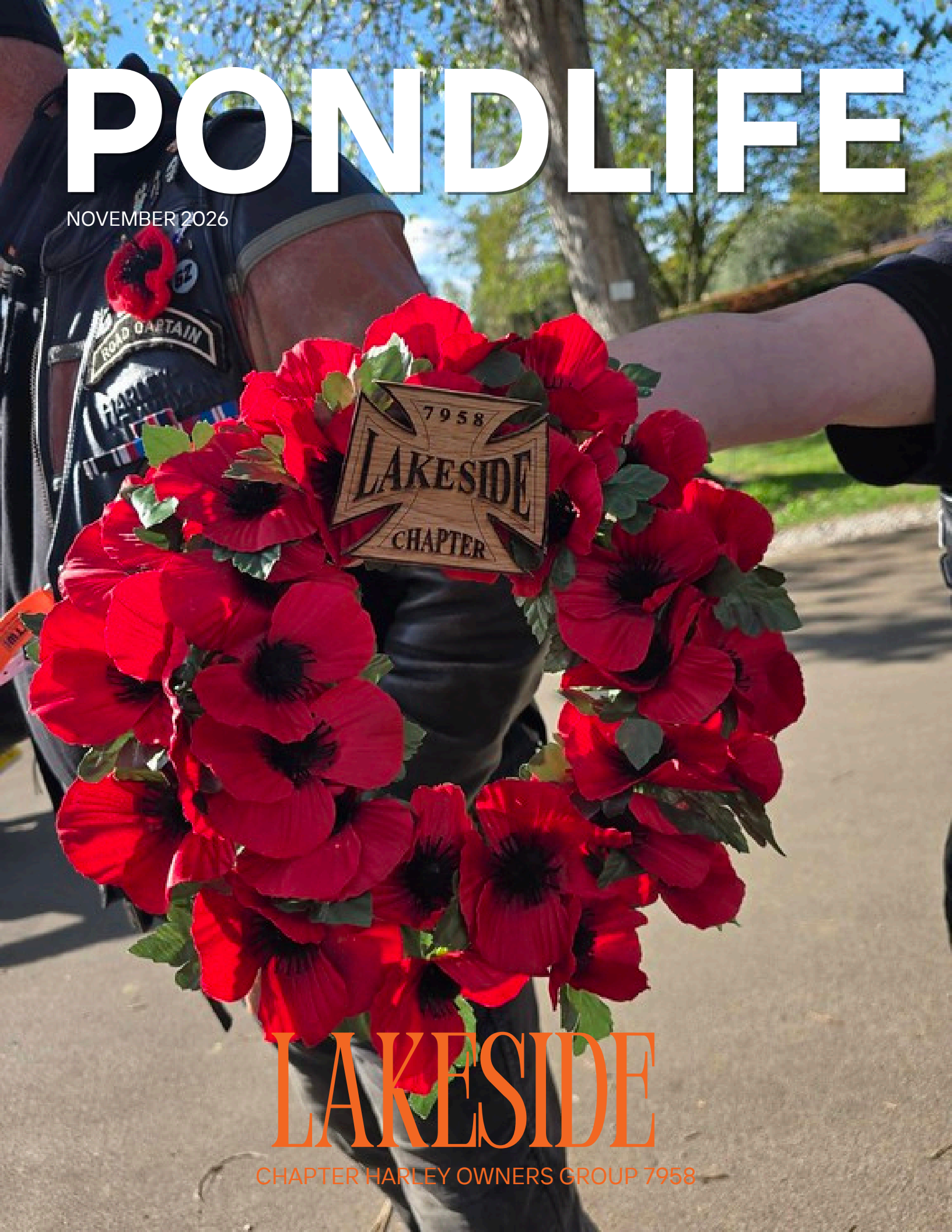


PONDLIFE

NOVEMBER 2026

LAKESIDE

CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 7958

Lakeside Chapter Members

Can you help?

Community People Riding Together

If you have one item of food that you have been left with after Christmas, please consider donating it to our food bank collection.

In January, Lakeside Chapter will be collecting food for the **Billericay and Basildon** food banks.



HOW TO DONATE

Bring your donation to any Ride Out

Drop it off at Natter Night

Can't make either? Collection can be arranged.

Please drop donations off during January.
Together we can help support local families in need.

Thank you in advance!

Supporting

Billericay foodbank

Basildon foodbank

Small donations make a big difference

PEOPLE ♡ COMMUNITY ♡ SUPPORT ♡ STRONGER TOGETHER

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COMMITTEE



DIRECTOR
ASHLEY SMART



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
PHIL HOPPER



CHAPTER SECRETARY
NEIL SEARLE-JONES



TREASURER
STEVE WINTERS



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
MARY HARRIS



LADIES OF HARLEY OFFICER AND
JOINT EVENTS OFFIICER
PAM SMART



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
AND JOINT EVENTS OFFICER
SUE STURTON



FUNDRAISING OFFICER
CHRIS BELL



MERCHANDISING OFFICER
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MANDY SMITH



WEBMASTER AND HISTORIAN
KEVIN SMITH



WELFARE OFFICER
LYNN GUNN



HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN AND SAFETY OFFICER
VINCE KNIGHT



EDITOR
TONY HITCHING

FROM THE EDITOR



Hello and welcome to the November edition of Pondlife.

October continued to see a very active ride calendar despite the weather beginning to turn. The month began with the Ride To The Wall and ended with a spooky Harleyween ride to High Beech. Thanks as always to the fantastic Road Captains and Road Crew for putting on so many rides despite the days getting colder and darker (and on some rides wetter). October also saw the HOG ROC take place – this time in Newport, Wales. With the Chapter represented by Ash, Pam, Carl and Sue we get the lowdown of what went on, with different aspects of the weekend covered by Ash, Pam, Carl and Sue in this month's Pondlife.

Also in this month's Pondlife, along with Ash's opening thoughts for the Chapter looking forward, there is an important article from the Committee regarding riding on non-Chapter rides or attending non-Chapter events. We also have Vince giving us some helpful tips on riding in wet weather because we don't stop riding when winter comes, do we Lakeside!?

