

VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter

news letter No. 62

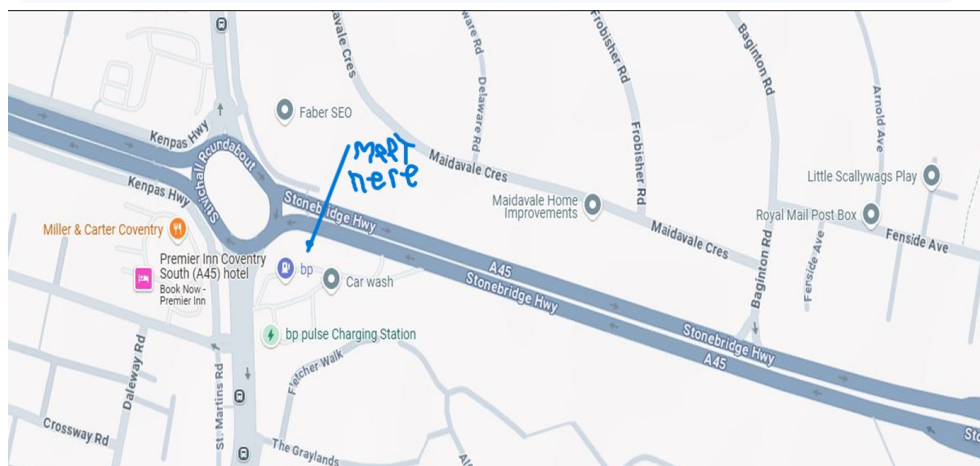
May 2024

The first few pages are filled with tributes to the legend that was Dave (Mac) McMahon. If you didn't know him you will get some idea of what he was like once you have read them.

Dave's funeral is on Tuesday May 6. The cortège will leave his home in Northy Road, Coventry CV6 5NE at 11.00 am and make its way to Canley Crematorium for a short service. Please note the other suggested meeting point: All are welcome.

Please see message from Dave Kendall regarding arrangements for Dave Mac funeral:-
"Just heard the latest from Mike Wills stating that anyone who wishes to follow the hearse from 5 Northey Rd, Foleshill (CV6 5NF) for 10- 11.00am at the very latest are welcome to follow by bike or car. However due to geographical unfamiliar areas especially on old bikes we are suggesting that VMCC members meet at the BP(M&S) petrol station on the A45 island opposite the Peugeot garage at 10.30am for 11.00am off to Canley Crematorium which is just up the road abt. Hopefully this will keep members from getting lost, stuck in traffic/roadworks or becoming split up"

I have attached a map for the petrol station at the A45 meeting point, let's give Dave a good send off on the day,
Ride safe, regards, Beesa Dave.



David Matthew McMahon 1934 - 2025



Eldest Son of John & Susan McMahon, Father to Carolyn & John, Grandfather to Shaun & Ashley.

David left the family farm in the 1950's to pursue a career in the 'motor city' of Coventry, a big step for an eldest son.

Moving from maintenance to motor engineering and running Tollgate Garage in Coventry for many years.

Branching out into propshaft repairs, success in this specialist area was set to continue.

Being bestowed with the roles of President of the Rudge Enthusiasts Club and also Vice-President of the VMCC topped off his love of Vintage Motorcycles.

In later years a rekindled interest in the 1950's Ferguson Tractors, with rebuilding a TE20 & 135. Enjoying many a road-run and having fun in ploughing competitions. Right back to being in front of George Wilsons in Newtownstewart N.I. sitting on the then new tractors in his youth.

** Reprinted from the Co-operative funeral Service document*

Martyn Baylis

I had known Dave since the mid 1960s before the section was formed. My late father was a good friend and I used to go around with him. I used to hear about him sprinting his Rudge, seeing him at many events: Coventry parade, Coventry to Brighton and many others. He was always helping my Dad and I. I shall miss him.

