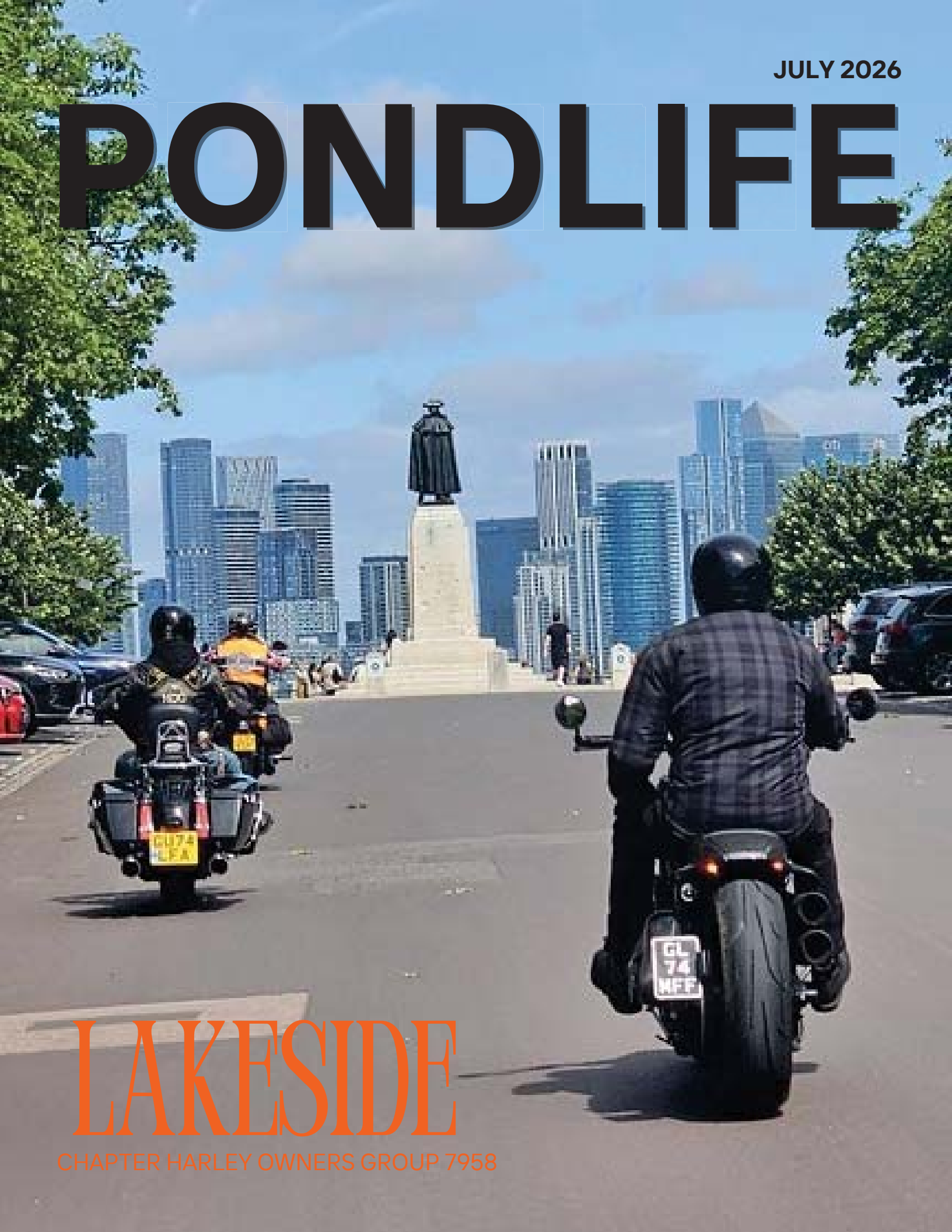


JULY 2026

# POND LIFE



# LAKESIDE

CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 7958

# LAKE SIDE CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER

© Saturday 19th December 2026

© Shepherd & Dog, Crays Hill,  
Billericay, CM11 2XY

\* ⚡ 6:00 PM – 10:30 PM

## \* Three-course Christmas meal

- Drinks & canapés on arrival
- Festive atmosphere with your Lakeside family

## 👑 © Tickets

- £35.00 per person for all
  - Non-refundable
  - Payable to the Chapter
  - Reference: "Christmas Meal"
- First 30 tickets are subsidised by the Chapter - hurry don't miss out!

## 👑 Dress Code

- Wear your favourite Christmas jumper or your best party wear — jingle, or roll in full festive chaos.



Ⓜ A Night of Food, Fun & Harley Spirit Dola AI



# PROJECT 62

A TALK BY  
**KEVIN 'TALLIN'  
TAPLIN**  
FOUNDER OF PROJECT 62

Kevin will share his work promoting prostate cancer awareness and his personal experience of dealing with it.



