

SEPTEMBER 2026

POND LIFE



LAKE SIDE

CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 7958

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COMMITTEE



DIRECTOR
ASHLEY SMART



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
VACANT



CHAPTER SECRETARY
NEIL SEARLE-JONES



TREASURER
STEVE WINTERS



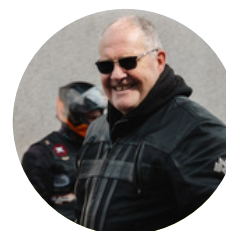
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
MARY HARRIS



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



HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN AND SAFETY
OFFICER
VINCE KNIGHT



EDITOR
TONY HITCHING

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to this September edition of Pondlife.

Congratulations to Ash who has known been “sworn in” or whatever the powers that be at HOG do to formally appoint Chapter Directors. I know Ash will do a fantastic job just as he did as Assistant Director, Head Road Captain and Safety Officer beforehand. And whilst we’re on the theme of congratulations, “Congratulations” to Vince Knight who returns as Head Road Captain and Safety Officer. Vince did a great job when he held the role before, and it’s great to have him back as HRC and back on the Chapter Committee.



Delving into this Month’s Pondlife, you’ll find all the usual items from our Director, HRC, the Ladies, all the details of the events and rides coming up as well as ride reports on what we got up to in August. Additionally in this edition, can I please ask you to take a look at the vacant officer roles page at page 37 where you’ll find all the details on the Assistant Director role which we aim to make a decision on at the September Committee meeting. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 25th September. Good luck.

If you recall in last month’s edition of Pondlife I said I would get Paul Edwards and Keith Brooks to do an article on their fantastic ride through to Italy earlier in the summer to accompany the fantastic cover photo. As is often the way, life has got in the way but I am hopeful that the pair will be able to prepare something for next month’s edition. Its always good to hear about members’ adventures.

Fear not though, as Phill “Rainman” Poston, Vince Knight and their friend Mitch took a ride to the French Alps recently to experience the Morzine Harley Days Rally and Phill has kindly done a “what we did on our holidays” item. Cheers Phill.

One last thing before I sign off, please be aware that Chapter Committee members’ emails have now all been changed as we move to “outlook.com” email accounts. The website has all been updated but for ease of reference all of our new addresses are listed on the next page.

So with that I hope you enjoy Pondlife, thanks to all of the contributors and I’ll see you out and about sometime.

Tony H



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S SADDLE.....

I am honoured and excited to have the opportunity to serve as Director of the Lakeside Chapter. Having been part of this fantastic HOG Family for some years, I know firsthand that our Chapter is about much more than just the motorcycles we ride. It is about friendship, camaraderie, shared experiences, and a passion for Harleys that brings us together.

I would like to thank Phill Poston for his dedication and hard work whilst he was Director and also all the Committee and Crew who have worked tirelessly to make Lakeside the thriving Chapter it is today. Their dedication has provided a strong foundation on which we can continue to build.



As we look ahead, my goal is to ensure our Chapter remains welcoming, inclusive, and enjoyable for all members. Whether you're a long-standing member or new to the Chapter, your ideas, enthusiasm, and involvement are what make Lakeside Chapter special.

I encourage each of you to get involved, join us on rides, attend Chapter events, bring along new members and family, share your suggestions, and consider volunteering your time and talents. Whether you can help regularly or just occasionally, your contribution can make a real difference. Together, we can create an even stronger, more vibrant Chapter that reflects the interests and enthusiasm of all our members.



I have great pleasure in welcoming Vince Knight back onto the Committee as our newly elected Head Road Captain. He is an experienced rider and HOG member who will add value to the Committee and Chapter

With the Assistant Director post now vacant I encourage any interested members to submit a formal interest in undertaking the role by the closing date Friday 25th September – see the full role description later in this edition under the “Vacant Officer Positions” section of Pondlife. If interested, please come and chat to me.



I look forward to riding with you or seeing you at events in the coming months. Together, let's continue creating memorable experiences, supporting one another, and making Lakeside a Chapter we're all proud to be part of.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to the journey ahead.

Ride safe, ride often, and I'll see you on the road.

Ash

Director, Lakeside HOG Chapter

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY

Back in the HRC boots

Well here I am again, taking on the role of Head Road Captain.

Due to the untimely departure of Phil as Director and Ash taking over, the position of HRC was left vacant. I thank the Road Crew for their votes of confidence in me and I will do my best to keep up the standards that Ash has set whilst in the role.



Thank you Ash for all you have done and I wish you well in the Director's chair. I'm sure you will do us proud.

The Crew, as always, has filled the diary with many various rides, something for everyone. It would be nice to see a few more of you out while the weather is still reasonably good.

If anyone has any questions regarding possibly joining the crew, ideas for rides or anything riding related then please don't hesitate to ask the Crew members or myself.

Let's ride.

Vince Knight

=====

And now the safety bit.....

Filtering: A Unique Advantage for UK Motorcyclists

One of the many advantages of riding a motorcycle in the UK is the ability to make safe progress through congested traffic by filtering. Whether you're commuting to work, heading out on a weekend ride, or travelling to a Chapter event, filtering can save time, reduce congestion, and make riding more enjoyable when done correctly.

Filtering, sometimes referred to as lane splitting, is the practice of riding between lines of slow-moving or stationary traffic. Unlike many countries where the practice is restricted or prohibited, filtering is legal in the UK provided it is carried out safely and responsibly. The Highway Code specifically acknowledges filtering and advises riders to "take care and keep your speed low" when filtering through slow-moving traffic.