Looking forward, we still have a number of rides planned for November (and some may still get added, weather and RC availability dependant) and we also have a number of charity events/rides coming up. One newly added charity call is for the Basildon and Billericay Food Banks (see inside front cover for flyer). The plan is to deliver the donations in January when the Food Banks find themselves very short of donations. Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

One last thing before I sign off. As you know I've been pestering poor Paul Edwards for an article on his and Keith's trip to Italy during the summer. With a touch of "careful what you wish for" Paul has been busy with his day job as well as getting his bike back on the road (he'll tell you about his bump with a pothole if you ask) so he gave me his notes and photos. So with a bit of deciphering his handwriting and a bit of poetic licence I can present to you "Paul and Keith's Italian Odyssey". Paul and Keith – I hope I've done it justice.

With that, as always, it's a big thank you to all contributors to Pondlife, and hope you enjoy the read.

See you on the road.

Tony H

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S SADDLE

.....Looking Back and Moving Forward



As the days become shorter and the weather starts to remind us that winter is approaching, I would like to take a moment to thank every Member who has contributed to the Chapter during the year so far. Whether you've attended ride-outs, events, supported our charity activities, or simply joined us for a coffee and a chat at Natter Nights, you have helped make our Chapter stronger.

One of the things that makes Lakeside Chapter special is the friendships and camaraderie that exist throughout the membership. Motorcycles bring us together, but it's the people who make the Chapter what it is. Seeing members continue to support each other, welcome new faces, and share their passion for riding is something the Committee is incredibly proud of.



As we head into the winter months, our calendar remains active with rides and social events providing opportunities to stay connected. While there will inevitably be fewer riding opportunities, the Chapter is very much still open for business, and we encourage everyone to continue taking part whenever they can.

Representatives from Lakeside attended H.O.G Regional Officers Connection at the beginning of October in Newport Wales. This was a great opportunity to catch up and network with others from all 38 UK & Ireland Chapters, in total around 300 HOG Members.

The event highlights all the positives that have taken place across HOG and Harley during 2026 and what's new for 2027. Lakeside were thanked for the way in which the Harley Experience Tour at the Country Café was assisted and supported by its Members. See the full article in this month's Pondlife (Events and LoH sections) but as always if you have any questions please ask me.



I'd like to remind Members that Lakeside Chapter and H.O.G. activities have to remain independent from any MC or MCC rides/events. Members are, of course, free to pursue their own riding interests, but when participating in independent rides or events, they are not acting on behalf of Lakeside Chapter. This helps protect the Chapter, our Members, and the positive reputation we have worked so hard to build. Please see the article from the Committee on the pages directly following these introductory words.

(continued next page)

The Road Crew and Events team are already planning next year's calendar, with new ride opportunities, events, and activities designed to provide something for everyone. If you have ideas or suggestions, please share them with us. The Chapter belongs to its Members, and your input helps shape its future.

Finally, thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm, and friendship throughout the year. On behalf of me but also the Committee, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable November.

Ride when you can, stay safe when you do, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming rides and events.

Ride safe, ride smart, and enjoy the journey.

Ash
Director



Why This Matters to Lakeside Chapter.....

Chapter and H.O.G. Members should not represent the Chapter or H.O.G on any MC/MCC Motorcycle Rides or Events.

The Chapter fully supports members building friendships and enjoying the open road together and with other like-minded motorcycling friends outside of H.O.G. Independent rides are a natural part of motorcycle culture and often strengthen the bonds that make our Chapter so special.

But is imperative that HOG and Chapters remain neutral at any MC-related events. As such, all participants in these events are riding independently and not as Lakeside Chapter, and you are responsible for your own wellbeing.

For this reason, members participating in MC/MCC rides and events should NOT wear Chapter Cuts, Patches, or Apparel in a way that suggests they are representing the Lakeside Chapter or participating in an official Chapter activity.

This is not about restricting anyone's freedom to ride - every member is encouraged to enjoy motorcycling with friends whenever and wherever they choose. Rather, it is about ensuring that everyone clearly understands when a ride is a personal activity.

By respecting this distinction, we protect our Chapter, safeguard its reputation, and ensure that everyone can continue enjoying the freedom and fellowship that motorcycling is all about. It also shows respect to both the Chapter and other Motorcycle Organisations.

As always we wish you safe travels, great company, and plenty of smiles per mile.

Ride safe, ride smart, and have fun.

LAKESIDE CHAPTER COMMITTEE

7958
LAKESIDE
CHAPTER

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY



Well another month has gone by super quickly and I am just about recovering from a mysterious illness that has plagued me for nearly seven weeks. I've missed too many rides and even had to get Ash to cover one of mine as I was just not fit to ride.

Reading through some of the articles in last month's Pondlife there have been some really good rides, destinations and turn outs from Members. That's what we are all about: friends that share a passion for Harley-Davidsons and riding whenever the opportunity arises.

The Crew are busily putting together next year's ride diary and at the October Road Crew meeting we worked to get the slots in next year calendar populated.

If there is a ride or event that you would like us to do or attend, have a word with any of the Crew or drop me an email.

Turning to the safety side of things, the clocks have now gone back and the weather will unfortunately start to turn.

I found this article and thought I'd share it here.

Ride safe all

Vince

THE ART OF RIDING IN THE RAIN

Ten tips for tackling wet weather
Words by Matt King

One of the great joys of motorcycling is feeling fresh air, sun and wind in your face as you glide down the road, enjoying a view unobscured by windows, doors or a roof. The downside, of course, is that there's also very little between you and whatever Mother Nature decides to throw your way.

No matter how carefully you check the forecast or try to avoid the weather, eventually you're going to find yourself dodging raindrops instead.

Although many riders dread the prospect, riding in rain is an inevitable part of motorcycling. You might even call it a rite of passage. Years later, riders rarely tell tales of clear and sunny 72-degree afternoons. But you'll hear about the trip where it rained sideways for six hours forever.

The key to weathering a storm is preparation. Here are 10 things to keep in mind when the skies open and the roads get slippery.

Gear up. There's an old saying that "there are no bad rides, just bad gear." Good rain gear can make all the difference between having a memorable adventure or a miserable day. There are plenty of options on the market today, from waterproof riding jackets and trousers with removable liners to inexpensive rain suits that pack into a saddlebag. Which is best depends on personal preference and the kind of riding you do, but whatever type you choose should keep you dry without interfering with your ability to operate the motorcycle

Waterproof boots and gloves are equally important. Once your hands and feet are soaked, they can get cold quickly, making it harder to stay comfortable and focused. Non-waterproof boots can take a long time to dry out too, leading to the miserable experience of riding with wet feet long after the rest of your gear has dried out.

(continued next page)

Consider visibility, your ability to see and be seen, too. Bright or reflective rain gear helps other motorists see you when the weather turns dark and grey. A full-face or modular helmet offers good protection from the elements, and an anti-fog visor or insert can be invaluable when temperatures drop.