**TUESDAY 28TH JULY** |  **18:00**



**MAIDSTONE  
HARLEY-DAVIDSON®**  
DEALERSHIP

Sandling Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2HG

ORGANISED BY



★ **ALL WELCOME** ★

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**PONDLIFE**

# COMMITTEE

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DIRECTOR  
PHILL POSTON



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HEAD ROAD  
CAPTAIN AND SAFETY OFFICER  
ASHLEY SMART



CHAPTER SECRETARY  
NEIL SEARLE-JONES



TREASURER  
STEVE WINTERS



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
MARY HARRIS



LADIES OF HARLEY OFFICER AND  
JOINT EVENTS OFFICER  
PAM SMART



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER  
AND JOINT EVENTS OFFICER  
SUE STURTON



FUNDRAISING OFFICER  
CHRIS BELL



MERCHANDISING OFFICER  
DEAN KERMAK



PHOTOGRAPHER  
MANDY SMITH



WEBMASTER AND HISTORIAN  
KEVIN SMITH



WELFARE OFFICER  
LYNN GUNN



EDITOR  
TONY HITCHING

# FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to the July edition of Pondlife.

Well, who saw those temperatures coming in June? Ash did of course. He must have had his weather crystal ball out when he wrote his article for the June edition of Pondlife on riding in hot weather! Ash continues the theme of summer riding in this month's edition – drawing to our attention some of the other hazards that may arise during the longer summer days, along some of the steps we can take to stay safe on the roads.



Elsewhere in this edition Phill gives us a head's up on what is coming up for the Chapter (including some plans for 2027 Rally attendance already), Pam gives us part two of the "Lakeside goes Stateside" adventure (and I have to admit with my love of music this second part really makes me want to get across the pond), and of course Pam reports on what the Ladies have been up to. Add in all of the ride reports – including the exhilarating ride to Greenwich and climbing the Cutty Sark – and it all adds up to another "Summer Bumper Edition" of Pondlife.

And if that isn't enough, I hope you didn't miss the couple of flyers inside the front cover – the flyer for our Christmas Party on Saturday 19 December 2026 as well as the flyer for a talk being given by Invicta Chapter member Kevin "Tallin" Taplin on Project 62 and prostate cancer awareness. If you want to go to the Christmas bash then get in quick as places are limited. If you wanted to get along to the Project 62 talk, then as things currently stand it's just a case of turn up, but keep an eye on comms, facebook, usual channels in case other arrangements (possibly a Chapter ride?) are put in place.

Don't forget it's our 15th Birthday Bash this Saturday (4 July) so I hope to see many of you there. If not, I'll see you on the road sometime.

Until that time, enjoy Pondlife.

Tony H

# DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

What an awesome month..!! The Chapter has been in full swing with ride outs every weekend and (of course) the mid-week jaunts. The diary is still getting new dates for rides so please remember to check your Comms, emails and look at the Chapter website, [www.lakesidechapter.co.uk](http://www.lakesidechapter.co.uk) so as not to miss out.

I'm knocked out to say that Rallies and overnight or weekend rides and events are even being added to the 2027 Diary. As soon as the Road Captains have information on these they'll be advertised in Pondlife, on Facebook, Comms and (of course) on the website.

I can tell you that Lakeside Chapter will be riding to the Cider Rally, The Iron Horse Rally and Thunder in the Glens as well as the European Harley Davidson Rally in Croatia.

As I write this we're just a few days away from the Chapter's 15th Birthday Party. I hope to see you all there. It'll be a good night for sure. A massive "Thank you" to everyone who supported the fund raising 'games' that have helped make this all possible and (of course) to our Birthday Bash Events Team, (Pam, Lynn, Mary & Sue)

I see that our Membership is easing ever closer to 100. Keep encouraging friends to come along to our rides and events. The awesome Lakeside Chapter family is infectious and always has room for new people.

Our ever amazing Committee are all hard at work ensuring there's plenty to do and enjoy and as always I'm immensely grateful to every single one of them for everything they do

Here are a few photos of my Chapter 'month', the Baywatch 'Bird' was at the Invicta Chapter Birthday Beach Party... And I never even knew her name..?!!??



That's it. I'm off for a blast around the lanes.

See you all soon I hope.

Cheers, Phill 'Rainman'

# HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY

## ROLLING INTO JULY

As we roll out of June and throttle into July, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together over the first six months of 2026 and set the tone for the miles ahead.

First and foremost, a massive thank you to everyone who's turned up, geared up, and ridden out with us over the past months. From early morning meet-ups to long, sun-soaked countryside runs, HOG Rally's and coastal adventures the spirit of this Chapter has been on full display.

That's exactly what makes Lakeside Chapter so special to us all.



## INTO JULY: LONGER DAYS, BIGGER RIDES

July is shaping up to be a brilliant month. Longer days and (hopefully!) consistent weather gives us the perfect opportunity to stretch the routes a little further and explore some great roads. Expect a mix of:

- Scenic countryside runs
- Social ride-outs
- A few longer-distance days for those who want to really rack up the miles.

We'll also be leaning on our experienced riders to help support the group as numbers grow through the summer. If you've been riding with us regularly, consider stepping up and joining the Road Crew (catch me when we are out and I can tell you what to expect) it's a great way to give back and strengthen the chapter.

## SAFETY NEVER TAKES A HOLIDAY

With more bikes on the road during summer, awareness becomes even more important. Traffic conditions change, roads get busier, and distractions increase, not just for us, but for other road users too and whilst not a cheerful read the recent data reveals a 13% increase in UK motorcycle deaths last year so we continue to ensure safety is at the heart of our Chapter rides.



**Lakeside Chapter  
Safety**



**Data reveals 13% increase  
in UK motorcycle deaths  
last year**

© 2026

(continued next page)

Keep these front of mind:

- Maintain safe spacing in formation
- Watch for unpredictable drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians etc.
- Adjust for road conditions—gravel, heat-softened tarmac, and sudden weather shifts
- Stay hydrated and take breaks when needed.

