

MAY 2026

POND LIFE



LAKESIDE

CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 7958

PAGES



5

DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

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



6

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFTEY

Ash has some words of wisdom on what to pack, and what not to pack, for those all important road trips.



10

FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Chris lets us know what our chosen charity - the Aaron Lewis Foundation - has done over the past year, as we presented our cheque to the Foundation at the April Natter Night.



11

LADIES OF HARLEY

Pam shares the news for the ladies, including all important dates for your diaries.



17

EVENTS

Sue and Pam is bringing us news about upcoming events, parties and God knows what!



23

MERCHANDISE

Why not treat yourself to some new Chapter merch as the rides start to come thick and fast



+

MORE

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



COMMITTEE



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



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PHOTOGRAPHER
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KEVIN SMITH



WELFARE OFFICER
LYNN GUNN



EDITOR
TONY HITCHING

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to this slightly delayed May edition of Pondlife. Yes, you've guessed it – I was off on holiday again, so compilation and publication was delayed a little.

Looking back, who could have guessed that April could provide such good riding weather? Yes it might have been chilly every once in a while, but there was hardly any wet rides – even with Rainman tagging along for a number of them! Let's hope May continues in the same vein as there are a lot of rides planned for the month, including the Iron Hog Rally in Yorkshire with Carl leading the official ride to the Rally.



As for this month's edition, Phill brings us up to date with all things Chapter and HOG related – including a reminder about the HD Experience weekend coming up and also a hot off the press invite to the Invicta 35th Anniversary Party on Saturday 20th June (see the Events pages for details). Ash – with his big trip to the States in mind – helps us to consider the essentials for doing road trips on our Harley (or any bike for that matter – but a Harley is best!). We get an update from Pam on all the things the Ladies have and will get up to and as always Pam and Sue keep us up to date on all the great events the Chapter is organising or involved with (such as the Invicta party, and of course don't forget our own Birthday Bash on Saturday 4th July). If you haven't got it yet, don't forget the all new 15th Birthday merch, as well as new lines for 2026, and with all the details of the great rides we've had in April (and a belated one from March) it all adds up to (I hope) another enjoyable edition of Pondlife.

Well that's all from me. Normal service will be resumed for the June edition (no getaways planned). Many thanks to all contributors.

I'll see you on the road.

Tony H



DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Summer has finally arrived!! In fact we've had some amazing temperatures and loads of glorious sunshine in April and long may it continue. Nine Ride-Outs and events saw April our busiest month so far this year, but that will seem peaceful compared to May with around 15 rides and events already on the calendar and the potential to squeeze a few more in by our ever enthusiastic Road Crew.



Did you see us in this month's HOG E-Magazine... Well done Chrissy Bell & everyone at Lakeside Chapter for supporting these amazing people: HOG Stories - H.O.G. Easter egg runs 2026 - Stories

By the time you read this we'd have just had our AGM at the Kings Arms. This is something we 'have' to do according to the HOG Chapter Charter. Last year I think we had the Committee and about two members attend!! At first this was disappointing, but on reflection I guess you'd only turn up if you wanted to complain, so the fact almost no one was there is an awesome sign. That said, if you were even the slightest bit curious as to how the Chapter was doing at a Committee and Road Crew level, how much cash we had in the accounts and what each Officer had to say about the last 12 months, this is the meeting to attend. It's only one hour and there is always an awesome ride afterwards.

Harley Davidson is coming to Essex on 16th & 17th May and Lakeside Chapter is leading the Demo Rides. If you're at a loose-end on both or either day please pop along to Ingatestone and say "Hello" or even book in (or push your luck on the day) and take one of the 15 brand new Harley's out on a Demo Ride. It's free and you get to ride a Harley... What's not to like!! There will also be food, live music and Maidstone Harley Davidson in attendance as well.

I see our Events Team have an exciting line-up of things planned. Please remember that a lot of these Ride Outs and destinations need booking in advance, so help the Team and get your name on the list ASAP.

