

MARCH 2026

POND LIFE



The Kings Arms
RM16 3LX
Saturday 28th March

Sign Up Day
10.00 - 15.00

Lakeside Chapter

cake sale merchandise preloved stall Tombola **Dola AI**

The poster features a Harley-Davidson shield logo in the center, with a motorcycle parked on a dirt road in front of a sunset background. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

LAKE SIDE

CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 7958



PAGES

5

DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Phill gives us all the latest news, including a reminder about the Committee Roles that are open for applications.



6

A BIG LAKESIDE "THANK YOU"

We say a big "Thank you" to Carl Webb and Ann Poston who are stepping back from their Committee roles.



7

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFTEY

Ash has some words of wisdom on how riding a Harley can be a little different.



9

FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Chris shares what the Chapter is up to with regards to fundraising and our work with the chosen charity.



10

LADIES OF HARLEY

Pam shares the news for the ladies.



18

EVENTS

Sue and Pam bring us news about upcoming events, as well as photographic evidence of what we've been up to.



23

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Lynn gives us some tips on looking after ourselves as we come out of winter.



24

LAKESIDE FACEBOOK PAGE

Mandy updates us on our new open Facebook page.



+

MORE

Merchandise, ride reports, future rides, and can you help find an elusive part!?



COMMITTEE



DIRECTOR
PHILL POSTON



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
VACANCY



CHAPTER SECRETARY
NEIL SEARLE-JONES



TREASURER
STEVE WINTERS



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
MARY HARRIS



LADIES OF HARLEY OFFICER AND
JOINT EVENTS OFFICER
PAM SMART



FUNDRAISING OFFICER
CHRIS BELL



HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN AND SAFETY
OFFICER
ASHLEY SMART



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
AND JOINT EVENTS OFFICER
SUE STURTON



PHOTOGRAPHER
MANDY SMITH



WEBMASTER AND HISTORIAN
KEVIN SMITH



WELFARE OFFICER
LYNN GUNN



MERCHANDISE
VACANCY



EDITOR
TONY HITCHING

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to this March edition of Pondlife.

I appreciate that this issue is coming to you a few days later than usual, but that is because having been fed up with persistent rain Angie and I popped off to Boa Vista for a week to get some sun on our backs...only to find that on the day we left Mr Hopper was leading a ride to a sun drenched Southend sea front (with photos to prove it – see later in this edition).

This month's edition is jammed pack with fantastic items so a big thank you to all who contributed. And that important stuff starts with our front cover – don't forget sign up day on 28th March at the King's Arms from 10am.

As for the other important stuff, we say a big Lakeside Chapter "Thank You" to Carl Webb and Ann Poston who are stepping back from their roles as Assistant Director and Merchandising Officer respectively (see page 6). Other roles are also becoming available as part of the regular renewal of Committee roles, so if you are interested in taking on a role within the Committee please turn to page 30 where full role descriptions can be found.

Elsewhere we have our regular updates from Phill, Ash, Chris, Pam and the Events Team of Sue and Pam. Additionally we have an update on our new public Facebook page from Mandy (page 24), a reminder on looking after ourselves – and the importance for asking for help – as Lynn gives us some wellbeing tips (page 23), and speaking of help, can you help one of our members track down an elusive part for his prized Harley? See page 29 for details.

So, as I said, a jam packed Pondlife this month with some quite different items from the usual.

I'll leave you to enjoy Pondlife and I'll no doubt see many of you soon, if not on the road then at least at Sign-Up Day.



Tony H



DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Thank heavens February is over..!! It's fantastic to see the March Chapter Calendar. I make it eight Ride Outs, one Social, one Natter Night, one Committee and one Road Crew meetings and one Chapter Sign-Up day..!!! That's at least two Chapter related events every week.

Harley Davidson are coming to Essex (to the Country Café in Ingatestone) on the 16th & 17th May with their Experience Tour. They've asked Lakeside

Chapter to plan and lead the Demo Rides all weekend. We'll also have a Membership stall along with Maidstone Dealership who will (no doubt) be trying to sell everyone who has been on a Demo Ride a new Harley!! It's bloody unfortunate that this is the same weekend as the Iron Horse Rally.

Later in the year we've been contacted by the Billericay Summerfest Team asking if we'd like to ride in to their event on 5th July (hangovers permitting after our 15th Birthday Party celebrations we'll be attending on the 4th). Also we've been asked to lead the Billericay Community Parade (carnival) on September 13th and I've just put down the phone from the Helen Rolloson Cancer Charity who have invited us to attend their annual fundraiser at Headingham Castle on 12th July. We're going to have a fantastically busy year riding.

I am very sorry to say the Committee are saying a massive "Thank You" to Carl Webb and Ann Poston who are resigning or standing down from the Committee. They've both been amazing. I'm pleased to say then neither of them are leaving the Chapter and I look forward to the most important reason for Lakeside Chapter which is friendship and riding. More about that later in this awesome edition of 'Pondlife'.

Bloody "well done" to all the Road Crew who gave up their Sunday afternoon last week to go to South Woodham Ferrers Fire Station for their First Aid refresher course. While we all hope we never, ever have to use any of the skills and techniques learnt, it is still a comfort to know that every single member of the Road Crew is fully qualified in Emergency First Aid and specifically road and motorbike incidents.

I know that Mary has been very busy planning the 2026 Chapter Sign-Up day which will be at our Natter Night venue, The Kings Arms on Saturday 29th March. Hopefully I'll see you all there.

"Well Done" Tony, again, for an amazing edition of Pondlife and for everyone contributing to it's contents.

Ride safe everyone,

Phill 'Rainman'



IT'S A "THANK YOU", BUT NOT "GOODNIGHT"

"Thank You" Carl

This month we say a massive "Thank You" to Carl, who has resigned as the Chapter's Assistant Director. I first met Carl in a car park somewhere off the A127 where we were waiting to meet with the rest of the Chapter to do a Prom Night 'Ride-In' for one of the nurse's daughters from Basildon Hospital.