Safety First

While filtering is legal, it should never be treated as a right. The responsibility remains with the rider to assess whether it is safe to proceed. Every experienced motorcyclist knows that the biggest hazard when filtering is the unexpected movement of other vehicles.

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Drivers may:

- Change lanes without warning;
- Pull out from side roads;
- Open doors unexpectedly;
- Perform U-turns; or
- Move aside for emergency vehicles.

For this reason, riders should always maintain a speed that allows them to stop quickly if circumstances change. Road position, visibility, and anticipation are key skills that can make the difference between a safe manoeuvre and a dangerous situation.

Drivers obstructing motorcyclists or not leaving enough room for them to pass, could be liable for prosecution under Section 3 of the Road Traffic Act (careless driving) and subject to points, imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine.

As members of Lakeside H.O.G., we have an opportunity to set a positive example on the road. By filtering safely, riding courteously, and showing consideration for other road users, we help promote motorcycling in the best possible light.

So next time you find yourself approaching a queue of traffic, remember: **filter with care, ride with patience, and always leave yourself an escape route.**

Motorcycle MOT Changes: What Riders Need to Know This Autumn

There has been some speculation within the motorcycling community about significant MOT changes arriving this October. However, at the time of writing, there are **no major new motorcycle-specific MOT test requirements scheduled to come into force this October for private motorcycle owners**. The latest DVSA updates to the motorcycle MOT inspection manual were introduced earlier, with the most recent revision taking effect on 1 April 2026.

That said, there are a few developments worth understanding.

What Has Changed?

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) continues to update MOT testing procedures and improve consistency across testing stations. Several changes introduced during 2026 have focused on:

- Improved MOT administration and tester controls.
- Increased use of photographic evidence during MOT tests.
- Updates affecting MOT stations and equipment requirements.
- Measures designed to reduce MOT fraud and improve quality assurance.

Most of these changes affect MOT centres and testers rather than motorcycle owners directly.

What Motorcycle Riders Should Continue to Check

Regardless of MOT rule changes, the most common reasons motorcycles fail their MOT remain familiar:

- Tyres below the legal tread depth or showing damage.
- Faulty lights and indicators.
- Excessively worn brake pads or discs.

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- Damaged wheel bearings.
- Excessive exhaust noise or insecure exhaust systems.
- Registration plate issues.
- Steering and suspension defects.

A few minutes spent checking these items before your MOT appointment can often save both time and money.

Looking Ahead

The motorcycle MOT test continues to evolve as vehicle technology develops, but there are currently no confirmed October changes that will significantly alter what is inspected during a standard motorcycle MOT. Riders should continue to follow existing maintenance routines and monitor DVSA announcements for any future updates.

The Bottom Line

For Lakeside members, the message is reassuring:

No major new motorcycle MOT tests or inspection requirements are due this October. The focus remains on ensuring our bikes are safe, legal, and roadworthy, exactly as before. Routine maintenance, regular inspections, and addressing advisories promptly remain the best way to keep your Harley on the road and ready for the next chapter ride.

FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Hello guys - you haven't heard from me for a while but now I am back. We have a couple of things coming up. We have our now famous Christmas Carol Concert again this year but with a twist: we have been asked to sing at the Kings Arms (our usual Natter Night venue) Xmas market on 5th December. We have a couple of practice nights at Pam Smart's house on 12th November and 3rd December at 6.30 so please put these dates in your diary.



We will also have another Food Bank idea. All will be revealed as soon as we have all the details together.

Finally, we will be having a raffle at our Christmas party on 19 December. Any contributions for prizes will be gratefully received. See the flyer below.

Well, that's all from me so ride safe and I will catch up with you all hopefully on the road when my trike has been repaired.

Until then, rubber side down.

Chris Bell



(continued next page)

LAKE SIDE CHAPTER CHRISTMAS CHOIR

CHARITY SING-ALONG

In aid of
The Arron Lewis Charity



*Join Us for a Festive
Sing-Along!*



The Kings Arms
5th December 2026

11:00 – 3:00 (timings to be confirmed)



No experience needed — and you don't need a good voice!



Just bring your Christmas cheer and join in the fun.



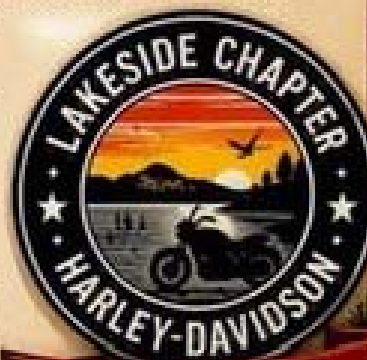
Christmas jumpers, crazy Christmas hats all warmly welcomed.



Lakeside Chapter would love to encourage all members to come along, sing your hearts out, and support this wonderful charity event.



We hope you can join us and help make the day magical.



*Sing Together. Support Together.
Make a Difference.*

★ ★ LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE FOR A GREAT CAUSE! ★ ★

LET'S FILL SANTA'S SACK! ❤️

We're building a brilliant raffle for our Christmas Party — and we need your fabulous prizes!

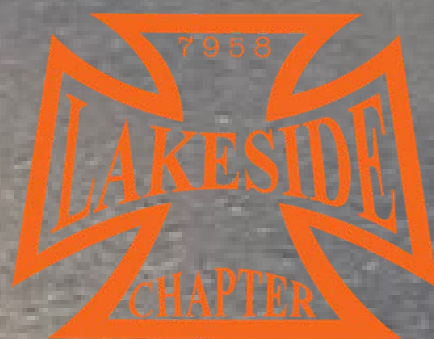
Big gifts, tiny treats, quirky surprises...
if it makes you smile, it's perfect!