Remember, the goal is always the same: everyone leaves together and everyone gets home safe.

## **THE SPIRIT OF LAKESIDE**

What makes this Chapter special isn't just the bikes, it's the people. The laughs, the shared stories, the willingness to help one another out - that's the real engine behind everything we do. July is a chance to build on that even more, welcome new faces, and keep strengthening the bond we've built on and off the road.



So as we fire up for the next stretch, let's keep it smooth, keep it safe, and keep it fun.

I look forward to seeing you all out there, engines rumbling, visors down, and ready to ride.

Ride Safe & Have Fun....

Ash

**LADIES OF  
HARLEY**



# LADIES OF HARLEY

Welcome Lakeside Ladies & Gents — from Pam, Your Ladies of Harley Officer (and in disguise).

July is here, the sun has finally decided to show up, and our ride calendar is bursting at the seams. What a joy it is to welcome you to another edition of Pondlife — a space where we celebrate our Chapter, our adventures, and the spirit that keeps us rolling.

Life out there can feel a bit heavy at times. With wars, rising taxes, constant change, and a world that seems to shift beneath our feet, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But here's the thing: we still have each other. Our Chapter, our friendships, our shared miles — they're a reminder that positivity is something we create together.

So, let's keep going.

Let's stay connected.

Let's stay hopeful.

And let's enjoy every moment of this beautiful summer while it's here.

Here's to sunshine, safe rides, and the strength we find in our Lakeside family.

So folks, what have we been up to now????



## **Mamma Mia ExtrABBAganza**

### **Lakeside Ladies of Harley Take a Chance on Fun!**

The Lakeside Ladies of Harley stepped into a world where “you can dance, you can jive, having the time of your life” at the unforgettable Mamma Mia ExtrABBAganza — the ultimate ABBA and Mamma Mia! experience. From the moment we arrived, it was clear this was going to be a night where we'd all be saying, “My, my, how can I resist you?!”

Set beneath a HUGE open-air screen, we immersed ourselves in the magic of the hit musical, singing along to every classic — the ones we know by heart, the ones that make us smile, and the ones that make us shout, “Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!”

And when the film ended, the party kept going with a full-on ABBA disco, where we danced with our friends, laughed until our sides hurt, and let the feel-good energy of the music take over. Even though the rain kept falling, our spirits stayed sky-high — because as any true ABBA fan knows, “the winner takes it all,” and that night, we were the winners.

Our picnic was fab, shared between songs and washed down with a drink or two — the perfect fuel for a night of dancing queens under the soggy but sparkling sky, (the dry-robies were a God send)!!!!

(continued next page)

A huge thank you to the wonderful team who came along and made it such a special night. We came, we sang, we danced, we sparkled – and we proved once again that Lakeside Ladies know how to make memories that last.



Saying goodbye to a month shouldn't feel like closing a door – more like revving the throttle one last time before the next adventure. So, here's to waving off this month with a grin under the helmet: it threw a few potholes our way, sure, but we rode over them like champs. Male, female, seasoned rider or newbie wobbling out of the car park – we all made it through with the same Harley-powered spirit. So long month of June, thanks for the memories, the miles, and the moments that smelled faintly of petrol, leather, and questionable decisions. Bring on the next one – our engines are warm and our spirits are louder than our exhausts.



Pam  
XX

(continued next page with what is still to come!)

**SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!!**

**Lakeside Ladies of Harley**

**Paddle Boarding Event Repeated!!!!**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> July & 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026 (Both Dates)**



**St Andrews Lake**

**2, Quarry Grove, Rochester, Kent ME2 1BA**

**Cost: to be confirmed (3-hour session)**

**Time: To be confirmed**

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

**Come along, try something new with friends!**

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

**Please contact me if you have any questions.**

**Pam**

**XX**

**I hope you can join us!**

*The Lakeside Ladies of Harley*

# Free Afternoon Tea

26th September 2026, 2:00 PM



Sweet and  
savoury delights,  
a few bottles of  
fun.



All welcome.  
Please let me  
know if you can  
make it.



Pam's House

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**

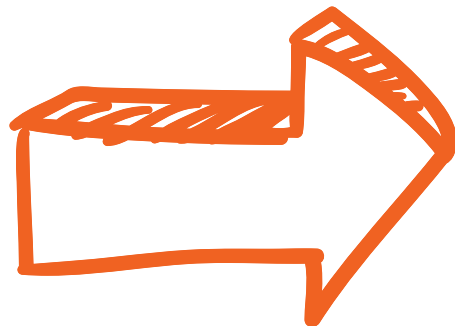
**(sharing a cabin)**

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

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

**Ambassador Cruises  
Tilbury**

# EVENTS



# EVENTS

Lakeside LOH Social Weekend 2027 with 1066 & Sherwood.

All are welcome.. both ladies and gents..!

A great opportunity to have a wonderful evening and an overnight stay with 1066 & Sherwood Chapters. We will eat in the restaurant on the Saturday night and the hotel lays on a function room with a DJ. The menus will be sent out nearer the time but a 3 course meal is around £28 and the food is lovely.

Please call hotel direct and state the name 'Deborah' as she has provisionally booked 40 rooms. We ride up on Saturday and come back Sunday.

There will be an official ride up and back, we will also join the Chapters to ride in together. I hope you can make it.

