

NOVEMBER 2025

POND LIFE



LAKESIDE

CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 7958



PAGES



5

DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Phill gives us some information about the last month and what's happening soon.



7

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFTEY

Ash gives an update on new rules for travelling to the EU.



10

LADIES OF HARLEY

Pam shares the news for the ladies.



16

EVENTS

Sue and Pam is bringing us news about upcoming events.



24

RIDE AWARDS PROGRAMMES

Kevin and Phill tell us of the various ride awards.



27

REGIONAL OFFICERS CONNECTION

Phill brings us news from the recent get together of HOG and Chapter Officers. This month: the do's and don'ts of patches.



+

MORE

There is so much more but it wouldn't ascetically fit on 1 page!

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PHILL POSTON



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
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CHAPTER SECRETARY
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JOINT EVENTS OFFICER
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OFFICER
ASHLEY SMART



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TONY HITCHING



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
AND JOINT EVENTS OFFICER
SUE STURTON



WELFARE OFFICER
LYNN GUNN

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to this November edition of Pondlife.

I trust you all had a good October and were able to join in on one or some of the many rides that took place. October is the time for the annual Ride To The Wall which features on our cover this month. A big thanks to Phil H and the Road Crew for leading this Chapter's participation on this moving ride.

As I said in my intro to last month's Pondlife – I was off on holiday from the end of September so was unable to include any reports on the Lakeside/1066 weekend at that time. Thankfully, Pam and Sue have included feedback in this month's "events" section. A great time was had by all and well done to everyone that survived (!) the weekend!

As our "guest contributor" this month our Historian - Kevin ("Mr T") Smith - gives us a quick run-down on the Rider Awards you see at the end of each and every Pondlife. Make sure to have a look - you may be due an award. Linked to this, see also Phill's item on the HOG ride awards scheme.

Along with this, Pondlife includes all the usual stuff you love – Phill's update on all things H-D and HOG (including what should be a regular item over the coming months on information coming out of the October Regional Officers Connection), Ash's hints and tips to the new regime for travel within Europe, Pam's update on all the things the Ladies have and will be getting up to, and Sue and Pam's run down of all the great events the Chapter has lined up over the coming months (some of which all help build up to our 15th Birthday Bash next summer). Plus much more.

We may now be in the latter, colder, darker months of the year – but this Chapter still keeps on riding. So check out the list of rides for November and of course, keep an eye on weekly Coms, Chapter calendar and the website for any last minute additions or changes to the ride calendar. As we are at "that time of year" rides may be added, changed or removed depending on how the weather behaves.

That's all from me, so enjoy Pondlife and I'll see you on the road.

Tony H



DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS



Greetings Lakeside Chapter. I guess the long hot Summer had to finish and Autumn feels like it's come and gone in a matter of weeks. I guess we're looking forward to some Winter sunshine and hoping for salt & grit free roads for the next four months.

There are still seven rides and activities noted in the Chapter Diary and if the weather gives us the opportunity I'm sure the Road Crew will add extra Ride Out's at short notice, so keep an eye on the Chapter Diary along with everything else Lakeside Chapter which can be discovered on the website, www.lakesidechapter.co.uk

The Road Crew will sit down at the end of November to plan the 2026 Ride Calendar so if there's anywhere you'd like to be considered can I suggest you let any member of the Road Crew know or just email our Head Road Captain (Ash) on HRC@lakesidechapter.co.uk.

Ride Outs can be near, far, single day or weekend and even multi-day in the UK or Europe. Tell us what you want and if at all possible we'll make it happen.



I was really pleased to get a photo from Vince Knight who visited the NMA in November and took a photo of the Lakeside Chapter Wreath still proudly sitting on the Memorial a month after RTTW. The Chapter will be riding behind Mike Keogh to Orsett to take part in the Community Memorial Service and lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday 9th November, please come along if you can.

I spent a weekend just outside Cambridge a few weeks ago for the Harley Owners Group 'Regional Officers Connection' (with Vince).

All 38 UK & Ireland HOG Chapters were represented by their Directors, members of their Committee and Chapter Members. There were also representatives from 9 UK & Ireland Dealerships. The weekend was an opportunity for HD to share facts and figures about 2025 and what to expect in 2026. I'll be taking a page (or 2) over the coming months to pass this information on to you with the first being in this November edition.

(continued next page)



For now I'll mention that the HOG Orphan Chapter Coordinator, Martin Dickenson has stood down from the post. I was happy to present him with a small 'gift' with all nine Orphan Chapter 'Rockers' as a memento of our massive appreciation for everything he's done specifically for us, and the other Orphan Chapters.

