



VMCC Warwickshire Section Newsletter



News Letter No. 71

April 2026

Hello to you all. Some of you may have wondered about the drawing at the top of this page: In the very early days of the news letter, during lock down, we wanted some sort of banner heading. So David Kendall, who is a talented artist and has a painting hung in the Herbert museum and art gallery in Coventry at this moment, drew the picture then his equally talented daughter added the colour.

Moving on we have more information and interesting articles in these pages plus more of your 'for sale or wanted' ads. Once again I must request the assistance of some one possibly interested in taking over the enjoyable role of compiling and editing future editions of your news letter. We feel that it is too good a means of communicating the activities of our section to let it pass away. So please consider it and have a word with me.

Our events for April in brief. More information in this news letter.

April 8 club Night at K.R.C. Guest Speaker.

April 12 Girder Fork Run To Kineton

April 23 Mid week mystery run.

April 25/26 Stafford Bike Show

Plus if the weather is favourable we may have a 'pop up'.

A Chairman's Chat.....from an early news letter.

Those were the daze.....!

I have submitted a photograph of myself as a young man, with my favourite motorcycle of that time period. The machine is a customised Honda 750 four K1. In those days most of my bikes were non-standard; notice the extra chrome on the front brake calliper, clocks and engine casings, not to mention the alloy rims and non-standard paint job. I bet it's been restored to showroom condition by now. How times change!



The Honda 750 with its lovely sounding four into one exhaust system was used extensively, including going to pubs and concerts (David Bowie springs to mind) and touring Europe complete with camping gear strapped on the back. The shirt I am wearing, of course pre dates the current hipster trend. This one was more attuned to the 'Neil Young' look, of which I am still an admirer. Apart from the bike, a battered Lewis leather jacket and some other items of motorcycle gear were basically the sum parts of my life's belongings.

Take note of the gates in the background. My father would religiously repaint them along with other parts of our family home once a year. He never bothered with an official colour chart, instead, any leftover tins of paint were all mixed up to create an original and hard-wearing finish to be applied to window sills and other parts of the woodwork. These days, the posh paint companies would name that particular shade 'brazed salmon' or some such cobblers, not forgetting that this was before people could afford plain white UPVC double glazing.

Eventually my Honda was part-exchanged for another customised motorcycle. This time, a Triumph Thunderbird resplendent in extra chrome, metal flake gold paint, high handlebars and loud exhausts. I often wish I still had the Thunderbird because that unique customised motorcycle was a gorgeous thing to look at and to ride. If I was lucky enough to own it now, it would certainly not go back to showroom condition!

Now I have shown you a glimpse into my past, how about you doing the same? Drainpipe trousers or flares, mopeds or monsters – share with us a snapshot into your misspent youth, and your best or worst bike.

Stay safe..... David Kendall

What we have done recently

March 11 Club Night K.R.C. Bring and Buy auction

A great selection of 'goodies' was donated by the members to be sold off to the benefit of club funds. Around 30 members attended and raised a good amount for the section. The most expensive item was saved till last and was a Triumph dealer poster from 1974 which D.K. – the donor – said was extremely rare. Yours truly bid for it on behalf of the TOMCC Meriden Branch and expected to get it with just a small bid or two....but another member took a shine to it and forced me to pay £50 for it! Our treasurer, who also attended, did not share my resolve to pay what ever it took. I also bought a clock after the auction had finished but it 'disappeared' whilst I was helping to tidy the room.



Auctioneer Richard sells a helmet as David looks on ready to hand it to the buyer and collect the payment

March 22 Mike Hailwood Memorial Run.

This was a joint run with the TOMCC. Some of the riders are members of both clubs.

10 of us met at Farmers Fayre Cafe in the Stoneleigh Park show ground including Peter Wilson on his 1929 Sunbeam Model 9 and recent new member Andy Walker on a 200cc Honda Benley. The weather was good and dry for a change (the past 2 years had been damp with a resultant lack of participants.) As we



neared Umberslade Farm we very briefly paused at the entrance to the 'infamous?' Umberslade Hall where the design team from BSA and Triumph worked on improvements to existing models and new models. After refreshments at the tastefully rustic farm cafe (Espresso Farm) we rode the half mile into Tanworth in Arden with enough time to visit the great man's grave before the Bell Pub opened for a swift libation before heading home.

The feedback comments were positive so we will probably do it again next year.

March 28 Spring Run. The traditional first Run of the year.