No matter what gear you choose, the most important advice is to make sure you always have it with you!

Suit up ASAP. Anyone who has ridden long enough has probably made this mistake. The sky looks threatening, but you convince yourself you'll make it to the next stop before the rain starts. Five minutes later you're soaked and standing on the side of the road hopping on one leg trying to pull waterproofs over wet jeans.

If the weather looks questionable, gear up early. It's much easier to stop later and remove rain gear you didn't need than to get warm and dry after you're already soaked.

Check your tyres. Check tread depth and tyre condition regularly, and definitely before a longer trip. Tread grooves are designed to move water away from the contact patch. As tyres wear, their ability to do that decreases.

Proper tyre pressure matters, too. Make checking your tyres part of your normal pre-ride routine, rather than something you only think about when rain is in the forecast.

Find the dry line. Water doesn't collect evenly across the road, so use lane position strategically to find the best road available. Avoid deep puddles when possible. Besides the possibility of hydroplaning, standing water can hide potholes and other hazards underneath.
Ruts worn into asphalt by heavy traffic also tend to collect water. Moving a foot or two within your lane may put you on higher, better-drained pavement.

A wet road changes the amount of traction available, but that doesn't mean your motorcycle suddenly becomes uncontrollable. The key is respecting the conditions.

Acceleration, braking and cornering all place demands on your tyres. When traction is reduced, you want to leave yourself a larger margin for error. Avoid aggressive acceleration, hard cornering and other abrupt movements that ask the tyres to suddenly do more work.

Rain riding is a good time to dial everything back a notch and concentrate on being smooth.

Brake early. The best emergency stop is the one you never have to make. In wet conditions, begin slowing earlier and apply the brakes progressively rather than abruptly. Avoid demanding more traction from the tyres than the road can provide.

Looking further ahead helps tremendously. The sooner you recognise a red light, slowing traffic, or an upcoming turn, the more easily you can begin reducing speed gradually instead of relying on hard braking at the last second.

Slippery when wet. Some surfaces deserve extra attention when they get wet. Painted lane markings, pedestrian crossings, arrows, manhole covers, metal bridge grates and construction plates can become surprisingly slick. Intersections can also collect oil and other fluids from vehicles that spend time stopped there.

If you can't avoid a questionable surface, try to cross it with the motorcycle as upright as possible and avoid sudden braking, acceleration or steering while you're on it.

Be confident. For newer riders, one of the biggest challenges of riding in the rain may not be the water itself. It's what happens inside your helmet. Fear and anxiety can make you tense, causing you to tighten your grip on the handlebars, stiffen your arms and resistant to every small movement of the motorcycle. Instead, try to relax and let the bike do its job. A motorcycle can move around slightly on wet or uneven road without actually losing traction.

Your first few wet rides may feel intimidating, but each one teaches a little more about what you and your motorcycle can handle.

Of course, there are limits. If conditions become so severe that you no longer feel comfortable continuing, the prudent move may be to find a safe place to stop and wait it out.

(continued next page)

Safe spaces. One of the easiest ways to increase safety in the rain is simply to leave more room between yourself and other vehicles.

Increased following distance gives you extra time to see a problem, decide what to do, and slow or manoeuvre without rushing. It also keeps you further away from the spray thrown up by cars and trucks ahead. Following too closely in heavy rain can turn your view through the visor into a grey wall of water. Backing off a little makes a big difference.

Calm down. If there's one skill that ties everything together, it's a calm attitude. Relax your grip on the handlebars and avoid abrupt control inputs. Brake smoothly, make wider turns, and accelerate smoothly, and when possible, separate those actions. Slow down and get your braking done before the corner, make a smooth steering input, and wait until you're coming out of the turn before adding significant throttle.

Riding in tough conditions can be stressful, but the more relaxed you allow yourself to feel, the easier it gets.

Have no fear. It's okay if you don't get excited when the forecast calls for rain, few riders do. But learning to ride comfortably and confidently in wet conditions expands where, when and how far you can ride, and helps keep poor weather from ruining an otherwise great trip.

When you do finally pull into your destination dripping wet after riding through weather you never expected, you'll have collected one of those motorcycle stories you'll be telling for years.

FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Well that's another month over and the festive season is upon us. But before all of that we have three things to look forward to.

We start off with the Billericay Fireworks on Saturday 7th November and we need as many helpers as possible. The next is our charity sing along at the Kings Arms on Saturday 5th December where we will have a two hour slot. Times are still to be agreed with the venue and all monies collected will go to our charity the Aaron Lewis Foundation. Don't forget we have a couple of practice nights at Pam Smart's house on 12th November and 3rd December at 6.30 so please put these in your diary.





Our third charity event is the "Baby Basics Charity Appeal". Pam has kindly been leading and liaising on this one so I'll hand over the pen, so to speak, to Pam to update on how this is going.....

🎁 Baby Basics Charity Appeal 🎁

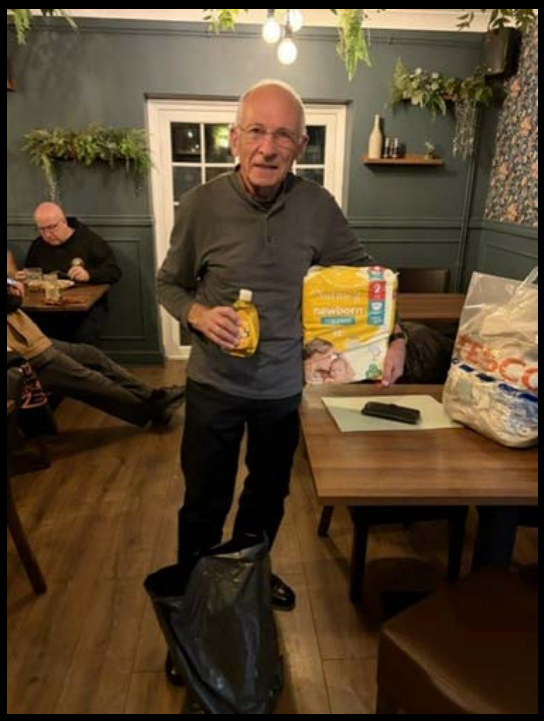
A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our Baby Basics Charity Appeal so far. The generosity shown by Lakeside Chapter Members has been fantastic, with donations of both much-needed baby items and monetary contributions (so the Chapter can buy some much needed baby goods to donate) already making a real difference.