Hand your goodies to Chrissy Bell — Charity Officer,
or drop them off at Natter Night.

😊 Thank you in advance — you're helping
make Christmas extra magical.

LADIES OF
HARLEY



LADIES OF HARLEY

Hello Ladies and Gents — Greetings from the New Forest!

I'm absolutely delighted to say I'm writing this from my VW Camper Van, during my first ever sleep over — and what a brilliant adventure it's been. We've spent a couple of wonderful days tucked away in the beautiful New Forest, staying at a campsite charmingly named "The Back of Beyond".

It's been everything you'd hope for: relaxing, fun, full of fresh air, and made even better with Ash and young Mr Hopper keeping me company. We've enjoyed great dog walks, peaceful moments under the trees, and that lovely feeling of being miles away from the usual rush.



I can genuinely recommend it — the place, the experience, and the joy of just switching off and soaking it all in. Sometimes a little "Back of Beyond" is exactly what you need.

Well, September has officially arrived, and with it comes that familiar shift — the holidays for some are now just sandy memories, while others are still climbing the plane steps with sunglasses on and a grin that says "see you in a week or so!".

Meanwhile, the Lakeside Ladies of Harley? We're doing what we do best... riding on. Whether you've been sunbathing, suitcase-lugging, or simply enjoying the last of the few warm evenings at home, the road has been waiting patiently — and it's looking pleased to see us out again this month.

Here's to a new month, new miles, and the adventures already lining up ahead.

Ride on, ladies — September suits us.

What Adventures have we instore?

Ladies... Christmas is sneaking up on us...

I kid you not — Christmas is just around the corner, and before the festive madness truly begins, I wanted to invite you all to a wonderful Wreath-Making Evening on 25th November 2026, hosted at my house.

We're incredibly lucky to have Sarah Barell as our very own creative guide for the night. She'll be teaching, inspiring, and helping us craft beautiful Christmas wreaths — and yes, "No Experience Needed" really does mean no experience needed. Just bring yourself, a smile, and maybe a little festive mischief.

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Please see the flyer below, and if you have any questions at all, just contact me.

I truly hope you can make it — it's set to be a lovely evening together.

Lakeside Ladies



Christmas Evening Wreath Making
Wednesday 25th November 2026
Pam's House
6.30pm

Bring out your creative side and join us in a
'Christmas Wreath' making evening.
All materials will be supplied to make a
'Bespoke Festive Christmas Wreath'
for your home!
Mulled wine on arrival
Nibbles & Drinks Supplied
Cost: £40:00
to be paid by the September 30th 2026
(this is a non-refundable event).
Payment to the Chapter - account Ref: 'LOH Wreath 2026'.
Please let me know in advance if you plan to attend.
Contact Pam at loh@lakesidechapter.co.uk for more information and to book a ticket!
Family and Friends Welcome.

Ladies — There's Still Time!

Just a little reminder that there's still time to sign up for our Lakeside Afternoon Tea. This event is completely free for all Lakeside Chapter Ladies of Harley, and it's shaping up to be a lovely chance to relax, chat, and enjoy some time together.

If you'd like to attend, please just let me know — it would be wonderful to have you there.

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A New Forest find — and a glimpse of the Good Life!

While wandering through the New Forest, I stumbled across the sweetest little motorbike and sidecar (BSA)— the kind that instantly makes you smile. Even better, I got chatting to the couple who take it out exploring with their two dogs tucked happily in the sidecar, ears flapping, living their absolute best lives.

There was something wonderfully simple and joyful about it — just two people, two dogs, and a quirky little bike rumbling through the trees without a care in the world. It made me think: what a life we've got to look forward to. Adventures don't have to be big to be brilliant: sometimes it's the small, unexpected moments that remind you how good the road ahead can be.



That's September wrapped up — what a month it will be. Wishing you all a wonderful few weeks ahead, and I'll see you out there on the road, where we always seem to find our best stories.

Please don't forget to call me with any questions you might have about the Ladies' Adventures, or if you've got a suggestion for the coming year. I'm always happy to hear your ideas and help shape what's next.

Take care, ride safe, and see you very soon.

Pam

XXX

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SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!!

Lakeside Ladies of Harley

Paddle Boarding Event Repeated!!!!

Date: 20th 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**

1066, SHERWOOD & LAKESIDE

LOH-SOCIAL WEEKEND

10TH APRIL 2027

40 rooms available

Linton hotel | Lincolnshire LL1 3BP

Book your room

01582-407644

65€ - Single • 75€ - Double

Ref for booking "Deborah Laurence"

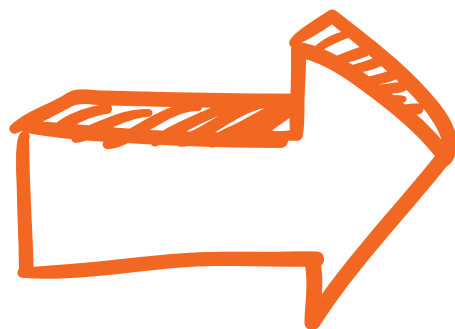


*Ride from Notts, Sussex & Essex
★ to the event ★*

#9794 #6746 #7958



EVENTS



EVENTS

A warm September welcome from your Lakeside Chapter Events Team. It's been a brilliant year so far — our ride-outs and events have been a real success, and that's down to every single one of you who's turned up, joined in, supported, and kept the spirit of the Chapter alive. We've had a few bumps along the road, sure, but far more smooth miles ahead, and plenty still to look forward to as the season continues. Thanks for making each gathering and each ride something special — and here's to even more great days together.