Don't forget it's still possible to get tickets for the Chapter Christmas Party (see Pam).

I can't wait for the carol singing at the Howard Lodge Care Home on 29th Nov. and I'm terrified of what the Lakeside choir practice night might end up like on Tuesday 18th Nov...!!

Please, please come along to help at the Billericay Fireworks on Saturday 8th Nov.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Natter Night on Wednesday 12th Nov. at the Kings Arms.

Cheers everyone

Phill 'Rainman'

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY

As the sun goes down and summer becomes a distant memory.....

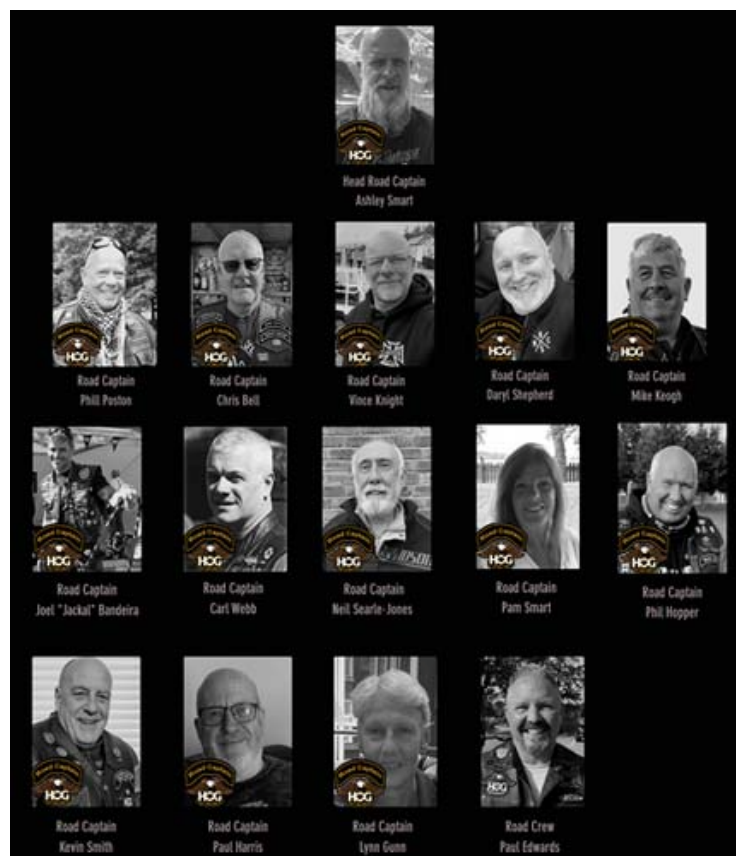


.....it's great to see many of you still out riding and looking at the weather Apps for those nice sunny but chilly days. We will continue to ride throughout the colder winter/spring months but always check coms just in case a ride is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

The Road Captains are busy looking ahead to 2026 and I can report the ride calendar will be full again with rides and destinations to suit everyone, again making us one of the most active Chapters in the UK (who knows....maybe the world!?)

For those that maybe don't realise, together with planning and leading the ride on the day, the RC's would have already undertaken recce's of the route to ensure the ride runs smoothly. They also complete the ride write ups in Pondlife, attend a monthly meeting to feedback on rides and share best practice.

So a huge thank you goes to the whole Road Crew.



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VOYAGE EN EUROPE.....OR....TRAVELLING TO EUROPE !



We all like heading over the channel to explore new roads. So, if you are heading to Europe in 2026 for any of the Rally's or just going on a general holiday you need to know the following information.

Starting October 12, 2025, travellers to Europe will need to comply with the new Entry/Exit System (EES), which will streamline border checks and enhance security for non-EU nationals.

Key Changes in Entry Requirements

Entry/Exit System (EES):

- The EES officially started operations on October 12, 2025. This system will register travellers from outside the EU (Schengen Area) for short stays, replacing the traditional passport stamping method with a digital system that records entries and exits.
- Biometric data, including fingerprints and facial images, will be collected upon entry, which will help prevent identity fraud and track overstays.

Duration of Stay:

- The existing visa-free travel limit for non-EU nationals, including Canadians, remains unchanged at 90 days within a 180-day period. Travellers must ensure they do not exceed this limit, as the EES will automatically detect overstays, which could lead to fines or entry bans.

Self-Service Kiosks:

- Travellers with ePassports will have the option to use self service kiosks at border crossings, which will expedite the entry process.