(continued next page)



Every donation, big or small, helps support families in need, and we are incredibly grateful for the kindness and community spirit that our Members continue to show.

If you haven't had the opportunity to donate yet, it's not too late! There is still time to contribute, and any additional items or donations will be very warmly received by the charity.







🏍️ **Donation Ride-Out – 11th December**

Don't forget that we will be holding a special ride to deliver all the donations to Baby Basics Billericay on 11th December.

📍 Meet: Starbucks 10:00

🕙 Departure: 10:15am stands up

(continued next page)

We'd love to see as many Members as possible join us for this worthwhile ride as we come together to support an amazing local charity and help make a difference to families this Christmas.

Thank you once again for your continued support, generosity and kindness.



Let's make this our biggest Baby Basics donation yet!

"Giving a little can mean a lot." 🎁✨



That's all for this month so keep that rubber down and be safe.



Chris


LADIES OF HARLEY
7958
LAKESIDE
CHAPTER

LADIES OF HARLEY

Well, November has arrived, and Christmas is hot on our heels! The shops are already bustling, festive displays are appearing everywhere, and before we know it, the holiday season will be in full swing. Before then, we have plenty to look forward to, with some fantastic events coming up over the next month. It's a wonderful time to get together, enjoy the camaraderie of the chapter, and make the most of the remaining riding opportunities before winter fully sets in.



My little mushroom from North Yorkshire.

H.O.G. ROC Training Weekend at Celtic Manor 10th-11th October 2026





The annual H.O.G. ROC Training Weekend is always a diary highlight, and this year's event at the beautiful Celtic Manor Resort in Wales certainly did not disappoint.

From the moment we arrived, we were made to feel incredibly welcome. The hotel staff were friendly and efficient, and our rooms were ready and waiting for us. Although I did not have as much time as I would have liked to explore the extensive grounds, what I did see was stunning. The setting provided a perfect backdrop for what would prove to be an excellent weekend.



(continued next page)

Friday evening offered the ideal opportunity to catch up with fellow Chapter Members from across the UK and Ireland. It was wonderful to reconnect with old acquaintances, while also making new friends and sharing stories from the riding season. The atmosphere was relaxed and welcoming, setting the tone for the rest of the weekend.







Saturday began bright and early with a hearty breakfast before heading straight into the conference rooms for the start of ROC Training. Once again, the welcome was fantastic, and the presenters were engaging, informative, and enthusiastic. We received updates on the latest developments within H.O.G., keeping us informed about current initiatives and plans for the future.



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Following the morning break, I attended the Ladies of Harley (LOH) session. It was wonderful to meet with LOH representatives from across the UK and Ireland. We spent time connecting, sharing ideas, and participating in various training exercises. I learned so much during the session and came away with several exciting ideas and adventures that we can hopefully introduce to our Chapter next year.



The time seemed to fly by, and before I knew it, I was heading to my next workshop. I chose the Membership Workshop, where we were brought up to date with the latest membership developments and initiatives. The information gathered was invaluable and has since been passed on to Mary.



Saturday evening was equally enjoyable, with a delicious meal followed by live entertainment from a fantastic band. It was another excellent opportunity to mingle with Members from other Chapters, exchange experiences, and strengthen the friendships that make the H.O.G. community so special.



Sunday started at a slightly more relaxed pace, with an extra thirty minutes in bed, which was very welcome. It was Sunday after all!

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The morning sessions continued with further updates from the H.O.G. team, giving us valuable insight into what is happening throughout the organisation. We were also treated to an inspiring presentation from the Guide Dogs Charity. One of the highlights of the weekend was having the opportunity to meet and cuddle two guide dogs who visited us during the session.

The second presentation focused on a Motorcycle Mental Health Charity, which was equally inspiring. The speakers delivered an informative and thought-provoking presentation, highlighting the important work being carried out to support the mental wellbeing of riders and the wider motorcycling community. It is certainly a charity worth following, and I suspect we will be hearing more about it in the future.

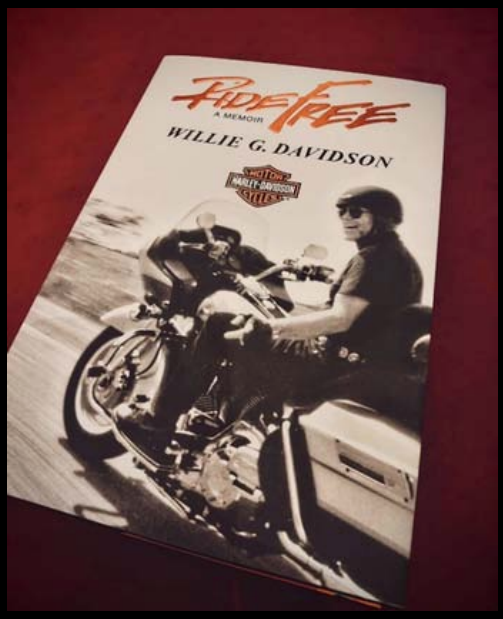
The event concluded with a scrumptious lunch before it was time to say our farewells and begin the journey home.



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Looking back, the ROC Training Weekend was a tremendous success. It provided valuable training, useful updates, plenty of inspiration, and countless opportunities to connect with fellow H.O.G. Members. Most importantly, it reminded us all what makes our Harley-Davidson community so special.

A cracking weekend from start to finish and absolutely worth attending.



LOH Harleyween Ride...spooky Lakeside rides again!



Thank you to everyone who came out on Lakeside Chapter's Harleyween Ride on Saturday 31st Of October. We all had lots of spooky fun and the ride wasn't bad either!! Thank you all for being such good sports and getting into the spooky mood, it was great to see so many bikes decorated and in the Harleyween spirt! The photos say it all!

Even the committee got involved and the meeting started with a boooooooo!

(continued next page)



The bikes looked amazing - decorated for the spooky ride!







(continued next page)

First stop was the beautiful church setting at High Beach...then this crazy lot happened!





Thank you to everyone ... Lakeside Chapter, you are such good sports!



We kept on banging but they just wouldn't let us in!



Don't looooooose your head!



Love is in the air!



Trick Or Treat!



(continued next page)

Things to do in 2027?

A huge thank you to everyone who has already put forward ideas and suggestions for our Ladies of Harley adventure. I'm really looking forward to hearing more about the exciting plans that have been proposed so far. If you've not yet shared your thoughts, there's still plenty of time to add your ideas to the mix. The more input we have, the more memorable our adventure will be!

PLEASE, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR IDEAS!



