



VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 67 " Celebrating 60 years of Warwickshire Section " Oct. 2025

Whilst this section's committee organises events for the members to enjoy participating in, we feel that other members could get involved more. You may wonder what is involved in being on the committee. So we welcome you to attend a meeting, and be temporarily co-opted onto the committee perhaps with a view to join it as a full member in the future. If you do not fancy that idea but have a good idea for an event that you could organise be it leading a run, attendance at an event or whatever then please tell one of us about it. We would assist you if you wish. You may like to be involved with running an existing event such as the Coventry Parade or our Pailton Steam day. **It is your section as much as ours so please give it some thought.**

Chairman's Chat

Access all areas..

We recently attended the SVR 'Severn Valley Railway' Autumn Steam Gala, travelling the line from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth. Making this Steam adventure more enjoyable was the launch of a fully accessible Saloon and Buffet car, in fact we were only the second wheelchair to use this coach. Originally built in 1928 to a Great Western Design, this coach has been lovingly restored, providing a unique experience with Heritage Authenticity.

On the subject of Authenticity, my Faithful 350 Cotton has received a new modern rear tyre. The one I removed didn't have a date stamp and was starting to feel very hard...hopefully I can get said machine back



on the road soon, and take advantage of the Cotton's nimble handling. Recently we have enjoyed some fine late season weather. The Genteel Run and our run out to Gasoline Juice have attracted good numbers...and more importantly some new faces, let's hope this trend continues.



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

The Library is open Monday to Friday with Specialist staff, supported by experienced volunteers.

The World's foremost motorcycling library whether you are buying, repairing or restoring, registering,

sourcing parts or even learning to ride your bike, this is where you will find the answers to virtually all of your questions.

TRY US
FIRST!

YOUR DVLA ONE-STOP SHOP

As an authorised organisation, The Vintage Motor Cycle Club works closely with DVLA and has provided machine dating services for over 60 makes of motorcycles and hundreds of applicants each year.

We can support you through the process of:

- Reclaiming an Original registration number
- Allocation of Age-related registration number

DVLA Letters for:

- Claiming Historic Tax
- Verifying MOT Exemption
- Change of engine
- Correction of V5C Errors

CONTACT THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE TEAM

TEL. 01283 495 111

EMAIL: LIBRARY@VMCC.NET
DVLAIAISON@VMCC.NET

VMCC Warwickshire Section is 60 years old in October. Brenda Hallard has been researching it's origins.

I have been going through a number of the early magazines. The first mention of a proposed section is in the Midland Region notes for December 1965 when permission was given for a new section.

January 1966 says the Warwickshire Section will meet at the Coventry Cross, Kenilworth on the 3rd Wed of each month with Don Lafford as Chairman (for 13yrs) and Richard Hiorns as Secretary.

March 1966 Warwickshire Section notes say very quick work by Don Lafford managed to secure The Virgins and Castle as a regular meeting place for the section on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. I suspect this happened just before the February meeting so that could have been the month of the move to The Virgins and Castle.

Certainly Don Lafford was very involved with getting the section started, with much help from Frank Bussey who was Secretary of the VMCC and lived in Kenilworth.

The club sub editor was from the Warwickshire section for years and Stan Greenway was involved with the Cyclemotor Section. Did he start it and run it? It was pre 1975.

The section did have a notable success when six members took part in the 3rd International Windmill Rally in Sept 1967. Unfortunately they were the best team which didn't go down well as they beat the England team and the Dutch and it was hoped the contest that year would have been won by the Dutch which then would host the following year's event in Holland! Luckily the Dutch did host it so Warwickshire did not have that "honour."

VMCC Warwickshire Section Events Diary 2025

** see notes at the bottom of the listings*

Oct. 05	Sun.	Girder Fork Run
08	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Bring & Buy evening.
25/26	Sat/Sun	<i>Open weekend At National Motorcycle Museum, B92 0EJ</i>
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, Stoneleigh Golf Club
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) even at this time of year.*

What we have been doing recently

Sunday 7th September. Genteel Run.