He had an Army Green Softail Slim (with the US Military Star on the Petrol Tank). We chatted, laughed and joked for about 15 minutes before we realised we were both in the wrong car park!! In the years since then we've become good friends and Carl was a natural choice as Assistant Director when the opportunity arose. Before then he'd had a go as Membership Officer waaaay back in 2022. Carl has been directly responsible for our 'Mercy Run' to Ukraine, he's planned and led numerous European Ride Outs and has constantly been one of the most active Road Captains in the Chapter. Carl has been heavily involved in managing the Chapter Web Site and most recently the emails. He's also been in charge of keeping the Chapter By-Laws up to date (an unenviable task while they're still in a relative state of flux). Carl has always been a keen supporter of our Charity and a champion of the Aaron Lewis Foundation, both with the Club and personally. It's fair to say he's a character. Don't panic...!!! Carl isn't leaving the Chapter and will still continue on the Road Crew as a Road Captain.

"Thank You" Ann

I'd better get this right or I'll be sleeping in the garden shed for the rest of the Year!!

Ann is standing down as Merchandise Officer. She had no choice of being aware of the Chapter since I joined in 2014 but was happy to 'let me go and ride around a bit'. Fortunately, this didn't last too long and she joined in 2018.

Ann took on the role of Merchandise Officer in 2023 and researched a new supplier and created a whole new range of Chapter Merch.



This has over time been updated with new lines appearing including the 2026 15th Anniversary range (to be released on Sign-Up Day). A quick look around any Chapter Ride Out or Event will see just how successful the Merchandise Officer has been. Ann's not leaving the Chapter either. She's moving aside for someone with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm to take over the role. She'll stay on for the 15th Anniversary range and manage a 'hand-over' during the summer. She'll also continue on Ride Outs if I can drag her away from our first Grandchild??????

Phill, on behalf of the whole of Lakeside Chapter

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY

As we edge closer to spring and the days start stretching a little longer, the promise of better riding weather is finally on the horizon and hopefully we've had the last of the continuous rain! The chill is easing off, the roads are drying out, and before long we'll all be logging more miles, more laughs, and more time together on two wheels (...and three!).

This is the time of year I always look forward to—when everyone's bikes come out of hibernation, the calendar fills up, and the excitement for the year ahead really kicks in. As your Head Road Captain, my focus remains the same: keeping our rides organised, enjoyable, and above all, safe as we transition back into more frequent ride-outs. The Road Crew have undertaken Biker First Aid training and whilst we hope never to use it, you can ride assured that all the crew have the knowledge to step in and assist if anything does ever happen.

So, give your bikes a little pre-season check, dust off the gear, and get ready if you have yet to venture out. We've got some great rides coming, and I can't wait to see the chapter back in force on the road together.

Here's to brighter days, lots of miles, and a fantastic start to a year full of adventures.



HARLEY-DAVIDSON RIDER SAFETY

As Harley riders we take pride in the machine beneath us —its weight, its torque, and the unmistakable presence it has on the road. But a Harley also demands respect. Whether you're on a Softail, a Touring bike, or a Sportster, staying safe means riding smart, riding aware, and riding like a team.



1. Know Your Bike's Weight and Power

Harleys are heavier than most motorcycles, so:

Brake earlier—these bikes have momentum.

Take slow-speed manoeuvres seriously—U-turns, parking, and tight corners require balance and clutch control.

Avoid sudden inputs—smooth throttle and braking make the ride safer and more controlled.

(continued next page)

2. Gear Up Like a Harley Rider Should

Classic Harley style and safety do go hand in hand.

A DOT-approved full-face or half-helmet

Armoured leather or textile jacket—protection without losing the look

Boots with ankle support

Gloves with good grip

Harley gear is designed for both protection and the ride experience—use it.

3. Stay Visible—You Ride Low and Long

Harleys sit low, making visibility essential.

Use your headlight at all times

Wear visible colours in addition to your cuts on long group rides (our crew wear reflective vests)

Stay out of blind spots—especially around SUVs and vans

Use clear, decisive signals when riding with the chapter

4. Group Riding: Ride the Harley Way

Harley chapters have one rule: we ride as one, and we look after each other.

Keep a staggered formation

Maintain 2 seconds behind the rider directly ahead

Don't weave or drift—hold your line

If the pack slows, ease off smoothly rather than slamming on the brakes

Listen to the ride briefing and know what system is being used, Buddy/Second Man drop off.

If someone drops out, we always make sure they're okay (the crew will ensure a member is safe and has a working phone before leaving them)

A chapter ride is not a race—it's a collective experience. Some rides will be a quicker pace than others but always within the permitted speed limits, we always want to make good progress but be safe. If a longer ride is going to involve filtering through traffic the Road Captain will ensure everyone is happy to filter during the briefing, once out of the traffic the RC will ride accordingly to ensure the pack bunches back up.

5. Respect the Torque

Harleys deliver strong low-end torque, especially on Milwaukee-Eight engines.

Ease into the throttle when pulling away from stops

Be mindful on gravel, paint lines, and wet patches

Avoid powering out of a corner too early—let the bike settle first

All new models have traction control and stability modes together with modes for various conditions...use them they are there to help.

6. Be Ready for the Noise Factor

That Harley roar is iconic—but it can mask traffic sounds.

Double-check at junctions

Assume drivers haven't heard or seen you.....!

Stay hyper-aware in urban traffic

7. Seasonal Awareness

As spring approaches:

Roads may still have grit, potholes, and damp patches

Tyres may need pressure resets after winter storage

Batteries on Harleys (especially with accessories) may need checks and charging.

Give your bike a proper pre-season shake-down before the miles start adding up.

Ride Safe and Have Fun.....Ash



FUNDRAISING OFFICER



Hello guys and gals, it looks like the riding season is now under way (although we never stop) so ride safe and rubber side down.