(continued next page)

A Christmas Cocktail to Try!

Gin fizz



Gin fizz is a member of the sours cocktail family (because it contains lemon juice). It will appeal to G&T lovers and anyone who likes a long, refreshing tipple. A classic fizz shouldn't be served over ice, so make sure the ingredients are shaken with plenty of ice to keep them cold.

Ingredients

45ml/3 tbsp dry gin, 25ml/1 tbsp + 2 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice, 10ml/2 tsp sugar syrup, chilled soda water, lemon slices or pared lemon zest to garnish.

Method

- 1. Put the gin, lemon juice and sugar syrup into a chilled cocktail shaker (or a large jam jar) with plenty of ice cubes and shake vigorously.
- 2. Strain into a long glass, then top up with soda water. Garnish with a slice of lemon or a strip of lemon zest.

Let me know how you get on!

Let's keep the enthusiasm going as we head towards the festive season, and I look forward to catching up with many of you at our upcoming events. Ride safe, stay warm, and enjoy all the excitement that this time of year brings.

Oh...I almost forgot, here's the link to the Latest HOG LOH magazine. Just click on teh link to open.

https://canva.link/tx3f7iz271x3gcr

Pam

XX

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



EVENTS

Your Event Team would like to remind everyone that we have plenty of fantastic events coming up, so now is the time to start booking your places and getting involved!

One of the highlights of the year will be the wonderful Howard Lodge Annual Christmas Carol Event on 19th December 2026. There will be an official ride to the care home, or members are welcome to meet us there directly. See the flyer at the end of this section for full details.

For those who would like to practice beforehand, there will be rehearsal sessions at Pam's House, on the 12th November & 3rd December, there will be nibbles and refreshments! Everyone is welcome, whether you attend the practice sessions or if you cannot make it, simply turn up on the day and join in the singing at the Care Home.



Don't forget to sign up for both the Chinese Meal and the Indian Meal events. Full details can be found on the attached flyers.

We are also excited to announce an opportunity to ride with both the Iceni Chapter and the Mancunium Chapter in April 2027. All the details are on the flyer at the end of this section. This promises to be an occasion not to be missed, with the chance to ride alongside a fantastic number of fellow Harley riders and enjoy a memorable day out together.

Finally, we are looking for donations for our raffle. If you have anything tucked away at home, now is the perfect time for a clear-out! Donations could include:

Bottles of wine
Spirits
Unwanted gifts
Gift sets
Any suitable raffle prizes



(continued next page)

Your support is always greatly appreciated and helps make our events even more successful.

ROC Adventure



Four members of Lakeside Chapter travelled west on a wet day to Celtic Manor, Cardiff to attend the HOG UK ROC (Regional Officers Connection) weekend. We arrived early afternoon and so did a lot of others and the bar quickly filled and the noise level rose.

Friday evening was our own so we found a nice restaurant in the hotel where we bumped into some friends from 1066. After dinner it was back to the bar to socialise with old friends from Chapters across the country.

Saturday morning was an early(ish) breakfast and then off to register to attend various seminars. Everyone assembled in the main hall to receive the welcome from Vicky where she introduced her team who were going to be presenting to us all. After that we all went our separate ways to the seminars. We met for lunch and swapped stories of the morning and then it was off for the afternoon to more seminars. The evening was a delicious three course meal followed by a band where we danced late into the night.



Sunday morning and it was off to breakfast again, followed by revelations about future releases, so watch this space...

All I can say it what a fabulous weekend, we all got so much out of the weekend and it was so nice to connect with old friends and we made a lot of new ones too. So if you ever get the chance to go, I would say do it.

Ash, Pam, Sue & Carl

As another great month comes to a close, we'd like to thank all our members for their continued support, enthusiasm and participation in our events. Whether you've joined us on a ride, attended a social gathering, or simply kept up with Chapter activities, you all help make Lakeside Chapter the fantastic family that it is.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and making even more great memories together. Until then, ride safe, look after one another, and keep smiling!

