

AUGUST 2026

# POND LIFE

## LAKE SIDE

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

# PAGES



7

## DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Phill bids us a fond farewell with his final thoughts as Director of Lakeside Chapter.



8

## HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFTEY

As the hot weather continues, Ash continues with his words of wisdom on riding in hot weather.



10

## LADIES OF HARLEY

Pam brings us up to date with everything the Ladies had done and will be doing.



17

## EVENTS

Sue and Pam brings us news about what we have been up to and upcoming events.



24

## LAKE SIDE GOES STATESIDE

Pam brings us the final chapter of the epic adventure in the Deep South of the USA



30

## EVERY DAY THE ROAD CALLS

And every mile counts. Ash reminds us of the HOG Ride 365 scheme



31

## YOUR CHAPTER IN NUMBERS

Kevin has worked up his spreadsheets and shares some interesting facts about our Chapter





**POND LIFE**

## 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 KERMACK



PHOTOGRAPHER  
MANDY SMITH



WEBMASTER AND HISTORIAN  
KEVIN SMITH



WELFARE OFFICER  
LYNN GUNN



EDITOR  
TONY HITCHING

# FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to the August edition of Pondlife.

I begin my usual introductory waffle with a sad “farewell” to Phill “Rainman” Poston as he steps down as Director for Lakeside Chapter and hands over the Director’s flash to Ashley Smart. In turn Ash will step down as HRC and Safety Officer and will hand over to the new incumbent once Road Crew members have made their decision on Ash’s successor – so watch this space, comms, etc. during August.



Phill and Ash both say more in their respective articles in this edition, but on behalf of all of the Chapter I would like to say a big “thank you” to both individuals in respect of the posts they have held and the work they have both done to keep pushing this Chapter forward to make it the best Chapter to be part of simply by making sure everyone had a voice in its development – whether that be ride suggestions, activity suggestions etc. Thanks Phill, and good luck Ash in the role of Director.

Turning to what else is in this edition, we have our usual round-ups and forward looks from Pam on behalf of the Ladies, as well as Sue and Pam on the Chapter’s events, including our fantastic 15th Birthday Bash on 4 July. Another big thank you to Sue, Pam, Lynn and Mary for all the hard work they put in to make the event such a success. And whilst on the subject of events – see the flyer for our 2026 Christmas meal on Saturday 19 December.

In this edition we also have the final part of the Chapter’s adventures in the Deep South of the USA as the group take on the Dragon’s Tail and wind their way to Nashville and eventually home.

Our Historian – Kevin Smith – gives us a quick run-down of our Chapter in numbers so far this year (and it shows how much we ride!), and speaking of riding – don’t forget to log your mileage at any H-D Dealership to help the Chapter “compete” in the HOG Ride 365 Scheme. See Ash’s article later in this edition. With all the usual ride reports (a lot of them), merchandise and future ride programme (including some continental jaunts for 2027) we have another summer bumper edition of Pondlife. Thanks to everyone that has contributed.

One bit of admin to mention – all Committee members will shortly be changing email addresses as we move to “@outlook.com” addresses. Current email addresses remain valid during September, but our new email addresses will be changed on our website during August so that we can start using our new addresses sooner rather than later. We’ll carry a short confirmatory article in next month’s Pondlife in any case.

Finally, a big thank you to Paul Edwards for the cover shot this month – taken whilst he and Keith Brooks took their beloved Harleys over to Italy during the summer. Admittedly, I couldn’t quite do the photo full justice to make it fit on the cover, so it only seemed right to present it in its full glory here. So here it is (on the next page).

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If we're lucky we might even get an item on their trip to Italy in next month's edition of Pondlife. Let's see if I can convince Paul and Keith to oblige....



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

Tony H

# THIS DIRECTOR'S FINAL THOUGHTS

Here's a 'Directors Thoughts' page I always knew I'd have to write, I just didn't expect it to be quite this early. I'd planned to stand down as Director for Lakeside Chapter in March 2027 but a few things have happened recently and I'm going to bow-out gracefully while I still have a measure of control.

Ashley Smart will take over from me before the end of August. Ash has held a great many Offices on the Committee since he joined Lakeside Chapter just before 'Lockdown' and has excelled most recently as our Head Road Captain (& Safety Officer). He's also dangerously close to being one of the busiest riders in the Chapter with over 300 rides under his belt. Ash has the support and respect of all the current Committee and I feel confident that under his direction Lakeside will continue to grow and succeed in itself and the wider HOG World.

I guess a quick resume from me wouldn't be too out of place. I joined the Chapter in 2012 and was asked to be Assistant Director by our then Dealer Principle in 2016. The Dealership unfortunately closed in 2020 and our 'then' Director resigned in January 2023. I was given little choice by HOG (If you don't stand as Director we'll dissolve the Chapter) and so I called on the existing Committee to support me and the Club to move forward. We certainly did this because just 10 months later Lakeside Chapter was officially awarded 'Best Orphan Chapter in the UK & Ireland' at the Annual HOG-ROC conference in October 2023 and, as they've never held this award since, I'll take it that we still are the best..!!

I leave the Committee and the Club in an awesome place. We are growing in membership on an almost weekly basis. Our Events and Socials are sold out almost immediately and we ride more than any other Chapter in the UK & Ireland (I'm willing to suggest more than any Chapter in Europe) with around 120 ride outs a year.

We are Awesome..!!

I'm not going anywhere. I will be staying on as a Road Captain and the plan is to ride and have fun..!!

Phill 'Rainman'



# HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY

As I write my final message as Head Road Captain, I find myself reflecting on the miles we've ridden together as a Chapter, the roads we've explored, and the friendships we've built along the way.

Serving in this role has been one of the greatest privileges of my riding journey to date. It has never been about leading from the front, but about riding alongside a group of people who share the same passion for Harley Davidsons, camaraderie, and the freedom of the open road. Every ride, whether a short morning run or a long-distance adventure, has created memories I will carry with me for years to come.

I want to thank every Road Captain and Member who contributed to making our rides safe, enjoyable, and successful. The teamwork, dedication, and willingness to look out for one another is what makes this group special. The true strength of any chapter is not found in titles or positions, but in the people who step up, support one another, and share the journey.

