

VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 56

Sept. 2024

September can still be warm enough to enjoy ride outs without heavy clothing. We have a couple of section events still to come. We try to make them interesting so please support them. There are a lot of photos in this edition to try to show the variety of bikes used by members and the smiling faces of the attendees of events we participate in. Towards the back we have several ads. Both for sale and wanted so please read on...

Chairman's Chat

Leader of the pack...

Often, on our travels we get into conversation with a stranger about old motorcycles, and that new acquaintance may show an interest in joining the VMCC. If you find yourself in this fortunate position, then help is at hand. We have put together a joining pack for prospective new members – inside the pack is a monthly journal, information about the club, library and contact details of Warwickshire section committee members. If you want to hand over a joining pack to a possible new member, please let the committee know and we can bring some into club night for distribution.

VMCC members who need no introduction are Rob Thomas and Geoff Booth, over the years they have expertly organised and staged our Coventry Parade at Coombe Park near Coventry. This year's event that took place on Sunday August 11th us to be the last one they will be involved in. So from the Committee and all our members, a big thank you for all your hard work and endeavours goes out to Rob and Geoff. We are now putting the feelers out to anybody (possibly a small group) who would like to take over the organising and running of the Coventry Parade. If you are interested, please let a member of the committee know.
David Kendall



a couple of 'one make' club reports

Laverdas 75th Celebrations, Willersey.

After the big 75th celebrations in July at the Laverda Museum in Breganze Italy, where the Laverda was made, the celebrations moved over to the New Inn, Willersey just outside Broadway on Sunday August 4th.

Sunday morning dawned and with the big triple fired up it was off to fill up before taking the Fosse Way down to Moreton in Marsh where after taking a right-hand turn towards Broadway on the A44, Fish Hill was next where the obligatory speed camera van was waiting for the unexpected.

On approaching the New Inn, the car park was full of Laverdas (only Laverdas allowed in the car park for the celebrations), all the various models were represented Jarama, Mirage, RGS, Montjuic, Jota (more Jotas than any other model) etc, there was also the race and endurance models 750cc twins and 1000cc triples on display as well.

Now if like myself you thought that Laverda made only rip-roaring, tarmac shredding, fire breathing motorcycles then I had a shock, in the far corner of the car park in a gazebo, were two 50cc Laverda scooters from 1961/2. These scooters were 3 speed 50cc four stroke with a 1 into 2 exhaust system and were very well presented.

Richard Slater and Phil Todd were in attendance and had a lot of attention due to their work with Laverda in the past also Laverdas from Germany and Switzerland had made the journey over to Willersey. All in all it was a great event and a big thanks to the organisers and the New Inn for their hard work in making it happen.





Norton Motorcycle Club at Founders' Day 2024

section secretary Colin Cheney reports:

Stanford Hall, near Lutterworth, is quite close to the conjunction of the three counties of Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire so it made good sense fundamentally for both branches to join together at this year's event on Sunday 21st July. Between us we managed to display in the region of 30 Nortons from almost every era of production with singles being the dominant models on display. Brian Peers and the Warwickshire team opted for individuality with a Hi-Rider and a Harley Davidson-themed Commando amongst others on their display. The usual comment of 'where are all the singles?' was updated for this year with 'where are all the Commandos?'. Sometimes, you just can't win. The Welford-based contingent boasted concours-level apparent originality [1955 Feather bed International] and superb patina [1933 un-restored and very well-used International]. As ever, we are grateful for all Members of the Club who

made the effort to attend, with Martyn Guest from Norwich traveling furthest on the day. Mark Lepkowski hid a Japanese motorcycle at the rear of the gazebos and provided excellent additional help. As usual, there were the inevitable questions, the daftest of which must have been “*does the Club have a website?*”. The person who asked this question was facing the gazebo with the letters www.nortonownersclub.org emblazoned in ten-inch high lettering just above his head...



Above
Martyn Guest, who came over from Norwich to display his 1959 ES2; and [right] Colin Cheney with 1955 International.

upper right
Some interesting machines including a 650SS and a 1955 Norton International with the gazebos from the Leicestershire and Northampton Branch and the Warwickshire Branch in the background.



Right
A nice selection of OHC Nortons

Older drivers forced to 'surrender' licence as DVLA changes rules.