Just a couple of things for you to put in your diaries this month and April: on Wednesday 25th March we will be having a ride to Billericay Food Bank delivering Easter Eggs for those who are struggling to make ends meet; then on the 8th April Natter Night Helen and Barry from Aaron Lewis Foundation will be coming along for the presentation of the monies raised by us all.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank you all for your donations throughout the year, your generosity never fails to amaze us all.

Chris



LADIES OF HARLEY



LADIES OF HARLEY

Happy March 2026.

As we roll into March, there is a real sense that spring is finally stretching its legs. The days are getting a little brighter, the air a touch softer, and that familiar itch to get the bikes back out on the open road is starting to return. It is the time of year when we dust off the leathers, check the tyres, and look forward to those first proper rides of the season.

Before we all head out, it feels important to pause and check in with one another. Winter can be long, and everyone has had their own journey through it. I hope you are all doing well, feeling ready for the months ahead, and looking forward to reconnecting—whether that is on two wheels or over a cuppa.

March brings the promise of new adventures, fresh routes, and shared miles. Let us make it a month of getting together, planning adventures, riding safely, and enjoying the return of the season we love most.



Valentine at Natter Night

Thank you to all the wonderful Ladies of Harley who came along to Natter Night. It was such a joy to see your smiling faces, share a laugh, and spend time together off the bikes. Watching each of you receive your Valentine sunflower was a real highlight—just a small token to remind you how bright, kind, and genuinely lovely you all are. Your spirit, warmth, and camaraderie are what makes this group so special, and nights like these are a perfect reminder of how lucky we are to have one another.

(continued next page)



**Sign-up Day Baking
Saturday 28 March 2026
Kings Arms
10am-3pm**

Bring your best cakes and savouries to our Sign-up Day baking stall. Last year's entries were wonderfully creative – and many were requested again – so we would love to see your favourites return. All contributions will be available to members on the day for a small donation.

Bring your bakes on the day or arrange collection in advance with me.

Please let me know if you can take part and tell me what you plan to bake as this event could not happen without your support.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.



A Huge Thank-you for Supporting Your Chapter.

So, Ladies what adventure have we got in store for you in the up-and-coming months?

- March – Brunch / Cooking Night / Sign-up Bakes
- April – Bingo – date to be confirmed
- Paddle boarding 14th June 2026 & 20th September 2026
- July – London for the day – date to be confirmed
- Glass House Spa – August 2026 – date to be confirmed

(continued next page)

Do it Yourself Afternoon Tea & Picnic - October 2026
November 26th Christmas Show
November – Wreath making – Date to be confirmed
December 12th Christmas Cruise
December – Christmas Market – date to be confirmed

Ladies with all the above adventures, please contact me (email / WhatsApp / phone) if you have any questions or queries.

Finally, until we meet again beneath open skies and rumbling engines, farewell for now, Ladies of Harley. I will see you soon on the next ride or at our next adventure.

Pam
XX



(continued next page)



Come and join us on an exciting Indian Cooking Demonstration Lesson

Friday 27th March 2026

Time: 19:00

Cost: £5:00

(payable to the chapter, REF: Curry Night)

Address: 2 Gardiners Cottage (Pam's House)

**Ladies, please join me in an Indian Cooking Lesson, by our very own
Shilpa Winters. A chance to learn how to make the most gorgeous
Indian Cuisine!**

There will also be an opportunity to make Chapatis too!

**Places are limited so please let me know as soon as possible if you
wish to attend!**

Pam XX

Sign-up Day Baking
Saturday 28th March 2026

We have our wonderful 'Baking Event' for Sign-up Day' coming soon, (Saturday 28th March 2026) which I know quite a few of you are always so keen to become involved in.

Last year saw fantastic, creative cakes and savouries', some even too good to eat! Again, this year, we have had requests (from non-bakers) for certain cakes and savouries to be made again!

So once more, I would like to invite you to 'Bake' cakes and savoury delights for our special 'Sign-up Day'!

It would be wonderful if you could let me know whether you would like to take part and more importantly the delights you would like to bake!

Your wonderful Bakes are then available for our members on 'Sign-up' Day for a small donation.

I am happy to collect bakes or simply bring them along on Sign-up day.

I want to say a huge 'Thank you' in advance because it could not happen without you!

I look forward to hearing from you soon!



SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!!

Lakeside Ladies of Harley

Paddle Boarding Event Repeated!!!!

Date: 18th July & 20th September 2026 (Both Dates)



St Andrews Lake

2, Quarry Grove, Rochester, Kent ME2 1BA

Cost: to be confirmed (3-hour session)

Time: To be confirmed

It really does not matter that you have never paddled boarded before and you do not need to own a paddle board.

Come along, try something new with friends!

We have repeated this event as it was so much fun and we did not stop laughing and some of us even conquered some fears!!

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Pam

XX

I hope you can join us!

JOIN US FOR A

2026

LADIES OF HARLEY CHRISTMAS PARTY CRUISE

DECEMBER

12th

16:00PM

**CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN STYLE WITH A 5
COURSE DINNER, SHOW, DISCO &
OVERNIGHT FESTIVE STAY INCLUDING
BREAKFAST.**

**FOR £149:00 PER-PERSON
(sharing a cabin)**

(please pay the chapter Ref: Cruise) Non-refundable

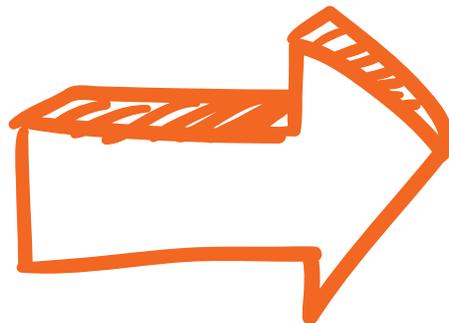
**Please contact Pam as soon as possible
to book your place!**

**Ambassador Cruises
Tilbury**

EVENTS



Lakeside Chapter welcome in the Chinese New Year



EVENTS

Dear Lakeside Chapter members, welcome on behalf of the Event Team. We extend a warm invitation to participate in our upcoming events.