Lakeside Chapter has just been invited to Invicta Chapter's Summer Party on June 20th-21st. This too will need booking in advance (especially if you want a room for the night). Invicta are Maidstone Harley Davidson's Chapter and it would be good to support one of our more local Clubs and Dealerships.

I also see that Lakeside Chapter is still getting new members so if you see anyone at a Ride Out or Chapter Social please go up and say "Hello" and make them feel welcome and happy to be a part of the best (& only Official HOG) Chapter in Essex.

That'll do for now, but remember... "Ride and Have Fun..!!!"

Cheers,

Phill, 'Rainman'



HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY

Hope you're all doing well and ready for some great riding as we head into May, I just wanted to set the tone for some fantastic days on the road together.

This is one of those times of year that really reminds us why we ride — good people, good laughs, good weather and solid miles shared as a Chapter. Let's make the most of it and keep things smooth and enjoyable for everyone.



Just a few easy reminders as we roll:

- **Make sure your bike's good to go** – tyres, brakes, lights, fluids... the basics go a long way.
- **Listen up on the road** – follow the Road Captain briefing so the rides stay together and safe, it doesn't matter how many times you've heard a briefing it's important to know what the RC says.
- **Ride smart** – keep pace with the ride so we start and ride as one, so we then finish as one.
- **Fly those Lakeside cuts with pride** – how we ride says a lot about who we are.

Details on meet-ups, times, and routes are always in our calendar/website and monthly Pondlife, so keep an eye on Chapter messages.

Looking forward to seeing plenty of you out there, enjoying the road and the company. Let's have a great May.

TOURING ON A HARLEY-DAVIDSON:

WHAT TO TAKE (AND WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME)

Few things beat loading up a Harley-Davidson and pointing it towards the horizon. Whether you're riding a Road Glide, Street Glide, Heritage, or Ultra, Harley touring is about **long miles, comfort, and freedom**. But what you pack—and just as importantly, what you don't—can make the difference between a great trip and a frustrating one.



This guide focuses on smart, minimalist packing for real touring, not just weekend posing.

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WHAT TO TAKE ON A HARLEY TOURING TRIP

1. RIDING GEAR THAT WORKS ALL DAY

Comfort and protection matter far more than style once you're six hours in.

Essentials:

- **Well-broken-in riding boots** (waterproof if possible)
- **All-weather jacket** with vents or removable liner
- **Riding gloves** – one warm pair, one lighter pair
- **Neck tube or buff** – small but brilliant for cold, wind, or sun
- **Earplugs** – reduce fatigue on long motorway stretches

✓ Tip: Harley touring bikes are heavy at low speed—choose boots with good grip and ankle support.

2. WEATHER PROTECTION (EVEN IF THE FORECAST IS GREAT)

Weather changes faster than plans.

Pack:

- **Compact waterproofs** (even if your jacket claims to be waterproof)
- **Thin thermal layer** (packs small, makes a big difference)
- **Sunglasses or clear spare visor**

If you're riding in the UK or Europe, rain is not an "if"—it's a "when".

3. TOOLS & BIKE ESSENTIALS

You don't need a full workshop, but you do need basics.

Bring:

- **Torx bit set/pliers/socket set** (compatible with a Harley)
- **Tyre pressure gauge**
- **Puncture repair kit & CO₂ cartridges**
- **Chain lube** (if applicable) or belt inspection awareness
- **Cable ties & duct tape** (touring miracle workers)

Harleys are reliable, but touring bikes are still machines doing hard miles.

4. TECH & NAVIGATION

Modern touring still needs a little planning backup.

Useful items:

- **Phone mount** (solid and vibration-resistant)
- **Charging cable or power outlet**
- **Offline maps downloaded**
- **Intercom / Bluetooth headset** (especially if riding with others)
- **Paper map** (maybe for back up!?)