On a sadder note, your Events Team would like to share a heartfelt farewell to Phill Poston, who has stepped down from his role as Director. Phill has always been a constant source of support — bringing ideas, energy, humour, and genuine passion to everything. His encouragement has meant the world to us, and while he may be stepping back from the Director's seat, we're grateful to know he's still very much part of our Lakeside Chapter family and always nearby when we need a hand. Here's to Phill, his dedication, and the many good moments still ahead.



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A warm welcome to our new Director, Ashley Smart. Ashley's passion for our Lakeside Chapter family shines through in everything he does, and we know he'll bring encouragement, support, and plenty of hands-on involvement to the Events Team. He's committed to helping our Chapter grow, flourish, and keep that brilliant community spirit rolling. We're excited for the energy and dedication he brings — and we're looking forward to many great days ahead with him leading the way.

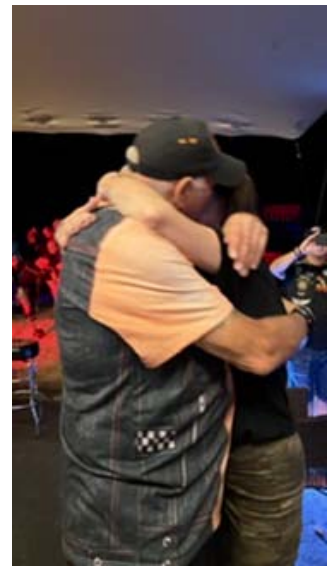
WELCOME, ASHLEY



Lakeside Chapter had an absolutely wonderful time at the Sykes & 1066 HD Multi-Chapter BBQ Party on Saturday 1st August 2006 — a night that will stay with us for a long while. It was fantastic to drink, dance, and share endless laughter with our friends from the 1066 Chapter, Opalel Shore Chapter, Sherwood Chapter, Wolfruna Chapter, Geordie Chapter, Mancunium Chapter, Icen Chapter and New Forest Chapter. The atmosphere was electric — friends reunited, new faces welcomed, and the spirit of the Harley family shining through every moment.



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A huge thank you goes to Sykes / 1066 for making us feel truly part of the family. The BBQ was wonderful, the band absolutely brilliant, and the adult party games had everyone laughing and joining in. They thought of everything – and it showed. What a night... one of those rare events where every moment feels special.

A shout out goes to Vince who won £200 and handed it back to their charity, what a Super Star.



We'll be there again next year without a doubt – this is one party that simply cannot be missed – so place the Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th August 2027 in your diary and watch out for the flyers!

So, what coming up next????



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A big thank-you from your Events Team as we wrap up another busy, laughter-filled month together. Your enthusiasm, support, and willingness to get involved — whether at ride-outs, socials, or Chapter gatherings — is what keeps our Lakeside family thriving. We’ve loved every moment spent with you, and we’re already looking forward to the fun still to come. As we sign off for now, we’ll leave you to enjoy the rest of the summer sunshine... and we’ll see you next month, when it might finally be a little cooler!

Sue and Pam



A Recce to the Morzine Harley Days Rally

Wondering what to do with a bit of time on their hands (!!!!) , Phill, Vince and mate Mitch took a trip to the Morzine Harley Days Rally in the French Alps.

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Last time I was in Morzine it was minus 22 degrees and I had a snowboard... (and a beard). This time it was 32 degrees and I was on a Harley Davidson...!! I did wonder (on my snowboarding holiday) why there were so many Harley references around the town. Finally (as I was wearing HD gear most of the time) someone told me about the Rally.



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Me, Vince and a good friend (Mitch) booked the trip to see what it was like. What followed was an absolutely incredible nine days. The time and effort Vince puts into planning trips like this is amazing. We only touched a dual carriageway once, on the last day, for about two hours. Everything else was on some of the most amazing roads, through towns and villages, across huge open fields, past lakes, through mountain passes (over one or two mountains) and meeting some of the most incredible people along the way.



Morzine is 1000 meters (3280 feet) above sea level and is stunning. The whole town gives itself up for the Rally which lasts for around four days.

Our chalet was right opposite the HD bar and accommodation on the one side and over-looked the main square, stage and arena on the other. We had grandstand views of all the bands on all of the nights...!! We had secure parking from the owner although the town had around 10k Harleys and around 15k visitors for the Rally and everything felt incredibly safe the whole time.



The overall age of people at the Rally was rather a lot younger than that you might expect at a UK Rally and the atmosphere reflected this. There were bike related stalls lining every main street and many bars had their own live music blasting out all weekend. I couldn't resist a trip up the cable-car to the ski slopes, which (of course) were lovely grass meadows (not how I remembered them). The views were spectacular.

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After three days of partying the return journey was outstanding. Vince took us over, around and through three stunning passes: one I recognised from the 'Goldfinger' movie; another was being made ready for the Tour de France which passed through just the day after us; and the third we had to stop (almost) too many times to take in the views



I could write pages and pages and still not do this tour and Rally the credit it deserves. Then I had an idea... why don't you join us when we do it again (in 2028) as a Chapter Ride? It sounds like a plan.