Our programme is designed for all and focuses on camaraderie, fun and community. Please consult the events calendar for details and contact your Event Team (Pam & Sue) if you have questions or suggestions. We look forward to seeing you at our next gathering which will not be long!

Lakeside Chapter proudly answered the national call from Standing with Giants by contributing 100 crochet red poppies to support the commemorative displays in Normandy. The poppies have been carefully packaged, posted, and are now on their way to join the installation, a heartfelt tribute crafted with time and care.

WELL DONE LAKESIDE YOU HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!



LAKESIDE CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR AT SONG'S BUFFET RESTAURANT 'THE YEAR OF THE HORSE'

On a wet and chilly Friday evening, Lakeside Chapter members cheerfully braved the weather to gather for a Chinese dining experience in honour of Chinese New Year – the vibrant Year of the Horse. Spirits were high as friends and like-minded folk reunited over steaming plates and colourful dishes, with a buffet offering flavours from all around the world and more than enough for everyone to enjoy to their heart's content. Laughter drifted between tables as people caught up, swapped stories, and simply enjoyed being together. It was a warm, lively evening that chased away the cold outside, and a big thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make it such a memorable night.

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DATES FOR YOUR 2026 CALENDAR!

Ride & Roast 12th April 2026 – see attached flyer below

Cutty Sark Greenwich 13th June 2026 – flyer to follow

Lakeside Birthday Bash July 4th 2026 – see attached flyer

Zoo Night – August 2026 – flyer to follow

Ghost Bus – October 2026 - Flyer to follow

Train Ride and Tea – information to follow

Christmas Celebrations – 19th December 2026 – Flyer to follow

Please remember any questions or queries regarding any event, just contact your Events Team.

Thank you, Lakeside, goodbye for now – see you soon at our next event or out on the road, helmets on and engines roaring. Ride safe and keep the rubber side down.

Pam & Sue

XX

A Sunday Ride and Roast.



Ladies and Gentlemen.

Please join Lakeside Chapter on the 12th April 2026 for a Sunday Ride in the Essex Countryside and then for a Hearty Sunday Roast at The Kings Arms!

All are welcome - Family & Friends.

We will meet at 11:15 (at The Kings Arms) and we will finish at The Kings Arms (12:45) for a Sunday Roast at 1pm.

If you are not up for the ride, just meet us for the Sunday Roast.

Cost: £19:00

Please pay the chapter £19:00- reference LOH Sunday Lunch - (non-refundable) by the 1st April 2026.

Please let me know if you can make it as I will book you a seat at the table.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Look forward to seeing you

Pam

XX

**COME AND
CELEBRATE
LAKE SIDE IS
TURNING 15!**

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026

AT

YE OLDE PLOUGH HOUSE

BRENTWOOD ROAD

RM14 3SR

(ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE CONTACT VENUE)

01375 891592

FREE EVENT FOR MEMBERS

GUESTS £10

(PAYABLE TO THE CHAPTER REF: 15TH PARTY)

**FINGER
BUFFET
DRINKS
FROM 6PM**



**DJ / BAND
CARRIAGES
AT
MIDNIGHT**

Hurry only 40 tickets left!!

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Hello to all Lakeside members.

I know the winter months can feel long, cold, and heavy, and for some people they bring real sadness. Riding in these conditions is not everyone's idea of fun, and for those who cannot ride for health reasons it can be especially hard. I have been unwell this winter myself, and it has been difficult watching nice days pass without being able to get out on the bike.

If you ever feel alone or lonely, please reach out – you never have to face it by yourself. There are always people ready to listen: fellow Chapter members, friends, or professionals who can point you in the right direction. Too many people suffer in silence; sharing how you feel will not make others think less of you.

A positive mindset can be powerful. It is not a cure-all, but reducing stress and looking after your mental and physical health can improve immunity, cardiovascular health, and overall wellbeing. The Lakeside Chapter is full of caring people who will go out of their way to help however they can.

Spring is coming – let us get out there and have fun together. Riding brings joy wherever we start and wherever we finish. With the camaraderie we share, let us keep supporting each other for life.

Be aware of things that can distort how we feel and try to see through those deceptions. Stay strong my friends, look out for one another, and enjoy the ride.



Lynn (Welfare Officer)



Lakeside HOG Chapter Essex UK Open Group

Exciting news... we now have a public Facebook page to encourage interest and potential new members to Lakeside.

Up until now we have just had a closed, private page. This means that any approved member (and you must be a member of the Chapter) can post, comment, add news items, photos etc, and that's been great to show all our members what we have been up to and what's coming up in the future. Typically it is also used to promote events and rallies, distribute Pondlife and distribute the weekly comms.

This private Facebook page will continue as it is today.

So what is the point of having a public page?

The objective is to promote our fantastic Chapter to a wider community in the hope that we can attract more members. Typically, this will mean posting some of our closed group posts onto our public page but also creating new posts to encourage engagement with non-members.

The more we, as members, promote and engage with the new pages, the wider the overall audience. Hopefully prospective members will see what we are up to and be interested in joining us.

Because it is a public page, posts can only be posted by administrators, and in the first instance this will be Phill as director, Pam for LOH and Events, Sue for Comms and Events and myself.

So what can you do to help...?

Firstly start following the new page.

Then 'like' as many of the posts as you can which will be seen by your wider circle of contacts. Our hope is that together we can grow the Chapter by engaging more with like-minded riders and people who currently remain remote to us.

So please feel free to comment and share the posts, and please also let me know if you have any further ideas for items, topics and information that you would find useful.

I am indebted to the help of a couple of Iceni members who have helped me understand and set all this up. They have also kindly given us permission to lift a couple of their ideas for engagement, the first of which will be coming very soon!