As I pass the torch to the next Head Road Captain, I do so with complete confidence. The future is bright, and I know the Chapter's commitment to safe, organised, and enjoyable riding will continue.

But this isn't the end of my story with the Chapter as you will have already heard from Phill and in his Director's message. More from me next month.....

## **Riding Smart Through the Peak Summer Season**

As we move into August, many of us are taking advantage of the long days, warm weather, and excellent riding conditions. It's one of the busiest months on the road, with holiday traffic, family trips, festivals, and an increased number of inexperienced drivers sharing our routes: this is the perfect time to reinforce the importance of safety, leadership, and preparedness on every ride.



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## Stay Alert in Heavy Summer Traffic

August brings crowded roads, especially around tourist destinations and popular riding routes. Expect increased traffic volumes, distracted drivers, caravans, cyclists, and pedestrians. Maintaining proper spacing within the group, using clear hand signals, and communicating hazards early are critical to keeping everyone safe.

## Heat and Hydration Matter

While we often focus on bike performance, rider performance is just as important. Dehydration and fatigue can affect judgment and reaction times long before riders recognise symptoms. Encourage regular water breaks, lighter riding gear where appropriate, and frequent checks on fellow riders during longer runs.



## Road Surface Hazards

This time of year often introduces unique road challenges:

- Melted tar and soft road surfaces during hot spells
- Loose gravel from summer road maintenance
- Agricultural vehicles leaving mud and debris on rural roads
- Sudden thunderstorms creating slippery conditions (although not so far in 2026!)

A well-positioned Road Captain can spot and communicate these hazards before they become a problem for the group.

## Leading by Example



Road Captains set the tone for every ride. Professionalism, patience, and consistency build confidence within the group. Remember that newer riders often learn more from what they observe than what they are told. Demonstrating smooth riding, proper lane positioning, and safe decision-making helps develop stronger and safer riders.

## Preparing for Late Summer Events

August often marks the peak of riding events, rallies, charity rides, and Chapter activities. Before each ride:

- Listen to the safety briefing.
- Take note of ride mechanism: buddy/second man drop off.
- Identifying crew members, speak/approach new members to ensure they are confident.
- If necessary pair up new members with experienced members.
- Ensure all riders understand.

## Final thoughts

A successful group ride is measured by everyone arriving safely and enjoying the journey.

**Ride safe, ride smart and have fun.**

**Ash**

LADIES OF  
HARLEY



# LADIES OF HARLEY

A warm hello to all our members — and an extra special wave to our wonderful Lakeside Ladies of Harley.

August has arrived in full colour, and with it comes that familiar mix of sunshine, summer plans, and the gentle hum of anticipation. Some of you have already been off on your holidays, sending back stories of sunshine, sea breezes, and well-earned relaxation and a great many fantastic road trips! Others are counting down the days until they pack their bags and head out for adventures of their own. Wherever you are in that cycle, I hope you're finding moments to unwind, recharge, and enjoy the season.

The weather has certainly made itself known. After several weeks of heat, the grass across Essex has taken on that unmistakable golden-brown shade — a sure sign that a little rain wouldn't go amiss. Still, there's something undeniably lovely about the long bright days, warm evenings, and the sunshine that seems to lift everyone's spirits just a little higher.

Here's to sunshine, safe riding, and making August a month to remember.



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## A Small Group, A Big Adventure

A summer Saturday, a handful of determined ladies, and a sparkling lake in Kent — that was all it took for the Lakeside Chapter's Ladies of Harley to turn 18 July into a day worth remembering.

Even with just a few of us able to make the trip, the energy was anything but small. Paddle boarding at St Andrews Lake proved to be the perfect mix of challenge and laughter. Every single one of us managed to stand up — yes, even those of us whose legs were doing their best impression of jelly. The wobble was real, but so was the triumph.



St Andrews Lake was stunning in the warm sunshine, offering a peaceful backdrop that felt miles away from everyday life. One member took full advantage of the calm atmosphere, settling herself on the beach with her book, soaking in the sensory stillness that the lake seems to gift so effortlessly.



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After our time on the water, we headed to the little café by the lake — a cosy spot that gave us the chance to refuel and reconnect. Between bites and sips, we caught up on life, shared stories, and enjoyed the simple pleasure of being together.

A “Thank You” ... and an invitation.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made the day what it was. These moments of fun, friendship, and fresh air are exactly what Ladies of Harley is all about.

And if you missed out — don’t worry. We’ve already booked our next paddle boarding date in September, and it’s absolutely not too late to join us. For more details, just reach out and let me know.

Don’t forget to check out the latest regional LoH Newsletter. Just click :

<https://canva.link/rsuuc79obmdxn2m>

Thank you for joining me in this August edition of Lakeside Pondlife.

As we wrap up a month filled with sunshine, holidays, and those long warm days, we’re grateful for every moment shared — on the road, at events, and within our wonderful community, especially our Lakeside Ladies of Harley.

Ride safe, have fun and see you on the road.

Pam

XX

And don’t forget to check out the next few pages to see what adventures are coming up over the next few months?



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

**Lakeside Ladies of Harley**

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

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026**



**St Andrews Lake**

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

**Cost: £15:00 (3-hour session or all-day) – payable to Lakeside**

**Chapter Ref: Paddle Boarding - (non-refundable).**

**Time: 10:00**

**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

Dola AI

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.**

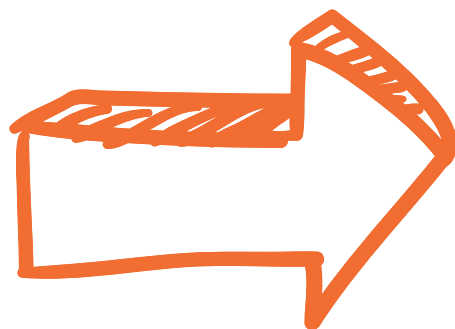
**FOR £149:00 PER-PERSON  
(sharing a cabin)**

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

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

**Ambassador Cruises  
Tilbury**

# EVENTS



# EVENTS

What a summer it's been — long days, hot weather, and endless chances to get out on your Harley and enjoy the open road. From spontaneous evening blasts to full-day adventures, the sunshine has given us every excuse to ride, explore. As always, our Events Team is here to keep the calendar buzzing, but sharing your ideas is what keeps Lakeside Chapter truly alive. If there's an event you'd love to see happen — a ride, a social, a charity day, or something completely new — please reach out to the team. Your suggestions shape our Chapter, and your enthusiasm keeps the wheels turning.