Phill 'Rainman' (and Vince & Mitch)



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

Contact: merchandise-lakesidechapter@outlook.com

15TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE



Men's 15th Anniversary Hoodie £30

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

Men's 15th Anniversary Polo £16

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



Ladies 15th Anniversary Hoodie £30

Sizes XS (8) to 2XL (18)

Ladies 15th Anniversary Polo £16

Sizes XS (8) to 4XL (22)



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



Contact: merchandise-lakesidechapter@outlook.com

And don't forget all of our other fantastic merchandise



¼ Zipped Fleece £17.50
Sizes XS – 3XL



Men's track polo £22
Sizes XXS - 3XL



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



Men's Polo £14.50
Sizes XS - 8XL



Zipped Hoodie £25
Sizes S - 5xl



Heavyweight Hoodie £30
Sizes XS - 3XL

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



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

Knitted Beanie Hat £7



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



Ladies Chapter T-shirt
£14
Sizes 8 – 16

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

Also available

Sweatshirt £22.50
Sizes XS – 4XL

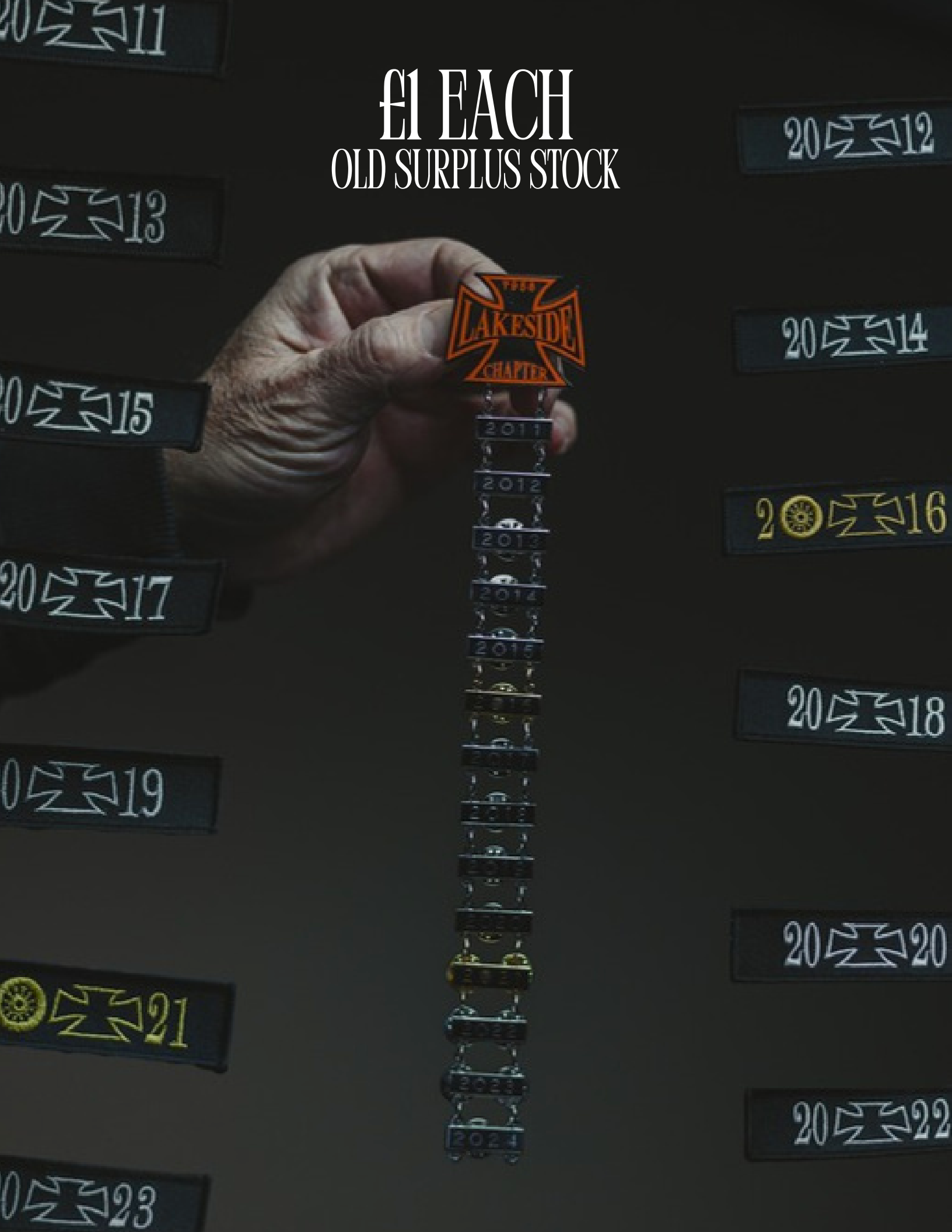
Unisex Long Sleeve Polo £15

Zippered Sweatshirt £27.50
Sizes S – 2XL

Chapter Cap £15

Contact: merchandise-lakesidechapter@outlook.com

£1 EACH OLD SURPLUS STOCK



VACANT OFFICER POSITIONS

Assistant Director Position

The Primary Officer position of Assistant Director is vacant in the Chapter and is available to any Full Chapter Member. If you wish to put your name forward for the position please send an expression of interest to the Secretary including a short paragraph as to why you want the position (email: Secretary-lakesidechapter@outlook.com) by the closing date of 5PM 25th September 2026.

In the event of more than one candidate, they will be asked to do a short presentation to the Committee on why they want to take on the role. The decision will be made by a secret ballot of the Committee. Further details if a secret ballot is required will follow.

You'd be expected to attend the Committee meetings which are usually on the last Saturday every month (not December), at the Kings Arms (where we have our Natter Nights). They start at 9.30am and always end-up with a Ride Out around 12 Noon.

The Job Description for the position is outlined below.

If you have any questions, please give the Secretary or Director a call or send an email to:

Director-lakesidechapter@outlook.com

+44 7595 543125 or

Secretary-lakesidechapter@outlook.com

+44 7807 668092

Assistant Director – Role Overview

The Assistant Director plays a key leadership role in supporting the Chapter Director and promoting the values, benefits, and community spirit of H.O.G. This position helps ensure the Chapter operates smoothly, remains compliant with H.O.G. standards, and offers a welcoming and informed experience for all members—especially those newly joining the Chapter.