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5. PERSONAL ITEMS (LESS IS MORE)

Remember you don't need your entire wardrobe.

Pack:

- **2–3 base layers**
- **Quick-dry underwear**
- **One off-bike outfit**
- **Flip-flops or lightweight trainers**
- **Microfibre towel**
- **Basic toiletries in travel sizes**

If you're touring more than 3–4 days, plan to maybe **wash clothing**, not overpack!

WHAT NOT TO TAKE ON A HARLEY TOURING TRIP

1. Too Many Clothes

The biggest touring mistake.

Avoid:

- "Just in case" outfits
- Bulky jeans (they take ages to dry)
- Excess shoes
- Heavy jumpers instead of layers

Remember: every kilo affects handling, braking, and low-speed confidence.

2. Non-Essential Gadgets

If it doesn't make riding safer, easier, or more enjoyable, leave it.

Skip:

- Laptops (unless absolutely necessary)
- Large cameras with multiple lenses
- Hairdryers (hotels have them)
- Multiple power banks (one good one is enough)

Harley touring is about riding, not carrying tech.

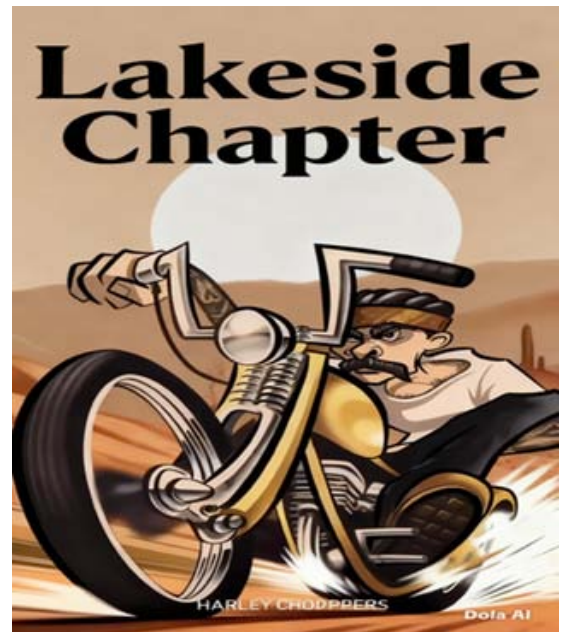
3. Anything You Won't Use While Riding

A good rule: **if you won't touch it during a riding day, question why it's there.**

Examples:

- Full-size books
- Large hardback guides
- Spare "nice" clothes you won't wear
- Extra jackets "just in case"

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4. Poorly Packed Weight

Even good gear becomes a problem if packed badly.

Avoid:

- Heavy items high up (top boxes overloaded)
- Uneven panniers
- Loose items that shift mid-corner

✓ Heaviest items low and forward, light items on top.

HARLEY-SPECIFIC TOURING TIPS

- **Test ride fully loaded** before the trip if your first time
- **Adjust suspension** for added weight
- **Check torque on saddlebag mounts**
- **Use liner bags** for panniers—easy hotel unloads
- **Don't fill every space** just because it's there!

Harley touring bikes carry a lot—but they ride best when you don't use all of it.

FINAL THOUGHT: PACK FOR THE RIDE YOU'RE ACTUALLY DOING!

Touring on a Harley isn't about carrying everything you own—it's about **smooth miles, confidence at stops, and enjoying the road**. Every item should earn its place on the bike.

Pack smart, ride far, and leave space for souvenirs—because you will stop somewhere unforgettable or want to buy that Harley t-shirt from that far away dealership.

Ride Safe & Have Fun

Ash.

FUNDRAISING OFFICER



It was fantastic to be able to invite Barry and Helen Lewis – parents of the late Lieutenant Aaron Lewis and founders of the Foundation set up in their son's memory to help deliver life changing outcomes to service and ex-service personnel – to our April Natter Night. There we were able to present to the Foundation a cheque for £2,000 on behalf of the Chapter.