## LAKESIDE 15TH BIRTHDAY BASH



Lakeside Chapter celebrated its 15th Birthday Bash in true Harley-Davidson style — with a day packed full of friendship, laughter, music, and miles of beautiful riding. The festivities began with a stunning motorcycle ride through the twisty lanes of the Essex countryside, where the rumble of Harleys echoed between hedgerows and open fields. We stopped at the Country Café for refreshments, giving everyone the perfect chance to show off their bikes, swap stories, and enjoy a soundtrack of rock and country tunes that set the tone for the day.



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As the sun dipped and the engines cooled, the evening celebrations kicked off with a warm up gathering at the bar at Ye Old Plough House in Bulphan, Essex.

Drinks flowed, conversations sparked, and old friends reunited while new ones were welcomed into the fold. The atmosphere rolled on from there — straight into a night of unforgettable entertainment.



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The band “One Track Mind” lit up the room with an incredible performance, sounding absolutely brilliant and keeping the dance floor alive from start to finish. The food was delicious, the birthday cakes were spectacular, and the company was outstanding. Everywhere you looked, there were smiles, laughter, and the unmistakable camaraderie that makes Lakeside Chapter so special.



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It was a wonderful evening of celebrating, dancing, eating, drinking, and making memories with great friends – the kind of night that reminds us why this Chapter is more than a riding group: it's a family. Here's to the next five years of adventures, milestones, and miles on the open road. Thank you to Lynn, Sue and Mary for making this happen.

### More Events on the Way...

#### The Lakeside Chapter Christmas Dinner

The Lakeside Chapter Christmas Dinner on 19th December 2026 is set to be a festive night to remember. We'll kick things off with drinks and nibbles on arrival, the perfect warm-up before sitting down to a delicious three-course Christmas meal. After dinner, there's plenty of time to chat, laugh, and dance the night away with friends, all inside our beautifully heated marquee, which we're lucky enough to have until 11:30 PM before your carriages await to take you home.

Tickets are just £35.00, a fantastic price thanks to the Chapter's subsidy – but they're limited, so don't hang about. For details or to secure your spot, please contact Pam or Sue and book directly through the Chapter. A festive night, great company, and Christmas cheer – don't miss it!

See flyer for all the details (and replicated inside the front cover if you missed it):

**LAKESED  
CHAPTER  
CHRISTMAS  
DINNER**

© Saturday 19th December 2026

© Shepherd & Dog, Crays Hill,  
Billerica, 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**

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## The Tip-Tree Challenge 27th September 2026

Get ready for the Tip-Tree Challenge — and yes, it's exactly what it sounds like... a very sticky adventure! Join me for a ride through the beautiful Essex lanes as we set out to conquer four Tip-Tree locations, collecting memories, miles, and maybe a bit of jam along the way. We'll stop at each location, where you'll draw a ticket — and the highest scores added together wins something gloriously sticky at the end! It's all about fun roads, good company, and a little friendly competition.

I hope to see you there! Pam



## LOH Social Weekend - 2027

Join us for a brilliant social evening with 1066 Chapter and Sherwood Chapter, where good food, great company, and plenty of laughter are guaranteed. We'll enjoy a wonderful meal together, followed by a disco to shake out those dance-floor shapes before ending the night at the hotel with friends old and new. It's set to be a fantastic night of Harley camaraderie and celebration — I hope you can join us!



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## Bat Out of Hell Celebrates 50 Years



Tickets have now been provisionally booked for all those who have signed up to the show on Thursday 1st July 2027. The tickets came in at £48.50 which is £3.50 more than expected.

Please can you pay your money into the Chapter so that ticket purchase can be confirmed as soon as possible - reference "BAT". These ticketed are non- refundable.

Any worries or concerns please contact Pam or Sue.

The tickets will be purchased for all those who have paid into the Chapter by Friday 7th of August 2026.

We hope you can make it.

Here's a warm, friendly sign-off for the month – short, cheerful, and perfect for your Pondlife magazine:

As we wrap up another fantastic month with Lakeside Chapter, it's time to wish you all a cracking holiday if you're heading away – wherever that might be. Enjoy the sunshine, make the most of every chance to ride, and soak up the summer while it lasts. Take care, ride safe, and keep those Harley smiles shining. Until next time, Lakeside!

Your Event Team

Sue and Pam

XXX

# LAKESIDE GOES STATESIDE

Pam brings us part 3 - the final part - of the Chapter's adventures in the Deep South of the USA. Our intrepid adventurers find themselves on the final stretch of their journey taking on the Dragon's Tail, the Great Smokey Mountains whilst getting some moral support from Jack Daniels!

=====

With the final leg of our incredible journey now in sight, excitement was building once again. After days filled with music, history, friendship, and miles of unforgettable roads, we were ready — truly ready — for what lay ahead.

The sun rose over Memphis in a blaze of gold, promising another perfect day for riding. Spirits were high, engines were eager, and so were we. Every mile behind us had brought new stories, new memories, and new moments that stitched this adventure together. And now, with the road stretching out before us once more, we felt that familiar rush: the thrill of the unknown, the joy of the ride, and the pride of travelling together in true Lakeside style.

This wasn't just another day on the bikes. It was the beginning of the ride of our lives — the final chapter of a journey that had already given us more than we ever expected.

The Deep South had welcomed us, challenged us, inspired us... and now it was time to take on the last stretch with full hearts, full tanks, and the wind at our backs.

Onward we rode — ready for whatever the road had left to show us.

## **Muscle Shoals to down town Chattanooga**

The next stop on our amazing Lakeside Harley motorbike tour was Muscle Shoals, home of the world-famous sound studio on 3614 Jackson Highway, where legends have recorded and the walls practically hum with history.