Let me know if you have any questions x

Please see flyer:

The flyer is a vertical rectangular poster with a dark, textured background. At the top, it reads '1066, SHERWOOD & LAKESIDE' in a bold, serif font. Below this is a large, stylized banner that says 'LOH-SOCIAL WEEKEND'. Underneath the banner, the date '10TH APRIL 2027' is written in a smaller, bold font. The text '40 rooms available' is centered below the date. Further down, it says 'Linton hotel | Bedfordshire LU1 3RP'. A prominent line of text reads 'Book your room' in a cursive font, followed by the phone number '01582407644'. Below the phone number, it lists '65£ - Single • 75£ - Double' and 'Ref for booking "Deborah Laurence"'. The flyer features several images: a vintage microphone on the left, a cassette tape on the right, a motorcycle in the center, and two chapter logos at the bottom left. At the bottom of the flyer, it says 'Ride from Notts, Sussex & Essex to the event' with two stars on either side. The bottom right corner has the '1066 CHAPTER ENGLAND' logo. At the very bottom, three phone numbers are listed: '#9794 #6746 #7958'.

**1066, SHERWOOD & LAKESIDE**  
**LOH-SOCIAL WEEKEND**  
**10TH APRIL 2027**  
40 rooms available  
Linton hotel | Bedfordshire LU1 3RP  
**Book your room**  
01582407644  
65£ - Single • 75£ - Double  
Ref for booking "Deborah Laurence"  
SHERWOOD CHAPTER  
LAKESIDE CHAPTER  
Ride from Notts, Sussex & Essex  
★ to the event ★  
#9794 #6746 #7958  
1066 CHAPTER ENGLAND



**1066 Chapter and Sykes Dealership Summer Party & BBQ**

**When 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026**

**Cost: £30:00 – includes all food & drink**

**Live Band & DJ**

**(payable to lakeside chapter) reference 1066 party 26 – (this is a non-refundable event) payment needs to be made by the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to secure your place!**

**Accommodation: Eastbourne Polegate Premier Inn – 03337774677**

**A minibus will take us from the hotel to the party and home again!**

**There will be an official ride to Sykes dealership**

**For more information or concerns, contact Sue or Pam.**



Theatre Trip – waiting for tickets to be released! Watch this space!

★★ CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF A ROCK LEGEND ★★

# Bat Out of Hell

## MEAT LOAF

★ 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ★

RELIVE THE POWER, PASSION AND DRAMA OF  
**ONE OF THE GREATEST ROCK ALBUMS OF ALL TIME**

• BAT OUT OF HELL • PARADISE BY THE DASHBOARD LIGHT • YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH  
*AND MANY MORE ANTHEMS THAT DEFINED A GENERATION*

**DATE** JULY 1, 2027 | **TIME** 19:30 - 22:00 | **VENUE** CLIFFS PAVILION  
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

*A SPECTACULAR NIGHT OF ROCK ANTHEMS,  
THEATRICAL ENERGY, AND UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCES*

**Dola AI**

**ONE NIGHT ONLY - DON'T MISS OUT!**

Thank you from the Event Team

Sue and Pam

# LAKESIDE GOES STATESIDE

Pam brings us part 2 of Lakeside Chapter's adventures in the Deep South. This time its time to travel through the Mississippi Delta and music country.

=====

## From Vicksburg to Clarksdale – Riding Through the Heart of the Blues

Leaving Vicksburg behind in the early morning light, the Lakeside crew set off once again, ready for another day of discovery in the Deep South. The road ahead promised music, history, and stories woven into the very landscape – and it delivered at every turn.

Our first major stop was the BB King Museum and Delta Interpretive Centre, a place that beautifully honours the life and legacy of the legendary bluesman himself. Wandering through the exhibits, we immersed ourselves in the history of BB King, his music, and the rich cultural tapestry of the Mississippi Delta region. From his early years on a plantation to his rise as an international icon, every display offered something powerful, moving, and deeply human



(continued next page)

With minds full and hearts inspired, we continued on to Indianola, where we enjoyed a wonderful Mexican lunch – the perfect chance to relax, chat, and share impressions of the morning. Good food, good company, and that familiar Lakeside laughter made it a stop to remember.

Back on the bikes, we rode through Doddsville, taking in the wide-open Delta scenery before arriving in Clarksdale, a town known as one of the true birthplaces of the blues. Clarksdale is an agricultural and trading centre, but more importantly, it has been home to countless blues musicians whose influence shaped American music.

Our destination was the Delta Blues Museum, established in 1979 and proudly holding the title of Mississippi’s oldest music museum. Inside, we explored exhibits dedicated to the artists who defined the genre – from Muddy Waters to John Lee Hooker – and felt the weight of the music that still echoes through the Delta today.



(continued next page)

It was a day filled with culture, history, friendship, and the unmistakable soul of the blues — a journey that reminded us why the Deep South holds such a special place in the story of American music.

## Clarksdale Nights – Dancing at the Crossroads of the Blues

Rolling into Clarksdale, the very heart of Delta blues country, we rode straight through the legendary Devil’s Crossroads — the mythical place where Robert Johnson is said to have traded his soul for the gift of music. Whether you believe the tale or not, there’s no denying the energy in the air. It felt like riding through a piece of living folklore.

Once in town, it was a quick stop at the hotel to freshen up before heading out for a night we’d been eagerly waiting for: Ground Zero Blues Club. Co-owned by none other than Morgan Freeman, it’s one of the most iconic blues venues in America. From the outside, we’ll admit it — we hesitated. The building had clearly seen better days, worn and weathered like an old guitar that’s played a thousand songs. But the moment we stepped inside, everything changed.