Story by Jack Mortimer, Daily Express

The [DVLA](https://www.dvla.gov.uk) has announced a number of changes to their health rules, with a significant number of older motorists across the country affected. Known as the 'assessing fitness to drive' guidelines, these rules outline the medical conditions that could make driving dangerous.

A spokesperson for the vehicle retail platform Motor Match highlighted that, whilst these changes can feel restrictive, they are in place to reduce the risk of accidents on the roads. They explained: "The recent updates to the DVLA's 'assessing fitness to drive' guidelines ensure all drivers on the road are medically

fit to operate a vehicle."Designed to improve road safety, these changes are particularly important for those with conditions like diabetes, epilepsy, or heart-related issues that have developed or worsened."

One of the most significant changes to the 'assessing fitness to drive' guidelines is the new rules surrounding those with a non-aneurysmal (including perimesencephalic) subarachnoid haemorrhage. Motorists with this condition are advised to advise the DVLA if they want to continue driving a car, motorcycle, lorry or bus.

The organisation reassured drivers that they will be able to get behind the wheel of most vehicles once again if they have a clinical confirmation of recovery, with heavy goods vehicle (HGV) motorists able to resume driving six months after comprehensive cerebrovascular (intercranial arterial) imagine that has excluded an aneurysm.

The DVLA has also changed its definition for controlled drinking and outlined the impact it may have on motorists. They advised: "Drinking at a level in the manner which their clinician confirms acceptably controls their alcohol use disorder and their alcohol use is unlikely to impact on personal, social and work responsibilities." Motorists who persistently misuse alcohol were told to notify the DVLA immediately and not get behind the wheel, with their licence being reconsidered after a minimum of six months of little to no drinking.

Motor Match's spokesperson warned all drivers to read up on these new regulations, with those affected who continue to spend time behind the wheel at risk of a £1,000 fine. They warned: "With the introduction of these new guidelines, drivers must take responsibility for reporting their medical conditions. "Failing to disclose a notifiable medical condition can lead to a hefty fine of up to £1,000 and, in extreme cases, legal prosecution, especially if the condition contributes to a serious accident."

The Warwickshire Section of Vintage Motorcycle club nearing 60 years old!

This section was founded in October, 1965. We have no photos of that momentous occasion but we do have this from 10 years ago. I believe that the only current member at that inaugural meeting is David McMahon who, as we saw at this years Coventry Parade, has recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

The earliest group photo we can find is this one from a visit to Fort Dunlop in either 1966 or 7.



If you have any memories, photos etc from this very early period then please contact one of us so we can compile a fuller account for a news letter next year.

What we have done in the past few weeks

Bill Lacey Run from Princethorpe to Evenley near Towcester

In recent years this run has not attracted many riders, although we were happy to see a number of our members had arrived either on their own or with other local clubs.

The 4 who did follow the varied rural route were David Kendall, Simon Dudfield (who led the run) Ron Robinson and myself (Barry) who took the 'selfie'.

The machines parked in the quaint village of Evenley, were varied. The usual outdoor catering by the Red Lion was as good as ever and very well

Below is the image I took before we left and some taken in the village.



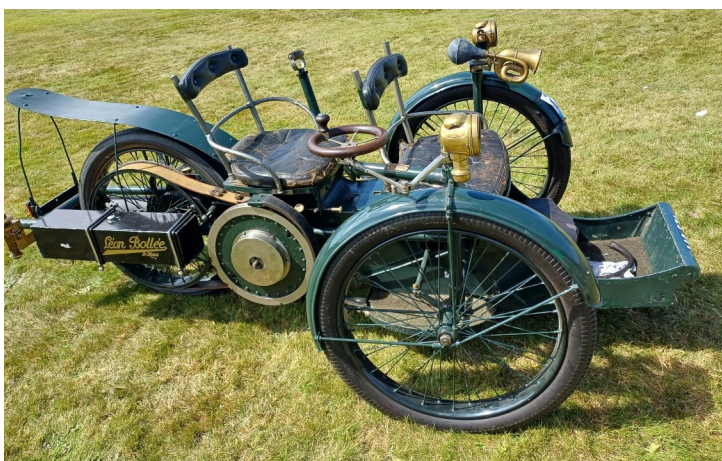
Coventry Parade based at Coombe Abbey Park, near Coventry

This was the 69th consecutive year this event has been held.