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After resting up for the night, it was an early start and full throttle toward the iconic Jack Daniel's Distillery — and what a tour it turned out to be. Established in 1875, the distillery can legally make Jack Daniel's in the county, but thanks to local laws, they can't actually sell it... well, except for one special commemorative bottle available only at their own White Rabbit Shop. The tour was packed with stories, heritage, and a few surprises that made us appreciate the brand even more. Then it was full speed ahead to Downtown Chattanooga to rest our bones and recharge for the next morning's ride to Robbinsville — the adventure rolling on as only a Harley tour can.



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## Robbinsville to Pigeon Forge

After an overnight stay in Robbinsville, we fired up the engines and headed straight for Deal's Gap and the legendary Tail of the Dragon — the mountain pass straddling the North Carolina–Tennessee state line, brushing the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and running near the Little Tennessee River. Waiting for us were its 318 curves in just 11 miles, a stretch of tarmac so wild it earned its name from the way its twists resemble a dragon's tail. After a hearty breakfast, we were ready to slay the beast and put Lakeside Chapter firmly on the map. The “Tree of Shame” — a looming collection of broken bike parts from riders who didn't make it — stood as a warning, but it didn't stop us. We rode it, we owned it, and what a ride it was!



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The day didn't stop there — not by a long shot. We rolled straight into the Great Smoky Mountains, taking in one of the most beautiful rides of the entire tour. Riding through the most visited national park in the United States was nothing short of breathtaking; with 522,419 acres of protected wilderness, it's one of the largest natural treasures in the Eastern U.S., and every twist of the road left us speechless. At one point we even met a sheriff — riding his Harley, of course — who pulled up for a quick photo shoot like it was the most natural thing in the world. After another fantastic day of riding, soaking in views that felt almost unreal, we headed toward Pigeon Forge to rest up and get ready for whatever the next morning's adventure had in store.

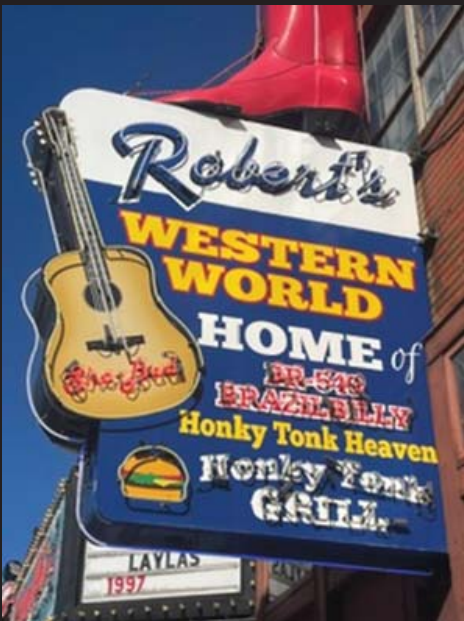


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### Pigeon Forge to Nashville

Before we knew it, we were waking up to the last day of our Lakeside Harley Motorbike Tour — the unofficial “get-there day,” but with plenty of fun still left in the tank. It was our final chance to enjoy some cracking roads, including a strange, isolated stretch of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that delivered twisty turns, long sweeping bends, and views that made you want to pull over just to breathe them in. After carving through the curves, we jumped onto the highway and pointed our bikes straight toward Nashville. Arriving early gave us time to grab dinner and dive straight into the world of honky-tonks, neon lights, and live music pouring out of every doorway. A perfect finale to an unforgettable tour.



Nashville instantly evokes images of honky-tonks and country music, but the city is so much more than its neon-lit reputation. Since the 1920s it has been a magnet for musicians, and for country fans it's the ultimate pilgrimage. Yet Nashville's magic goes far beyond the twang of a guitar — our visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame was spectacular, and the Shelby Street Bridge gave us sweeping views of the riverfront and downtown skyline. The Grand Ole Opry, home to the country's longest-running live radio show, was another must-see highlight. And of course, Lakeside Chapter didn't miss the chance to dance the nights away at the brilliant Lucky Bastard Bar, where the drinks flowed, the music played, and time stood still in true Harley-rider fashion.



The adventure had to end eventually, and day 14 brought our ride to its final chapter as we headed to the airport for the flight home. Looking out of the plane window, we caught glimpses of roads we'd ridden — familiar curves from a completely different angle — but nothing could match the thrill, the laughter, and the freedom they held when we were on them. It was the end of the road, the ride was sadly over, and we were returning to Blighty and back to reality. Yet every one of us carried something powerful in our hearts: the journey of a lifetime, etched into our memories like tyre marks on warm tarmac. Until next time, Lakeside Chapter — the adventures await, and the road will always call our name.



Pam

# EVERY DAY THE ROAD CALLS



Ride 365 is the official umbrella for a number of H.O.G.® mileage challenges where miles mean prizes.

Whether you'd like your individual mileage recognised or to record your progress in a Chapter challenge, make sure you check in with your local dealership to share your progress and make those miles count. You can also upload evidence of your distances via H.O.G. Stories.

## **Lifetime mileage recognition**

Whether it is an afternoon getaway or a transcontinental journey of a lifetime, every ride brings us closer together. Keep track of your lifetime mileage, because the miles count.

## **Annual mileage recognition**

Each new riding season brings excitement to get back on the road. H.O.G. rewards you each year to get out, ride and renew your passion for the open road. Start logging your yearly miles early and often.

Visit your local H-D® dealership to log your mileage officially – you can then keep track using your Member Dashboard at [H-D.com/HOG](https://www.hog.com/HOG).

## **Chapter challenge**

No matter where you are in the world, every Chapter has a distinct feel and flavour that reflects its riders. Chapter events and activities focus on hitting the road together. The Chapter Challenge rewards both the Chapters that log the most miles together in a year and the best average mileage, so that Chapters of all sizes can be competitive.

Enter the challenge and getting involved.



Ash



# HALFWAY REPORT - AND WE'RE RIDING MORE THAN EVER!

Following on from my year-end report on our riding activity, I thought I would give you an update on how we are getting along this year... and continue to prove how active Lakeside is.

So these are all year-to-date figures, up to end of July...

With a couple of Road Captains stepping down we now have 11 Road Captains who have planned, recce'd and run 66 official ride-outs, of which 33 were weekday and 33 were weekend rides. Of these, 47 used the buddy system and 19 were 2nd man drop.