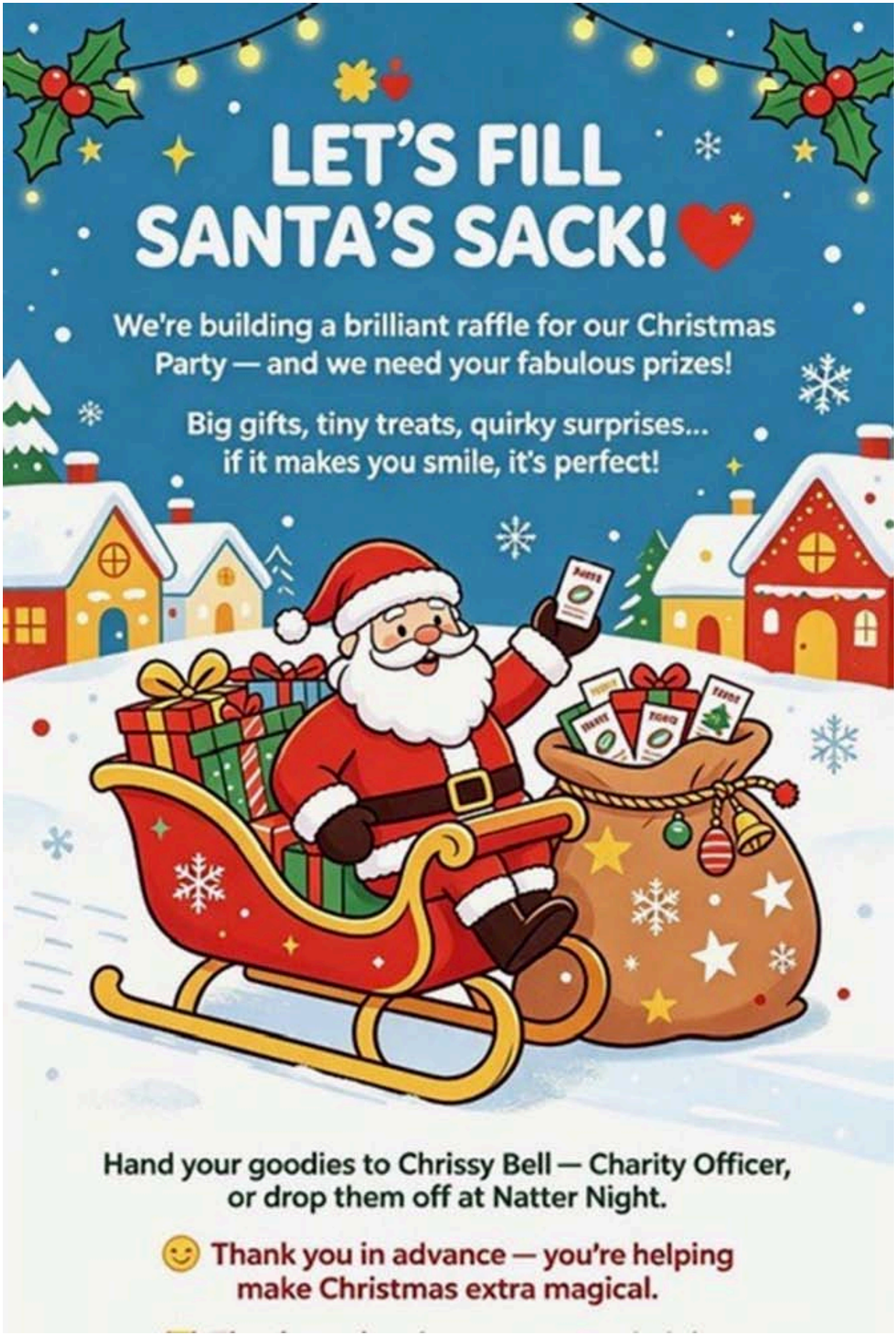
Best wishes,

The Lakeside Chapter Events Team



(continued next page for things to look forward to)

Up and Coming Events to look forward too!



CHRISTMAS CHOIR VISIT

Howard Care Home

Saturday
19th December 2026

11:00 AM

Come and spread some festive cheer with our choir!

Join us for an afternoon of Christmas songs and seasonal goodwill as we sing for the residents of Howard Care Home.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPER
- BRING YOUR SINGING VOICE
- BRING PLENTY OF FESTIVE SPIRIT

A little of your time goes a long way and will help make Christmas special for others.

GETTING THERE

MEET US THERE at Howard Care Home

OR

JOIN THE RIDE – see Ride Calendar for more details

Please see the Ride Calendar for full ride details and meeting arrangements.



We look forward to singing with you!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Dola AI

Lakeside Chapter

Chinese New Year 2027 Celebration

Year of the Goat

Songs Buffet Restaurant,
Chelmsford, Essex

Friday 12th February
7pm

£19.99
Payable on the night

Please let Pam know, so
she can book you your seat.



Dola AI

Lakeside Chapter

Indian Meal

at The Bekash Restaurant



Wickford, Essex

Friday 5th March
7pm

Meal payable on the night

Please let Sue know, so she can book you your seat.
I hope you can make it!

Dola AI


ICENI CHAPTER • NORWICH UK
ICENI
BIG WEEKENDER
FRIDAY 16TH APRIL – SUNDAY 18TH APRIL 2027
Come and join in the fun!
Iceni, Lakeside and Mancunium Chapter.
FUN
GAMES
MUSIC
AND A MEGA RIDE OUT!
Book your room directly with the hotel. Details below.
First come, first served. Must be booked before end of October 2026.
Quote ICENI and GA005359 to get the preferential rates.
£175.00 per room, per night, based on two people sharing a twin or double room.
£130.00 per room, per night, for single occupancy.
These rates include dinner, bed and breakfast, full use of our leisure facilities.
Once your room is secure pay £25 to Iceni Account with your surname and chapter to pay for entertainment and celebratory patch.
Account No: 71375342
Sort Code: 40-47-38
Any questions contact director@icenihog.com
www.wensumvalleyhotel.co.uk

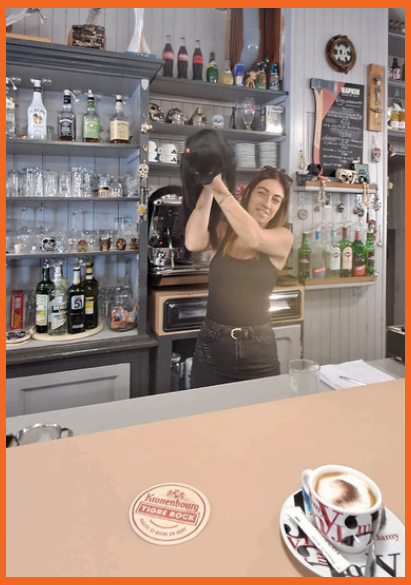
PAUL AND KEITH'S ITALIAN ADVENTURE





With the Lakeside 15th Birthday Bash on Saturday 4 July, it was always going to be a challenge to be ready for mine and Keith's epic adventure to Italy. But Monday 6 July came and ready we were. Met Keith as planned at Dartford, rode down to Folkestone to catch Le Shuttle (on which we "went posh"with a flexi booking which meant we had something to eat and drink – with hindsight not really worth it but hey-ho – we're on holiday!). Into France in half an hour and all is going to plan as we head off to our first stop. No – rewind that – we don't have a first stop planned. Who cares – freedom, no clock, no alarm for work, no plan and no-one to answer to – true freedom and it feels great. We just set the TomTom to "twisty" and we set off through France. Our first accommodation (when we found one) was cheap but with a steakhouse next door who cared.

As we continued down through France all we seemed to see was endless wheat fields. With TomTom again set to "twisty" we make our way to Couchey, a nice hotel and what's this... a nice bar.



As we continued our push down to Italy the weather was fantastic, as was the riding. Needing a rest after a while we found a cool bar with a lovely "cat lady" – now it felt like we were truly on holiday. As we entered the region of St Jean-de-Losnes-Champeliere (if I've read Paul's handwriting correctly – Ed!) we begin to see glacial streams and small lakes. After a good night's sleep (with maybe a drinky or two – of course) we're set for the next stretch.

We see our first mountains with more glacial streams....but it's so hot. We have to find a bar! Suitably fed and hydrated we push on and come to our first mountain pass (D1090) – absolutely stunning. Unfortunately for me this is where I took the photo of my bike that was used for the cover of the August Pondlife and started Tony pestering me for a "what we did on our holidays" article! Then we were finally in Italy and stayed at Mont Blanc surrounded by rivers, glaciers and log cabins...oh yes – that's where we also discovered "Radners".

(continued next page)



The following morning we took the sky lift to 4,000 metres and sat above the clouds – spectacular. From there we set off for the Horizon Wellness and Spa Resort (in case it could work some miracles on us). This was where I discovered my HT leads and spark plug caps had not been pushed on correctly – only after 800 miles! Thankfully the bike hadn't been running rough at all (sturdy beasts these Harleys).