Key Responsibilities

- **Ensures Compliance:** Supports all officers with Chapter Governance, assists the Chapter Director in upholding all requirements of the Annual Licence for H.O.G. Chapters and ensuring Chapter operations remain fully compliant.
- **Leadership Support** Provide assistance to the Director as requested, helping to oversee Chapter activities, events, and member engagement. Supports and collaborates with others Officers as required to promote the Chapter.
- **Promote Membership & Community:** Represent and promote H.O.G. and the Chapter to prospective members, helping grow and strengthen the Chapter community.

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- **Communicate H.O.G. Programs & Benefits:** Keep members informed about H.O.G. initiatives, benefits, and programs. (All Chapter Officers should support you with this responsibility).
- **Interchapter:** Provide assistance to the Director and other Officers as needed to promote and link up with other HOG Chapters.
- **New Member Orientation:** Lead and conduct orientation sessions for new members to help them understand Chapter expectations, riding guidelines, events, and the benefits of being part of H.O.G.

RIDE OUT ARTICLES



WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST: RIVERVIEW CAFE, HULLBRIDGE

With another good midweek turnout of 13 bikes and 15 members, we set off from the Halfway House on a beautiful warm sunny morning.

The Riverview Café is on the Crouch Estuary located as part of the Hullbridge Yacht Club. A ride from Battlesbridge to Hullbridge can be done in about 10 minutes as it's only two miles as the crow flies.

But where's the fun in that?

So I did originally plan and recce a route out through Hockley and Rochford and on to the Canewdon peninsula to find some nice rural lanes. But even that was only about 40 minutes, so instead I replanned and recce'd the route from the Halfway House, so it ended up being about 1 hour 20 mins and just under 40 miles.

Having previously agreed with the café owner that we would be coming, they did indeed provide us with great service, and much quicker than I anticipated. Some found some shade to sit in, and others went to the veranda which overlooks the estuary. Thankfully the tide was in which makes it look so much more appealing, so for about an hour we sat in the sun and watched the boats go by and some of the wildlife. It is so peaceful there and a great place to just chill and clear your mind.

Many of my rides tend to be out towards the Essex/Suffolk or Essex/Herts borders, which often means a longer run home for most. This time it was probably me who had one of the longer rides home!

Thanks to all who came along, and to my crew of Neil & Dee and Phil.

Cheers... Kev



SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST: NEWMARKET H-D HULLABALOO

A bright, sunny morning saw 16 members on 14 bikes meet at the Clocktower Retail Park, Chelmsford, for a ride up to Newmarket H-D for its annual “Hullabaloo”. Whilst the weather forecast was for some rain later in the day, we all willed it to stay dry! One thing was for sure – with the lengthy heatwave we had been having there was little fear of Neil leading us through a ford – something which he does like to throw at us fairly regularly.

As we waited for members to arrive the chatter and laughter had already started and set the tone for the whole day. With the briefing done, we saddled up and set off. Leaving the Clocktower retail park is somewhat easier than the Boreham Services exit route. Some easy roundabouts, some traffic lights and we were off on the meandering route to Newmarket. The buddy system worked perfectly and we arrived at Newmarket H-D as a Chapter – quite impressive.



It's the first time I'd be to the Hullabaloo, and I was impressed: Harleys parked absolutely everywhere around the industrial estate on which the Dealership is based. Walking from where we'd parked the bikes to the Dealership was like walking through a custom bike show.

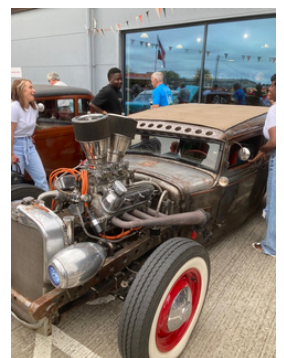
At the Dealership were more bikes, classic American cars and hot-rods, food and drink stalls, and DJ as well as live music. The music was classic rock and roll and rockabilly which at the very least you had to tap your feet to, whilst others went the whole hog and were jiving in front of the live band. The music was so catchy I even saw Neil moving rhythmically (of course he won't admit it....but there were witnesses!)

Looking around there were plenty of HOG Chapter patches to be seen from the length and breadth of the country. Add to that the number of other riding groups that attended as well as simple bike enthusiasts and it all added up to a fantastic event.

After a good while at the event we started to drift off our own ways back home – thankfully all in the dry.

Thanks to Neil and Dee for leading the ride and to the crew for the day that saw us all arrive safely.

Tony H (for Neil)



WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST: KRAZY HORSE, BURY ST EDMUNDS

We recently enjoyed a great ride out to Krazy Horse in Bury St Edmunds, combining a variety of roads, even a ford which still indicated 3ft of water in these dry conditions! And yes we did turn around and bypass it - even I wasn't going to risk it.....

With members gathering, there was a real buzz of excitement as riders arrived and prepared for the journey. Following a rider briefing, the group set off together, enjoying a route that offered a mix of scenic countryside roads and flowing stretches perfect for a chapter ride.

The weather was kind to us, making for ideal riding conditions and allowing everyone to fully enjoy the day. As always, the camaraderie amongst members was evident throughout the ride, with plenty of opportunities to catch up, share stories, and enjoy the experience that makes being part of Lakeside so special.

Our destination, Krazy Horse Bury St Edmunds, proved to be a popular choice. Known for its unique motorcycles, impressive showroom, and welcoming atmosphere, it provided the perfect setting for members to relax, browse, and talk all things Harley-Davidson. Whether admiring the custom builds, checking out the latest bikes and accessories, or simply enjoying a coffee and conversation with fellow members, there was something for everyone.