Sixty members have completed one or more rides, which represents 63% of the membership.

Adding all the riders' rides together there have been 815 accumulative rides.

The top 25 riders accounted for 83% of that 815 whilst the top 10 riders accounted for 50%.

Looking at the "All Time" achievements...

We now have three members with 300+ rides, nine members with 200+ rides and 12 members with 100+ rides.

The presentation of ride awards on ride-outs for those unable to attend Natter Nights continues to be successful and together overall we have given out 34 pins ranging from 10 to 300 rides.

At the time of writing, we already have a minimum of 33 rides scheduled for the remainder of the year, with more to be added, so 2026 looks set to be just as busy as last year.

Why not come and join us?!

See you on the road.



Kev - Historian

# LAKE SIDE 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 ALL OUR OTHER MERCHANDISE

Contact Dean at  
[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



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:

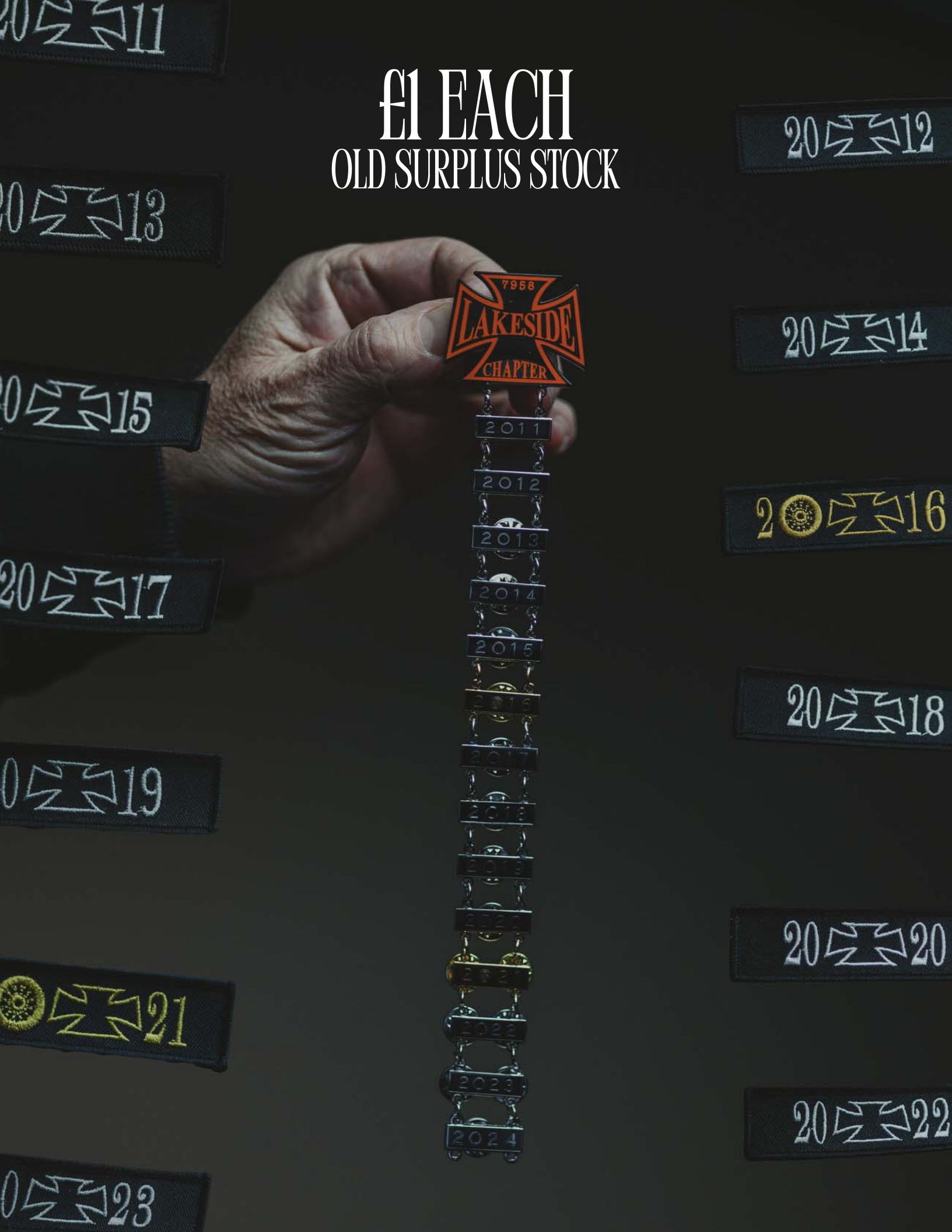
Sweatshirt £22.50  
Sizes XS – 4XL

Unisex Long Sleeve Polo £15

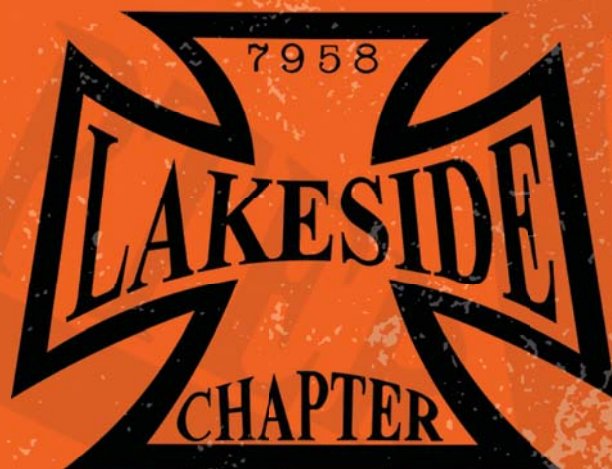
Zipped Sweatshirt £27.50  
Sizes S – 2XL

Chapter Cap £15

# £1 EACH OLD SURPLUS STOCK



# RIDE OUT ARTICLES



# SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY: COUNTRY CAFÉ

## CELEBRATING LAKESIDE CHAPTER'S 15TH BIRTHDAY WITH A RIDE TO THE COUNTRY CAFÉ, INGATESTONE



What better way to celebrate Lakeside Chapter's 15th Birthday than with a fantastic ride out and great company. Members gathered in force to mark this special milestone with a ride to the ever-popular Country Café in Ingatestone, enjoying everything that makes our Chapter so special.