In receiving the donation, Helen thanked everyone for their continued care and generosity and stressed how it genuinely meant more than words could ever adequately express.

The work and support the Foundation provides is varied in both scale and type, as can be seen from some of the following examples of support provided during 2025:

- Mountain Leader course (and provision of equipment) for two instructors at the Beacon (homeless veterans residential centre in Yorkshire), as well as Dry Robes for The Beacon outdoor activity team;
- Sailing course for eight veterans through The Disabled Sailors Association;
- Stairlift for injured veteran in Wiltshire;
- Internal lift for two disabled children of Royal Navy veteran in Plymouth;
- Hybrid recumbent handbike for amputee veteran in Devon;
- Deposit for an endurance event wheelchair for veteran in Devon.



And this list just goes on.

It is good to know that the Chapter's contribution will help to make such a difference to our brave men and women and their families in 2026 on onwards.

Thank you.

Chris



LADIES OF HARLEY



LADIES OF HARLEY

A huge “Whoosh!” to everyone who joined our Ride and Roast Circular Route! The weather just stayed on our side – sunshine, a few rain drops, but nothing that stopped the fun.

The route took us through the beautiful twisty country lanes of Essex, mixing A and B roads for an enjoyable ride. After about an hour and a quarter on the road, we rolled in more than ready for a proper Sunday feast.

And what a feast it was – Turkey, Beef, Pork, and Gammon, all waiting for us on arrival. A big thank you to The Kings Arms for having everything perfectly prepared for our return.

The Ride and Roast will definitely be back again next year.



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Lots of places available so just let me know and I will pop you down on the list!

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As we ride into May, I want to send a big thank you to all the Ladies of Harley for your energy, support and spirit this month. I am looking forward to seeing you all again soon – whether out on the open road or at our social events. Stay safe, ride with confidence and keep the camaraderie strong. And if you have any ideas for future adventures, rides or meet-ups, I would love to hear them. Let us make the next few months even more memorable.

Pam

XX

PS...and of course, don't forget all of the following LoH events we have lined up!



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SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!!

Lakeside Ladies of Harley

Paddle Boarding Event Repeated!!!!

Date: 18th July & 20th September 2026 (Both Dates)



St Andrews Lake

2, Quarry Grove, Rochester, Kent ME2 1BA

Cost: to be confirmed (3-hour session)

Time: To be confirmed

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

Come along, try something new with friends!

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

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Pam

XX

I hope you can join us!

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.**

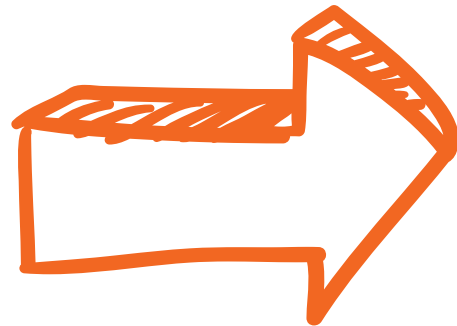
**FOR £149:00 PER-PERSON
(sharing a cabin)**

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

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

**Ambassador Cruises
Tilbury**

EVENTS



EVENTS

Happy May to you all and may the sun shine every day, but it can rain at night!

There is plenty to look forward to with the Lakeside Chapter, so keep an eye out for the fantastic rides, activities and events coming up!

One highlight is our ride to the Cutty Sark, where you can—if you are feeling brave—climb the ship's rigging (booking required), explore the Cutty Sark itself (pay on the day), or simply relax with a drink and something tasty in a nearby café. Check the flyer or contact Sue or Pam for details.



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Please do not forget the return of the Tiptree Challenge—three stops last year, four this year... who knows what sticky situation we will end up in! It is the perfect time to join in, get involved, and make some great memories with the group.



Also, there is an exclusive....! Check out the flyer.....you will need to register an interest for this one, as it is a one night only, tickets are around £45:00 (waiting for them to be released to confirm the price).