The music hit us first — raw, powerful, and alive. It wrapped around us, filled the room, and pulled us straight into the soul of the Delta. The atmosphere was electric, the crowd buzzing, and the band pouring their hearts into every note.



(continued next page)



And then we danced. We laughed. We lived the blues the way it's meant to be lived – loud, joyful, and unforgettable. It was a night that captured everything this trip was about: adventure, music, friendship, and stepping into places that surprise you in the best possible way.

What a night to remember... And yes Lakeside stickers were added to the fabric of the building!



## Memphis Bound – Elvis, Civil Rights, Rock 'n' Roll & Fried Chicken

Another early start greeted us with beautiful sunshine, the kind that makes you excited to get back on the bikes. Leaving Clarksdale behind, we rode north toward Memphis, ready to step into the world of the King of Rock 'n' Roll himself – Elvis Presley.

### Graceland – A Visit Like No Other

Nothing could have prepared us for the experience that awaited at Graceland. It was unlike anything we had ever seen before. Room after room revealed pieces of Elvis's life:

- his personal possessions;
- iconic memorabilia;
- his collection of cars and motorcycles; and
- even his private planes, gleaming like time capsules from another era.





Walking through the Jungle Room, the living room, the dining room, and the office, each space was preserved exactly as it had been when Elvis was alive – bold, extravagant, and unmistakably his. It felt like stepping directly into history.

The most moving moment came in the Meditation Garden, where Elvis is laid to rest. Standing quietly by his grave, we each took a moment to reflect – a small prayer, a breath, a thank you for the music that shaped generations.

### **A Morning of History – The National Civil Rights Museum**

The next morning, we continued our journey through American history with a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel – the site where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was tragically assassinated. It was a powerful, emotional experience, one that left a deep impression on all of us.



(continued next page)

## Sun Studio – Where Rock 'n' Roll Was Born

From there, we headed to Sun Studio, the tiny recording studio opened by Sam Phillips in the 1950s. Standing inside the modest room at 709 Union Avenue, it was incredible to think that this was the birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll – where Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and so many others first found their sound.



## A Little Shopping & A Lot of Chicken



The afternoon brought a lighter mood as we visited a local Harley-Davidson dealership – and yes, more T-shirts were purchased. It's practically a rule at this point.

(continued next page)



We rounded off the day with a legendary fried chicken dinner at Gus's Restaurant, famous for good reason. Crispy, spicy, delicious — the perfect end to a day packed with music, history, and unforgettable moments.

So, the Journey Continues!

Pam



# LAKESIDE 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 yours today from our Merchandising Team**

# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE

Orders via email [merchandise@lakesidechapter.co.uk](mailto:merchandise@lakesidechapter.co.uk)



Men's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hoodie £30

Sizes XS (34") to 5XL (62")

Men's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Polo £16

Sizes XS (34") to 7XL (66")



Ladies 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hoodie £30

Sizes XS (8) to 2XL (18)

Ladies 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Polo £16

Sizes XS (8) to 4XL (22)



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

And don't forget all of our other merchandise  
Contact: [merchandise@lakesidechapter.co.uk](mailto:merchandise@lakesidechapter.co.uk)



1/4 Zipped Fleece £17.50  
Sizes XS - 3XL



Men's track polo £22  
Sizes XXS - 3XL



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



Men's Polo £14.50  
Sizes XS - 8XL



Zipped Hoodie £25  
Sizes S - 5xl



Heavyweight Hoodie £30  
Sizes XS - 3XL

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



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

Knitted Beanie Hat £7



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



Ladies Chapter T-shirt  
£14  
Sizes 8 – 16



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

### Also available:

Sweatshirt £22.50  
Sizes XS – 4XL

Unisex Long Sleeve Polo £15

Zipped Sweatshirt £27.50  
Sizes S – 2XL

Chapter Cap £15

# £1 EACH OLD SURPLUS STOCK

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

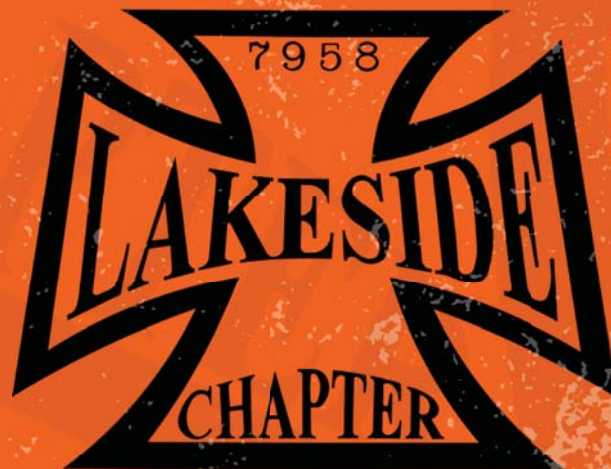
2021

2022

2023



# RIDE OUT ARTICLES



# THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: HATFIELD HOUSE

On a Thursday morning forecast to be overcast with frequent showers, nine Chapter members met at Starbucks, Halfway House for a ride to Hatfield House. We set off through the lanes of Brentwood and South Weald, heading towards Epping. Once into the lanes the bike Sat Nav decided to give up, so a quick stop was required to swap over to the back up. We continued on our way through Waltham Cross and Theydon Bois towards Hatfield. With only a few miles to go the Sat Nav again failed! Thanks to Ash who sorted it, we eventually arrived at Hatfield House. All this with only two very short spells of rain!! We all made use of the lovely café there, sitting outside and enjoying the nice weather.