The atmosphere from the start was one of celebration and reflection. Fifteen years of friendships, adventures, rallies, charity events, and countless miles on the road is an achievement that everyone associated with the Chapter can be proud of. From founding members to those who have joined more recently, the day brought together riders from every part of our Chapter's history.

The ride itself was relaxed and enjoyable, with a strong turnout of Harleys making their way through the Essex countryside taking in as many twisty and sweeping lanes as possible.

Upon arrival at the Country Café, members had the opportunity to catch up with old friends, share riding stories, and celebrate the Chapter's achievements over refreshments. There was plenty of laughter, reminiscing about memorable rides and events, and looking ahead to the adventures still to come.

Reaching a 15-year milestone is about more than simply marking the passing of time. It reflects the commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication of every member who has contributed to making Lakeside Chapter the thriving and welcoming Chapter it is today.

(continued next page)



As we celebrate our 15th birthday, we can look back with pride and forward with excitement. If the first fifteen years are anything to go by, the road ahead promises many more miles, friendships, and unforgettable adventures.

Ash

# SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY: BILLERICAY SUMMERFEST

Sunday 5th July brought sunshine, smiles, and a great turnout from Lakeside Chapter, (13 bikes and 17 members) as we headed to the Billericay Summer Fest. We kicked off the day with a short motorcycle ride around the lanes of Billericay – doing our best to dodge the roadworks – before rolling into Sun Corner, where the Round Table welcomed us in. Our Harleys were lined up on display, gleaming proudly in the summer light, while we wandered off to explore the show, enjoy the atmosphere, and listen to the music drifting across the field.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined me for a relaxed, enjoyable afternoon out. Great company, great bikes, and a great community – exactly what Lakeside Chapter is all about.



Pam

# THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY: THE COFFEE SHOP, TAKELY



Thursday 9th July 2026 was a hot and sunny day when 13 members of the Chapter on 11 bikes met at Battlesbridge for a ride out towards Stansted Airport.

The ride was going to be a mixture of roads but many with curvy bits, so we could at times ride at a pace to keep the air flowing. For the majority of the ride it flowed, only encountering two sets of road works and a road closure with no advance warning and no diversion route marked, so it was a little adventure. About an hour and twenty minutes later we arrived at the Coffee Shop near Takeley. Some chose to sit in the air-conditioned café, and others made the most of the sun on the picnic tables.

Thanks for members who came for the ride and for Phil H and Ashley for looking after the rear.

Mike.



# SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY: HELEN ROLLASON CANCER CHARITY FUNDRAISER

## **Riding for a Worthy Cause at Hedingham Castle**

One of the standout events of the season saw Lakeside Chapter members ride to the magnificent Hedingham Castle in support of the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, combining our passion for motorcycling with the opportunity to support a truly worthwhile cause.



The day began with riders gathering in high spirits before setting off through the beautiful Essex countryside. The route provided some excellent riding roads, with members enjoying both the journey and the chance to spend time with friends old and new. As always, the ride showcased the professionalism and camaraderie that makes our Chapter such a pleasure to be part of.

Arriving at Hedingham Castle, riders were treated to the spectacular backdrop of one of England's best-preserved Norman keeps. The event brought together motorcyclists, supporters, volunteers, and members of the local community, all united in raising awareness and support for the invaluable work carried out by the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity.

For many, the day served as a reminder that our motorcycles can be a force for good. Through events such as these, we are able to support charities that provide care, comfort, and practical help to individuals and families facing some of life's most difficult challenges.

(continued next page)



The atmosphere throughout the day was fantastic, with plenty of opportunities to socialise, admire a wide variety of motorcycles, cars and stalls and learn more about the charity's important work. Most importantly, every participant contributed to making a positive difference.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, and helped organise the event. Special thanks also go to the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity team and the event organisers for creating such a memorable day in a truly stunning setting.



This ride was a perfect example of what Lakeside Chapter is all about: enjoying great rides, building friendships, and supporting our wider community.

# WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY: THE BEE SHED CAFE

Our day started out on a cloudy but fairly warm note, however I knew the sun was due to make an impressive appearance later on.

After a good “chin wag” at Starbucks I did our obligatory briefing. Only afterwards did I realise there were some items which I had forgotten to mention...like not welcoming them, or not mentioning the road crew and their duties, what was I thinking?!! (I’m ashamed to say, I’ve never done that before, I can only apologise).

We left for our destination which I described as a “convoluted” route on a mixture of A,B & C roads but predominantly B & C.

I am pleased to say, there were 12 motorcycles and 13 members, what a lovely sight it was to look in your review mirror and witness a row of beautiful bikes behind you.

The roads were not too shabby, so we were able to enjoy them, as well as there not being loads of traffic/cyclists/animals or potholes.

The roads were not too shabby, so we were able to enjoy them, as well as there not being loads of traffic/cyclists/animals or potholes.

Country lanes and sunshine, what a combination!

After just over an hour, we reached the Bee shed, parked up and placed our orders.

The sausage rolls were home-made which was accompanied with salads - delicious. Of course there were other bits on the menu which were just as good!

The cafe was air conditioned, but some chose to sit outside in the sun.  
A great day all in all.

Thanks to those who joined me, and not forgetting the trusty road crew, Phil and Kevin, your expertise is invaluable.

BTW...I’m always worried when the editor comes on a ride, I think he comes to check up on whether we have written up our articles correctly! (Ed – not true at all Lynn, although I hadn’t thought of that...I might do from now on!)



Lynn



# TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY: A MEANDER TO MISTLEY

With a delightful midweek turnout of 15 riders and 13 bikes we headed off to Church View Café.

Meeting at Boreham Services and after a quick blast along the A12 to Marks Tey, it was then off round some lovely country lanes out to the Suffolk border then round the north side of Stoke-by-Nayland before dropping down into Mistley.

We went through numerous small villages with plenty of thatched cottages, quaint little houses, quiet little streets and picturesque village greens. The downside of course is they are all 30mph, but the upside to that is that you get to see so much more!

