

DECEMBER 2025

POND LIFE

A blue motorcycle is parked on a paved road that curves into the distance. The sun is high in the sky, casting a long, dark shadow of the motorcycle onto the pavement in the foreground. The road is flanked by green grass and some trees. In the background, a house and a greenhouse are visible.

LAKE SIDE

CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 7958

WE ARE SORRY

WE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS, BUT IT'S EASILY TIME WE TAKE ACCOUNTABILITY.
WE APOLOGISE FOR OVERWHELMING YOUR WEEKENDS, WEEKDAYS, YOUR WHOLE YEAR CALENDAR,
FACEBOOK AND EVEN WHATSAPP CHATS. IT WOULD SEEM THAT "KEEP IT EXCITING" WASN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN QUITE SO LITERALLY.

WE KNOW ITS A LOT. WE TRIED TO SLOW DOWN... IT JUST DIDN'T WORK !!
BUT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PASSION MEETS HORSEPOWER AND HARLEY DAVIDSON BIKES.
PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGY... WE'LL KEEP RIGHT ON DOING THE SAME THING NEXT YEAR !!



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+

MORE

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

COMMITTEE



DIRECTOR
PHILL POSTON



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CARL WEBB



CHAPTER SECRETARY
NEIL SEARLE-JONES



TREASURER
STEVE WINTERS



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
MARY HARRIS



LADIES OF HARLEY OFFICER AND
JOINT EVENTS OFFICER
PAM SMART



FUNDRAISING OFFICER
CHRIS BELL



HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN AND SAFETY
OFFICER
ASHLEY SMART



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
AND JOINT EVENTS OFFICER
SUE STURTON



PHOTOGRAPHER
MANDY SMITH



WEBMASTER AND HISTORIAN
KEVIN SMITH



WELFARE OFFICER
LYNN GUNN



EDITOR
TONY HITCHING

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to this December edition of Pondlife.

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was welcoming you all to 2025, the new ride calendar and all the exciting events we had in store for the year. Well, it certainly has been a year of "been there, done that and (on some occasions) got the T-shirt as well"! Now we can look forward to doing it all again next year. I know Ash has been chivvying his Road Captains along to fill up the 2026 ride diary, so keep an eye on the calendar. And the events Team of Sue and Pam are always looking ahead to see what fun they can put in the diaries for us – not least our 15th Birthday Bash on 4 July. But before that we have our Christmas Party on Saturday 13th December which is always a cracking event – so start practicing those dance moves.



Back to this month's edition of Pondlife we have the usual update from Phill on all things Chapter related; Ash gives us some hints and tips on winter riding (and knowing our limits when it is cold); Pam shows yet again that "girls just wanna have fun", as she tells us what the Ladies have got up to and what is planned for 2026 (so far); Pam and Sue, the Dynamic Duo of the Events Team, tell us all about the fantastic things the Chapter got up to in November (as well as what is planned for 2026 – so far), along with more feedback from Phill on the annual ROC get together that took place in October.

Even though the weather had turned, we still had a number of ride-outs in November so see what you may have missed in our ride-out report section. And don't forget, pictorial evidence of everything this Chapter gets up to can be found in our Gallery on our website (lakesidechapter.co.uk).

That's all from me, other than to say I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's do it all again next year!

Enjoy Pondlife.

Tony H



DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

...And just like that we're saying 'Good Bye' to 2025.

It really feels like the year has flown by. We've certainly been treated to one of the best UK Summers for a long time and, fingers crossed we'll be blessed with similar hot sunny days and warm evenings in 2026.

The weather has certainly turned cold over the last couple of weeks with the first snow in Essex and a few heavy frosts. The gritters are out so if you're riding please be sure to wash all the salt off your bike once you're home. Even salt & grit isn't going to stop our amazing Road Crew from arranging Ride Outs for the Chapter. Keep an eye on the Chapter Diary and Comms for updates on rides and events to keep the Chapter and it's members engaged over the winter months.