Data Storage:

- Biometric data collected will be stored for three years, allowing repeat travellers to avoid the need for re-registration within that timeframe.

European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS):

- Although ETIAS will not be implemented until 2026, it is important to note that travellers from visa-exempt countries will need to apply for this electronic travel authorisation before their trip. ETIAS will be required for short stays in the Schengen Area.

Conclusion

Travellers planning to visit Europe from October 2025 should prepare for these new entry requirements,

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particularly the EES, which aims to enhance security and streamline the travel process. It is advisable to stay informed about both the EES and ETIAS systems to ensure a smooth travel experience.

For more detailed information, travellers can refer to official EU resources or travel advisory websites.

Ride safe and have fun.

Ash



LADIES OF HARLEY



LADIES OF HARLEY

Happy November to you all.

Not sure about you, but I have already been out and about to start my Christmas shopping. Having said that, I have not ventured to Lakeside or Bluewater YET!

It has been a very busy year for The Lakeside Ladies of Harley with lots going on. It has been fantastic how you have all joined in, taken part in new adventures or experiences, and just having fun! It is great that we are now having 10 to 11 ladies attend many of our adventures, but there is always room for more!!!

I thought I would put together a little of what we have been up too, adding a picture or two!!

February – The Lakeside Ladies of Harley Brunch at the Inn at Belfair, Leigh on Sea. A lovely occasion to meet back up with friends and say hello to some new members.



Valentines Day is always special to The Lakeside Ladies of Harley!



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March – Ladies of Harley did themselves proud with ‘Outstanding Bakes’ – we just cannot get enough of them!



March - Saw the Lakeside Ladies take a trip to Rochester, where we visited the Cathedral, Castle, browsed through the beautiful high-street and then took in some lunch. We were chauffeured there and back in a mini-bus. What a great day we had.



April – The Lakeside Ladies of Harley shared their artistic skills at an Easter Craft Evening.



(continued next page)

May – a great time to sit and have a hearty Sunday Lunch with friends on the Ride & Roast.



August – The Lakeside Ladies of Harley enjoying the beautiful Essex Sunflowers, what a fantastic sight they were.



September – The Ladies of Harley experienced a 'Wine Tasting Morning' at Crouch Ridge Vinyard, with lunch included! A wonderful way to spend the day!



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September saw the Lakeside Ladies of Harley make a big splash on their adventure 'Paddle Boarding': what a brilliant day we all had. The sun was shining and the lake was calm! This adventure will be repeated next year, so please do not worry if you could not make it!



After all our hard work Paddle Boarding, we made time to relax and enjoy an outside spa, indulging in the hot and cold experiences. The aromatherapy body scrub was amazing, as was the ice bucket, cold water plunge, sauna, and hot-tub.



Still yet to come...

November & December – The Lakeside Ladies will start the Christmas season off with a treat to a 'Christmas Afternoon Tea' at 'The Little Teapot.'

(continued next page)

We also have the 'Wreath Making Experience' and 'The Outdoor Moon Spa' all to look forward to.

Then there is next year!

Roll on next year...remember to share and send your ideas of what you would like to see going on for our Lakeside Ladies of Harley in 2026! Look out for December LOH article where I will be advertising some exciting LOH events!

Well, that is all from me now, all that is left to say is Happy Bonfire Night.



Take care and hope to see you all soon.

Pam

PS - I've just been sent through the link to the National LOH Autumn Newsletter. A live link will be added to our website, or alternatively you can cut and paste the below link into your browser to view it. Let me know what you think.

[http://www.canva.com/design/DAG3Sy-AF-E/LKYosZYfzsoPBSPBoOXnRg/view?
utm_content=DAG3Sy-AF-
E&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer](http://www.canva.com/design/DAG3Sy-AF-E/LKYosZYfzsoPBSPBoOXnRg/view?utm_content=DAG3Sy-AF-E&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer)

EVENTS



EVENTS

Hello from your Events Team. Happy November which means Christmas is just around the corner!!

As you know, it has been a busy October and the rides continue, which is great!

WHAT A BLAST WE ALL HAD WHEN 1066 CAME TO PLAY!



(continued next page)

A huge thank you goes out to 1066 for joining Lakeside Chapter for a weekend of fun.

The weekend started with a light pub lunch and a chance to meet and greet old friends. Then it was off for a lovely ride through the lanes of Essex, encountering horses, busy roads, pot-holes and boy racers!!! With all that under our belt, it was off to freshen up back at the hotel.

