

# VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 43

June 2023

We have recently received the very sad news that Robin Smith, one of our current members, has recently passed away. A report is in this news letter.

On a brighter note our riding season is well under way so if you have not yet attended any of the sections activities we look forward to your presence.

Short reports on the past months events are also within. Also events to look forward to in the next few weeks. You will also find a diary of our 2023 events plus others you may be interested in attending.

At the time of writing this we have 3 bikes for sale, all totally different!

## Chairman's Chat

### Things are starting to roll!

On a clear and bright Sunday morning, I headed over to the village of Dunchurch aboard my faithful Green Norton, to meet up with riders awaiting an escort to the Rugby Bike Fest. When we eventually had a respectable gaggle of assorted machines, Barry Heath led his Vintage and Classic convoy a merry tour around the back streets, eventually parking us up in our allotted space in the centre of Rugby. The bike fest is a well marshalled and organised event with all manner of machines on display from the Bantam owners Club to the Vintage Japanese Club and everything else in between. I always seem to get lost when leaving the Rugby area, but this time after receiving some simple directions from one of our members, I enjoyed a stress free ride home.

But that wasn't the only ride out that Norton and myself have enjoyed recently. The previous week had found us spending a sunny Sunday at the Norton owners gathering at the Wharf Inn, Welford. Organised by the local Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Norton owners Club. This event is a great excuse to ride along some uncluttered country lanes and be amongst some beautiful Leicestershire countryside, on this occasion being ably led by Dave Barnes. A big thank you to the Norton owners Club for their welcome and hospitality...

PS.. any make of machine is welcome at this event.

The season is only just gathering apace, so please keep an eye open for the fun and exiting events coming your way.

David Kendall

Images from the Norton Owners Club gathering:



### A message asking for help locally at an international event

"You may have read in the VMCC journal that I am organising The Anglo-Dutch Rally for Veteran motorcycles. This is a touring holiday for riders from UK and Holland and takes place **25-28th July** based at Brandon Hall Hotel, Brandon. I am looking for help from members of the Warwickshire section to marshal, either at venues to supervise parking, or at time controls on the reliability trial on **Thursday 28th**. So if you can spare an hour or two on any day I would be very grateful.

I shall be at club night if you require more details and thank you in advance for any help you can give.

Mike Wills [miwills@doctors.org.uk](mailto:miwills@doctors.org.uk) 07703181841

### Robin Smith

Robin Smith passed away recently following a fall at his home. I have been informed that, at his request, no funeral will take place.

He has been a member of the VMCC for around 10 years.

His day job was in plumbing and heating. He founded Custom Heat which has become a major locally based company latterly run by his son, although he still took an interest.

Although his main interest seems to have been fishing, he was also very keen on his bikes. He took part in several Banbury Runs on his Ariel. I have been told that he never actually finished one due to navigational errors. He always decided to go home! He also occasionally took part in section runs and attended a couple of pop – up meet.

Although obviously handy with tools he never worked on his bikes and preferred to get friend and fellow Rugby resident Ken Bromley to look after them whilst he went fishing.



## Recent events

May 10 – afternoon. **Rikki Richardson’s funeral.** Several members, on bikes, met at Rikki’s home and escorted the motorcycle hearse to Canley Crematorium for a short service. We were then invited to attend the Burnt Post public house for refreshments. Luckily the weather was (mainly) dry.

May 10 – evening. **Club night** at Kenilworth Rugby Club. Around 20 members attended one of our twice yearly ‘Bring and Buy’ events. Section funds were increased by about £150 by generous bidders.

May 21 – morning. **Rugby bikefest.** I (Barry) led about a dozen members into the town centre where we parked in the same area as last year. The weather was very good and we enjoyed a few hours soaking up the atmosphere and witnessing the main ride in comprising several hundred bikes and scooters of all descriptions. The street food stands did a roaring trade, as did the numerous cafes and pubs. A very good event.



*Myself and secretary Simon (right)*



*Images from this years Rugby Bikefest*



May 28 – morning. **Pop – Up meet:** The Pavillion Cafe, Lighthorne.

### **Judith reports:**

“A warm and sunny morning encouraged 16 members to ride out to The Pavilions café at Lighthorne for a coffee and a bite to eat.

The chance to sit outside and talk bikes was very welcome and we had a wide range of motorcycles on show, from Peter Wilson’s 1927 Raleigh to Martyn Roberts 2017 Honda 750 All ages of motorcycle (and

owner) are welcome at our Pop-Up meetings where the emphasis is on having a ride out and a chat, with some refreshments available at the venue. If you haven't tried one before then look out for the next one which will be emailed to you by Dave Barnes."