I had recce'd the ride earlier this year and was assured of a warm welcome. Despite not being able to get through on the phone that morning to confirm our arrival they were indeed very welcoming, especially so given that as we arrived a larger group of hikers were just leaving. As they pointed out to me – they swapped hikers for bikers!

I think everyone enjoyed their food and it is so very reasonably priced there. If you are out that way, do drop in, but be aware they are closed Thursday and Fridays.

Buddy system worked a treat and we all arrived together. Well done to all for following the process – it really does work!

Thanks to all who came along, and to my crew of Lynn and Phil, and my apologies to Paul who had kindly agreed to crew and then I forgot! Oops!

Looking forward to running my next one already! Cheers... Kev



# SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY: THE PUDDLE DOCK CAFE

An enjoyable ride out to the ever-popular Puddle Dock Café in Upminster. Blessed with favourable weather and good company, a strong turnout of members gathered for a relaxed circular ride through the Essex countryside.

The route provided a perfect mix of open roads, scenic views, and enjoyable riding conditions, allowing everyone to settle into a comfortable pace and enjoy the journey. As always, the focus was on safe, smooth group riding, with riders demonstrating excellent discipline and awareness throughout the ride.



Upon arrival, the Puddle Dock Café offered a warm welcome, plenty of parking, albeit on gravel (!) and the opportunity to catch up over refreshments.

Ash

# SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY: ABBERTON RESERVOIR



Eleven riders and 10 bikes met in the Starbucks car park on a very overcast Sunday morning for my ride to Abberton.

Within five minutes of pulling away the grey clouds let go of some of their moisture for the first time in weeks - bloody typical! Fortunately the rain was very brief and by the time we got to Billericay it had stopped and the sun was winning the battle and it warmed up considerably.

The first half of the ride was littered with road closures and diversions that had not been there a week ago (some due to a little fire that happened in Rettendon).

We had one new member for his first ride and one guest. I ran the drop-off system and it worked very well with us all arriving at the reservoir together ready to tuck into the tasty fair of the cafe.

Thank you all for coming.

Vince

# TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY: MAIDSTONE H-D AND PROJECT 62

## An Inspiring Visit to Maidstone Harley-Davidson

Gentlemen members of Lakeside HOG enjoyed a memorable ride to Maidstone Harley-Davidson for a special presentation from Project 62, an organisation dedicated to raising awareness of men's health and wellbeing.

The ride itself was the normal blast along the M25/M20 in rush hour in hot sunny weather, but only light traffic and a very short bit of filtering.

Upon arrival at Maidstone Harley-Davidson, we received a warm welcome and light refreshments before settling in to hear the story behind Project 62. The presentation provided a powerful insight into the challenges faced by Kev "Tallin" Taplin on his journey to date with Prostate cancer, highlighted the importance of support networks, purpose, and his Chapter Community.

The message resonated strongly with many members. It was a reminder that while motorcycles bring us together through our love of riding, the friendships and support we offer one another are often just as important as the miles we cover. The presentation sparked thoughtful discussion and gave everyone an opportunity to reflect on the positive impact that strong communities can have on peoples' lives.



A huge thank you goes to the team at Maidstone Harley-Davidson for hosting the event and to Kev "Tallin" Taplin from Project 62 for sharing his experiences and inspiring work spreading the message. His passion and commitment left a lasting impression on all who attended.... And in his words "Men.....get tested to catch this cancer early" so it can be treated.

Events such as these demonstrate that our Chapter is about much more than motorcycles. They strengthen our bonds, broaden our perspectives, and remind us of the values that unite us both on and off the road.

Ash

# WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY: JAM JAR CAFE, ROWHEDGE

Our day began in Battlesbridge. It was hot but beautiful.

We were all standing around having a lovely chat when all of a sudden we heard an almighty bang! This turned out to be a young lady who was not familiar with the road layout, and had mounted the pavement in order to prevent an oncoming car over the bridge. The car's tyre had burst!



Thanks to our amazing Lakeside members, Carl and Ash, they kindly moved the car to a safe place. Pam retrieved the young lady's bag and phone, Sue and Dee supported the young lady in making a phone call to her parents. I'm pleased to say, the young lady was not hurt but very shaken up.

After this bit of excitement, a briefing was done and off we went.

As there were a few temporary traffic lights along the way, we got split up a few times.

The ride took us on some unfamiliar country lanes and sweeping bends towards Maldon, Wigborough, Peldon and into Rowhedge.

For a change there were no potholes, gravel or horses...woo hoo!

Rowhedge is a charming little place on the river, when the tide is in, which it was. After parking up under a huge tree which supplied shelter for the bikes, we wandered to the cafe and placed our orders.



Some sat at the cafe, others ventured to the water's edge and enjoyed their lunch on the benches, chatting to the locals.

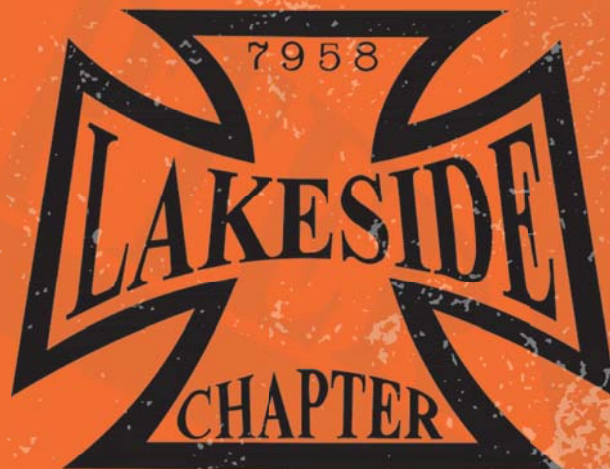
Thanks again to all for joining me on this ride, also to the amazing road crew, Pam and Phil for your valued support.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Lynn



# FUTURE RIDES



# RIDE-OUT GUIDELINES

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

## **Ride Guest Policy**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Pod 8 (by Costa Coffee), Clocktower Retail Park, Chelmsford CM1 3FJ.

