

APRIL 2024

POND LIFE



LAKE SIDE

CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 7958

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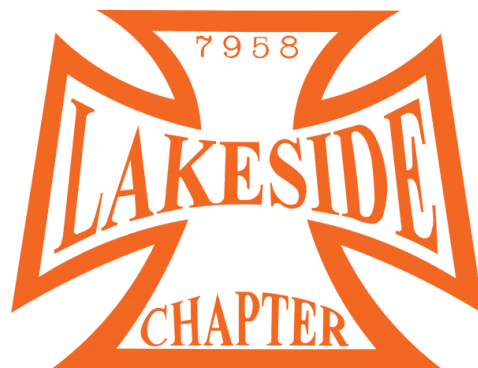
Membership update



Sign-up day was a great success with over 70 members joining on the day. We've since had more of you joining online and we will soon reach 100 members....however there are still some of you yet to rejoin!.....Remember Lakeside unanimously won the 2023 HOG UK Best Orphan Chapter, so rejoin now and be part of something special.

You can sign up via our Web page www.lakesidechapter.co.uk/signup-form or at any Natter Night/Day.

Ash
Membership Secretary





COMMITTEE



DIRECTOR
PHILL POSTON



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CARL WEBB



CHAPTER SECRETARY
NEIL SEARLE-JONES



TREASURER
STEVE WINTERS



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
ASHLEY SMART



LADIES OF HARLEY OFFICER
PAM SMART



FUNDRAISING OFFICER
CHRIS BELL



HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN/SAFETY OFFICER
VINCE KNIGHT



HISTORIAN
DARYL SHEPPARD



ACTIVITIES OFFICER
LU MIDDLETON



WEBMASTER
KEVIN SMITH



EDITOR
TONY HITCHING

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the April edition of Pondlife. I can't believe we're up to April already – but the clocks have sprung forward, the nights are brighter and no doubt we'll get a lot of April showers. But that shouldn't dampen our spirit for the open road – especially as the ride diary is getting fuller every day it seems with the Road Crew regularly adding new rides to what was an already packed diary. Well done Road Crew for making the time to support all of these rides.



Looking back, March has been a busy month with the ride diary kicking off properly, both for the Chapter and myself. I ride come rain or shine, but it was nice to start off my 2024 Chapter rides back at the beginning of March with a great ride down to Rykas at Box Hill, Surrey (see later in this edition for the ride report).

Since then we've had a successful Chapter Sign-Up day where it was great to see many old friends as well some new faces (and it's been fantastic to see some of those new faces out on rides already – well done), a good number of midweek and weekend rides as well as a great turn out for the Easter Egg ride to Basildon Hospital on 23 March (and we received a nice letter from the Hospital thanking the Chapter for the generous Easter egg donations – well done you lot).

As I'm writing this during the Easter weekend, there are still more rides to fit into March – even though there are only a couple of days left! We sure are an active bunch.

Looking forward to April, we have an Axe Throwing ride and event (not at the same time I hope – could get messy) on 6 April, Natter Night at the Dog and Partridge 10 April, an amazing four rides on the bounce to various destinations from 18 to 21 April inclusive, and finishing the month with a join-up with the 1066 Chapter. This is just a sample of what is in store. As always, keep an eye on Team-Up, Facebook and weekly coms for all updates and details.

Finally from me – a big “WHOOP” for **Pam Smart** for becoming a fully qualified Road Captain. That's Pam on our cover this month. See her story in the LoH section later in this edition.

'Til the next time....

Tony H



DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

I hope everyone had a good Easter. The weather was pretty good and so there was a good chance that, as well as the Saturday Social 'Natterday' and Ride Out you've all had a chance to hit the roads and blow some of the Winter cobwebs away.

The Harley Owners Group news is that Vicki Green has been appointed the new Harley Davidson Customer Experience Lead. She takes over from Amy Sparrow who left HOG at Christmas.