Please contact Pam or Sue and we will place you on the list!

Hurry do not miss OUT!

Finally.....

A warm goodbye from the Events Team. Thank you to all our Lakeside Chapter members who joined in, supported, and brought their brilliant energy to every ride and gathering. We have got plenty more lined up, so keep an eye out for next month's updates and event details. Until then, ride safe,

look after one another, and we will see you all again very soon.

Pam & Sue

XXXX



PS...Don't forget these other fantastic events we have coming up

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BOOKING FORM

Name(s) of guests:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Any dietary requirements/allergies.....

Total amount due at £30 per person.....

Please make payment to the Invicta bank account with your surname and "party" in the reference

Bank account: Invicta HOG
Account no. 21401238
Sort code: 40-03-16

Accommodation can be booked direct with Judds Folly by calling them on 01795 591818. Please note that all rooms have been reserved in the name of Simon Williams

**COME AND
CELEBRATE
LAKESIDE IS
TURNING 15!**

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026

AT

YE OLDE PLOUGH HOUSE

BRENTWOOD ROAD

RM14 3SR

(ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE CONTACT VENUE)

01375 891592

FREE EVENT FOR MEMBERS

GUESTS £10

(PAYABLE TO THE CHAPTER REF: 15TH PARTY)

**FINGER
BUFFET
DRINKS
FROM 6PM**



**DJ / BAND
CARRIAGES
AT
MIDNIGHT**

Hurry only 40 tickets left!!



1066 Chapter and Sykes Dealership Summer Party & BBQ

When 1st & 2nd August 2026

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

Live Band & DJ

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

Accommodation: Eastbourne Polegate Premier Inn – 03337774677

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

There will be an official ride to Sykes dealership

For more information or concerns, contact Sue or Pam.



LAKESIDE CHAPTER 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

15TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE

Orders via email merchandise@lakesidechapter.co.uk



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).

Regular Chapter Merchandise

Order yours today by contacting Dean at:
merchandise@lakesidechapter.co.uk



¾ Zipped Fleece £17.50
Sizes XS – 3XL



Men's track polo £22
Sizes XXS - 3XL



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



Men's Polo £14.50
Sizes XS - 8XL



Zipped Hoodie £25
Sizes S - 5xl



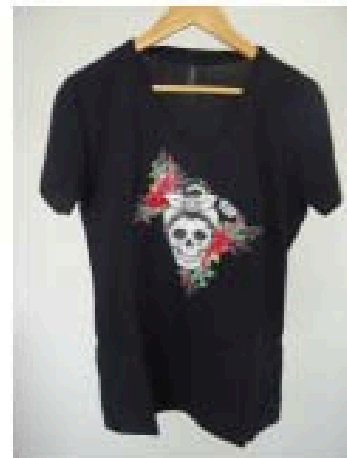
Heavyweight Hoodie £30
Sizes XS - 3XL

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



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

Knitted Beanie Hat £7



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



Ladies Chapter T-shirt
£14
Sizes 8 - 16



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

Also available:

Sweatshirt £22.50
Sizes XS - 4XL

Unisex Long Sleeve Polo £15

Zipped Sweatshirt £27.50
Sizes S - 2XL

Chapter Cap £15

£1 EACH OLD SURPLUS STOCK

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

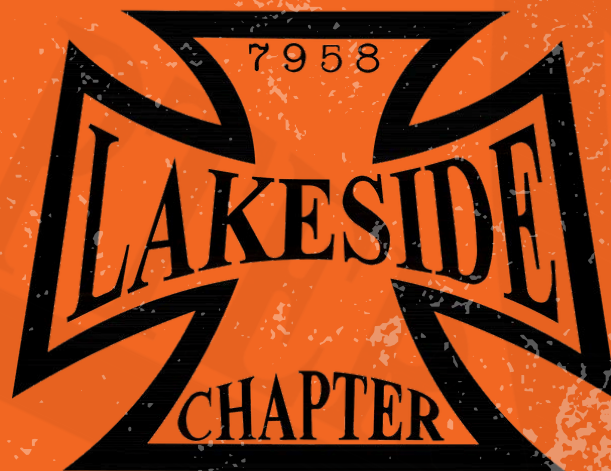
2021

2022

2023



RIDE OUT ARTICLES



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.