Barry Heath

In The 1980's and 90's I ran a small car repair business in Coventry and used to visit Dave's premises for c.v joints etc. He, at first, seemed gruff and tetchy but treated me well with kindness and fairness. His work was always first class and priced very fairly. At club events he showed his good humoured side with a twinkle in his eye.



3 images of Davemac at '1000 bikes' Mallory Park.
Ian Ellis

Here's a photo of Dave I took on The Coventry Parade, 2013

Obviously enjoying the ride on his beloved Rudge.
Great bloke, I remember him playing his squeeze box and singing (?) Then I think somebody stole it.
He also volunteered at the Coventry motor museum doing restoration work and acting as archivist

Alan Jones
(1927 Sunbeam and 49 Velo)



A few lines for the newsletter regarding our late friend DaveMac.

Andy Bean

“Many years ago when I first joined the Warwickshire section of the VMCC there was an advert for a trip to see the Sammy Miller museum in Hampshire. The pick up point was the National Motorcycle Museum but one had to be there early, something like 7.00 am if I remember correctly. I managed to catch the bus but there were few seats available so I sat down next to a jovial Northern Irishman who turned out to be Dave Mac. We sat and chatted all the way there and back. We talked about Motorcycles and a lot about Harry Ferguson and especially Dave’s early life in Northern Ireland and when he came over to Coventry looking for work. I could not have picked a better companion for the journey. He was a mine of information and often interspersed the conversation with a tale or three ! As far as I am aware Dave is one of the few people I know who actually met Harry Ferguson. Harry having died in 1960.

Getting to know Dave as a member of the VMCC and the Ferguson Heritage Club was a truly enjoyable experience one which I will always treasure.

I will really miss receiving the Christmas card from my good friend Dave Mac”

Harry Wiles remembers Dave

Having known such a character as Dave for nearly fifty years it is almost impossible to choose just a couple of my fondest memories. Most of my fondest memories were at the Irish National where Dave always took his accordion and got a tune out of it at every opportunity, that is to say every pub we stopped at. In 2005 we had not long left the lunch stop when we got to a regular pub stop, (see picture gallery) Dave got out the accordion and started up the music, it was not long before the children from the local school came running up the road with teachers in tow. We were treated to some wonderful Irish dancing by the children. After a while Dave gave the accordion to one of the children and proceeded to dance with the teachers, much to the amusement of the children. The music played, the dancing continued and the drinks flowed when someone said “do you know what the time is”. We were some forty miles from our hotel and it was only about an hour or so before the evening meal, needless to say we were late for dinner.

Another fond memory was again in Ireland. After the evening meal we would take a walk down to the bike mending area to see who was mending what, Dave always had sound advice on how to fix things. We would then adjourn to the Hotel Foyer and listen to endless tales of intrigue from Dave, Bud Ekin and others.

Thank you Dave for some wonderful memories.

Harry and late wife Fran.

You will not be forgotten.



Our final tribute is the one which will be in Vintage and Classic, our club monthly magazine.

Written by Mike Wills, a past president of the VMCC

Dave (Mac) McMahon. 1934-2025.

Dave Mac passed away on the 7th April aged 90 after a number of health issues in recent times.

Eldest Son of John & Susan McMahon, Father to Carolyn & John, Grandfather to Shaun & Ashley.

Dave left the family farm in Northern Ireland in the 1950's to pursue a career in the 'motor city' of Coventry, a big step for an eldest son.

Moving from maintenance with the city council to motor engineering and running Tollgate Garage in Coventry for many years.

Branching out into propshaft repairs, success nationwide in this specialist area was set to continue as Dave Mac Propshafts

In later years a rekindled interest in the 1950's Ferguson Tractors, with rebuilding a TE20 & 135. Enjoying many a road-run and having fun in ploughing competitions.

Being bestowed with the roles of President of the Rudge Enthusiasts Club and also Vice-President of the VMCC topped off his love of Vintage Motorcycles.