With the threat of copious amounts of rain forecast it was a brave decision to go ahead with the event. As it happened the weather gods were kind to us. About 15 of us met at the roadside cafe in Willoughby. A fair mix of machines from 1959 to 2017. Beeza Dave then led us on a 30 mile ride around the Warwickshire and Northampton countryside through little villages and over cattle grids! The role of 'tail-end Charlie' was given to Andy Walker, who will be leading his own run later this month. We ended up at the revamped Blue Lias between Stockton and Long Itchington. It now boasts a motoring theme and hosts various gatherings of classic cars and bikes. I believe that most riders managed to get home before the rain came.



Upcoming Events

In a little more detail

**April 8 Wednesday, Club night at Kenilworth Rugby Club
Glasshouse Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2AJ. 8 pm start.**

We have a speaker, Craig Szczpek, who is a motorcycle racer.

April 12 Sunday. The girder Fork Run.

A run which encourages older bikes to be ridden.

We meet on the road alongside Chesterton Windmill and enjoy a leisurely ride down to the very popular Gilk's Garage Cafe on the edge of Kineton. In conjunction with the Banbury Section. 10.00 for 10.30 start.

April 19th Anyone with a military bike want a run out to assist a charity? military vehicles gathering at Combe Mill, near Witney OX29 8ET (combemill.co.uk) No monetary compensation, but grateful thanks from the volunteers and a free cuppa. It's an interesting museum with plenty of parking, and a friendly bunch of military vehicle enthusiasts usually turn out. If you are interested then Contact Margaret Gruber by email combemill@talktalk.net

April 23rd Thursday. 10.00 for 10.30. A mystery ride out.



Andy Walker has kindly arranged a mid week ride out to a mystery location so please support him and enjoy a ride in the countryside to somewhere I'm sure will be good. We will meet at the Hatton lay by, just along from the turning to Hatton locks.

April 25/26 The Stafford Bike Show (more formally called the International Classic Motorcycle Show sponsored by Carole Nash)

This is obviously not a VMCC event but a very pleasant way to spend a day amongst the club stands (VMCC Allen House should be there). Hundreds of bikes displayed plus loads of trade and auto jumble pitches both inside and outside. Free parking, and reduced entry tickets if booked before hand.

Looking further ahead: See the full list as it stands at the moment at the end of this news letter. More details will be given nearer the dates.

Nigel Morris is helping to organise a charity event for later in the year:

Supporting Our Community: A Classic Car & Motorcycle Gathering for Thurlaston Meadows



Every so often, something unexpected and rather wonderful grows out of a simple conversation. That's exactly what happened recently within the VMCC world. An overheard comment, a casual chat, and suddenly I found myself helping to organise a classic car and motorcycle show in support of a local care home — Thurlaston Meadows.

This cause sits close to my heart. Having Mum spend some time in a care home in 2025, up until her passing, I know how much joy and meaning day trips can bring to residents. Thurlaston Meadows are hoping to raise funds to take their residents on more outings — to places a little further afield, a little more exciting, and a lot more memorable. If we can help make that happen, then I'm all in.

I'm pleased to say the Warwickshire Section of the VMCC is now involved, and together we're aiming to put on a strong, eye-catching display of classic machinery. The attached event poster contains all the details, but there's one special perk I negotiated on behalf of our members: a free cup of hot tea or coffee on arrival, simply for letting the organisers know in advance that you're coming. That's it — no forms, no fuss, just a warm welcome for turning up in support.

The event runs from 11:00am to 3:00pm, with food available on site and plenty happening throughout the day. It's not just a good outing for us as motorcyclists — it's a genuinely enjoyable family event. There'll be live music from a band and a talented

singer, plus children's entertainment to keep younger visitors happy.

For me, it's been quite a journey: from being "just another old motorcyclist" to suddenly becoming a committee member, and now helping to organise an event — albeit a modest one. Oddly enough, it's left me feeling rather empowered. It's a reminder that our club isn't just about bikes; it's about community, camaraderie, and doing something positive while enjoying the machines we love.

I'll be there with three bikes, hoping we can put on a solid VMCC display. More importantly, I hope we can give the residents of Thurlaston Meadows something special — the chance to get out, explore, and enjoy life beyond the care home.

If you have any questions, see me. It would be great to talk — and even better to see you there.