Vicki has years of experience with Harley Davidson and has been the LOH Officer for the UK & Ireland in recent years. She's married to Matt (who is Director of Sherwood Chapter) and she rides a kick-ass Road Glide. I've no doubt that Vicki will be a huge asset to the Harley Davidson UK & Ireland team. Martin Dickenson remains our 'Orphan' Chapter point of contact.

I've offered an open invitation to Vicki & Martin to visit Lakeside Chapter and come along to any of our Natter day or Natter Night Socials.



Massive "Congratulations" to Pam Smart for completing her Road Captains course at Harley Davidson's UK headquarters in Oxford last weekend. I'm sure she'll be telling us all about it further in this edition. Absolutely any members of the Chapter are welcome to be a part of the Road Crew. If you attend Ride Outs regularly and want to get a little more involved just ask any member of the Crew or talk to our Head Road Captain, Vince Knight anytime

The coming month is action packed for the Chapter with seven planned Ride Outs and three events already in the diary. Remember in these early months if the weather looks good, Road Captains will book extra Ride Outs at short notice. These will be advertised on Facebook and added to the Chapter 'TeamUp' diary (which is also available on the Website).

We have several Rally's and overnight Ride Outs you might want to think about. The first is the 1066 Chapter Weekend on 27th & 28th April. This culminates with a ride into Arundel castle, where we've been given permission to drive into the Castle courtyard. What a photo opportunity that's going to be.

The first HOG Rally of the Year is the Cider Rally. This is from the 3rd to the 6th May in Weston-Super-Mare. Tickets and accommodation are available via the Bridgewater Chapter Website.

This Year's HOG European Rally is in Senigallia, Italy. The Rally entry is free..!!! But you'll need somewhere to stay. Rooms, Hotels, campsites and lodgings are still available. Full details are online.

Later, in July there is the Bombay Sapphire weekend and the Sykes HD Dealership Party weekend. All of these events and so many more are in the Chapter Diary and if you want to be involved you'll need to book hotels so don't leave it until the last minute.

That'll do for now.

Have fun & Ride Safe.

Cheers, Phill 'Rainman'



HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY

.Well another month has flown by and there have been so many good rides already.

I would like to congratulate Pam on becoming our latest Road Captain. She has worked hard and will be excellent at the job. Her rides aren't bad either (lol).

We had a ride to Bradwell Marina on Sat 30th March. At the ride brief we were told it was to be the buddy system. Well I think we need to do a tad more training as some decided to start doing drop offs and the whole ride got split up. PLEASE follow the rules laid down by your road captain at the brief. If you are unsure of the procedures then please just ask a member of the crew or Road Captain.

Thankfully we all got to the venue (in about 4 groups) and nobody died.

The rides are now starting to come thick and fast and hopefully there is something to float your boat. As always as weather permits we will add some short notice rides, so keep an eye on FB and comms.

That's all from me for now, but if you have any questions or are unsure of anything ride related please drop me a line at Headroadcaptain@lakesidechapter.co.uk

Above all have fun, ride your bike and if possible, EAT



FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Well guys what can I say sign up day brought in a total for the charities £244 this is without the money the Ladies of Harley made from the cake stand. The jar of Easter Eggs was won by Sarah Gleeson where Sarah guessed the exact amount of 147 (she must have been watching snooker)

The Easter Egg (over 80 eggs) run was attended by 15 bike braving a rather cool day where we travelled a short distance to Basildon Hospital and was greeted by the nurses on duty who contacted me later that day to let us know they gave some out and the mums cried saying how grateful they were. That's all for this month so until next time rubber side down.



wipe away those tears

LADIES OF HARLEY



LADIES OF HARLEY

Ladies of Harley Cake Donation Stall at Sign Up day!

A huge 'Thank you' goes out to all our Ladies of Harley and everyone who baked cakes and savouries for the sign-up day. You raised a total of £226:00, which is fantastic! There were so many cakes it was unbelievable, along with a great range of varieties.... everyone was spoilt for choice!

A HUGE WHOOOOOSH to you all!



Road Captain Training:

I'm not sure how to start this feedback to you all...!