Following the November Road Crew meeting the 2026 Ride Diary is now being uploaded. So if you wanted to plan some of your 2026 Chapter Rides, now is the time.



There seems to be an unusual number of members who have been (& several who still are) unwell at the moment. On behalf of all the Chapter members I'd like to wish them all better and hope they make a speedy recovery in time to enjoy Christmas.

Hopefully I'll see as many of you as possible at the Christmas carols Ride Out and especially the Chapter Christmas Party, for which we must (in advance) thank Sue & Pam for organising what I'm sure will be a truly wonderful evening. They started work on this event around April, and that in itself shows how much time and effort goes into the night. I'm really looking forward to it

That's about it, other than to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and Harley Davidson New Year with the best Orphan Chapter in the UK (& that's official....!!)



Cheers, Phill

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN & SAFETY

As we speed head on into the festive season I would like to wish all members a “Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year”. If you still need to get a present, a quick google has suggest the best Christmas gifts for motorcycle riders include practical gear like heated gloves or waterproofs, maintenance and repair items such as tool kits or cleaning supplies, and comfort and convenience accessories like saddlebags or a helmet rack. For a more personalised touch, a unique guardian angel motorcycle bell, or a gift card to their favourite gear shop!

Whilst we do ride all year round the weather can impact rides so if you find yourself with some spare time over the winter period check out the Hog Pod.



MOTORCYCLE PODCAST & YOUTUBE FOR HARLEY OWNERS & RIDERS (UK & IRELAND)

HOG-POD is a dedicated motorcycle podcast designed specifically for Harley-Davidson owners, riders, and H.O.G Chapter members across the UK and Ireland. Covering England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Northern Ireland, this podcast and YouTube Channel captures motorcycle adventures and interviews and serves as a hub for all things related to Harley-Davidson. You can catch every episode on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or any other platform where podcasts are available.

LATEST PODCAST FROM HOG-POD

The idea for HOG-POD was born from a shared frustration. After searching high and low, two passionate Harley owners realised that no motorcycle podcast existed that specifically catered to the needs and interests of Harley riders and H.O.G members in the UK and Ireland. This gap in the motorcycle podcast world led to the creation of this platform that brings Harley enthusiasts together, providing updates, interviews, and discussions about events and activities.

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HOG-POD understands the importance of community for Harley riders, and they wanted to create a single spot for listeners to stay informed about what's happening among Harley-Davidson owners and riders in the UK and Ireland. Whether it's new Harley releases, local riding events, or stories from other riders, HOG-POD motorcycle podcast is committed to keeping you in the loop and connected with the larger Harley community. Tune in and enjoy the ride!

I've also heard our very own Director has recorded a session with them which could be released at any time so keep your ears open.

BIKER SAFETY WHEN COLD

So yes, the winter is here....

When riding in cold weather, it's crucial to prioritise safety by ensuring proper gear and awareness of the conditions.



HOW COLD IS TOO COLD FOR MOTORCYCLE RIDING?

Riding a motorcycle gives you that top-of-the-world vibe, doesn't it? Yet, hold your horses, because when temperatures plummet, that joyful liberty can turn into a frosty adventure quicker than you think. Being an enthusiast of the two-wheel journey, I'm sure you frequently ponder, "When does it get too cold for a bike ride?" This query is far from just a matter of staying cozy; it's crucial since braving the cold on the Harley isn't just a downer—it can be downright dangerous.

When the mercury dips, the risks increase. Cold weather affects both your body and your bike, making it essential to know your limits and prepare accordingly. Let's explore the factors that determine when it's too cold to ride and offer some tips to stay safe and warm on the road.



- Cold weather can significantly affect both the rider's comfort and motorcycle performance, making it essential to assess whether it's too cold to ride.
- Wind chill and personal tolerance levels are critical factors in determining safe riding temperatures, with wind chill substantially reducing perceived temperature at higher speeds.
- Insulated motorcycle clothing and protective accessories, such as heated gloves and vests, are crucial for maintaining warmth and safety during cold weather riding.