## Bikes for sale

One of our members is reducing his collection and so is offering for sale two very diverse machines both of which he has owned for several years. Both have been well looked after.

### Sunbeam model 9

first registered in 1932  
500cc single twin port  
3 speed Sturmey Archer hand change  
excellent condition  
starts very easily and runs ok.  
Comes with a pair of crank cases  
and a pair of bar end levers.

£10,250 o.n.o.



### Honda VTX

1800 cc  
registered 2007  
low mileage  
recent m.o.t.  
Runs very well.  
Vance and Hines pipes  
Held saddlebags

£7,250



For more information please contact  
 John Pearson on  
 07946 731702  
 or email [jdpearson75@gmail.com](mailto:jdpearson75@gmail.com)



## Honda CBF 1000

First registered 2006

One owner from new

Regularly serviced

All MOT's and receipts available

*"One of the unsung heroes of modern motorcycling"* - M.C.N.

phone Ron Thorley: 02476 469653 or 07516 511432

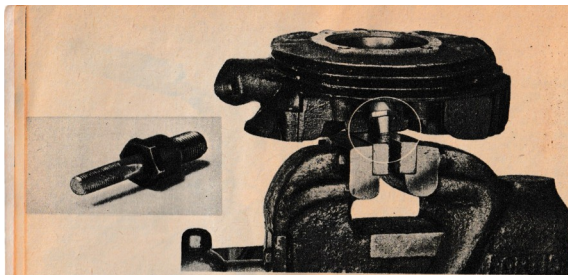
£: Open to reasonable offers.

Kept in good brick garage

In excellent condition

24,000 miles by advanced motorcyclist.

Just getting too heavy to handle



### HOLDING A HEAD

Some means of holding a cylinder head securely when it is being decarbonized is desirable. This is where one of your old sparking plugs—if it is of detachable type—can be called back into service. The inner gland nut is unscrewed and the insulator replaced by a 1/4 in bolt, the head of which is filed down until it fits inside the plug body. The gland nut is then replaced and screwed up hard. Finally, the modified plug is inserted in the boss in the head, and the bolt is clamped in the vice. If you file flats on the bolt shank the vice will get a firmer grip. Both your hands are thus free for using the tools.



### RUBBING BRAKE

It is important to remember that there is generally some variation in brake geometry with up-and-down travel of the rear wheel. When a pillion passenger is carried and the rear-springing compressed to a greater extent than usual, it may be necessary to slacken off the rear-brake adjustment. If this is not done there is a chance that the brake will rub, causing rapid wear and overheating. Should a brake overheat excessively grease in the hub bearings may melt and reach the friction linings.

### WINDSCREEN CLEANING

Particles of dry grit should never be rubbed off a plastic screen (or off goggles for that matter whether they have plastic or glass lenses). The scheme is first to wash the screen, using a sponge and plenty of water, then to dry it with a wash leather and to follow up with a rub over with a soft, dry cloth. Scratches in Persepe and similar materials can be rubbed out with metal polish—but obviously prevention is better than cure.

### CHAIN RIVET EXTRACTION

Few enthusiasts in these days carry a chain rivet extractor in their tool kit. However, should a chain repair be required at the roadside, rivets can

be removed simply by the use of a 3 in length of coarse-cutting carborundum which costs only a few pence and is easily stowed. The scheme is to "file" off the rivet head—and the carborundum does the trick with very little effort.

### BATTERY TOPPING-UP

If one of the special battery fillers is not available, by far the best means of topping-up without spilling distilled water is to use a hydrometer with, for preference, the float removed. Should you have no hydrometer then a plastic funnel can be used instead. But should you be caught out without a funnel, take a strong envelope, cut it diagonally, snip off the closed corner and you have a ready-made cone.

### OVERCOMING STICTION

Scooter owners whose machines are fitted with electric starters often find that the machine lurches forward when bottom gear is engaged after a prolonged stop. The reason is that the clutch plates are sticking and therefore the drive between the engine and gear box is not freed when the clutch lever is operated. Motorcyclists free their clutches by depressing the kick-starter once or twice with the clutch disengaged. Even those scooterists whose machines have no kick-starter can achieve similar results by engaging gear before starting the engine and rocking the machine backwards and forwards with the clutch disengaged.