As you know I went on the 'Road Captains' course in March, to Oxford, at the Harley Division Head Office for UK and Ireland. The first day was mainly classroom based, learning about procedures, good practices, stories, and rules on the road! Well, it started with a warm up of experience around the table of riding. Yes, you guessed it!! Everyone had been riding before the age of 14 and even before that! As you all know that this is my fourth year of riding and my learning curve continues!!

However, before the end of the first day, having ridden with the group, I should not have worried! The course was excellent. I was told my riding was very good and I was a natural!!! I think at that point I cried! The second day was better, when it was my turn to lead the group, I led them through a busy town, dropping everyone off and we all managed to stay together and get back safely!

All of that.... I could not have done without all your support and encouragement.

So, a big 'Thank you' again from me!



A little shout out to all our lovely ‘Ladies of Harley’: new members or members that have rejoined, please let me know if you would like to join our ‘WhatsApp’ group which is a quicker, more convenient way to reach you all about up-and-coming events. However also keep an eye out for emails which will again keep you in the loop of what we are hoping to get up too!

A gentle reminder of what in store for the Ladies of Harley.....

LOH Lavender Fields Ride



Saturday 22nd June 2024 –Please join us on our return visit to the Lavender Fields by popular request! This stunning ride takes us over to Kent where we travel through beautiful countryside to the amazing fields of lavender, where we rest, eat and walk amongst the sweet-smelling fields of lavender. You will have a chance to visit the farm shop, lavender shop, take a walk down by the river or just rest in the sun amongst good friends. A ride not to be missed!

LOH Beth Chatto’s Garden Ride

Saturday 3rd August 2024 - During her lifetime, Beth Chatto OBE VMH won countless awards for her garden design. She exhibited and won Gold many times at one of the most well known horticultural shows: the Chelsea Flower Show, and these gardens are her life’s work in plants. Transformed from challenging terrain into beautiful gardens that provide a living demonstration of how plants thrive when they are grown in the conditions that suit them best. Explore and be inspired! And there is a café’ for a well-deserved brunch! A ride not to be missed!



And there’s still more.....see next page!

LOH New Hall Vineyard Tour Ride

Open Estate Day
Saturday 15th June
10am-4pm



PAUL LAURIE
Essex Wine Man

Meet the Winemakers | Smoking Bears BBQ
Open Winery | Market West Coffee
Barrel top tastings | Live Music

NEW HALL WINE ESTATE, PURLEIGH,
CROUCH VALLEY CM3 6PN

The Ladies of Harley Rochester (Kent) (Dickens' Festival) Christmas Market Trip, which is set to be taking place the weekend of the 30th November / 1st of December (still waiting for dates to be confirmed). The Chapter has kindly contributed money to subsidise the cost of the coach, so we will not need to drive and we can go along as a group. I know quite a few of you have already sent me a WhatsApp and/or email to say you are interested, but if you have not already, could you let me know by the 30th April 2024 so I can start pricing the transport. More information to follow!



As always contact me – grab me at Natter Night / Day / send me an email / give me a call or WhatsApp me - (07515881604) if you have any questions/concerns or just want to join in!

Looking forward to seeing you all at Natter Night.
Ride safe and see you all on the road!

Pam
XX

EVENTS





EVENTS

Hello Lakeside Chapter. I hope you are well.

Unfortunately, the Romford Dogs event on Friday 15th March was cancelled.

The next 'social' event is axe throwing @ Nuclear Wild Forest, Parsonage Farm, Ongar Road, Brentwood CM15 0LB on Saturday 6th April @ 11.30am. This will be a 90mins session for £30. They have asked if we could do a ride out to the venue, as they would love to see all the bikes and I'm pleased to say that the ride out has been sorted, weather permitting. I have put on our Facebook page a link to make payment, as this is direct with Nuclear Wild Forest, so check out all the details but please let me know if you are interested or have any questions.



After the Axe throwing there will be a Curry night on 16th May from 7pm at Bekash restaurant, Nevendon Road, Wickford, SS12 0PZ. Please do let me know if you are able to attend in order that I can advise the restaurant of numbers.