A big thank you goes to everyone who attended, along with the Road Crew who supported the ride. Your efforts ensure these events continue to be safe, enjoyable, and memorable for all involved.

If you haven't joined us on a ride recently, why not come along to one of our upcoming events -you'll always find a warm welcome and plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Until the next adventure, ride safe.

Ash



SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST: THE RIVERSIDE INN, ORFORD

On an awesome sunny Sunday morning 17 Harleys and 22 people lined-up at the Truck Stop at Boreham Interchange for a ride of two halves to Orford in Suffolk. My concern was that it was still very much the school holidays and we were going to need to make use of the A12 (twice) and the A14 which are main holiday routes if you're heading to the East coast. How wrong was I..??? (or lucky): the roads were mostly clear all the way. A slightly more detailed 'brief' ensured that everyone knew about the entrances and exits on the main roads as drop-off's would be impossible. The beautiful lanes from Woodbridge, through Rendlesham Forest and on to the coast would be easy to mark with drop-off's.

There were some cracking names along the way not least 'The Unruly Pig' (Pub & Restaurant) which looked well worth a future visit...

From my recce (just a few days beforehand) I'd booked several tables for everyone at the destination, The Riverside Inn. The staff there were very accommodating and the menu was outstanding... I really must come back here to try out some more of the menu.

The Quay Master was pleased to let us park in the 'No Parking' zone which meant we could all stay together and keep an eye on the bikes from the café.

A couple of the gang had brought a picnic and they sat on the river bank enjoying the sunshine and quayside atmosphere.

All in all this was a lovely ride with a really good turn-out by the Chapter and a lot of laughing and chatting.

Sometimes a bit of boring dual carriageway to a new destination can be well worth the effort.

Many thanks to Lynn & Pam for crewing. What a massive difference it made to the ride (from the RC point of view) to have one of the Crew do a 'ride-by' on the dual carriageways to let me know everyone was together..!!

Phill 'Rainman'

(continued next page)





WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST: THE CROOKED CHIMENY, LEMSFORD

Despite the horrendous weather forecast, the weather Gods took kindly to us and gave us a lovely day for riding. Five bikes and six riders left Starbucks, Halfway House on a meandering route to the Crooked Chimney Pub. Following A and B roads, we had a pleasant, incident free ride with fairly light traffic (despite it being school holidays), to arrive at the pub just as it opened where we received a warm welcome. We all enjoyed a drink and a light lunch (for some of us). After some time spent chatting we set off on our various return journeys – also in the dry!

Thanks to Neil and Dee for crewing.

Paul H



SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST: RIDE AND MAIZE MAZE

Rain, Rain... and More Rain!

Lakeside Chapter Ride-Out On A Very Soggy Saturday.

If there was ever a day when the heavens opened, it was Saturday. Rain didn't just fall — it threw itself at us. At one point it genuinely felt like someone was tipping buckets of water straight from the sky. Waterproofs were tested, spirits were challenged... and yet, the laughter never stopped.

We had planned a lovely ride to the Maze in Writtle — a fun destination and definitely one for the calendar next year — but the weather had other ideas. With visibility low and the roads turning into rivers, we made the sensible call to shorten the route. Even so, the ride-out still happened, and that's what makes Lakeside Chapter special.

Despite the downpour, we had seven bikes and ten determined members turn up, which was absolutely fantastic. Soaked gloves, steamed-up visors, dripping jackets — none of it stopped the smiles. It was one of those days where the camaraderie mattered more than the miles.

A huge thank you to everyone who braved the weather and came along. Your enthusiasm shines brighter than any sunshine... though I promise to blow the clouds away next time.

Pam



SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST: BLAKE HOUSE CRAFT CENTRE

Fifteen members and 11 bikes met up at Starbucks on a dry Sunday morning ready for a lovely ride through the Essex lanes out to Dunmow and the beautiful Blake House Craft Centre.

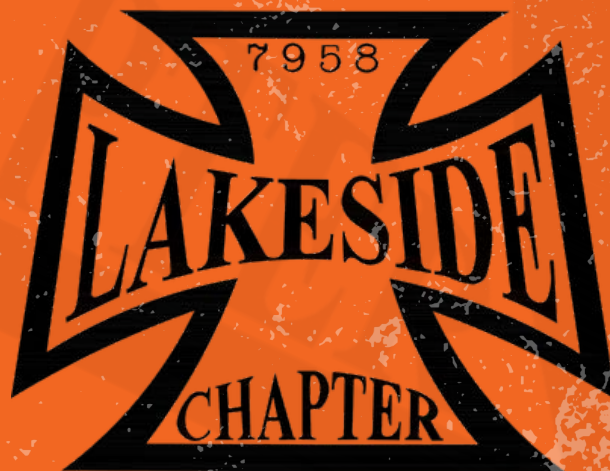
Everyone had a good feed and a ride with no issues.

Bring on the next one.

Vince Knight



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 Saturday 5 September) through to the October Natter Night:

Saturday 5 September – Bimble through Essex to Heybridge. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure

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

Sunday 13 September – Billericay Community Parade. Meet at Starbucks at 9.45 for a 10am departure.

Tuesday 15 September – The Booking Hall café, Rayne. Meet at The Barge Inn at 10.15 for a 10.30 departure.

Friday 18 September – Friday Night Bike Night. Details to be confirmed by Ash.

Sunday 20 September – The Oyster Ride, Mersea Island. Meet at Boreham Services at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Tuesday 22 September – Wally's café, Acton, Suffolk. Meet at The Barge Inn at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 26 September – BBQ Ride, OchSmoke. Meet at Starbucks at 2pm for a 2.15 departure.