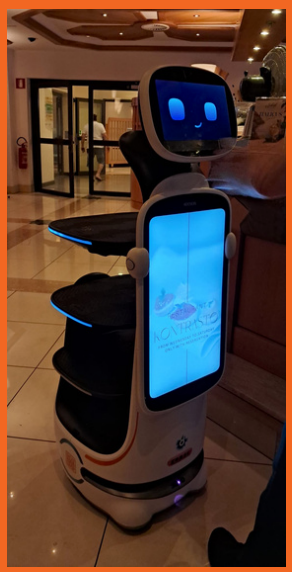
After the Spa, its on to Lake Garda and a fantastic day's riding. In the evening we head down to the lakeside (bit different to the Lakeside we're named after!). We were just getting set for a lovely everning (translated as getting the beers in) when a massive blew in. So back to the hotel for pizza and you guessed it...beer.

(continued next page)





After Lake Gard we set off for to Laives drenched in beautiful weather. Lovely accommodation again – this one with a rooftop infinity pool and robots that bring you.....beer, what else!



As we reach end of our outward journey we get set for the best accommodation so far....but more by luck than judgement as Keith had booked our stay for the following week! The only room available was a double. Whilst we are great mates that is a step too far!. “Oh – we do have a twin bed apartment available for an extra 30 Euros per night!”. Whilst this wreaked a little of “I saw you coming.com” we took the apartment. So with the night’s accommodation sorted what else is there to do....but drink! This time with steins of beer.



(continued next page)

After that, it’s time to start our journey home which we made in one piece (as did the bikes). Now to think about next year’s adventure.



Paul and Keith.

Merchandise

Boom..!!!
New for 2026



Men's Zipped Sweatshirt sizes:
S (36") to 2XL (52")

Men's Hoodie sizes:
XS (34") to 5XL (62")

Ladies Hoodie sizes:
XS (8) to 2XL (18)

£30 each

Order from Dean - our Merchandising Officer

New for 2026



Front



Back

Men's new design 1 t shirt
All sizes available
£14



Front



Back

Men's new design 2 t shirt
All sizes available
£14





New design trucker style caps
£12

Coming soon.....new Lakeside Chapter LoH designs

Order from Dean - our Merchandising Officer

15TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE

Order from Dean - our Merchandising Officer



Men's 15th Anniversary Hoodie £30
Sizes XS (34") to 5XL (62")
Men's 15th Anniversary Polo £16
Sizes XS (34") to 7XL (66")



Ladies 15th Anniversary Hoodie £30
Sizes XS (8) to 2XL (18)
Ladies 15th Anniversary Polo £16
Sizes XS (8) to 4XL (22)





Limited addition 15th Anniversary 500ml water bottle £10
(only 8 available).

And don't forget all of our other merchandise

Order from Dean - our Merchandising Officer



¼ 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 availabl:e

Sweatshirt £22.50
Sizes XS – 4XL

Unisex Long Sleeve Polo £15

Zipped Sweatshirt £27.50
Sizes S – 2XL

Chapter Cap £15

£1 EACH
OLD SURPLUS STOCK



RIDE OUT ARTICLES

7958

LAKESIDE

CHAPTER

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER: THE RIDE TO THE WALL

All too quickly it came around again: the 2026 RTTW.

Ten nutters met before dawn on the first Saturday of October at South Mimms services.

Once we were all together and suitably hydrated we set off on the only bit of this special day that was a Lakeside organised ride.

The ride up to Northampton was uneventful and went like clockwork.



We then joined hundreds of other bikes at our meeting/departure point to await the official ride into The National Arboretum in Staffordshire. It is quite something to be on the M1, M6 toll with nobody else but motorbikes, fantastic.



Once we all arrived safely it was a short walk over the road from the carpark and for once it was a beautiful day.

We laid our Chapter wreath as always at the foot of the wall where we all paid our respects to the fallen.

Vince



For some it was a very long day (Mr Kev) and 40 winks was called for.

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER: BIMBLE TO BLOSSOM BITES

In the summer that keeps on shining, 14 bikes and 17 riders, set off from Boreham for a country lane route out to Blossom Bites near Saffron Walden. It was about 40 miles, and around 75 minutes and barely touched an A road!

Blossom Bites is the café amongst a number of outlets that forms part of Taylor's Barns at Wimbish. Alongside the café is a great butchers, garden centre, gift shop and more.

Rebecca was so welcoming when I recce'd the ride the previous week and was excited to welcome us when we arrived. She understood our dislike for parking on loose gravel, so kindly arranged for a driveway to be kept clear alongside the cafe where we would park up and indeed came out to greet us.

Good food, good banter and good friendship was enjoyed by all, and Rebecca gave me a huge hug when it was time to leave, wished us safe riding and hoped we would come back. I said we would.

As most of you will know I love a milkshake, and with theirs made with fresh bananas it was right up there with the best! All the meat on the premises is supplied by the butchers next door. With sausages to die for, a number of us paid a visit and came away with some fabulous fare.

If you are ever out that way, look them up and pay them a visit – you won't be disappointed!

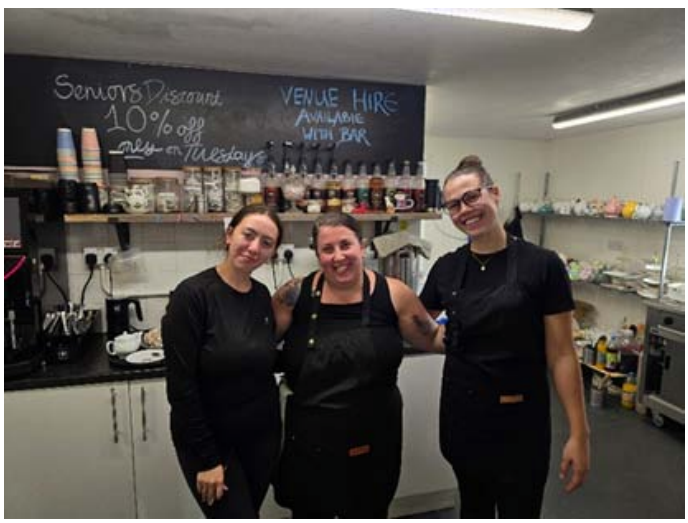
Thanks to all who came along, and to my crew of Phil, Paul and Mary.

Cheers... Kev









WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER: MEANDER TO MILL RACE MOTO

On a beautiful sunny mid-October morning 14 bikes and 15 riders, joined me on the ride out to Mill Race Moto. It was a ride of 45 miles around 1 hours 45 mins and took in some amazing twisty roads off the beaten track.