Around 37 machines from 1896 to very modern assembled on the grass to the left of the the long driveway on a Sunday morning. This year the weather was good, not too warm , not too cool. On the stroke of 11.00am the oldest participant a Leon Bollee trike chugged out of the park on, presumably the shorter route of around 15 miles. Some chose the longer route, others went to a pub for lunch! Richard Woodcock had a bit of trouble with the drive belt on his lovely, and very rare 1903 Royal Sovereign. Luckily he also had his slightly later Rex also entered.

The awards went as follows:

The Stan Greenway Memorial Trophy for the oldest machine was won by Scott Brown with his 1896 Leon Bollee Voiturette 660cc



The Bill Wood Memorial Trophy for the Best Post Vintage machine was won by Ian Alexander for his 1926 HRD Model Super 90 499cc. *No pic.*

The Post Vintage Cup for the best Post Vintage machine went to Jim Martin from Reading with his 1936 New Imperial Model 23 150cc



The Bob Cain Cup for the Best Coventry Built machine went to Barry Heath for his 1963 Triumph Tiger 90 350cc.



The Richard Hiorns Memorial Cup for the most desirable machine, as voted for by those present, went to Richard Woodcock's 1903 Royal Sovereign 240cc.



The Post-71 cup went to the only post 1971 machine on display – a 1991 Yamaha RXS100 98cc owned by Helen Marsay.

Finally a huge thank you must go to Robert Thomas, Geoffrey Booth and family for their hard work in organizing these Coventry Parades for the past many years. We hope to see them at future events in what ever form they take.



Bring a bike night at Kenilworth Rugby Club.

In spite of the unfavorable weather, around a dozen of us chose to arrive on bikes. The evening was spent mainly inside where we pored and reminisced over some of our photo archives which secretary Simon thoughtfully-brought with him. So with members chatting amongst themselves the evening was seen to be successful.



Pop up meet at the Pavilion Cafe, Lighthorne.

When we arrived at this popular venue we found that the car park was already full of bikes belonging to North Cotswold Section members! They were meeting there prior to an organised run to some hostelry, no doubt. We enjoyed good weather and good company at this pleasant location.

I took some video of the North Cotswold bikes leaving:

<https://youtu.be/9LYjFWJL1Ec?si=a2nK9TdF7kh0hle8> or search vmcc ride out 2024



Mid week 'pop up' at The Buck and Bell, Long Itchington.

Our second annual visit to this very nice pub near the duck pond. The bikes arrived 'in droves' until we had around 38 varied bikes parked along both sides of the lane. The weather was good as was the coffee and hot food.

It seemed that a couple of other club sections had joined in the occasion. Much chat was had with people not seen for a while. There was talk about this becoming a regular fixture. So was it worthwhile? It most certainly was.

Thanks to David Kendall and Andy Bean for a couple of these photo's.





Events that are coming soon

Sunday, Sept 8 Genteel Run a run for slower machines at a gentler pace. Meeting at the Blue Lias pub. To leave at 11.30 am. This run will meander through the lanes and end up back at the Blue Lias.

Wednesday, 11th Sept. 07.30 pm. Club Night at K.R.C. Guest speaker is Mike Wills presenting a talk on the End to End.

Sunday, 22nd Sept. A new ride in (or pop-up) for us, the historic venue called *Gasoline Juice at Weedon Bec*. Meet at the Long Itch Diner 10.00am for 10.30am off.

Friday 27th Sept. Coffee (and home made cakes) in aid of *McMillan* charity.

Allen House in Burton on Trent (VMCC HQ) is well worth a visit. The library is one of the best anywhere.

Sunday, 29th September. *Afternoon Tea/Cake run.*

Meet at Hatton Lay-by at 14.00pm for a short run into Wren Hall. (a highly recommended venue).

Christmas Lunch. Wednesday November 27.

We have held our festive get together at the Leamington golf Club for the past 2 years and it has been hailed a great success. The room is super with views over the golf course, the meal has been very good and the company, very pleasant. Tickets stay at a reasonable £25 per head and this year are payable in advance. You are most welcome to bring a guest if you wish. Please contact one of us or ask at one of our events. Below are a couple of pics from the last years lunch.