Thanks to everyone who came along for the ride, to Phil H, Neil and Dee for crewing.

Paul H

# SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: CAFE 206

Five mad members met at Starbucks Halfway House on a very wet and cloudy Saturday morning for a quick bumble to Café 206 at Rochford. Our route took us through Herongate, on to Billericay and through Hanningfield then to Hullbridge and Canewdon, arriving at Rochford for a dry off and a late breakfast at Café 206.

Thanks to Kev Smith and Paul Edwards for crewing, and also to Phil Hopper and Keith Brooks for braving the weather.

We were lucky to get a dry ride home!!!

Paul H (sorry no pictures)

# SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: FLATFORD MILL

There are some rides that just remind you exactly why we do what we do and the recent Lakeside Chapter run out to Flatford Mill was one of those days for me.

From the moment riders began arriving at the meet point, there was a real sense of anticipation in the air. The weather was on our side—clear skies, mild temperatures, and just enough of a breeze to keep things comfortable in the saddle. With bikes lined up, engines rumbling, and plenty of familiar faces, it was shaping up to be a fantastic day on the road.



After the pre-ride briefing—covering route details, safety, and formation— 18 riders/pillions set out in a well-organised staggered formation. Credit to everyone on the ride; spacing was tight, communication was spot on, and corner marking (second man drop offs) did a brilliant job keeping the group flowing smoothly and together.

The route itself offered a mix of riding: sweeping country roads; stretches of open carriageway; and those narrower, more technical lanes that keep you focused and engaged. This is where the strength of riding as a Chapter really shows—everyone looking out for each other, riding their own ride, and keeping the group cohesive.

We arrived altogether waking up the sleepy village, bikes lined neatly, there's always that moment where helmets come off and the smiles say it all. The setting at Flatford Mill is something special: peaceful; picturesque; and a perfect backdrop for a chapter picture or two!



(continued next page)

Riders took time to wander, grab refreshments, and enjoy the surroundings. As always, the social side of the ride is just as important as the miles covered. Days like this aren't just about the destination, they're about the journey, the camaraderie, and the shared passion for riding. The Flatford Mill run ticked all the boxes.



Thank you

Ash

# WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: RIVER BREEZE CAFE

Lakeside took a ride through the winding, curvy lanes of Essex, enjoying the peace, the greenery, and that familiar sense of freedom that only a good ride out can bring. The destination was the charming, sleepy village of North Fambridge, tucked beside the marina.

Once we arrived at the River Breeze Café, everyone settled in for whatever suited their appetite – breakfast, brunch, or even lunch. It was the perfect chance to relax, chat, and catch up with friends. Conversations flowed easily as we talked about upcoming rides, shared stories, and enjoyed the peaceful setting.

We were lucky too – despite the forecast, we managed to avoid the rain and stayed dry for the journey. A small victory, but one every rider appreciates.

Thank you to everyone who joined me. Another lovely ride, another set of memories, and many more still to come.

Pam



# SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: GREENWICH AND THE CUTTY SARK



The Lakeside Chapter set off on another brilliant adventure, riding our motorcycles through the busy roads of Greenwich – home of the world-famous Cutty Sark. The weather held and was warm with sunshine on our backs, the mood was high, and the promise of a day filled with history and laughter kept everyone smiling.

Our first stop was Greenwich Park, where we paused for a perfect photo opportunity. While taking in the views, we were approached by a Harley follower from China, thrilled to see a group of UK riders out enjoying the day. A few photos, a few smiles, and a shared moment of biker camaraderie made the stop even more memorable.

From there, we continued on to the magnificent Cutty Sark, the legendary tea clipper preserved in all her glory. Some of our braver members took the chance to climb the rigging, experiencing the height and thrill that sailors once faced daily. The rest of us stayed firmly on deck – and broke into a hearty rendition of the classic shanty:

“What shall we do with a drunken sailor, early in the morning?”

Way hay and up she rises...  
Early in the morning!”



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The laughter echoed across the ship, and even the tourists couldn't help but smile.

Exploring the Cutty Sark was fantastic, especially with fascinating facts shared by our very own sailor, Phil Hopper, who brought the ship's history to life with stories and insights only a true seafarer can offer.

We rounded off the day with a well-earned picnic and drinks down on the dry dock – the perfect end to a memorable outing filled with friendship, fun, and a touch of nautical adventure. The photos say it all!



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# TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: WEYMOUTH

## “The Chapter Goes Mad in Dorset” begins



Well it was that time of year again to take the trip down to Weymouth.

We duly gathered at Tim Hortons, Lakeside, to begin the journey to our first stop at Fleet services for a comfort break. We set off in good time but the Beast that is the M25 had other ideas as we were stuck in slow moving traffic for what seemed ages and this caused us to have an unscheduled bum break at the McDonalds on the M25. Once we had made Fleet we then set off for the A303 so we could take in the site at Stonehenge for a spiritual boost from the stones.



After turning off the A303 we headed for Weymouth taking in some lovely countryside and passing through Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum which enabled us to ride into Weymouth from the east to take in the White Horse in the hill.

Upon arrival to our destination we settled into our B&B, tucked the bikes up and went into town to sample the local fare - some of us sampled more than we should have! Still - a good ride and a good trip was had by all.

Phil H.... It is all about the ride.

# WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY

Our first ride out on the Chapter trip to Weymouth started off on a cloudy morning on Weymouth Seafront. Having made our way out of Weymouth town centre, the ride took us out through Chickerell and then gradually uphill into the low cloud, unfortunately spoiling the view of the coastline but not the ride on the coast road. We made our way through several small villages until we turned towards the coast at Abbotsbury and along the lane into the Swannery.



Abbotsbury Swannery was established by Benedictine Monks in the 1040's, and was originally set up to produce food for the monastery. Today it houses over 600 swans, who are cared for and protected by the Trust who run the site. Some of the Chapter were lucky enough to be able to help with feeding the swans. Following that we had a quick drink and cake in the site café before moving on to our next destination.



From Abbotsbury we resumed our journey along the coast road to West Bay in thicker cloud, which made for some fun riding. As we gradually came down into West Bay the cloud lifted. We parked up in the centre of the harbour - bike parking is free everywhere here!!!! We then went off for ice cream, coffee and a walk down the pier.

We then made our way back to Weymouth, with the cloud lifting slightly on the coast road so some of the lovely views were seen.

Thanks to Phil H and Kev for crewing, and to everyone else for coming and sharing the ride.

# THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: OLD BILL

Mustering along the seafront at Weymouth we headed off for the short ride to Portland to see the Old Bill. We made our way through the old part of town across the town bridge towards the causeway to Portland taking the steep climb up to Wesley Heights (on the bike may I add) then off to see Portland Bill lighthouse and for some of the members to take on Pulpit Rock which a number of brave souls did. We then returned to Weymouth for lunch and walk around town.



Phil H... TEAM.. Together wE Achieve More... It's all about the ride.



# FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: GUILDFORD H-D

## And then it was time to come home....

On a hot, sunny morning we packed up our bikes to make the first leg of our trip home from a great few days in Weymouth. Leaving the seafront we made our way up by mainly A roads to Ringwood, where we left the busy roads behind and took B roads through the New Forest. There were many New Forest Ponies about with foals, and also donkeys with babies alongside some cows.



Unfortunately the pub that we aimed to have lunch at had been closed for refurbishment so we made our way further on to a lovely garden centre with a great café for lunch and took some respite from the heat.

From here we travelled mainly on A & B roads to the A3 and then on to Guildford Harley Davidson dealership for a short break where the ride ended and people made their own ways home.

Thanks to Paul E and Neil & Dee for crewing.

Paul H

# MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE: HAINAULT FOREST

If you go down to the woods today, you're in for a big surprise!



That's exactly what Lakeside Chapter did. We rode our bikes through the beautiful lanes of Essex without a care in the world, heading for the enchanting Hainault Forest. There, we relaxed under shady trees, enjoyed refreshments from the café, and chatted with friends. The sun was out in full which made it a perfect day to ride.

We played Hide-&-Seek....! Can you spot them yet?



We even signed up some new members!!



(continued next page)

Lakeside Chapter never ceases to remind us of the great friendships we share – the banter, the camaraderie, and the laughter that follows us everywhere.

Thank you to everyone who joined me!

Pam



# TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: PARLOUR CAFE

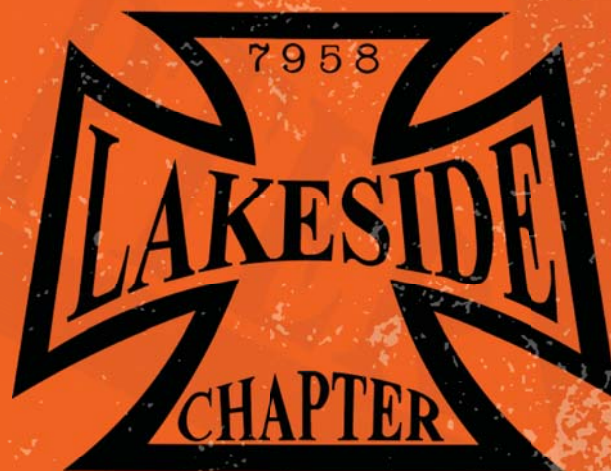


Tuesday 30th June 2026 saw a group of eleven members on nine bikes gathered at Hawk Hill, Battlesbridge, for the ride out on to the Dengie Peninsular and the Parlour Café, Burnham just a 25 minute ride away in a direct route. But as we do not do direct it would take an hour and a quarter, travelling mainly country roads, lanes and B roads. Lots of twists and turns along the route seeing many small hamlets and villages - many built in the old Essex style of lapboard. We were followed by a rain shower all around the route, one minute it was dry, turn one way and the shower was there, turn the other way and it was dry again. By the time we arrived the showers were over and we sat out under the shade for a bit of lunch and a chat before travelling to our various destinations via the Burnham bends.

Thanks to Paul (with Mary) for sweeping and Phil H for looking after the rear and of course for the members for turning up for the ride.

Mike.

# 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.

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Ride outs (starting from Saturday 4 July) through to the August Natter Night:

Saturday 4 July – Birthday Bash ride to the Country Café, Ingotstone. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Sunday 5 July – Billericay Summerfest. Meet at Starbucks at 11am for an 11.15 departure.

Thursday 9 July – The Coffee Shop, Takely. Meet at The Barge Inn at 9.45am for a 10am departure.

Saturday 11 July – London by night ride (ending with a pub meal). Meet at Boreham Services at 6pm for a 6.15pm departure.