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- Pre-ride preparations, including checking tire tread, battery health, and layering appropriate gear, are vital for safe motorcycle riding in low temperatures.
- Adjusting your riding style for reduced traction and being mindful of weather conditions like wind chill and precipitation can help prevent accidents and enhance overall safety.

FACTORS AFFECTING RIDING COMFORT

Several factors affect riding comfort in cold weather. Wind chill significantly reduces perceived temperature, especially at higher speeds. For instance, a 40°F day can feel like 25°F when riding at 60 mph. Clothing choice, including insulated gear, windproof layers, and heated apparel, plays a crucial role. Additionally, the type of motorcycle, such as those with windshields and fairings, can provide extra protection from the cold. Proper maintenance of the bike ensures reliable operation in low temperatures, avoiding issues with cold starts and battery failures.

IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL TOLERANCE LEVELS

Personal tolerance levels vary for each rider. Some can comfortably ride in 40°F weather, while others struggle below 60°F. It's essential to know your limits and recognise signs of hypothermia, which include shivering, numbness, and impaired judgment. If you feel discomfort, it's safer to end your ride early. Experienced riders might stretch their limits with proper gear, but it's crucial to prioritise safety over endurance. Assessing your cold tolerance through short rides can help determine your comfort range.

ESSENTIAL GEAR FOR COLD WEATHER RIDING

Insulated Motorcycle Clothing

To stay warm in cold weather, it's important to wear insulated motorcycle clothing. Insulated jackets and pants provide the necessary warmth to combat freezing temperatures. Look for gear made with thermal liners and waterproof materials for added protection. Layering thermal shirts and leggings under your riding gear can also help. I think the old saying "you get what you pay for" is essential to remember when buying warm, insulated clothing.



Protective Accessories



Protective accessories are crucial for maintaining warmth and safety. Heated gloves and grips keep your hands warm. Battery-operated heated vests and liners add an extra layer of comfort. Balaclavas and neck warmers shield your face and neck from cold wind. In severe conditions, consider using a full-face helmet with a breath guard to prevent fogging and retain heat.

Ash



LADIES OF HARLEY



LADIES OF HARLEY

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL LAKESIDE LADIES OF HARLEY



I cannot believe we are in December and this will be my last Ladies of Harley Pondlife report for 2025!

It has been my pleasure to have represented you this year, sharing in the many new experiences and adventures we have had in 2025! I have not laughed so much (Paddle Boarding), as well as eaten so much (Christmas Afternoon Tea) and drunk so much.... (Wine Tasting). As well as all the other great events we have enjoyed together.

So may the fun continue, the wine keep on pouring and the food keep coming all through 2026. We also have quite a few new experiences to try out as well!

I would like to say a personal huge 'Thank you' for supporting me, cheering me on and most of all being wonderful ladies who will have a go and join in!



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So, the adventures just keep happening, first 'The Christmas Festive Afternoon Tea.'



'The Little Tea-cup' was so delightful and the decorations were soft, calming and inviting. I think we all wanted to stay there forever!

Well, let us talk about the food & drink!



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The food was delicious, and there was so much there, we just could not eat it all! Most had to be boxed up and taken home. We had unlimited tea, coffee, and soft drink. The afternoon was spent chatting, laughing and relaxing with great friends. What a wonderful way to spend the afternoon. A big 'Thank you' to everyone who took part.



The next Christmas adventure for the Ladies of Harley was 'Christmas Wreath Making' which was a great evening.



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Mulled wine on arrival, a cheese platter and wine once all the hard work was done!

Help was on hand and the event was well organised; there was an abundance of resources to use and a wonderful Christmas atmosphere.

Fantastic feedback by all who attended, an LOH event that must be repeated next year...2026!