Later in the year is the September 'social' to watch and cheer on the dragon boats at the Cambridge Dragon boat racing. I'm ironing out the final details for this event with the organisers.

I'm hoping to get some more events in the diary, so if you have any ideas for anything you would like to do please do get in touch at: events@lakesidechapter.co.uk

See all soon.

Lu



MERCHANDISE

More is coming in 2024...



£1 EACH OLD SURPLUS STOCK

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023



2023

RIDE-OUT GUIDELINES

Chapter activities are conducted primarily for the benefit of H.O.G. Chapter members. There are three categories of activities, identified as follows:

Member Event – (Rallies, Multi-day)

Member Events are events that are only open to Chapter Members or to other HOG Members *with approval of a Chapter Primary Officer prior to the event date.*

Open Events

Open Events are open to Chapter Members and others. *Guests must be approved by a Chapter Primary Officer prior to the event date.*

Closed Events

Closed Events are open to Chapter members and one guest per member. *Riding guests will need approval of a Chapter Primary Officer prior to the event date.*

Chapter Primary Officers

Director, Assistant Director, Treasurer, Secretary.

Guest Policy

Guests are allowed to participate in Member Events if they are a current HOG member and pre-approved by a Chapter Primary Officer.

An Open Event Guest is permitted at the discretion of one of the Chapter Primary Officers.

Each Chapter member is permitted to invite 1 guest, per event, to participate and may only have the same guest on 6 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



RIDE OUT: SUNDAY 3 MARCH TO



Thankfully a dry morning greeted us on 3rd March as seven members on seven bikes met at Tom Horton's, Lakeside, ready for what was being badged as "the memorial ride for our Brothers Big Pete, Royston and Marc Watson" to one of their favourite destinations – Ryka's Café, Box Hill, Surrey.

With briefings all done and road crew clearly identified, we set up for a quick blast round the M25 until the junction with the A21 where we were able to immediately drop down on to the A25 and meander through some lovely villages, towns and countryside. Throughout the journey we were able to ride as one unit which was great – which also gave some of the locals a little surprise as they heard seven Harleys rumble through.



Once we reached a landmark roundabout (ask Phil – he loves telling you the name of the roundabout, but as children could be reading this I won't repeat it!), it was time to drop off the A25 and on to Box Hill and Ryka's.



At Ryka's a large carpark full of bikes of all makes, shapes, ages and sizes awaited us. Although there were a lot of bikes, parking was still easy, and once parked it was off for grub.

The menu takes on a definite bike theme, but once we saw "the Harley" on the menu it was basically that all round – sausage pattie, bacon, fried egg, hash brown and American cheese all in a bun. Absolutely lovely – but very messy for those with beards!

Fed and watered we then had a chance to look at some of the other bikes, and equally a few were interested in ours. Then it was time to set off.

Thanks Phil "Rainman" for leading the ride and to Phil Hopper and Paul Harris for carrying out Road Crew duties.

Tony H



RIDE OUT: SATURDAY 9 MARCH TO SOUTHEND (FOR FISH AND CHIPS - WHAT ELSE!?)

After being total full up with cakes from sign up day!....We all headed to Southend for fish & chips! It was a dry evening if a little chilly and provided us with a great opportunity to welcome some new members, plus some familiar faces.



A short ride via Canvey approach and Hadleigh took us to the Estuary Restaurant where we were able to park right outside, this meant free parking (and no parking tickets this time!) plus the bikes looked really cool all parked together along the sea front.