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH (YES - ITS A BIT LATE!): RIDE TO RYKAS

Saturday 21 March gave us exactly what you want for an early-season run: dry roads, clear skies and enough warmth to make it feel like riding season had properly arrived. We left the King's Head in Orsett with 15 riders and one guest, rolling out on 13 bikes for a straight run down to Ryka's at Box Hill



It was a busy biking day and you could feel it all the way down. Plenty of bikes out, plenty of people making the most of the weather, and a good atmosphere from the off. The group kept together well, the run was smooth, and by the time we pulled in at Ryka's the place was already doing what it has done for generations: giving riders somewhere solid to stop, park up, grab a brew and talk bikes.

Ryka's has been part of the Box Hill scene since 1920, and that is a big part of why riders keep going back. It is not just the café itself, it is the location. Box Hill has long been a well-known meeting point thanks to the roads, the views across the Surrey Hills and the fact that on a good day there is always something worth looking at in the car park. For bikers, it is one of those places that still feels right.



No drama, no fuss, just a proper ride out with a good turnout, good weather and a destination that never really goes out of style.

Thanks to everyone who came along and helped make it a strong Lakeside Chapter run.

Dany!

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL: GOLDTOP CAFE AND SHOP

An overcast morning, but importantly dry and not too chilly for an early April morning, saw 25 members on 20 bikes turn up at Starbucks for a jaunt through the Essex countryside over to Bishops Stortford and the Goldtop shop and café. With the briefing given and with the large number of bikes – our largest gathering so far for the year – we used the second man drop off to help mark the way.

With the route having plenty of turns there was a succession of drop offs, resulting in nearly everyone in the pack having at least two drop offs during the ride. The system worked fine, although at one right turn the marker was belatedly spotted meaning a quick u-turn for a few riders to get back on route and the pack was back together again.



After about an hour and fifteen minutes riding we took the last left turn into a small country lane and the most unassuming signs for “Goldtop” started to appear, and finally a largish old house which it turned out was the Goldtop showroom, shop and café. There was a large gravel car park in front which we managed to fill!

Inside there was a lot of classic looking biking gear, including sheepskin lined flying jackets, café racer boots, luggage etc, and tucked away in a corner – very compact and bijoux (in other words a small counter)– was the café. The member of staff worked very hard to get everyone’s teas and coffees served quickly (and all good barista coffee, not a nescafe jar in sight), and offered a good selection of cakes. Queueing to get served wasn’t a problem as it gave everyone a chance to look at everything that Goldtop offered.

After the refreshments, some good chatter, and some group photos it was time to head off.

Many thanks Ash for organising this ride and to the road crew for the day.

Tony H (for Ash)



WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL: PEAR TREE PANTRY

As I had discovered a lovely little café in the countryside, I thought it would be a good idea to put on a ride.

Now, the big question was, what interesting roads could I find to get us there?

I planned a lovely long route, did a recce ride and was very pleased with myself, only to find a few days later the road would be closed so I would have to find another way.



The day of the ride came, the sun was out, 14 bikes 16 participants in total - what could be better, huh...only to find my satnav decided it was not going to play ball, so I would have to rely on my memory to get us there. I also had the use of Pam's phone as backup.

We left Starbucks and travelled mostly on country lanes, some of which were in better repair than others, but what a great sight it was to see a line of bikes behind you on such a lovely day.

There was only one lady to be seen serving the whole café but she was ever so friendly and welcoming.