I had to change the route a little: even after a recce just five days prior with no warnings of road closures, I then spotted some purely by chance just the day before the ride! Even the best laid plans can be scuppered at the last minute, but hey, at least they are filling in some of those potholes!

Mill Race used to be a garden centre which I had recce'd two years ago only to find that it was closing down one week later! That garden centre has been totally transformed into a new venue for bikers, car enthusiasts and petrol heads. It has a large café inside and plenty of seating either outside or under the extensive entrance way.

We were fortunate to find a few tables together and sat in the sun for food and drinks. Service was really quite quick given the volume of people there. The food seemed a little pricey on paper at £8 for a bacon sandwich, but with three thick cut rashers of local butchers bacon in their own home-baked sourdough bread it turned out to be excellent value. And if you like pastries they had a vast selection there, all cooked in their own artisan bakery.

They have regular bike meets and car meets up there and given the large investment they have clearly made in the venue I am sure they will become quite successful over time.

Thanks to all who came along, and to my crew of Phil and Paul.

Cheers... Kev



SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER: DUXFORD COMMUNITY CAFE



On a Sunday that started bright and sunny, eight bikes and riders met at Starbucks for one of my favourite rides and destinations.

We ran the Buddy system as there wasn't many of us and it worked really well.

During the ride it quite often looked like we were going to get a soaking but miraculously we missed most of it on the way up and got treated to some fabulous rainbows.

The ride home however was a different story – every one of us was wetter than an otter's pocket at some stage (it fell down). But we did have 'Rainman' with us after all!

Vince

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER: DEB'S DINER



On the overcast, cool morning of Tuesday 20th October 2026, seven bikes carrying eight Members met at Battlesbridge for a ride around the Dengie. After a briefing, we put on our waterproofs against a few brief spots of rain and set off, following a winding route along mainly B roads to Burnham-on-Crouch via Maldon and Southminster. Blue lights and sirens are unusual on our rides, but an ambulance passed us twice—possibly the same one. We all arrived safely at Debs Diner, set on a stable yard and farm, where we enjoyed a hearty meal and a good chat.

Thanks to Lynn and Neil along with Dee for looking after the back and for the Members for coming out on such a dull day.

Mike.









THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER: A MIDWEEK RIDE TO BRADWELL MARINA

What a fantastic midweek ride-out we enjoyed to Bradwell Marina in Essex. With eight Harley-Davidson motorcycles and nine riders, we set off under bright blue skies and glorious sunshine, making the most of a beautiful day on the road.



The journey took us through the wonderful Essex countryside, where the winding lanes and sweeping bends provided plenty of enjoyment for everyone. The combination of great roads, good company, and perfect riding weather made for a superb ride.

On arrival at Bradwell Marina, we were able to relax with some refreshments outside, soaking up the sunshine and taking in the lovely waterfront views. It was the perfect setting to unwind, before heading home.

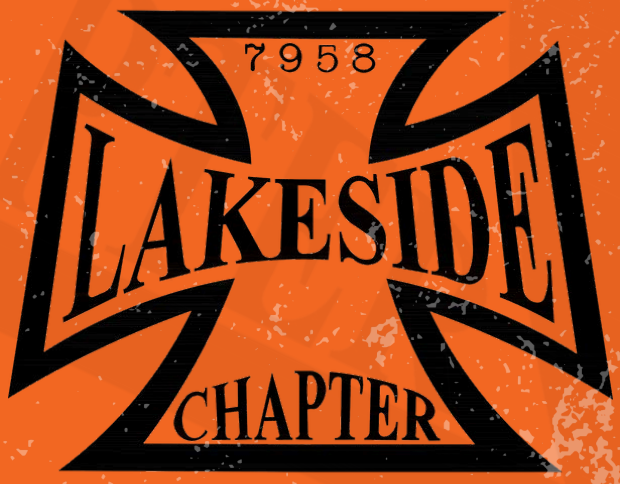
Thank you to Lynn and Ash for crewing the ride and making the day such a success.

Pam





FUTURE RIDES



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.

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.
Pod 8 (by Costa Coffee), Clocktower Retail Park, Chelmsford CM1 3FJ.
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 comms for most up to date information, including on the up to date start times of rides.

==========

Ride outs (starting from Thursday 5 November) through to the December Natter Night:

Thursday 5 November – 2MT café. Meet at The Barge Inn at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 7 November – Maidstone H-D 15th Birthday Celebrations. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure. (Phill will be riding back to Essex and Lake Meadows directly from this event to assist with setting up the fireworks for that evening's display if you want to join him.)

Saturday 7 November – Billericay Fireworks. Meet at Starbucks at 3.45pm for a 4.00 departure.

Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Ride, Orsett. Meet at Starbucks at 10.15am for a 10.35 departure.

Saturday 21 November – Riverside Café at Dobb's Weir. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 28 November – The Hub at Chelmsford. Meet at The King's Arms at 12 noon for a 12.15 departure.

Then we are at our Natter Night in the evening of 9 December at the Kings Arms, Orsett from 6.30pm.

2027 RIDES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



Lakeside Chapter – Weekend in Amiens, France.

(Known as the Venice of France)

SAVE THE DATES
8th - 11th July 2027

Amiens is an historic city in Northern France known for it's Cathedral 'Notre Dame' (Yes, I know there's one in Paris as well..), but this is the largest Gothic Cathedral in all of France... I love a good Church..!!

Les Hortillonages, 300 hectares of floating market gardens (we'll probably ride past them and not through them).

Quartier Saint-Leu, The old medieval quarter bursting with waterside cafés and restaurants. There's even the 'House of Jules Verne' which has been turned into a museum and tribute to this famous author.



You must know 20,000 Leagues under the Sea, Journey to the Centre of the Earth and Around the World in 80 Days to name but a few....

We will also be visiting Harley Davidson Amiens to stock-up on a Poker Chips and a few new bikes

There'll also be some time to explore the many shops and bars in the town.

Details to follow in the next month following the reccy.

Hotel in the centre of town with private secure parking.

Train times and stop-over breaks for lunch at Le Touquet and others...

We may stay at Folkstone on the Thursday evening (8th July) to get an early train on Friday morning but this is TBC. We'll return home on Sunday afternoon.





2027 RALLIES (WITH MORE TO FOLLOW)



European HOG RALLY 2027



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.

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SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND ARTICLES TO:

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