But a few hours later, the night life began... first to the local pub for one or two beverages before tucking into a very tasty Indian and chatting the night away with friends.

Next morning, it was up and out ready for a ride to the seaside town of Southend. The route was a mixture of different roads, the sunshine was shining, so there was no better place than out on the road! A stroll along the seafront was much needed, along with a coffee to blow the cobwebs away!

Finally it was time to say farewell to the fantastic 1066 Chapter, with the promise to do it all again next year!

A huge whoosh to you all for a brilliant weekend of riding, fun, great company, and lovely food.

An enormous thank you to everyone who took part in organising and making this happen!

‘SHUFFLE UP AND DEAL ME IN’

Your Birthday Bash Working Party would again like to thank all the Chapter members who came along to the October Natter Night ‘Shuffle Up and Deal Me In’ event.

What a great night we had, and no cheating in sight!! Congratulations goes out to Paul Edwards for being the only person on the night to get to complete the ‘Higher or Lower’ board.



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Congratulations also to Mick, Paul E & Sue for being winners at Rummy at their respective tables and to everyone who joined in.



I would also like to thank the members for their generosity and support in this event.

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A little reminder to remember to SAVE THE DATE!



COME AND CELEBRATE LAKE SIDE IS TURNING 15!		
Save The Date! Saturday 4th July 2026		
Formal Party Invite to Follow!		Buffet / Band / DJ

(continued next page)

Your Birthday Team would like to invite you to the Quiz Night that will take place on 12th November 2025.

QUIZ NIGHT

Lakeside Chapter Quiz
Natter Night

£3:00 per-person to join the fun!

12th
NOVEMBER

19:00 – 19:30

Categories

1. Members of Harleys (picture round)
2. Pondlife Facts
3. Harley History
4. Name the café

Everyone welcome – teams of 1-4 people!
Will you be left holding the 'Wooden Spoon'?

(continued next page)

And just added to our events calendar....

It is cold and frosty outside so come and celebrate with
Lakeside Chapter



Chinese New Year Celebration Meal

Year of the Fire Horse

When: Friday 20th February 2026

Where: Songs Chinese Buffet Restaurant
Chelmsford Essex

Time: 19:00 seated at tables

Cost: £19:99 – payable on the night.

Please let me know, so I can book you a seat at the table.

Please contact Pam for questions and to place your name
on the list.

Lastly, for you all singers or not out there (and we have quite a few)....



Remember, you are all invited for a one-off choir practice on Tuesday 18th November 2025 18:30 at my house, (address to follow). Instruments / props will be provided, along with all words to the carols and songs.

Please can you let me know if you will be able to attend on this date so that I can make sure we have enough refreshments in!

If you would like to join the choir, there is always space and if you cannot make the practice, don't worry - just turn up on the date and join in for a sing along!!

Always remember you are all fantastic!

From Your Events Team: Sue and Pam

Oh yes.....and don't forget....

Early bird tickets

Lakeside Chapter Christmas Party

THREE COURSE MEAL £40.00 FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

DJ PLAYING ALL YOUR FAVOURITE DANCE SONGS!!

All Early Bird Tickets Sold but you can purchase tickets at the cost of £52:00

13TH DECEMBER 6.00 - MIDNIGHT

Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock, Grays, Essex RM16 5UE

Accommodation available at reduced rates!

Please contact the venue.
01708 719933

Family and friends are all welcome

Ride Awards

Ever wondered what the ride awards are all about?

Having recently taken over as Historian, it is my role to collate the data captured on the ride sheets from which I produce various statistics, in various formats.

These include the Year to Date and Lifetime totals that you see in Pondlife, plus also the trigger points that lead to the ride award pins being awarded by Phill and Ash at each Natter Night.



The figures in Pondlife will be as up to date as I can make them depending on Pondlife deadlines.

But we recently came up on a member with 50+ rides, who had never received either the main pin (which is awarded on completion of your first 10 rides), or the 10 or 25 pins, let alone the 50! This was rectified at the last Natter Night.

Which got me to thinking are there any other members due a pin that have maybe slipped through the process? Traditionally pins were presented at Natter Night only.

In looking at ways of getting pins to recipients in a more timely manner, whilst the main process will continue to be at Natter Night, we also understand that not everyone will be able to attend Natter Nights. In future therefore, pins may also be presented at ride-outs, if any of the Director, Assistant Director, Head Road Captain, or Historian are present on that particular ride as each has a list of known outstanding awards.