Ash

RIDE OUT: WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH TO DEE'S DINER

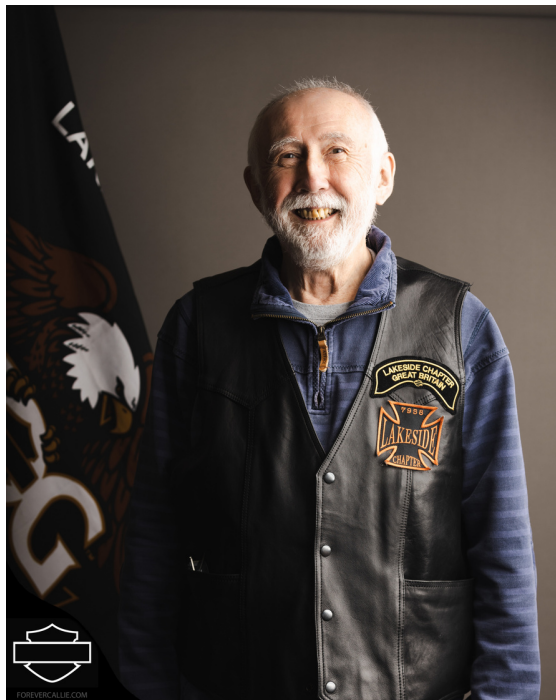
A dry day, overcast and a tad cold - for me anyway. We meet at the new start point which is Starbucks at the Halfway House. This does have the advantage of toilets and a reasonably safe exit.

We had nine bikes and 11 members and after another excellent briefing (my take on it).

We left using the buddy system. The ride was approximately fifty miles and one hour forty-five minutes in duration through the leafy lanes of Essex. Well that was the intention. In reality, it was damp, if two inches of water can be called that, and muddy for roughly sixty per cent of the route. So all the nice shiny bikes arrived at the destination with a fine coating of mud (that will teach a certain person to buy a white bike). When I say we all arrived at the destination, one rider arrived later as an urgent call of nature took preference. The food was good as usual, if not a tad large in the baguette area. A lesson we never learn.

Thanks to Lynne Gunn and Paul & Mary Harris for Road Crew duties and Dee for being the speed advice voice in my ear.

Neil



RIDE OUT: TUESDAY 19 MARCH TO NORTON HEATH

Tuesday 19th March 2024 saw the first Tuesday ride of the year. It was a 25 mile jaunt from Battlesbridge to Norton Heath. Ten members of the Chapter arrived with 9 bikes at The Barge Inn Battlesbridge for the start of the day. Briefing held and we set off at 10.15 am heading for the country roads that would lead us to the final destination. It was going to be a mixture of country roads and lanes with a bit of urban roads to add to the mix.



Unlike the planning ride we hit 3 sets of road works, 2 of which we all made it through in one go and one that held up the main group even when we were all stopped at the red light at the same time. We passed through some nice wooded areas as well as some open farmland.



Just before we arrived at the café there was a few spots of rain, well I hope it was rain. Parking up at the café we entered into the cosy seating area and ordered our food and drink and sat down to have a chin wag before setting off home

Thanks to the members for coming along for the ride and for Phil and Paul for sitting at the back looking after the ride.

Mike



RIDE OUT: SUNDAY 24 MARCH TO CHISLEHURST CAVES

Eighteen members and thirteen bikes made the windy journey to Chislehurst caves in Bromley. Taking mainly country roads (and over a thousand drop offs!!) we arrived safely and together for a well-earned cup of tea before the guided tour. The caves are a series of intersecting man-made tunnels and caverns covering some 22 miles in Chislehurst in the London Borough of Bromley. From the mid-13th to early 19th centuries the "caves" were created from the mining of flint and lime-burning chalk.

Although they are called caves, they are entirely man-made and were dug and used as chalk and flint mines. The earliest recorded mention of the mines and lime-burning kilns above dates from a 9th-century Saxon charter and then not again until around 1232AD; they are believed to have been last worked in the 1830s.

During World War I the caves were used as an ammunition storage dump associated with the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich. In the 1930s the tunnels were used for mushroom cultivation. When the aerial bombardment of London began in September 1940, the caves were used as an air-raid shelter. Soon they became an underground city accommodating up to 15,000 inhabitants (who each paid a penny to enter). The tunnels were fitted with electric lighting, toilets and washing facilities; a chapel was built and also a hospital.