Thank you to all that attended.



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Ladies of Harley Adventures continue!

Lakeside Ladies of Harley you are invited to:



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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!

Christmas Support for your Poinsettias!

I saw this and just had to share it with you all, I struggle to keep Poinsettias alive, so here are a few tips I found!!!

Poinsettias are traditional Christmas plants, perfect for tables, centrepieces, and gifts. They like the warmest room in the house, where fires or central heating keeps them cosy. Not a great idea to place them too close to the heat sources or cold windowsills, and let the compost dry out a little between watering! I will see if this year I can keep mine alive!



All that is left to say is....

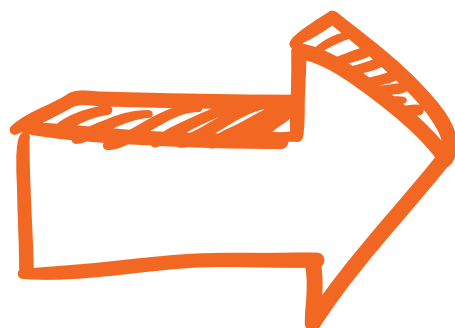
I wish you all a Christmas wrapped in peace, tied with love, and filled with joy that lasts all year.

Love Pam

XX



EVENTS



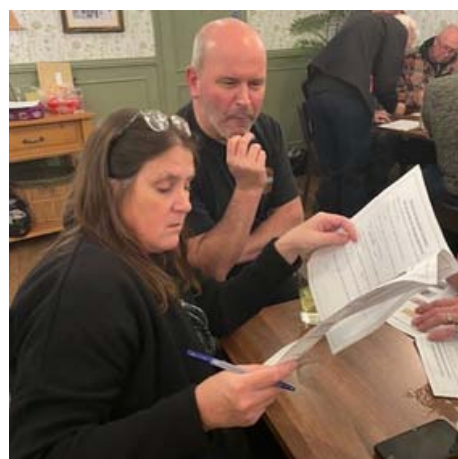
EVENTS

A Very Merry Christmas from your Events Team.



It has been our pleasure to plan, arrange and organise events for you all in 'The Lakeside Chapter.'

We have had a busy month again in November, first we had the '**Quiz Night**' at Natter Night, led by Mary, who did a fantastic job.



Well, you could tell there was a little tension, competitiveness and even nervousness in the room, as the quiz was handed out. The room almost fell silent, there were groups of all sizes, even individual members!

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Once the quiz had been completed, and the answers shared, Vince Knight was announced the winner, with four-chapter members receiving the wooden spoon.



With all your generosity Lakeside, we raised £53:00. Thank you again to everyone who took part.

Throughout November, Lakeside Members have been purchasing knitted Poppies and raised £30:00.



RUTAL BRITISH LSSJUN 1

Order summary ▾ £30.00

✓ Confirmation #NID0CJEE5
Thank you, Pamela!

Tell us what's important to you

Thank you for supporting RBL today. Could you spare us a few moments to answer 4 quick questions about what's personally important to you and the causes that matter to you? It will help us to improve our communications and become more efficient. Thank you for your help

Start survey

Your order is confirmed

You'll receive a confirmation email soon 10:46



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Lakeside Christmas Choir Rehearsal



Gosh, what can we say about this one?

It can be a little scary to sing out loud with a bunch of Harley Davison riders and pillions. But we all put our brave faces on, and sang our hearts out.

I have never enjoyed an evening so much...in fact I think fun was had by all.

Ken was amazing and kept us altogether, in tune to the music, helping us start singing in the correct places!! I must admit we did have to go over the songs quite a few times.

However, by the end of the evening, we were singing in tune, swaying with the music and so much more confident than when we started!

So, Lakeside now has its very own choir and is ready to sing Christmas songs at Howard Care Home!

Thank you to all who attended and brought lots of lovely goodies to munch as well.