For sale and wanted

Wanted Pre war triumph tank badge for my 38 speed twin as I only have one original and one poor quality re-make. The original is brass and measures 4 1/4" in length and 1" high . Please if anyone has one sewn to their denim jacket or has one attached to their belt could I buy it?? 07794954858 regards, Martin



Parts for sale

3 off 650 Triumph Barrels, 1off 9 stud + .060" good bore. 2off 8 stud +.020" good bores.
£35 each or £95 the lot

1off Iron Triumph head modified with inlet stubs for twin carbs, big valves and gas flowed, quick head when I raced with it some years ago. £140

2 off pre unit Triumph cases, both with cranks will need checking. One with cams and timing wheels, one with new mains big bearings. £140 BB and SB £90

1off Triumph rigid rear wheel (I think). Rough but good hub with spindle and bearings £50

1off Norton Dommie rear wheel with Akront alloy flanged rim, brake plate, tyre and sprocket. £160. (I had an alloy rim fitted last year to a hub and it was over £300)

Two boxes of Pre unit triumph 4 sp gear clusters. Several complete sets of gears here £100

4 off pre unit Triumph timing cases. 2 Dynamo and 2 alternator types. Some with rev counter mods £25 or £30 depending which type

3 off Dommi Timing cases 2 with r/counter mods. £30 each or £80 for 3

1 Burman GB6 inner and outer gearbox castings £30

1 Norton AMC outer and inner gearbox castings modified for race bike with cut out like Manx £45

1 pair Command inlet manifolds £25

1 Velo long inlet manifold £10

1 TT carb bell mouth £15

1 Triumph 500 pre unit twin carb splayed manifold £15

1 Norton early Dommi twin carb manifold £10

1 late Norton F/bed chromed swing arm £35

3 sets of pre unit Triumph rocker boxes £35 set. £95

1 odd r/box £15

1 std 500 Pre unit Triumph std inlet manifold £15

1 Dommi inlet manifold £15

Various Monoblock and Concentric carbs some not very old or of little use. Also some remote early float chambers.

All above advertised elsewhere and all open to reasonable offers.

Tony. mob: 07504 901 937 Mail: nortones41000@gmail.com.
Hinckley

My **2011 Triumph Bonneville** is still for sale. A club member can buy it for just £2995. It is advertised elsewhere at a higher price.

Triumph Bonneville S.E.

£2995 or nearest.

I am selling my 'Bonnie' as I have bought a new Triumph Speed 400 and do not have room for both. Tel./text 07786718867. Barry.

2011 reg. 32K miles. New M.O.T. Numerous extras fitted. Owned 6 yrs.

Kept in dry workshop.
Reliable – toured
Yorkshire last year. 800
miles across Wales and
England this year. No
problems. Fair condition,
a couple of small dents in
the fuel tank.



I (Barry) also have for sale a brand new good quality fabric case/bag. It measures 16 inches (41cm) by 12 inches (30 cm) and will hold a 16.5” laptop. It has 3 large compartments, 1 medium sizes, and 2 small ones as pictured. All zipped. As well as handles, it also has a shoulder strap. £5 only.



VMCC Warwickshire Section Events diary 2024

(see notes at the bottom)

Sept.	1	Sun.	TOMCC open day and official opening of sponsored lounge at H.o.E. , Meriden
	8	Sun.	Genteel Run (DK)
	11	Wed.	Club night – Guest speaker Mike Wills presenting End to End
	15	Sun.	Hinckley Motor show in the town centre. An excellent event for all forms of transport including bikes. The area is always full of interesting vehicles. Well worth a visit.
	22	Sun.	Ride out to Gasoline Juice cafe, Weedon Bec. A new event. A recommended venue. Meet Long Itch Diner CV47 9QZ 10.00am for 10.30 start.
	27	Fri.	VMCC HQ McMillan coffee (and cake!) morning at Allen House. Newly added
	29	Sun.	Afternoon Tea & Cake Run (SD)
Oct.	9	Wed.	Club night – Bring & buy
	13	Sun.	Autumn Leaves Run (SD)
	26	Sat.	Open Day at National Motorcycle Museum. Free parking for bikes.
	27	Sun.	Ride in to the Antelope Inn, Lighthorne
Nov.	13	Wed.	Club night – Guest speaker Steve Allen
	27	Wed.	Christmas Lunch. Leamington Golf Club. Great venue. Highly recommended. Well attended last year. £25 each. Guests very welcome. Details to follow.
Dec.	11	Wed.	Club night Christmas Quiz

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

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

* if you know of an event you think members may be interested in then please contact one of the committee

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