The quality of the food was good but a bit on the pricey side, however, I think we all enjoyed a good chinwag and it was great to be able to sit outside in the warm country air after the cold wet days we had had.

Thanks again to those who joined me and to Pam and Kevin for crewing.

Lynn



WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL: 2MT CAFE



My first ride as Road Captain for the year was to 2MT from Starbucks on 15 April. What could go wrong I thought? A lot actually!

The sorry tale started in the loo of Starbucks, not just the fact that the hand dryer in the gents only works on dry hands but my jacket zip jammed. After a frantic five minutes I managed to free it but felt discombobulated by the event. We then proceeded to the briefing where my usual witty and humorous dialogue (well I think so) was disjointed, confusing and dull, even though it raised a few laughs probably from pity. It did not help as I realised I was reading from last year's notes to a different destination. So off we went, the gods decided to make matters worse by seemingly tinkering with my MyRoute Navigation by trying to reroute us via strange and exotic places. This resulted in route direction changes showing at or near the junctions causing panic braking and signalling by myself: four second spacing was definitely needed on this ride. Apologies to Lynn Gunn who was directly behind me for the sudden braking. It also added an interesting lane in the route that I was surprised did not contain a ford. I was relieved to arrive at 2MT and despite my antics at the front the buddy system worked. As it is said "No one died, only my pride"

Many thanks to Kev Smith and Paul & Mary Harris for Road Crew duties. The weather was dry, cool and overcast and the venue excellent as usual.

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL: DEB'S DINER



Thursday 23rd April 2026, was not only St George's Day but Lakeside Chapter's ride out into the wilds of the Dengie Peninsular. Ten members on nine bikes met at the Barge Inn, Battlesbridge for the 37 mile ride around the country roads and lanes of Essex.

Getting out to the Dengie saw us going through the hamlets and villages of Essex with the highest concentration of what was the typical construction of homes in the county in centuries gone past of lapboard and thatch in Essex. The roads are typical of the roads around the country at the moment, but some had a bit more undulation than others. The glorious blue skies made the ride so much better. Arriving at our destination of Deb's Diner, which found on a farmyard area with riding stables, we parked up and entered into the establishment for a bite to eat and a chat before heading off for home.

Thanks to the members who came along and for Neil, along with Dee and Phill for looking after the rear.

Mike



SATURDAY 25TH APRIL: NEWMARKET H-D

For the first ride to Newmarket HD we met at Costa Coffee, Clocktower Retail Park in Chelmsford rather than Boreham Services as it offers a safer exit route. After another excellent briefing if I say so myself, as nobody else will I expect, eleven bikes, twelve members and one guest set out in sunny and warm weather. The route was a combination of A, B minor and C roads passing through the town of Braintree, villages of Gosfield, Sible , Great Yeldam, Kidington, Little Thurlow and Dullingham, then Newmarket High Street and finally out to the dealers at Minton Enterprise Park. We used the buddy system and against all expectations it worked as approximately one hour and half later we arrived at the dealers. Paul Edwards (sorry Paul - too good not to use) so overcome by this that he had to remove his shirt.

It was the Black Bears thirtieth birthday and the place was well attended with Harley bikes and Chapters. They had a live band and the usual food van and an excellent time was had by all.

Thanks to those who came on the ride and to Kev Smith and Paul Edwards for Road Crew duties.

Neil



SUNDAY 26TH APRIL: THE GOAT PUB AND THE 77 CAFE



There may come a time when we've been to almost every single venue in Essex... more than once... and it was with this in mind that I had a look a little further afield for some destinations. In this instance the small Village of Codicote in the middle of the Hertfordshire countryside which boasted a really good and traditional Pub with an awesome burger van (the 77 Café) in the car park. That'll do nicely!

Ten bikes and twelve hungry bikers turned up in the hot Spring sunshine for this little adventure. The easy route was M25 – A1/M and 5 minutes of B Road. Instead I opted for A & B Roads for the whole ride. This would only be spoiled by Harlow being in the way.