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Howard Care Home Christmas Visit



A huge 'Thank You' goes out to everyone who helped and contributed towards the Howard Care Home Christmas Ride and Carols.

It was wonderful to share a little Christmas Cheer with the residents, leaving them a little gift to open for later.

The choir was amazing and all sang together for most of the time!

Everybody loved the songs and we even sang one twice by request!

You are all a bunch of fantastic people, who are always willing to support and join in.

A huge pat on the back goes out to LAKESIDE CHAPER!!!

The photos say it all....



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The afternoon was complete with the whole Chapter singing Happy Birthday to Beryl who was celebrating her 92nd Birthday.



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What is coming up next Lakeside?

On the 24th January 2026 you are invited to join in mini-golf.

Attention...all Lakeside

You are all invited to event!

On: 24thth January 2026

To: Puttshack Lakeside

(The Quay West Thurrock Way Grays, Essex RM20 2AD)

Time: 12:00

Come and join in a round of mini golf reimagined, where they have rewritten the rules, pairing modern-tech with crazy courses – no more paper or pencils!

£12:00 for a round of 9 holes



Followed by a spot of lunch afterwards!
(food & drinks not included in the price)



Please pay Lakeside Chapter £12:00 by the January 3rd 2026

(non-refundable) Ref: your name & golf

I do hope you can make it!

Any questions please contact Pam or Sue (Events Team)

**There will be an official ride to this event – please check ride calendar –
weather permitting!**

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Friday 20th February 2026, Lakeside Chapter is invited to celebrate Chinese New year, the year of the 'Fire-Horse'.

It is cold and frosty outside so come and celebrate with
Lakeside Chapter



**Chinese New Year
Celebration Meal**

Year of the Fire Horse

When: Friday 20th February 2026

**Where: Songs Chinese Buffet Restaurant
Chelmsford Essex**

Time: 19:00 seated at tables

Cost: £19:99 – payable on the night.

Please let me know, so I can book you a seat at the table.

**Please contact Pam for questions and to place your name
on the list.**

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Friday 26th June 2025 Lakeside Chapter is invited to join in a road trip to Honfleur.

Honfleur 2006



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!



Early bird tickets

Lakeside Chapter Christmas Party

THREE COURSE MEAL £40.00 FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

DJ PLAYING ALL YOUR FAVOURITE DANCE SONGS!!



**All Early Bird Tickets Sold but you can
purchase tickets at the cost of £52:00**

13TH DECEMBER 12:00 - MIDNIGHT

📍 Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock, Grays, Essex RM16 5UE

Accommodation available at reduced rates!



Please contact the venue.
01708 719933

Family and friends are all welcome

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All that is left to say is to wish our wonderful Chapter Members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope the magic of Christmas fills every corner of your heart and home with joy — now and always.

Your Event Team

Pam & Sue

XXX

Regional Officers Connection




Welcome to my series of articles brought back from the Regional Officers Connection with all the UK & Ireland HOG Chapters held in October 2025.

Each month I'll pass on details and information about HOG, Harley Davidson and what's coming in 2026.

This month I thought I'd share some statistics with you.

Here is a list of all the HOG Chapters in the UK & Ireland. If they've got a 'Bar & Shield' next to their name, then they have a Dealership.