This was a gentler run to better suit smaller and slower machines. We met at the Willoughby Cafe on the A46 (near Braunston) for a 10.30am start under gloomy skies. Simon led the dozen and a half riders, on a wide range bikes, along winding lanes and through pretty villages to our destination, the Denbigh Arms in Monks Kirby. All the group arrived just before the 12.00 opening. Some of us used the facilities and enjoyed refreshments and possibly a spot of lunch. The forecast rain briefly arrived but we only saw it through the window.



Wednesday 10th September. Club night. Talk by David Morse.

"The History Of Transport In Leamington"

This was a late change of speaker. David has talked to us before on a range of topics. He is archivist for the Leamington History Group and so is very knowledgeable about the areas history. An interesting talk with numerous slides of transport through the ages and of the town showing the changing forms of transport.

Saturday 13. Care home visit. Andy Bean reports:

As it looked like it was going to be a fair afternoon, weather wise, on I decided to join a run out to the Thurlaston Care Home near Rugby. I was the first of the motorcycles to arrive followed by Harry Wiles in his pre-war Morgan, then a number of modern bikes and eventually two more Warwickshire VMCC members turned up. Ian Brodie on his electric Velocette Valiant and Clive Rickman on his Norton Commando. After that two Series Land Rovers and an Austin Metropolitan arrived to make quite a decent little display.

To finish off the afternoon "Best car" went to Harry and his Morgan and Clive and his Norton Commando were awarded "Best Motorcycle". Mr Bean came a close second with his BSA B40 I believe! As the storm clouds threatened at about 16.00 hrs participants started to disperse before the rain started. Overall a "Grand Day Out"

Sunday 21 September. Ride out to Gasolene Juice. Report and photos by David Kendall.

On a sunny Sunday morning, and with an Autumnal chill in the air, 14 riders and machines gathered at the Long Itch Diner for a ride out to Gasolene Juice. This very original Automotive themed establishment is located inside the Old Royal Ordnance depot at Weedon Bec, Northampton. A great ride was enjoyed by all, through beautiful countryside this fascinating destination. Many thanks go to Simon for leading this run....maybe the same again next year..?





image Barry took on a previous visit.

Wednesday 24th September McMillan Coffee morning at VMCC HQ, Allen House, Burton Upon Trent. 10.00am - 12.00am.

On a clear but slightly chilly morning I (Barry) rode up to join the annual McMillan Coffee Morning at Allen House, just over the river Trent and into the town. Parking out the front with an array of bikes from various eras. I entered and, after receiving a hot coffee from one of the young ladies who keep the place going, and a slab of flapjack, I met up with other section members, Steve Bradwick, Steve Malin, Ian Ellis and Robert Berry? I got a cheery greeting from Banbury Run supremo Annie Durrant. Later I met Mark Lepkowski. A constant stream of other VMCC members came and went during the morning. The charity money box seemed to fill up nicely.

The library upstairs is a great place to browse. Steve B. was finding information about some Triumphs shipped to U.S.A. with the help of resident staff member Peter Bennett and his P.C.

Back down stairs and into the shop area. This has been subject to a drastic reduction in the range of stock, concentrating on the harder to get parts not readily available

elsewhere. The garage area, just off the shop, contained several of our club's bikes in various states of readiness for their next outings.

Back in the office area, Bob Badland (Midland Section) was enjoying coffee and cake whist catching up with other attendees. A second coffee and a slice of carrot cake – with another donation in the box – set me up for the (slightly) warmer ride home.

Sunday September 28. 'Pop up' at Farmer's Fayre. Stoneleigh. 'Beeza' Dave reports:

"Turned out nice again", well it did for the dozen hardy souls who attended the Pop-up at the Farmers Fayre, Stoneleigh. One of our section's favourite venues. Much coffee, batches and breakfasts devoured, many discussions on all things that matter that later, led to an enjoyable sunny ride home....



Events still to come in the near future

October 5th Sunday, Girder Fork Run

Sunday, 5th October. Girder fork run to Gilkes café, Kineton (meet with Banbury, Nth Cotswolds, Midlands sections). Meet Chesterton Windmill 10.00am for 10.30am run in to Gilkes.

October 8th Wednesday, Club Night at KRC. 07.30 pm. Bring & Buy night, any unwanted/surplus items you have will be offered for auction on the night. Always a fun evening, raising funds for the section.