And finally for your reference the pins are awarded at 10, 25 and 50, then every 25 up to 300, then 400 and 500.

At the time of writing the following are due to receive their respective pins:

Alan Gibson 25
Steve Collins 75
John Dutney 10
Lee Trower 10
Adrian Belcher 75
Matt Black 10
Adrian Crabb 75
Lynn Gunn 125
Dudley Metson 125

If you are NOT on the above list and feel that you should be, feel free to drop me an email at historian@lakesidechapter.co.uk and I'll have a look into it for you.

Kev.

Lakeside Chapter Mileage Awards – The 5000+ Club



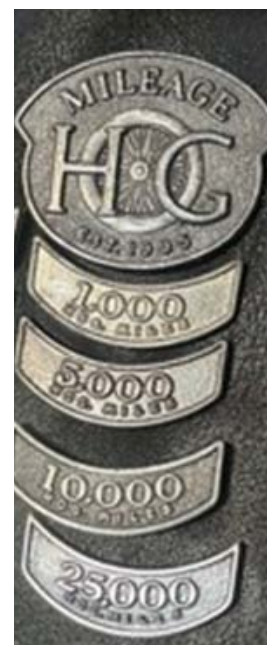
Way back in April we announced the return of the Lakeside Chapter 5000+ Awards. This is a cool badge and Year Bars for every Year you can prove you've ridden more than 5000 miles. Carl made up a spreadsheet with a rather disappointing 12 Members registering their names & bike mileage.



If these 12 members want to get their speedo readings to me before December 31st I'll work out if you've done more than 5000 miles and (if you have) you'll get the Badge and a 2025 Year Bar. I'll also use that closing mileage as your opening mileage for 2026...!! If you want to play catch-up, I'll take a Service document or MOT (anything with your bike mileage on) and (of course) your current mileage. Same rules, if you've done more than 5000 you'll get the pins. At the very least, I'll use them as your starting mileage for 2026.

HOG 365 Mileage Awards

HOG also runs a mileage awards scheme, also with Mileage awards pins and patches. This is for your lifetime Harley Davidson Mileage. All you need to do is visit any Dealership in the UK and ask them to record your mileage. It's as easy as that (you will need to be on your bike). If they refuse I'd like you to let me know (they're not allowed to). Obviously, the best times to do this (to get the biggest annual mileage) is January 1st and then December 31st, but it doesn't matter when, or how many times you do this in any year. Their computers will work it out and you'll get your pins. To top it all, your mileage will automatically get added to the Chapter's Overall Annual Mileage, (we HAVE to do better than last year...!! see our certificates on the next page). Even if you go to Maidstone today and register your mileage, and then go to Newmarket on December 29th and do the same again, your mileage will get recorded and you'll be credited. Any questions, please ask.



Phill 'Rainman'

Chapter average 54 miles per member

Total Chapter Mileage Registered in 2024 – 6463

RIDE 365
MILEAGE CHALLENGE 2024

Average Chapter Mileage
Lakeside Chapter Great Britain
Is awarded
25TH PLACE
In the UK & Ireland, of 30 participating Chapters
and awarded
113TH PLACE
In the EMEA Region, of 144 participating Chapters
Congratulations to all participating Chapter members.

54
MEMBER AVERAGE MILES

HOG *Green*
Customer Experience Lead,
Harley-Davidson UK & Ireland

RIDE 365
MILEAGE CHALLENGE 2024

Total Chapter Mileage
Lakeside Chapter Great Britain
Is awarded
25TH PLACE
In the UK & Ireland, of 30 participating Chapters
and awarded
115TH PLACE
In the EMEA Region, of 144 participating Chapters
Congratulations to all participating Chapter members.

6463
TOTAL ANNUAL MILES

HOG *Green*
Customer Experience Lead,
Harley-Davidson UK & Ireland

Regional Officers Connection



Welcome to my series of articles brought back from the Regional Officers Connection with all the UK & Ireland HOG Chapters held in October 2025.

Each month I'll pass on details and information about HOG, Harley Davidson and what's coming in 2026

Unfortunately, I'm going to have to start with a bit of a warning/advice to members regarding your Chapter 'Cuts' and what you should and maybe shouldn't put on them. Firstly, let me say that absolutely no one from HD or HOG is EVER going to complain or police what you put on your 'Cut'. Unfortunately, some Motorcycle Clubs will care, and may take great offence if you display certain things. This article is intended to inform you and let you choose to do whatever you want. Below is the 'Official' guidance from HOG.