So please, like, comment, share, whenever you can. Every little helps...

Please use the address below to start following...

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1b6GQnAqC7/>

Thank you so much for your support. Let's grow our membership together!

Mandy
Photographer



LAKESIDE CHAPTER MERCHANDISE 2024/25

For all enquiries and orders contact Ann at:
merchandise@lakesidechapter.co.uk



¾ Zipped Fleece £17.50
Sizes XS – 3XL



Men's track polo £22
Sizes XXS - 3XL



2 Tone Softshell Jacket
£22
Men's sizes S - 4XL
Ladies 8 - 18



Men's Polo £14.50
Sizes XS - 8XL



Zipped Hoodie £25
Sizes S - 5xl



Heavyweight Hoodie £30
Sizes XS - 3XL

Men's Chapter T-shirt £14
Sizes XS - 6XL
Also available as a long sleeve £16
Sizes S - 4XL



Wicking T-shirts £12
(Available in Black or White)
Men's Sizes XS - 5XL
Ladies Sizes 8 - 18
Long Sleeve Ladies £13.50

Knitted Beanie Hat £7



Ladies Skull T-shirt £15
Sizes 8 - 16
This print is also
available in
Zipped Hoodie £25
Zipped Sweatshirt
£27.50



Ladies Chapter T-shirt
£14
Sizes 8 – 16

Ladies Motorbike/Wing T-shirt £15
Sizes 8 - 16

Also available:

Sweatshirt £22.50
Sizes XS – 4XL

Unisex Long Sleeve Polo £15

Zipped Sweatshirt £27.50
Sizes S – 2XL

Chapter Cap £15

**Look out....New Chapter 15th Anniversary merchandise
to be launched on Sign-Up Day Saturday March 28th**

£1 EACH OLD SURPLUS STOCK

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023



2023

CAN YOU HELP?

A slightly different sort of article this month.

Chatting to one of our members, they were explaining the difficulty they were having trying to track down replacement parts for their bike. The parts in question are the replacement shaft caps for a Kuryakyn Hyper Charger (so not “stock” H-D – hence the problem). See breakdown picture of the parts in question below.

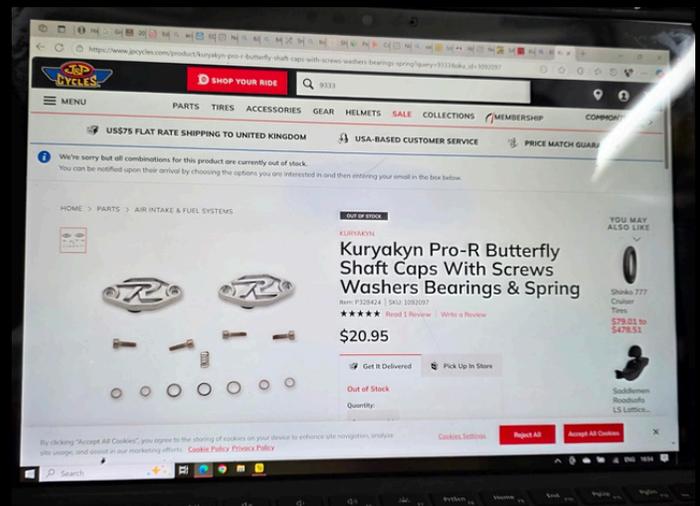


The member in question has searched high and low, trawling the internet to no avail. He’s even had lengthy conversations with a main supplier in the States (I dread to think the cost of the call!!!). When the parts in question were asked for apparently the person in the States just laughed (such customer care – and I bet they still finished with “have a nice day”!).

So the simple question is – is there anyone out there who may be able to help our member who is in desperate need to find these parts? If the parts cannot be found then it will likely lead to the replacement of the hyper charger at considerable cost.

If anyone does have any thoughts or ideas could they please email me at editor@lakesidechapter.co.uk and I can pass the information on to the member in question.

Come on folks...let’s see if we can pull this one out of the bag.



Tony H

VACANT OFFICER POSITIONS

In case you haven't seen the emails, a number of Officer positions are up for renewal. Details of the roles in question can be found below. Applications for the roles should be submitted to Phill at director@lakesidechapter.co.uk no later than 5pm on Friday 20th March.



Assistant Director

Assistant Director – Role Overview

The Assistant Director plays a key leadership role in supporting the Chapter Director and promoting the values, benefits, and community spirit of H.O.G. This position helps ensure the Chapter operates smoothly, remains compliant with H.O.G. standards, and offers a welcoming and informed experience for all members—especially those newly joining the Chapter.

Key Responsibilities

- **Ensures Compliance:** Supports all officers with Chapter Governance, assists the Chapter Director in upholding all requirements of the *Annual Licence for H.O.G. Chapters* and ensuring Chapter operations remain fully compliant.
- **Leadership Support** Provide assistance to the Director as requested, helping to oversee Chapter activities, events, and member engagement. Supports and collaborates with others Officers as required to promote the Chapter
- **Promote Membership & Community**
Represent and promote H.O.G. and the Chapter to prospective members, helping grow and strengthen the Chapter community.
- **Communicate H.O.G. Programs & Benefits**
Keep members informed about H.O.G. initiatives, benefits, and programs.
(All Chapter Officers should support you with this responsibility.)
- **New Member Orientation**
Lead and conduct orientation sessions for new members to help them understand Chapter expectations, riding guidelines, events, and the benefits of being part of H.O.G.



Fundraising (Charity) Officer

Fundraising – Role Overview

The Charity & Fundraising Officer plays a vital role in coordinating the chapter's charitable activities and ensuring all fundraising efforts reflect the values and objectives of the Lakeside Chapter. This role oversees charity relationships, manages fundraising events, and ensures compliance with the *Annual Licence for H.O.G. Chapters* and chapter By-Laws.