Sunday 27 September – The Tiptree Challenge Take Two. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Tuesday 29 September – Dee's Diner, Hatfield Peverel. Meet at the Clocktower Retail Park at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 3 October – The Ride to the Wall. Meet at Costa Coffee, South Mimms service station on the M25 at 6am (departure time to be confirmed).

Tuesday 6 October – The River Palace, Dobb's Weir. Meet at The Barge Inn at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 10 October – Church Farm café, Chiltern Hills. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Tuesday 13 October – Blast to Blossom Bites, Wimbish. Meet at Boreham Services at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Then we are at our Natter Night in the evening of 14 October at the Kings Arms, Orsett from 6.30pm.



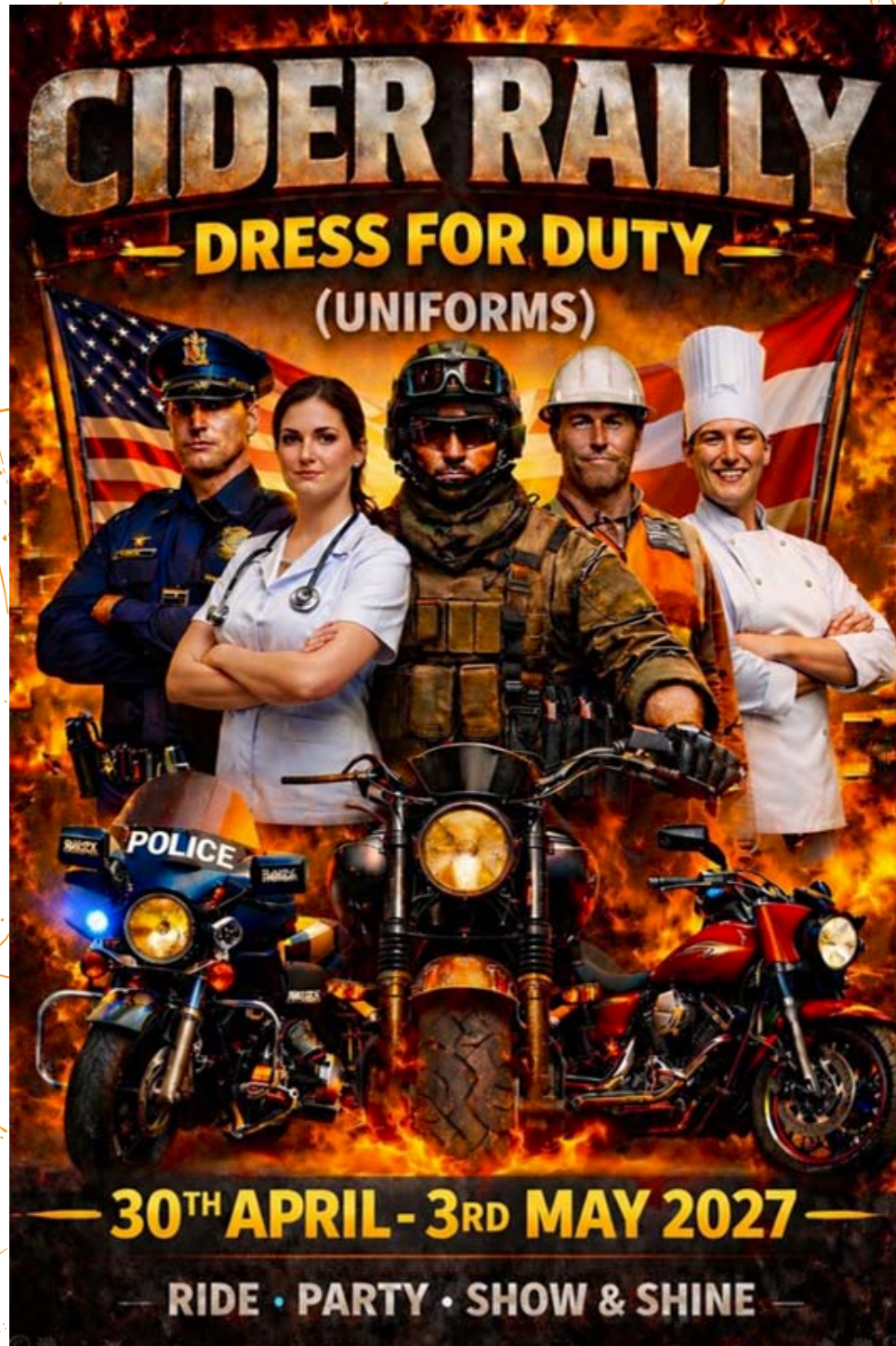
- SAVE THE DATE -



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

2027 Rallies

Lakeside Chapter will be arranging an official ride to this and other rallies in 2027. Keep an eye out for more details closer to the time



European HOG Rally 2027: Croatia

The HOG Hotel details have just been released (in the UK & all of Europe).

Rooms are expected to go quite quickly.

Chapter Members will be staying in the Hotel Konati from Friday 11th June and departing on Monday 14th June 2027. The Hotel is on the Sea Front with bike parking. It's B&B and right in the middle of the Rally.

It's €500 (ish) for 1 person in a double room for those 3 nights.

You don't have to stay here. There are loads of options. Follow the link and if you're joining us, let Sue know and she'll add you to the WhatsApp Group.

Here's the link for the hotel:

<https://2027hograllyhotels.com>



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:**

**EDITOR-
LAKESIDETCHAPTER@OUTLOOK.COM**