HOG ROC 2025		
1066 CHAPTER	 38 of 38 UK & Ireland Chapters here today!	INVICTA CHAPTER UK
AIRE VALLEY UK		JERSEY CHAPTER
BELFAST CHAPTER NORTHERN IRELAND		LAKESIDE CHAPTER GREAT BRITAIN
BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER UK		LINDUM COLONIA UK CHAPTER
BLACK MOUNTAINS CHAPTER WALES		MANCUNIAM CHAPTER ENGLAND
BRIDGWATER CHAPTER UK		MERIDIAN CHAPTER ENGLAND
CELTIC THUNDER CHAPTER IRELAND		NENE VALLEY CHAPTER
CHELSEA & FULHAM LONDON ENGLAND		NEW FOREST CHAPTER
CHROME HILL CHAPTER		OXFORD UK CHAPTER
CLYDE VALLEY		PLYMOUTH CHAPTER UK
DEVA LEGION		RED ROSE CHAPTER
DUNEDIN CHAPTER SCOTLAND		ROLLING HILLS CHELTENHAM ENGLAND
FENLANDERS CHAPTER SUFFOLK UK		RUTLAND CHAPTER
Gaelic CHAPTER IRELAND		SHERWOOD CHAPTER
GEORDIE CHAPTER		ST LEGER CHAPTER DONCASTER
GREAT WESTERN CHAPTER U.K.		STOKE CHAPTER UK
HOGSBACK CHAPTER UK		THAMES VALLEY UK CHAPTER
ICENI CHAPTER NORFOLK UK		WELSH DRAGON CHAPTER CARDIFF
III RIVERS UK CHAPTER		WOLFRUNA CHAPTER UK

Here are the Chapters who've been Adopted (as a second Chapter) by Dealerships, and the 'Orphan' Chapters.

 9 Orphaned Chapters	 12 Distant Chapters
BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER UK	BRIDGWATER CHAPTER UK
BLACK MOUNTAINS CHAPTER WALES	DUNEDIN CHAPTER SCOTLAND
DEVA LEGION	GEORDIE CHAPTER
JERSEY CHAPTER	ICENI CHAPTER NORFOLK UK
LAKESIDE CHAPTER GREAT BRITAIN	III RIVERS UK CHAPTER
NENE VALLEY CHAPTER	LINDUM COLONIA UK CHAPTER
PLYMOUTH CHAPTER UK	MERIDIAN CHAPTER ENGLAND
STOKE CHAPTER UK	NEW FOREST CHAPTER
WELSH DRAGON CHAPTER CARDIFF	OXFORD UK CHAPTER
	RED ROSE CHAPTER
	ST LEGER CHAPTER DONCASTER
	THAMES VALLEY UK CHAPTER

Lastly, here are total numbers of HOG members and how many of them are actually registered to a HOG Chapter. (I think the Global numbers are the wrong way around for Total & Chapter Members). However, this does show that something like only 45% of all HOG members in the UK are actually in UK Chapters..... (EMEA refers to the UK, Ireland, Europe and Africa).

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Lakeside Chapter is having Business Cards printed which will be available at Natter Nights and from the Road Crew and Committee members. Please take some and if you meet ANYONE on your travels with a Harley, give them a card and ask them to come along to meet us, or just look at the web site. Maybe we'll get some new members out of it.

Total Members		Chapter Members		LOH Members	
UK:	11,169	UK:	5,041	UK:	1,623
Ireland:	352	Ireland:	169	Ireland:	42
EMEA:	90,180	EMEA:	32,498	EMEA:	13,843
Global:	569,148	Global:	1,000,824	Global:	61,077

Phill

LAKESIDE CHAPTER

MERCHANDISE 2024/25

For all enquiries and orders contact Ann 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