Key Responsibilities

1. Ensure Compliance & Governance

- Assist the Chapter Director in upholding the requirements of the *Annual Licence for H.O.G. Chapters*.
- Ensure the Lakeside Chapter Committee By-Laws accurately record the agreed percentage split of all funds raised between the Chapter's Nominated Charity and the Chapter General Fund.

2. Charity Research & Recommendation

- Research potential charities for the next term, as defined in the Chapter By-Laws.
- Present findings and recommendations to the Committee for discussion and approval.

3. Charity Liaison & Event Coordination

- Establish and maintain contact with the chosen Charity or Charities.
- Coordinate charity rides, events, and similar activities in collaboration with both the Chapter and the nominated Charity.
- Act as the key point of contact to ensure smooth planning and execution of fundraising initiatives.

4. Communications & Promotion

- Write articles for the chapter e-magazine *Pondlife* and contribute to Facebook and other communication channels to promote upcoming charity and fundraising events.
- Report on completed activities and highlight impact, outcomes, and member involvement.



Ladies of Harley® (L.O.H.) Officer

L.O.H - Role Overview

The Ladies of Harley® (L.O.H.) Officer plays an important role in encouraging and supporting the participation of women within the chapter. This role helps promote inclusivity, provides information about the L.O.H. program, and coordinates activities that appeal to women riders and members—all while ensuring full compliance with the *Annual Licence for H.O.G. Chapters* and H.O.G. guidelines.

Key Responsibilities

1. Ensures Compliance and Governance

- Assist the Chapter Director in upholding the requirements of the *Annual Licence for H.O.G. Chapters*.
- Ensure all L.O.H. activities align with H.O.G. policies and chapter standards.

2. Promote Women's Engagement

- Encourage women members to take an active and visible role within the chapter.
- Create a welcoming, supportive environment for women riders and passengers.

3. Provide Program Information

- Serve as the chapter's point of contact for any questions regarding the Ladies of Harley program.
- Inform members about L.O.H. benefits, opportunities, and upcoming activities.

4. Coordinate L.O.H. Activities

- Plan and coordinate Ladies of Harley chapter activities, ensuring all events remain open and welcoming to all chapter members.
- Organise rides, gatherings, or events that may particularly appeal to women while maintaining inclusivity in accordance with H.O.G. rules.

5. Member Support & Community Building



Welfare Officer

Welfare Officer – Role Overview

The Welfare Officer plays a vital role in supporting our members, their families, widowers, and dependents during times of difficulty. This position ensures that the Chapter maintains a compassionate, confidential, and responsive approach to member welfare, while upholding the values and standards of HOG Chapters.

Key Responsibilities

- **Ensure Compliance:** Uphold the requirements of the *Annual Licence* for all HOG Chapters.
- **Provide Compassionate Support:** Demonstrate genuine empathy (not sympathy) when engaging with members and their families.
- **Maintain Confidentiality:** Apply strong principles and handle sensitive information with discretion at all times.
- **Foster Member Connections:** Maintain regular and proactive contact with all Chapter members to promote a supportive community.
- **Monitor Member Wellbeing:** Stay informed about members who may be unwell, distressed, or experiencing personal difficulties, and reach out as appropriate.
- **Support Bereaved Families:** Make timely and sensitive contact with the family of any deceased member.
- **Stay Connected with Widowers:** Keep in ongoing contact with widowers to ensure they continue to feel part of the Chapter community.
- **Active Listening:** Demonstrate strong active-listening skills to ensure members feel heard, respected, and supported.

(continued next page)



Webmaster Officer

Webmaster Officer – Role Overview

The Webmaster has a crucial role in managing the Chapters 'one-stop' point of contact with all Chapter Members and indeed the wider community by ensuring the Website is up-to-date and displaying all Chapter information.

Key Responsibilities

- **Ensure Compliance:** Uphold the requirements of the Annual Licence for all HOG Chapters.
- Authors, edits and updates the chapter web site.
- Follows the requirements listed in the H.O.G. Chapter internet social media guidelines.
- Presents any potential web site information to the Committee for approval prior to use.
- Includes official chapter name and number on all material published by the chapter.
- Works with the all Chapter Committee members to ensure the same information is being communicated to all chapter members and does not rely on the Internet as sole means of chapter communication.
- Organises and assembles electronic information for the chapter.
- Informs chapter members of chapter activities by including in the chapter web site.
- Promotes H.O.G.'s fun, family-oriented philosophy in all web site material.
- Acts as caretaker for chapter by protecting chapter members privacy by not revealing personal chapter member or private chapter information on the chapter web site.
- Submits chapter web site to H.O.G. for listing on www.h-d.com and the h-d dealer locator.
- Ensures the H.O.G. Chapter on-line privacy statement is included on the Chapter website.



Merchandise Officer

Merchandise Officer – Role Overview

Chapter merchandise is an important expression of identity and pride. It reinforces members' sense of belonging and promotes the Chapter to the wider community. Wearing the Chapter logo is a statement of commitment, connection, and shared values. The Merchandise Officer is responsible for ensuring all merchandise reflects these standards and is managed professionally, efficiently, and in line with HOG requirements.

Key Responsibilities

- 1. Compliance & Governance**
 - Ensure all merchandise activities comply with the Annual Licence requirements for HOG Chapters.
 - Report regularly to the Committee throughout the year.
- 2. Artwork & Design Oversight**
 - Oversee the creation and development of Chapter artwork.
 - Work with the Committee for feedback and approvals when required.
- 3. Supplier & Production Management**
 - Liaise with approved printing companies to source, produce, and collect merchandise safely and efficiently.
 - Ensure all merchandise is paid for, collected, and delivered (in person) to members.
 - Manage the sourcing and production of patches and badges following the same standards.
- 4. Merchandise Selection & Samples**
 - Select suitable clothing and items for Chapter designs.
 - Provide samples where necessary before items are offered for sale.