October 19/20 Autumn Leaves Run + 60th Anniversary celebration

Details still being finalised so please “watch this space”

October 25th open day, National Motorcycle Museum, Near NEC

Not one of our section events but well worth attending. The bike collection is free to enter, trade stalls, guests (Henry Cole and mates) always give a good talk on stage. Hot drinks and food available. Bikes park free, cars about £16 so best to come on a bike. Several hundred riders always do so.

October 26th, 12.00 pm. Ride in to Antelope Inn, Lighthorne

The last organised ride-in of the year for our section get together in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside. All very welcome to attend.

John Gleed

John Gleed, whom many of you knew, died on Sunday 21st September.

John worked for the Banbury dealer Eddie Dow before starting his own business at Hook Norton. For many years he was a member of the old N.O.B.A.C club and many of you will remember him from those days. John was 92 years old and had lived in retirement at Shipston – on – Stour for the last few years.

Funeral arrangements are not known at the moment but will be forwarded to club members when known. Regards Mike Phipps BCMC / VMCC Banbury Section Secretary

Another classic bike name resurrected

As you will probably know some famous British motorcycle companies have either worked in partnership with, or have been bought by, Indian companies.

These have resulted in a number of inexpensive new models. Triumph have the 400 Speed and Scrambler, whilst Royal Enfield have the 350 Classic, Meteor and Hntr (Hunter), I believe AJS have new models as well. Very recently BSA joined 'the club' with the Bantam 350.

When Andy Bean told me that a dealership on the edge of Coventry was selling them I decided to book a test ride to see how it compared to my Hunter and the Triumph Speed 400 which I owned until some low lifes nicked it off my drive.

Having a morning free this week I phoned on the off chance of testing one that morning. This was possible so rode the Hunter to find the business which is tucked away off Rowley Road, Baginton, next to electric motorcycle company Maeving. On the internet it shows 'Global Moto' but the roadside sign says BSA Lukas Distribution. I didn't ask why the change but they did say the company had shrunk.

I was warmly greeted and shown the bike. Then after producing Drivers Licence and National Insurance number I was given the keys (note: On the phone I was asked if I was over 21 and under 75. Which I am for another month)

So first impression was that the bike looked good and well built with decent materials. On the road it was easy to ride and the 9 bhp extra over my Hunter showed when accelerating from a low speed in a high gear. Although it is 10 bhp less than the 400. After about 20 miles along various roads and surfaces it was comfortable. The gearing was similar to the Hunter but better than the 400.

Upon my return to the dealership I compared it to the Hunter, a new one of which is about £400 more than the Bantam (£3900 against £3500). the Bantam is water cooled, Hunter is air cooled. The foot pedals were better looking on the Bantam but otherwise not a lot of difference to look at. Internally the Bantam has twin overhead camshafts, whilst the Hunter has a single. The bantam is 6 speed whereas the Hunter is 5 speed. The Speed 400 is also watercooled and 6 speed but is around £1500 more than the Bantam. So for the price it is well worth a look.



For Sale or Wanted



Item 1:- Rack to fit early Hinckley Trident, Daytona, Sprint St etc, £15.00 ono.

Item 2:- Rear chromed dresser rail (A9733444) which was removed from an air-cooled Hinckley Bonnie/Scrambler, £30.00 ono.

Please contact Beesa Dave, 07966 563673 if you are interested in either of the items

Triumph Tiger Sport 660cc for Sale.



2022 660cc Tiger Sport for sale, in excellent condition, it comes with plenty of Triumph accessories, full luggage with matching infills, hand guards, heated grips, colour matched belly pan, rad guard, paddock stand bobbins and tank pad. Very low mileage only 1800 miles with 1 owner from new, full service history, new MOT until Aug2026, **£5995 ono**. Please contact Steve on 07860 629650. Thanks for looking.

Bridgie the 350cc Bridgestone twin. Recent new top end, lovely ride,
smooth as silk **£4750**



Adler 250cc twin. 1955. Great original condition. Could be concourse
without huge work. Selling as its too small for me. **£3995**



Open to sensible discussion and
offers on both..