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

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

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

=====

Ride outs (starting from Sunday 9 August) through to the September Natter Night:

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

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

**Saturday 15 August** – Newmarket H-D Hullabaloo. Meet at Costa Coffee, Clocktower Retail Park, Chelmsford at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Wednesday 19 August – Krazy Horse, Bury-St-Edmunds. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

**Saturday 22 August** – Church Farm Café, Chiltern Hills. Meet at Starbucks 10am for a 10.15 departure.

**Sunday 23 August** – The Riverside Inn Tea Rooms, Orford. Meet at Boreham Services at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

**Wednesday 26 August** – The Crooked Chimney Pub, Welwyn Garden City. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

**Saturday 29 August** – Ride and Maize Maze, Chelmsford. Meet at Starbucks at 12.30 for a 12.45 departure.

**Sunday 30 August** – looks like Vince has a surprise in store for us so watch the calendar and comms for details!

**Wednesday 2 September** – Pointview, Felixstowe. Meet at Costa Coffee, Clocktower Retail Park at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

**Saturday 5 September** - looks like Vince has another surprise in store for us so watch the calendar and comms for details!

**Wednesday 9 September** – “Tea for a Few” at Long Melford Tea Room, Sudbury. Meet at Boreham Services at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

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



**- SAVE THE DATE -**



**Lakeside Chapter is riding to Gent  
Belgium on the 11th - 13th June 2027**

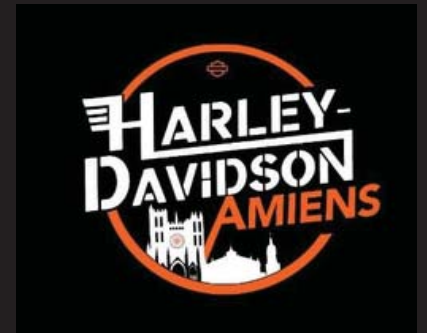
# Lakeside Chapter – Weekend in Amiens, France.

(Known as the Venice of France)

## SAVE THE DATES

8th - 11th July 2027

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



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

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



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

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

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

Details to follow in the next month following the recy.

Hotel in the centre of town with private secure parking.

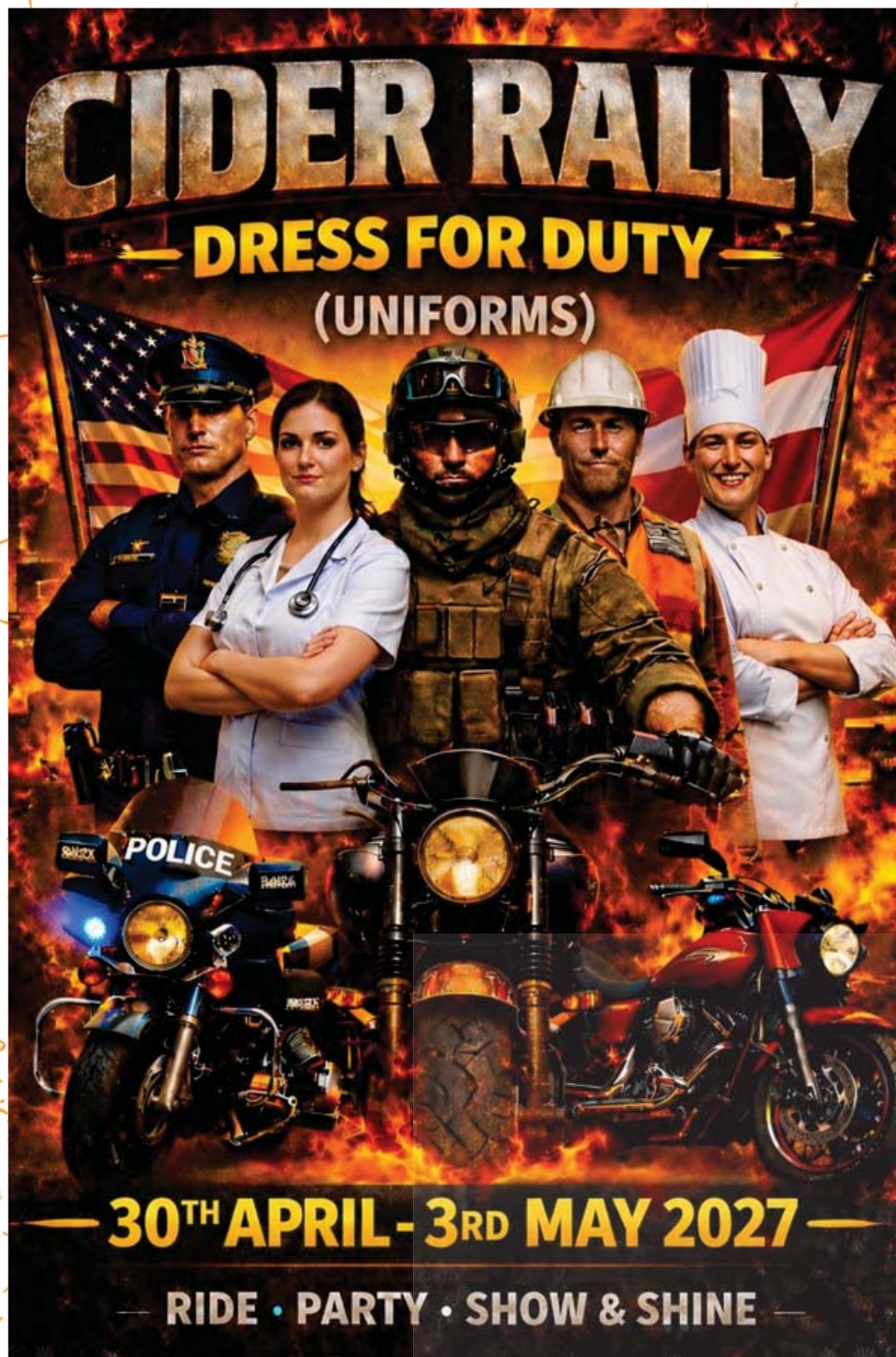
Train times and stop-over breaks for lunch at Le Touquet and others...

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



# 2027 Rallies

Lakeside will be running  
official rides to this and  
other Rallies (keep an eye  
out for details) in 2027



## LAKESIDE CHAPTER RIDE AWARDS

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

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

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

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

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

**SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND  
ARTICLES TO:**

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