MC Support Guidance

Updated Charter Guidance

Harley Owners Group is not a Motorcycle Club, we are a riding group. Although we may be in a geographic area, we do not claim territory. We do not have club houses. Additionally, it is imperative that we remain neutral in any Motorcycle Club related issues. It is also very important that certain patches are not worn on Chapter Vests:

This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Rockers, arches or scrolls that conform above or below the Harley Owners Group Logo (exception - the official Chapter Chevron).
- Rib or side rockers.
- Diamond shaped patches, logos, or emblems.
- Any patch, logo or emblem that represents a percent (%).
- Any patch, logo or emblem that represents/supports any Motorcycle Club (MC).

These simple steps will help ensure our place in motorcycle culture and the safety of our members.

Top rocker: Official Chapter name only

Back Patch: Official HOG Eagle

'MC' patch: NEVER

Bottom rocker: NEVER

Diamond or % patch: NEVER

'Support' patch: NEVER

Proximity to HOG patches: NO HOG cuts are only for HOG related patches

Rib / Side rocker: NEVER

There's more ! Here are the patches you can currently buy through HD. All of these are OK to place anywhere on your 'Cut'. The middle 'Skull & Wings' Patch (it's called the Motorhead Patch) is best not put on the back of your 'Cut', especially under a Chapter Rocker. A very well known MC have made it known that they will (at the very least) ask anyone supporting this patch, to remove it



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HD & HOG will never have a problem with whatever you chose to put on your cut, the more patches and pins the better, but this is a very real 'thing' and the very least I can do is make sure everyone in the Chapter knows about it. I will be posting this on the chapter FB page and sending it out via email to all members as well. Hopefully this is all self-explanatory. If you have any questions, please contact me anytime. director@lakesidechapter.co.uk

Phill "Rainman"

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



Zippered Hoodie £25
Sizes S - 5xl



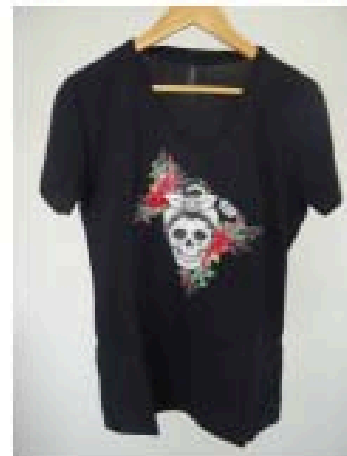
Heavyweight Hoodie £30
Sizes XS - 3XL

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

£1 EACH OLD SURPLUS STOCK



RIDE-OUT GUIDELINES

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

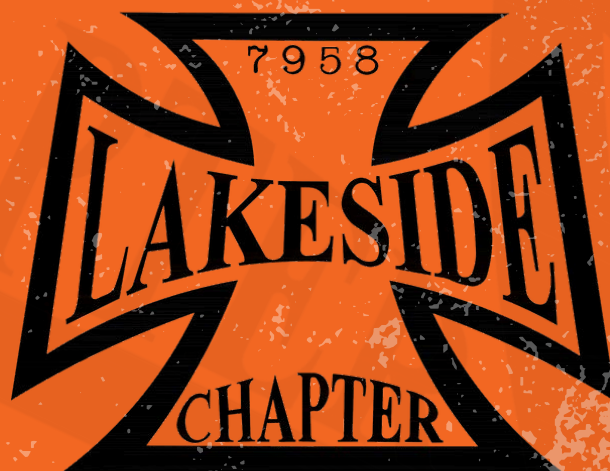
Ride Guest Policy

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.

RIDE OUT ARTICLES



THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER: PARLOUR CAFE



Thursday 2nd October 2025, was an overcast morning with the sun trying to show its face when 14 members with 13 bikes met at Battlesbridge for the ride out to the Dengie Peninsula.