Dave was a founding member of the VMCC Warwickshire Section which he continued to support until ill health restricted him.

He was a keen supporter of the local Coventry Parade and was very disappointed when he could no longer ride his beloved Rudges. His collection ranged from Veteran to a Speedway Rudge.

He was an active member of the Rudge Enthusiasts Club and rode many miles on a variety of Rudges in his collection.

Many will remember him riding a Rudge sidecar outfit towing a Rudge caravan which he restored and used at weekend events.

He was involved in getting the Dreadnought back on the road

Many will also remember Dave on “ The Irish” when he would stop at the many pubs on route and get out his squeeze box and start to play. I recall one occasion when he was joined by local school children performing Irish dancing.

Dave was a supporter of weekend national events and in the evenings he would appear with his tin inside were glasses and a bottle of Bushmills which he would share with those assembled and often play a tune on the squeeze box.

We all have our own memories of Dave. I recall him turning up at the Cotswold Section annual dinner dressed as a Leprechaun. Dave had many stories, too many to recall here, and provided entertainment at many club nights.

He also supported son John during his racing with BHR and winning a championship of which Dave was very proud.

I was privileged to present Dave with a 90th Birthday card at the Coventry Parade last year.

I have known Dave most of my life and he was always happy to chat and help any member whenever possible.

Condolences to daughter Carolyn and son John and their families.

The VMCC has lost one of it's greatest characters and will be deeply missed.

A short report on a recent gathering of WW2 bikes, by Sarah Taylor

On a (relatively) sunny weekend early in April a dozen WW2 motorbikes were gathered near Droitwich for a weekend of beer and breakdowns! After lunch on Friday we had a local ride out to a pub for a pint in the sunshine and a shake-down of the various machines. Several unforeseen stoppages made for a worry about day two and confirmed that a support vehicle was indeed required. Day two dawned dry but cloudy. After a full English breakfast to sustain us the group headed towards Wales with an inevitable 'tea & wee' stop at Wolferton followed by a late lunch at Kington Golf Club. The club is on top of a hill so we had great views over the local countryside and it amused us to watch various golf balls running away from their owners. Our run home in the sunshine was another adventure with various bikes requiring coaxing back into life, though only one retired to the 'van of shame'. Day three saw the group joined by a couple more bikes and we headed to the Kickback Custom Show at Malvern. We created a bit of a stir as we entered the show ground and the custom bikes were interesting, though we all agreed we were happy with our oldies.



An upcoming event 8th May - VE Day

For many military vehicle owners the 8th May is an important date. It's when we celebrate and commemorate Victory in Europe and this 80th year is special as there are few veterans remaining. This year these two beauties will be in Guernsey on 8th May. German forces invaded the island on 30th June 1940 and stayed for five years. We'll join the Liberation Parade on 9th May to help mark the 80th anniversary of the departure of the invading forces.



Bring and Buy Sale At our Club Night in April over a £100 was raised by auctioning items donated by members. A good fun evening to raise funds for other events. Auctioneer Richard did a great job in prising money out of reluctant members!

The Girder fork Run attracted around 25 riders who met beneath the recently refurbished Chesterton Windmill for a short ride down to the very popular Gilk's Garage Cafe in Kineton. The weather was good, as was the coffee and banter.





Pop up at Long Itch Diner. This very recent event coincided with the Stafford Show but still attracted a dozen members on a bright Sunday morning.