**4TH ANNUAL
THURLASTON MEADOWS
CLASSIC CAR
&
MOTORCYCLE
SHOW**

11am - 3pm **Adults £3
Kids free**

22ND AUGUST 2026

FREE ENTRY
FREE HOT DRINK TO ALL
PRE-BOOKED EXHIBITORS

FACE PAINTING • LIVE MUSIC
GREAT FOOD STALLS
PRIZES & TROPHIES

 **Thurlaston
Meadows
Care Home**

Thurlaston Meadows Care Home, Main Street, Thurlaston, Nr Dunchurch, Rugby, CV23 9JS
Telephone: 01788 522405 Email: catering@thurlastonmeadows.com

CRAIG SZCZYPEK



ROAD RACER



THE TAVERNERS



PRESENT

FOUNDERS DAY

SUNDAY 19th July 2026

www.thetaverners.co.uk

THIS YEAR'S THEME **80 years of the VMCC and Flat Tankers**



Steve Colley will be putting on trick trial riding displays in the arena

Camping will be available by pre book only via an online form early 2026
For autojumble stalls please download the form from our website in late February

MASSIVE MOTORCYCLE AUTOJUMBLE

STANFORD HALL

NEAR LUTTERWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE LE17 6DH

Arena Events • Motorcycle Displays • Beer Tent

ADMISSION: 9.00am Adults £12 • Children U16 Free

We shall be having a stand there, as we have done for many years and always request that you bring a bike – or two – to display there. More details nearer the date.

VMCC 80th anniversary logo

You will have noticed this circular image which I am using on the heading of all news letters this year. Our newest committee member Nigel had the initiative to have some stickers made.

These are now available to buy and adorn your top box, helmet, phone case or where ever else you choose to stick one! I stuck one into a pin-on badge I found lying around.



They are 50mm- 2inches in old money as shown on my phone case.



They will be available from committee members at the next club night.

They will cost you £1 each or a bargain £2 for 3.

We sold a load at the Spring Run so get yours while stocks last!

For Sale or wanted

Following on from the untimely loss of our fellow Member (VJMC) Stuart Wright last November his wife, Christine has **3 bikes to sell.**

Details and images below along with Christine's details, the bikes are located in Rothwell. Please feel free to circulate this to anyone who may be interested so that we can help Christine move on with her life following her tragic loss.

Suzuki FZ50 1982, 920 miles, would also suit anyone with a motorhome, £820

Honda CMX250 Rebel 1994, 11435 miles. Much admired, £1500

Honda CB250RS 1982, 24129 miles. £1300 or £1500 with a large pile of spares

All 3 bikes were running when Stuart passed. The bikes have to go, without Stuarts expertise and support we cannot look after them.

Christine - 07789 076817



Wanted

7 inch or 8 inch BSA front hub c/w brake suitable for installation into Sunbeam S8. This type of hub / brake often fitted to B31, B33, A7 or A10

Contact :- Andy Bean 07789 – 651188 or andybean53@hotmail.com

VMCC Works Events Calendar 2026		
		Club night at K.R.C. Guest speaker: Craig Szczpek, Motorcycle racer.
12	Sun.	Girder forks run to Gilks Garage Cafe, Kineton with Banbury Section.
25/26	Sat/Sun	Stafford Motorcycle Show. <i>Barry may have a spare seat or two in the vehicle.</i>
May 13	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Guest Speaker: Richard Woodcock: Hesketh Motorcycles
17	Sun.	Norton Owners Club Meet at Wharf Inn, Welford.
31	Sun.	Breakfast Meet at Malt Kiln Farm.
June 07	Sun.	76th Banbury Run, Gaydon. Also Bamburgh Run, Northumberland
10	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Fish and Chips + bikes.
14	Sun.	Kenilworth Run.
18	Thurs	Baton Relay Rally, handover from N.Cotswold Section at Farmers Fayre
28	Sun.	Baton Relay Rally, handover to Banbury Section at Gilks Garage Cafe.
29	Mon.	Cassington Bike Night, near Oxford.
July 01	Wed.	Chairman's Social Meet. The Nelson, Stockton.
* 05	Sun.	<i>Pailton Fete including Steam event. Our bikes will be displayed.</i>
08	Wed.	Club Night at K.R.C. Bring yer bike plus speaker: Patrick Fitzgerald
19	Sun.	Founders Day, Stanford Hall.
Aug. 02	Sun.	Bill Lacey Run to Evenley, Northants.
09	Sun.	71st Coventry Parade, Napton Hall.
12	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Bring your bike night.
16	Sun.	Afternoon tea and cake run to Wren Hall.
22	Sun.	Thurlaston Classic Car and Bike Show. More details later.
Sept. 06	Sun.	Genteel Run.
09	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Guest Speaker: Cliff Kirby
20	Sun.	Gasolene Juice Run, Weedon Bec.
Oct. 04	Sun.	Girder Fork Run.
14	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Bring and Buy Night
18	Sun.	Autumn Leaves Run.
24	Sat.	National Motorcycle Museum Open day.
25	Sun.	Antelope Inn Meet. Lighthorne.
Nov. 11	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Guest speaker: Calum Lockie, Racer.
25	Wed.	Warwickshire Section Christmas lunch.
Dec. 09	Wed.	Club night at K.R.C. Christmas Quiz + nibbles.

*Events in italics are not organised by us but are of interest to section members * date not yet confirmed*