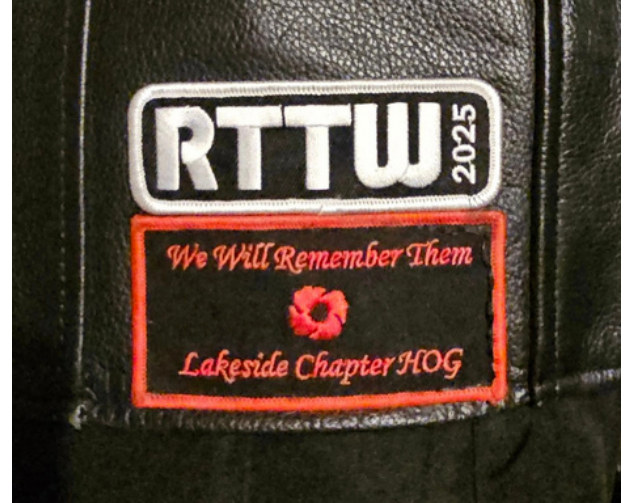
Riding out into Rettendon, we soon were out in the country lanes and roads in a large loop towards Burnham-on-Crouch. There were bends, twists and turns and some undulating roads to navigate. An hour and a quarter later we arrived on the bumpy and loose gravel entrance to the Parlour Café. Everyone arrived safely and parked up. The sun was out, and we made a decision to eat in the sun and enjoy the fresh air. The food was excellent and came very quickly once ordered. Chin wag had, food eaten, dog petted and we were off on our way to our various homes.

Thanks to the members who came along and for Kev with Mrs Kev and Pam for looking after the rear.

Mike.



SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER: RIDE TO THE WALL



Thanks to all who took part this year in the Lakeside Chapter RTTW.

Following a very early start on a very windy day we set off in the dark at around 6.30am from South Mimms services heading for the RTTW rally point at Northampton North services.

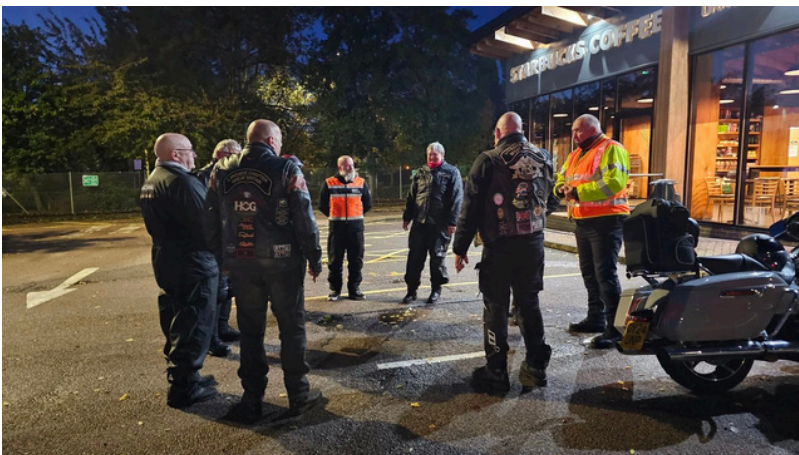
After a very annoying delay due to the M1 being closed we arrived in plenty of time for a brew and comfort break at the services. There we met up with a large number of riders to be escorted by the RTTW team to the National Arboretum.

Following the team's briefing we set off up the M1 in convoy with a large number of other riders.

Following the Ride to the Wall we parked up amongst what looked like thousands of bikes and walked to the Arboretum to be met by thousands of other bikers paying tribute despite the bad weather. Well done by all.

Thanks again

ITS ALL ABOUT THE RIDE...Phil H



SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER: THE BARNYARD CAFE



A quickly arranged ride on a free Saturday needed somewhere close but still with interesting roads, so we headed off on a little circular ride taking in the lanes and B roads out to Blackmore/Ingatestone before finishing less than five miles from our start location at the Halfway House. I managed to find a few roads that were new to many of the riders who ventured out on this grey but dry autumn day.



It's certainly another venture for 2026 and the routes to it are endless so will be something completely different next time..... and maybe you can even do some shopping afterwards in the onsite shop selling everything imaginable for you Master Chefs.

Ash



SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER: MAIDSTONE H-D



Saturday 18th October saw 10 members on 10 bikes meet up at Tim Horton's, Lakeside, for a short blast down to Maidstone via A roads and M roads. Once there, we were welcomed by the team who just so happened to have a donut 🍩 or two, or in someone's case 3 or 4 (yes you know who) for all to enjoy (if they were quick enough!).

Phil H...its all about the ride

WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER: TOLLESBURY CAFE

Following a couple of days of rain and wind, we were lucky to have dry and occasional sunny weather for our ride to the Tollesbury Café. Six bikes and eight people set off from Starbucks at the Halfway House for a lovely ride along lanes, A and B roads to Tollesbury. On the way we did have a couple of encounters with people who were oblivious to the bikes, thankfully not leading to any incidents. We arrived to the usual warm welcome at the Tollesbury Café, where we had reserved seating waiting for us, and a variety of food and drinks was consumed.

Thanks to Phil Hopper and Mike Keogh for crewing for me.