Carl



RIDE OUT: WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH TO "THE SNUG", HIGH EASTER

My first ride as an official Road Captain completed. The weather was bright and although we had rain through the night, the roads had dried out quite quickly! We had a great turn out with 14 members and 11 bikes. The ride consisted of a range of roads, a mixture of town and country roads. The Snug made us all very welcome, food was good and it was great to see new faces coming out during the week. Looking forward to another ride soon!

Pam



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

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



Lakeside Chapter 7958 Committee Meeting: Monthly Committee Meeting 01/2024 Saturday 27 January 2024

Welcome - Director welcomed all to the meeting and proceed to the Agenda.

The previous minutes 107 - 02 December 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Volunteers for Committee positions as Editor Role - Tony Hitching, Webmaster - Kevin Smith and adding Welfare duties to LOH officer were unanimously approved by the Committee.

Sign-Up Day confirmed as Saturday 9th March between 1000 and 1400 hours at The Dog and Partridge.

Date of AGM agreed 25 January 2025. Programme to be provided by Secretary.

Annual Financial return has been made to HOG.

Committee agreed to keep membership fees as is.

The Treasurer ran through the Financial return to HOG. The Chapter has circa £3k credit in its account.

ByLaws for 2024/2025 membership year are on the Website but no comments to date received.

Assistant Director to give safety briefing for Road Crew and any members present after Road Crew Meeting.

Course arrangement based on Road Crew attending first and any spaces available then offered to the membership.

HRC to arrange First Aid course for Road Crew not currently holding a certificate.

LOH now includes Welfare for Members duties. LOH has contacted all members known to be unwell and checked status; no concerns to report.

Ride and Roast has had a good response.

Cutty Sark climb of rigging for 6 July being investigate.

Xmas market being organised.

A thank you letter in regard to our donation has been received from the Aaron Lewis Charity that will be posted on Facebook.

A problem exists with those on AOL domain receiving emails from the Chapter, appears an AOL issue.

Committee agreed to stay with GoDaddy for Email service.

All Committee requested to delete old emails to prevent excess charges.

Bowling offer withdrawn to lack of interest.

Chinese meal (23 Feb) good response from the membership.

Possible use of Electronic business cards being investigated by Director. Full details to be provided at next Meeting.

Norwich HD closing 31 January 2024 and Icen Chapter coming under Newmarket HD.

Next meeting Saturday 24 February 2024

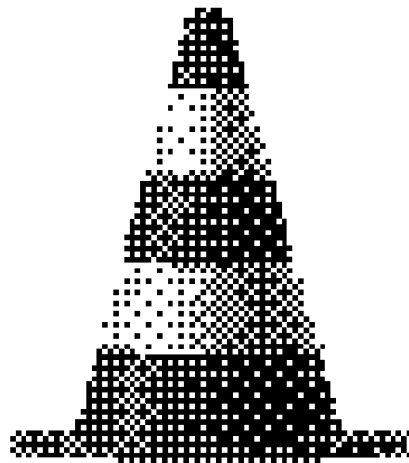
LAKESIDE CHAPTER RIDE AWARDS

Lakeside Chapter operate 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.

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.



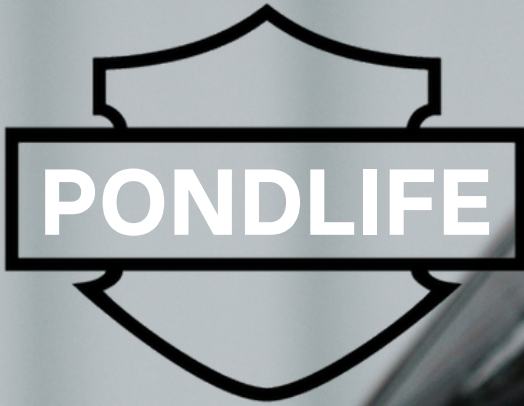
Please bear with us as we update the rider award section to reflect the 24/25 membership rosta.

Normal service will be resumed in the next edition of
Pondlife

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

**SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND
ARTICLES TO:**


EDITOR@LAKESIDECHAPTER.CO.UK



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