might be from some form of agricultural vehicle (see pic) **£45 each**.

*Norton original front & rear mudguards incl detachable tailpiece; from 1949 Big4 side valve, repairable but significant welding skill needed. **Free** on collection.*

Contact Brian Smith 07756474863
L/Spa



Honda Hornet 600cc

1997

42,000 miles

3 owners

new battery

Has been in the family for a number of years but not used a lot recently.

Runs but will need recommissioning.

£500 o.n.o.

Phone Aaron: 07400933313



VMCC Warwickshire Section Events Diary 2025

* see notes at the bottom of the listings

Sept. 07	Sun.	Genteel Run
10	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Talk by Toni and Barry Lee about their racing.
21	Sun.	Gasoline Juice Cafe Run, Weedon Bec.
Oct. 05	Sun.	Girder Fork Run
08	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Bring & Buy evening.
26	Sun.	Antelope Inn meeting, Lighthorne
Nov. 12	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Guest speaker Patrick Fitzgerald presenting Lockheed.
26	Wed.	Warwickshire Section Xmas Lunch
Dec. 10	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Xmas Quiz

* More details of the events will be sent out when available.

* All events and dates are subject to change. Please check before travelling.

* *events in italics are NOT our events but may be of interest to members.*

* *Events will be added (or deleted) as we go through the year.*