Paul H



SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER: POULSON CREATIVE CUSTOMS

It was going to be a busy morning with the monthly Committee and Road Crew meetings, but with a 'space' in the Ride Diary, the weather forecast looking good and a flyer on Facebook advertising this event from our friends at Poulson Creative Customs, it seemed like it just had to happen.

The Road Crew periodically check to see how many rides they've done and how many they've Crewed to make sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Many thanks to Paul Harris for stepping aside to let Paul Edwards crew with Lynn on this Ride Out.

We walked into the Car Park at the Kings Arms to be confronted by a Horse Truck and (of course) four bloody great big horses. The good news was they were leaving about 5 minutes before our planned departure time, but the not so good news was that they were going the same way.



A horse is an amazing animal to encounter on any road. They are very robust but impulsive creatures. The safest thing to do is to stop and turn your engine off. There's still no guarantee they won't get spooked by a small patch on your 'cut' and try to kick you across the road, so they're best treated with maximum respect at all times. A quick revision to our Exit Route fixed that dilemma and we took off for a wonderful ride around the lanes via Billericay, Stock, Galleywood, Gt. Baddow, Danbury and finally Maldon to Poulson Creative Customs.

There were around 40 bikes parked around the entrance and surrounding units and a food stall that was being kept busy. I only seem to stop by this venue a few times a year and it never disappoints. There is always a friendly atmosphere and on this Saturday a great many people enjoying themselves. I think the 15 Lakeside Chapter members stayed for around an hour and then headed home (to get to the Pub by 5pm no doubt).



(continued next page)



I'm 'told' that the Harley Davidson Experience Tour won't be coming to Poulson's in 2026. They are however looking for possible alternative venues in Essex. If you can recommend anywhere, please let me know and I'll pass it back to HD

As always, a good ride and destination on a sunny Saturday afternoon in October..!

What's not to like.

Many thanks to the Chapter Members who came along.

Phill 'Rainman'

TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER: ABBERTON RESERVOIR

On what started as a clear, bright Tuesday morning, eight members on seven Harleys met at the Boreham Services for a relatively short ride to Abberton Reservoir.

With the briefing done, Joel led us out of the services, dodging potholes and huge lorries, guided us safely around the double exit roundabout (where eyes are needed in the back of your head) and set off towards Boreham.



It was a well chosen route, taking us through many leafy lanes, twisty turnies and small villages. Every now and then a stretch of open road would open up and Joel can always be relied upon to open it up on the straight! Before long we were turning into the large car park at the reservoir (which strangely for an Essex Wildlife Trust car park was free!). As with most Essex Wildlife Trust sites, Abberton has a large visitor centre. Along with the good selection of cakes, there were also adequate ready-made sandwiches etc to satisfy everyone. With food and drink grabbed it was time to sit down and put the world to rights!

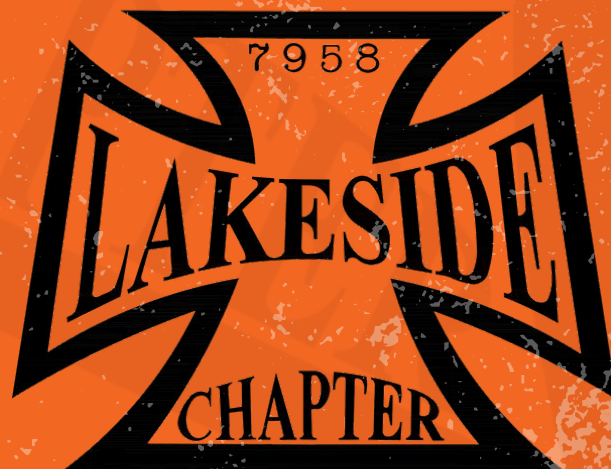
After an hour or so it was time to gear up again and set off on our respective routes home. Although still warm it was becoming overcast but thankfully the rain held off.

Big thanks to Joel for leading the ride and the Kevin and Paul H for crewing.

Tony H (for Joel as he's off to see Santa).



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 4 November) through to the December Natter Night:

Saturday 8 November – Billericay Fireworks. Meet at Starbucks at 3pm for a 3.30 departure.

Sunday 9 November – Remembrance Sunday. Meet at Starbucks at 10.15am for a 10.35 departure.

Saturday 26 November – Care Home Ride. Meet at Starbucks at 1.30 for a 1.45 departure.

Then we are at our December Natter Night in the evening of 10 December at the Kings Arms, Orsett from 6.30pm.

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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