Communications Officer

Communications Officer – Role Overview

The Communications Officer plays a pivotal role in shaping, strengthening, and promoting the organisation's brand. This role is responsible for developing and delivering effective communication strategies that enhance both internal and external awareness. Working closely with committee members, the Communications Officer ensures all communications are aligned with the Harley-Davidson and H.O.G. brand identity, values, and standards.

Key Responsibilities

- 1. Content Development**
 - Create, write, and edit engaging marketing and communications materials, including blog posts and social media content.
 - Develop compelling stories and content that reflect the culture, mission, and activities of the organization.
- 2. Social Media Management**
 - Manage and maintain all social media accounts, ensuring posts are accurate, timely, and aligned with the H.O.G. Charter.
 - Promote key messages and campaigns across relevant platforms to maximise engagement and reach.
- 3. Brand & Standards Governance**
 - Ensure all communications uphold Harley-Davidson brand guidelines and reinforce the organisation's identity.
 - Review and refine materials regularly to maintain consistency in tone, imagery, and messaging.
- 4. Communications Strategy & Campaigns**
 - Collaborate with committee members to conceptualise and deliver communication strategies, campaigns, and initiatives.



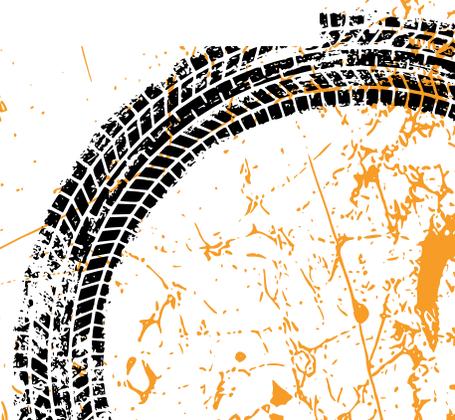
Editor Officer

Editor – Role Overview

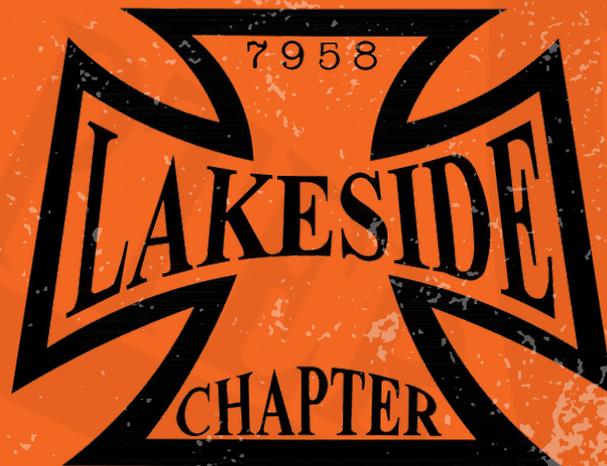
The Editor plays a key role in ensuring high-quality chapter communications by producing engaging, accurate, and timely written content. This role maintains consistency in messaging across all chapter publications (Pondlife) and supports the Chapter Director in meeting the standards outlined in the Annual Licence for H.O.G. Chapters.

Key Responsibilities

- 1. Ensure Compliance**
 - Uphold the requirements of the Annual Licence for all HOG Chapters.
- 2. Content Creation & Editorial Management**
 - Write, edit, and oversee the production of all chapter publications, including the chapter's e-magazine **Pondlife**.
 - Organise, compile, and prepare written materials for publication in collaboration with committee members and contributors.
- 3. Publication & Distribution**
 - Ensure chapter members receive timely and accurate information by publishing chapter news, event details, and updates in the e-magazine and other designated communication channels.
 - Coordinate the digital distribution of the e-magazine and ensure accessibility for all members.
- 4. Collaboration & Information Alignment**
 - Work closely with all Committee Officers to ensure consistent, clear, and aligned messaging across all chapter communications.
 - Support committee members in crafting and refining written content to maintain quality and uniformity.



RIDE OUT ARTICLES



RIDE-OUT GUIDELINES

Chapter activities are conducted primarily for the benefit of H.O.G. Chapter members.

Ride Guest Policy

An Event Guest is permitted at the discretion of one of the Chapter Road Captains.

A Chapter member is permitted to invite one guest per event, to participate and may only have the same guest on six occasions in any membership year. If the event is subsidised then the guest will need to pay full cost.

Each guest must sign a Ride Disclaimer and the host Chapter member must take responsibility and must ensure that the guest abides by the Chapter rules.

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY: A VALENTINE'S DAY RUN TO MAIDSTONE H-D

After meeting at the Halfway Starbucks we headed off for the M25 and crossed over the Dartford bridge then off down the A2/M2 towards Maidstone where we were met by the lovely staff with donuts and a cuppa. Then to indulge in a bit of retail therapy to check out the new merch. I also believe on that day a new bike was purchased by one of our members as a happy Valentine's Day present for his partner!

Phil H - it's all about the ride.



*And what's a trip to Maidstone H-D
without a trip to Mickey's Diner?*

Ok...so does everyone have their wallets!?

WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY: A DASH TO THE SEA

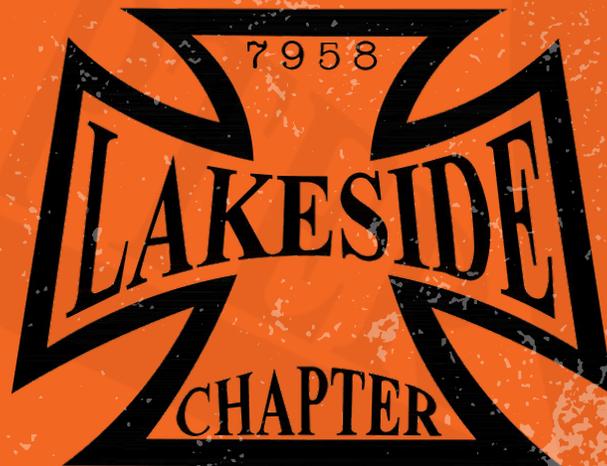
Today's ride was just a short run to take advantage of the first day this year without any rain to the Retro Rossi cafe on the seafront at Southend.