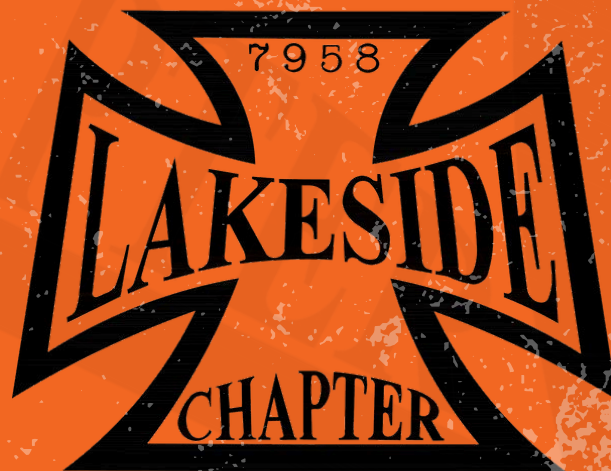
We managed to navigate the ring-road with not too much fuss and everything seemed to be going well with the ride all together and everyone enjoying the sunshine and countryside until about 15 minutes from our destination when a 'white-van-man' decided to cut across the ride on a roundabout. Of course, our rider slowed down to let him enjoy driving like a cock, but in that instant 'lost' the rider in front of him and proceeded to take the wrong exit.

Fortunately this was an alternative, and slightly faster route to our destination. The Road Crew took control of the back end of the ride and amazingly enough we all arrived at the 77 Café at the same time but with the back of the ride just in ahead of the front of the ride!! Oh how we laughed. This is exactly why the Road Crew share the route and destination prior to every ride. No one panicked and we all arrived at the destination (almost) as planned.

Due to the awesome weather we all opted to sit outside and order food and drink from the 77 Café, which was awesome!! They did confess that they have fairly regular Bike Nights so maybe this place is worth another visit sometime in the future. Many thanks to Neil for Crewing and Mike for 'shadowing' Keith on his first Ride Out as Road Crew.

Cheers, Phill 'Rainman'.

FUTURE RIDES



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ride outs (starting from Friday 15 May) through to the June Natter Night:

Friday 15 May to Monday 18 May – The Iron Horse Rally, Blue Dolphin Holiday Park, Filey. Meet at the Shell Garage, M25/A12 at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Tuesday 19 May – Tarka's café, Halstead. Meet at the Barge Inn at 10.15 for a 10.30 departure.

Saturday 23 May – The Riverside Inn Tea Room, Orford, Suffolk. Meet at Boreham Services at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Sunday 24 May – TTT Motorcycle Village, Sudbury. Meet at Pod 8, Clocktower Retail Park, Chelmsford CM1 3FJ at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Tuesday 26 May – Potter to Poppy's, Poppy's Barn, Clavering. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 30 May – Smoke and Brunch ride (the Bike Shed, Shoreditch). Meet at Boreham Services at 12.30 for a 12.45 departure.

Thursday 4 June – Coach House Kitchen, Hatfield House. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Saturday 6 June – Café 206 Rochford. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Sunday 7 June – Flatford Mill, Suffolk. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 departure.

Wednesday 10 June – River Breeze Café and Bar, North Fambridge. Meet at Starbucks at 10am for a 10.15 Departure.

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

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Honfleur 2026



Come and join us on a weekend jaunt to Honfleur

We'll be hopping on Le Shuttle early on Friday 26th June 2026, taking a scenic route to Honfleur and returning on the afternoon of Sunday 28th June 2026.

We will find some fun things to do and some delicious eateries for you!

We are staying at The Mecure Hotel which has secure parking and you will find the link below

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/0986/index.en.shtml>

We will let you know which trains to book closer to the date.

Please let Sue or Carl know if you'd like to come along and we'll add you to the what's app group

Many thanks and hope you can come along!

LAKESIDE CHAPTER RIDE AWARDS

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

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

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

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

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