Sunday 12 July – Headingham Castle for the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity Fundraiser. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Wednesday 15 July – Strawberry Fields Forever at the Beehive Café, Great Baddow. Meet at Starbucks at 8.15am (this is not a misprint!) for an 8.30 departure.

Saturday 18 July – Deal or no Deal (fish and chips at the seaside). Meet at Tim Hortons at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Tuesday 21 July – Blast to Blossom Bites, Wimbish. Meet at Boreham Services at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Sunday 26 July – Vince will be leading a ride. Details to follow.

Wednesday 29 July – Row, row, row your boat at the Jam Jar café, Rowhedge. Meet at The Barge Inn at 8.15am for an 8.30 departure.

Saturday 1 August – Inter Chapter ride. Meet at Starbucks at 12 noon for a 12.15 departure.

Tuesday 4 August – Brightlingsea. Meet at Pod 8 Clocktower Retail Park at 10.15 for a 10.30 departure.

Saturday 8 August – Brentwood Brewery. Meet at Starbucks at 11am for an 11.15 departure.

Sunday 9 August – Chislehurst Caves. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

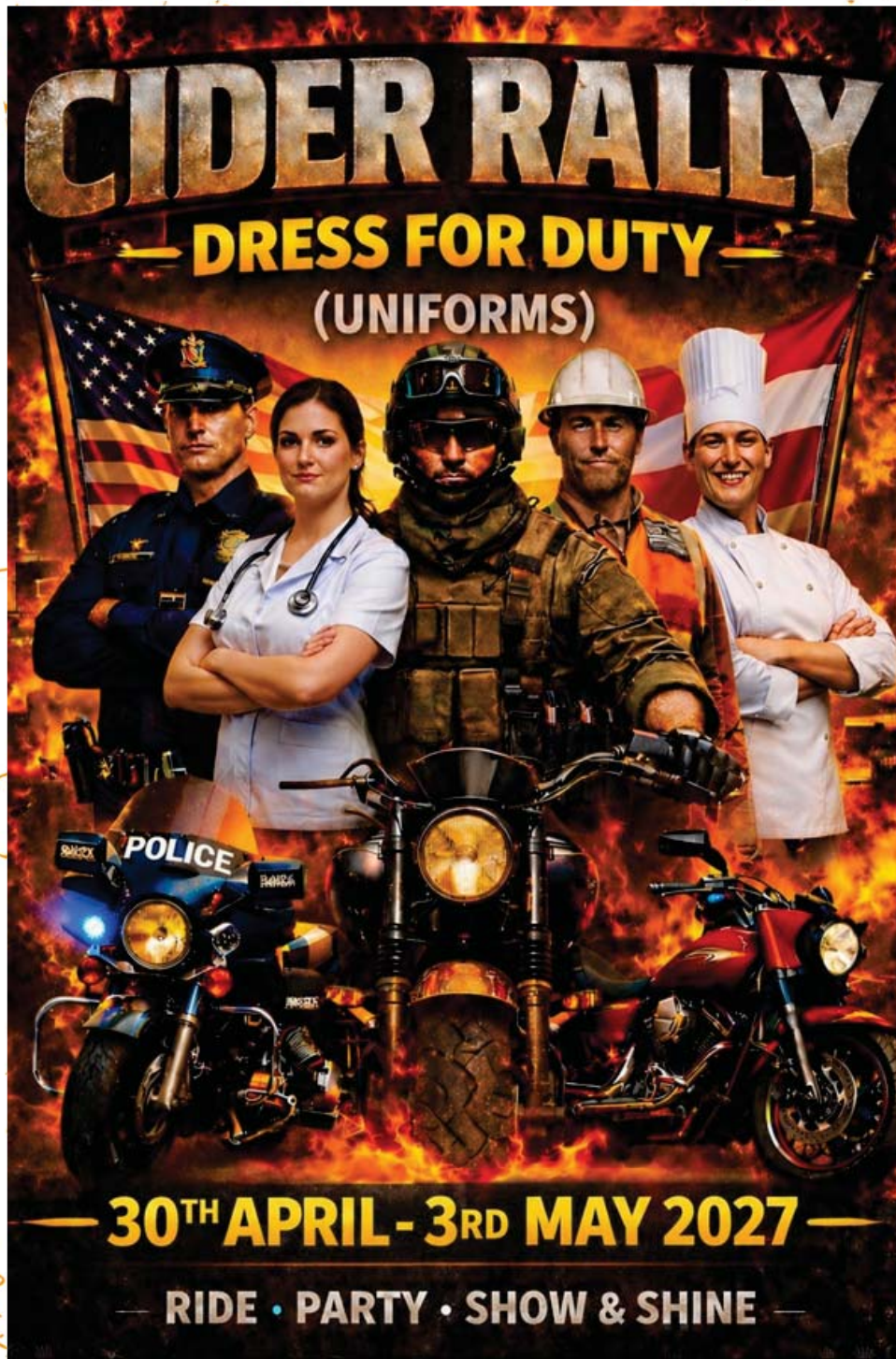
Tuesday 11 August – Rambling Route to Riverview Café, Hullbridge. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Then we are at our Natter Night in the evening of 12 August at the Kings Arms, Orsett from 6.30pm.

And looking forward to 2027....



# 2027 Rallies



Others to be confirmed once details become available.

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OF POND LIFE**

**SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND  
ARTICLES TO:**

**EDITOR@LAKESIDECHAPTER.CO.UK**