Charles Kingston Welch

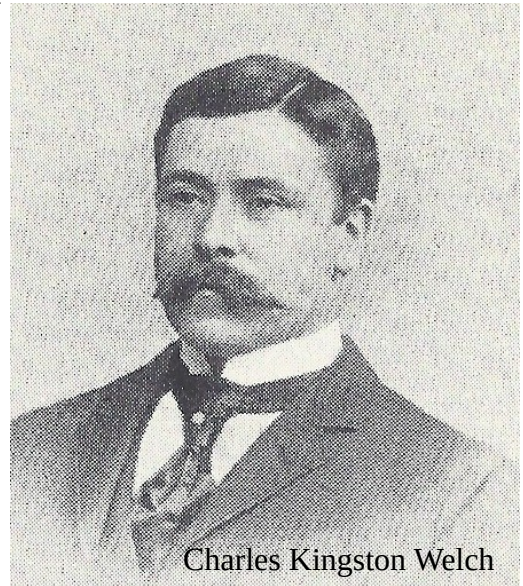
Although relatively unknown, he was at the forefront of tyre design in the 1890's. Filing several important patents.

Born in London in 1861, in 1890 he married and moved to the **Earlsdon area of Coventry**. He was a Consulting mechanical Engineer.

Welch's invention of the clincher tyre with tube, beaded edge and low-bed rim (1890) is considered more decisive for the economic success of the tyre industry than [John Boyd Dunlop's](#) (1888) invention of the pneumatic tyre. Without the 'well' round the centre of the rim it would be nigh on impossible to mount a tyre with a beaded edge. Prior to these improvements tyres were bolted or glued to the rim.

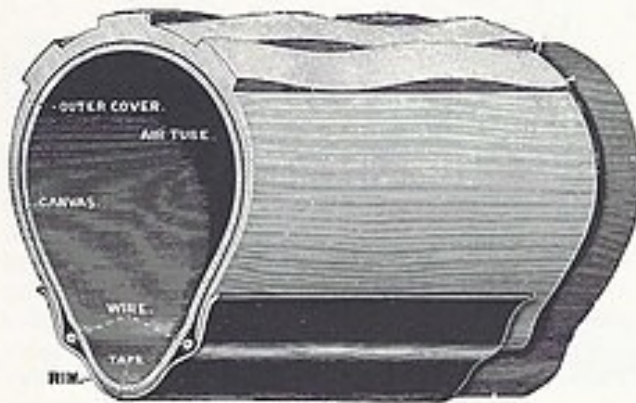
These patents were then sold to Dunlop, who had moved to Coventry around the same time. CKW seems to have done alright for himself, as according to the 1891 census the had 3 servants in his grand residences.

Several other of his patents were filed over the next few years. He then lived 'by private means' and died in the city in 1929.



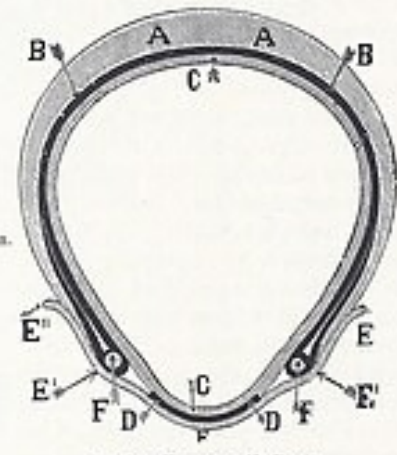
Charles Kingston Welch

Welch's invention as pictured in Wikipedia.....in German!



Dunlopreifen mit Welchs Antislippingmantel.

- A = Mantel.
- B = Mantelgewebe.
- C = Luftschlauch.
- D = Schutzband über den Speichenköpfen.
- E' E'' = Felge.
- F = Drahtlage.



Dunlop-Tourenreif. Profil.

Upcoming events

(both VMCC and others of interest)

May 6. DaveMac's funeral. See page 1 for details

May 14 Wed. Club night. A talk by Richard Woodcock about the Hesketh Motorcycle.

May 18 Sun. choice of events. Rugby Bikefest. A probable ride in. Norton O. C. Meet. the Wharf Inn, Fenny Compton, CV47 2FE

May 25 Sun. Breakfast Meet at Malt Kiln Farm. Stretton under Fosse, CV23 OPE. Lets have a great display of bikes there!