Phil H - it's all about the Ride.



It must have been sunny....Karl joined us!

FUTURE RIDES



There are various channels of communication regarding ride-outs and upcoming trips, either local or abroad – Pondlife, the Chapter Website, Facebook and Google Calendar.

At times, due to circumstances beyond our control, rides may be cancelled/changed/postponed at very short notice.

If requests are made for you to show your interest in a particular event, please only do so via the requested means and please do so within the time frame requested. This is very important and will enable the road captains to accurately and efficiently plan the upcoming ride/event



We have a number of meeting places from which the Chapter begins its Ride Outs. The usual start points are as follows:

The King's Arms, Orsett, Grays, RM16 3LX

Starbucks, by the Halfway House (A127, just at the turn-off for the A128), CM 13 3LL

Boreham Services BP (truck side), A12, just north of Chelmsford.

The Barge Inn, Hawk Hill, Battlesbridge, SS11 7RE (this is by the Battlesbridge Antiques Hall).

Tim Horton's, Lakeside Retail Park, Grays, RM20 1WN.

Always check Google Calendar, FB, the Website or weekly coms for most up to date information, including on the up to date start times of rides.

Ride outs (starting from Natter Night 11 March) through to the April Natter Night:

Tuesday 17 March – Wind beneath my wings...and tea at Rosey Lea's, North Weald. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 21 March – Ride to Rykas, Boxhill, Surrey. Meet at Tim Horton's at 12.30 for a 12.45 departure.

Tuesday 24th March – Norton Heath. Meet at the Barge Inn at 10.30 for a 10.45 departure.

Wednesday 25th March – Easter eggs to Billericay Food Bank. Meet at Starbucks at 9am for a 9.15 departure.

Saturday 28th March – Sign-Up Day refresher ride. Details to follow.

Sunday 29th March – Bimble to The Blue Egg, Braintree. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Tuesday 31st March – Rumble to the Riverside Café, Saffron Waldon. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 4th April – Gold Top Shop and café, Bishop's Stortford. Meet at Starbucks 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Wednesday 8th April – Pear Tree Pantry, Hatfield Peverel. Meet at Starbucks at 9am for a 9.15 departure.

Then we are at our April Natter Night in the evening of 8 April at the Kings Arms, Orsett from 6.30pm.

Honfleur 2026



Come and join us on a weekend jaunt to Honfleur

We'll be hopping on Le Shuttle early on Friday 26th June 2026, taking a scenic route to Honfleur and returning on the afternoon of Sunday 28th June 2026.

We will find some fun things to do and some delicious eateries for you!

We are staying at The Mecure Hotel which has secure parking and you will find the link below

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/0986/index.en.shtml>

We will let you know which trains to book closer to the date.

Please let Sue or Carl know if you'd like to come along and we'll add you to the what's app group

Many thanks and hope you can come along!

Rallies

This year the Lakeside Chapter will be doing an official ride to the Iron Horse Rally



For more details on this and other rallies check out HOG-POD.com

LAKESIDE CHAPTER RIDE AWARDS

Lakeside Chapter operates a **Ride Out Awards Program** based on the number of Official Chapter Rides each Member attends. You must ensure you 'Sign-In' with the Road Captain each time you attend a Ride Out. This helps the RC know the number of Members on each Ride and will be recorded by the Chapter Historian on the Ride Awards Spreadsheet (displayed on the next Page).

Multi-day Rides and Rally's may count for more than one Ride Award. Check with the RC for this.

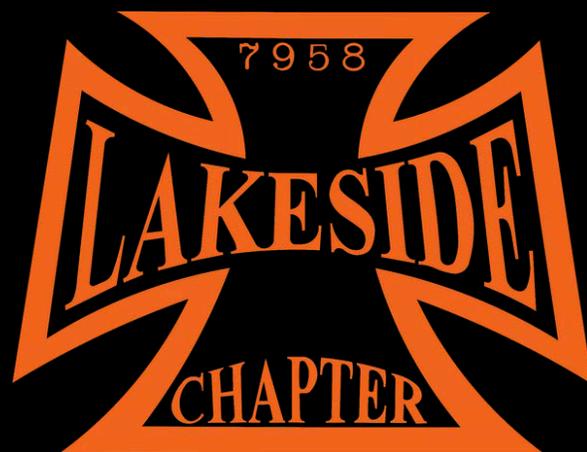
Ride Award Pin Badges will usually be awarded at Natter Nights for 10, 25, 50, 75, 100 (and so on) for completed Rides.

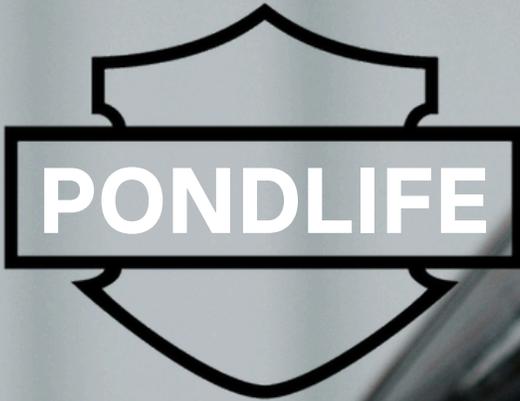
There is an All Time Total Ride Award Page and a Total Number of Rides completed (so far) this year so you can track your progress.

**BE IN THE NEXT EDITION
OF POND LIFE**

**SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND
ARTICLES TO:**

EDITOR@LAKESIDECHAPTER.CO.UK

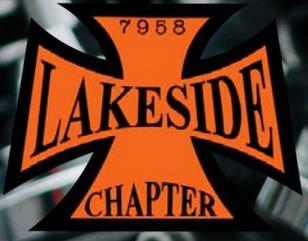




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