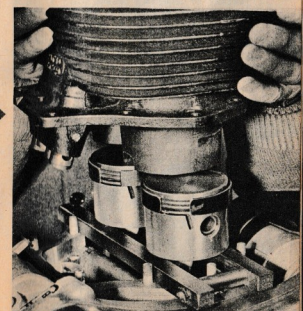
### FITTING A CYLINDER BLOCK

Before fitting the cylinder block of a parallel-twin engine, place two pieces of soft wood measuring approximately 6 x 4 x 1/2 in across the crankcase mouth; they will ensure that the pistons are in line and firmly supported. After the pistons have been oiled and the ring compressors fitted, the block can be lowered over the pistons and the wood and compressors withdrawn.



### WET BRAKES

On a long journey through torrential rain, wise riders test the brakes periodically to ensure that they have not been affected by water. If the brakes do become wet internally they can be dried out by riding with them lightly applied for brief periods.



Another page of handy hints from 'The Motorcycle' Practical handbook, 1959

# Upcoming Events

June 3 & 4. **Coventry Motofest** This is **NOT** an event our section is attending but is of general interest with some bike clubs attending. Usually a good day out.

June 4. Sunday **The Kenilworth Run** This most definitely **IS** one of our annual runs and is recommended to all members on which ever bike they choose but preferably a classic. Judith and Malcolm will lead us through the lanes of Warwickshire for about 30 to 40 miles to a good refreshment venue. Please support this event. Details should have been sent to you by now and will be on our website.

June 10. Saturday. **Daventry Bike Fest.** Not a section event. Similar to the Rugby Event. A good day.

June 11 Sunday. **Breakfast Run.** This is also one of our annual events, details will follow by email and on our website.

June 14. Wed. evening. **Club night** Fish and chips for those who have ordered them. You may still be able to get your order in via Judith if you are quick. Also **Bring a bike.** Last time we held one, last year, we had over 2 dozen bikes from 1920's to modern. So please ride in even if you are not dining al fresco.

June 17 & 18 **Banbury Run weekend.** We are not officially attending but many members will be there either taking part or watching the 300 – 400 pre 1931 bikes. On the Saturday there is a chance to ride the VMCC club's bikes, See the main website for details.

June 26. Monday afternoon/evening. **Cassington Bike Night.** An Oxfordshire village in and around which several thousand bikes congregate. All the classic ones park on the village green. A well organised event well worth a visit. We may have a ride in as we did last year. Watch out for more details. *These are images from early afternoon last year:*



# VMCC Warwickshire Diary of events for 2023

\*This is a provisional diary which may change. More events will be added nearer the dates\*

\*Watch out for emails or visit our website <http://vmccwarwickshire.co.uk>\*

June 04	Sun	Kenilworth Run	Meet Hatton lay-by 10.00 for 10.30 am start. (M.G.)
June 10	Sat	Daventry Bike Day	Similar to Rugby Bikefest. A good event
June 11	Sun	Breakfast Ride in	Malt Kiln Farm, Stretton u. Fosse. 10.00am. (H.W.)
June 14	Wed	Club night	Fish & Chips + bring a bike. 7.30pm. Tickets £6.50
June 18	Sun	Banbury Run	National Motor Museum, Gaydon.
June 26	Mon	Cassington Bike night	Cassington Village, OX29 4DN
July 05	Wed	Chairperson's Social	Blue Lias, bikes and buffet. from 6.30pm
July 09	Sun	Pailton Steam & Bikes+	Fairfield lake and Smite Brook Steam Railway
July 12	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. Bike night. 7.30pm
July 23	Sun	Founders Day Rally	Stanford Hall. From 9.00am. Display bikes wanted.
Aug. 06	Sun	Bill Lacey Run	Evenly, Northants. (more details TBA).
Aug 09	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. bike night
Aug 13	Sun	The Coventry Parade	Coombe Abbey. More details later.
Sept. 03	Sun	Genteel Run	Run mainly for smaller, older bikes. (details TBA). (D.K.)
Sept 10	Sun	Atherstone Motorshow	Great town centre free event. Lots of cars/ bikes.
Sept 13	Wed.	Club night	T.B.A.
Sept 17	Su	Afternoon Tea and cake run	Meet at Hatton lay-by. 2.00 for 2.30 (S.D.)
Oct. 08	Su	'Autumn Leaves' run	Meet at Long Itch Diner. 10.00 for 10.30 (S.D.)
Oct 11	Wed	Club Night	Kenilworth Rugby Club. 8.00pm
Oct. 22	Sun	Antelope Ride In	Meet at Antelope Inn, Lighthorne, 12.00 or ride in from Chesterton Windmill at 11.30. (S.D.)
Oct 28/29	s/s	Nat. M/c Museum	Open Day. Free entry + trade stands + guests.

*Attendance at most of our section events will count towards the 'Rider of the year award' (D.K.) etc. indicates run leader. Events in purple are section events, others may be of interest.*