Huggy's Speedshop Sat - Mallory Park grounds. Date to be announced.

The May event will be coupled with a meeting of the Vincent Owners Club. As I write no date has been set. When it has been announced an email will be sent out. It should make what is a good event even better.

Kineton Classic vehicle gathering. Always an excellent event.



Pailton Steam Event – a change to our previous arrangement.

This year we are to become part of the Pailton Village Fete. To be held on July 6th 2025. From 1.00pm – 4.00pm. Same picturesque venue. The club have arranged for bikes to enter without charge to riders. We have our own pitch to show off our machines. The fete includes hot and cold food stalls, live music and a licenced bar. The usual boat and train rides will be running. A small fee will be required. More details may follow. This event attracts a crowd of several hundred.!

VMCC Warwickshire Section Events Diary 2025

* see notes at the bottom of the listings

May 14	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Guest speaker, R Woodcock presenting The Hesketh.
18	Sun.	<i>Rugby Bike fest and Norton Owners Club meet Welford, Northants.</i>
25	Sun.	Breakfast Ride-In...Malt Kiln Farm.
June 01	Sun.	Kenilworth Run. More details to follow. Always a good run.
08	Sun.	<i>75th Banbury Run, Gaydon</i>
11	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C.-Fish & Chip night
30	Mon.	<i>Cassington Bike night, Oxford</i>
July 02	Wed.	Chairman's Social Meet (Blue Lias Inn)
06	Sun.	<i>Pailton Village fete. We are having a dedicated area for gazebo and bikes</i>
09	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. (Bring yer Bike night)
20	Sun.	Founders Day, Stanford Hall
Aug. 03	Sun.	Bill Lacey Run.
10	Sun.	70 th Coventry Parade, Napton Village Hall
13	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Bike Night Ride In.
17	Sun.	Afternoon Tea & Cake run
Sept. 07	Sun.	Genteel Run
10	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Interesting Film Night
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.*

For sale...or wanted

Triumph Street Twin £5500

2021 plate 12500 miles just been serviced by blade and mot'd



Harley Davidson Street Bob FXDB

2010. 1585cc.

Mileage 4200. Excellent condition
never been out in the rain.

£8000.

Phone Peter 07773771660



Continued on next page

Wanted by Barry.

7 inch Twin Leading shoe front brake assembly for my 1963 Tiger 90. 500cc 'C' range bikes had one. Also some BSA's etc. Any bits you have will be considered.

I have been half-heartedly been thinking about upgrading the front brake for some time but an event this week brought the need to get one to the fore:

I was riding through Binley Woods, towards Coventry Speedway Stadium. As I approached the Roseycombe pub an elderly myopic pub regular pulled out of the car park intending to turn right across my path having failed to see me through his boozy haze. I tried to brake sharply and veer in front of his Mercedes but hit it. This caused me to gracefully fly over the handlebars and land in a heap with the bike next to me. Luckily I sustained only a painful and grazed left foot and arm. A passer-by called for an ambulance and therefore the Police because we suspected the driver was over the alcohol limit. He admitted to the ambulance crew that he had drunk a 'couple of pints' but amazingly, when tested by the police, he was under the limit.!! My T90 – which I am riding to Weymouth next week- seems to have escaped with minor damage i.e. a bent back brake lever and riders footrest and, worst of all, a bent side panel. After being checked out by a medic I weighed up the options, rode the bike around the pub car park and decided to ride it home; although the pub's duty manager had offered to lock in away securely until it could be collected. Absolutely by chance my next door neighbour arrived at that moment and offered me a lift home! She then offered to follow me home – just in case of a problem – but I got home ok although the chain rattled against the chain case all the way.



This afternoon (Friday) Steve Bradwick kindly came to my house to check the bike over, straighten the foot rest, and road test it. He deemed it to be road worthy. So my trip is still on, which I thought unlikely in the moments I was airborne!

-----000000000000-----