Zippered Hoodie £25
Sizes S - 5xl



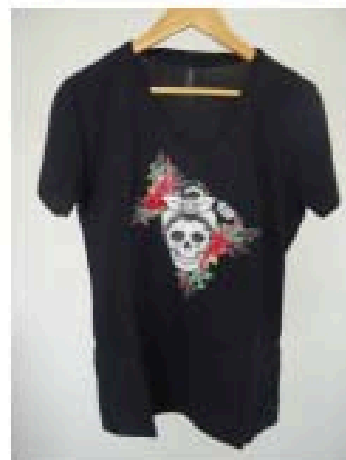
Heavyweight Hoodie £30
Sizes XS - 3XL

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 GUIDELINES

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

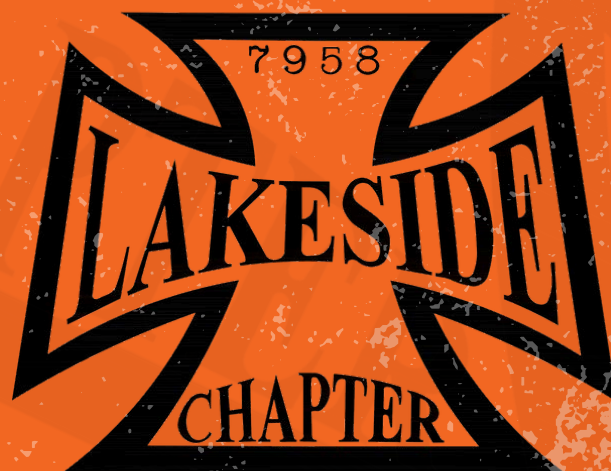
Ride Guest Policy

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.

RIDE OUT ARTICLES



SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER: THE POKER RUN

Our annual fund raising poker run saw 15 members compete for the best poker hand. Cards were issued at the start – Halfway House, mid-point RHS Hyde Hall and at the final destination - River Breeze Café in Fambridge.

Congratulations to Mary who had the best hand and also for putting the winnings back in the fund raising. In total you helped raised £90.00.



Despite the wet weather gear everyone had dusted off to wear, the ride stayed dry and the little café greeted us with some amazing food, friendly service and at great prices.



SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER: BILLERICAY FIREWORKS DISPLAY



Many thanks to Paul & Mary, Steve and Vince (and Cam & Jodi) for coming along to help Marshal the 15K crowd at this Year's Billericay Round Table Charity Fireworks Display. It was a massive success and RT raised around £70K to distribute to local Charities over the next Year. We've been asked to come back and do it all again in 2026. I do hope we can get a few more volunteers from the Chapter to join us



Phill



SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Sunday 9th November 2025 was Remembrance Sunday, a day to honour those who served with our Country in past conflicts. Twenty members on seventeen bikes met at Starbucks, A127 Brentwood for possibly the shortest ride in the ride calendar. A briefing was held and off we set to join the church and local community at the War Memorial at Orsett. Having arrived and parked the bikes at the memorial, I had three willing volunteers, two to read poems and one to lay the wreath on behalf of the Chapter.

I thank Pam for reading two poems by Iris Bruce (nee Aspland) about VE day written 60 years apart and for Phill P for reading a poem by Ian Whiteley relating to the memory of the war with Japan. Both did very well and I thank them both for their efforts. I also thank Phil H for laying the wreath on behalf of the Chapter, a reluctant volunteer - thanks Phil.

A big “thank you” to the Chapter members who came along. Our presence is very much welcomed, and we received thanks from several members of the community. Lastly, but not least Phill P and Carl along with Sue for looking after the rear.

Mike.



SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER: TRINITY BUOY WHARF

The weather had turned and was looking unsettled but I thought I'd do a short ride to the famous Original Tea Hut at High Beech... only to find out it had been closed and the whole cabin craned away just days earlier...(lets see if it's replaced, a shame if it isn't after being there for over 80 Years).



So with that news the end destination was changed and we headed to Trinity Bouy Wharf in Silvertown. If you haven't been it's definitely worth a visit with the Chapter: it has a great location on the banks of the Thames overlooking the O2 Dome and the central London skyline. Plus it's full of quirky statues and sculptures.

Ash



FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER: THE HUB

There are days made for riding, and today in Essex was one of them. Under a sky that held steady and dry, with that crisp kind of sunshine that makes every colour pop just a little brighter, five bikes rolled out for what would become a ride with a good laugh at the end.

I led the pack through some of Essex's finest backroads, and joining me were fellow riders Tony and John, both eager for a proper stretch of the throttle after a long week. Supporting me, were Ash and Kev (the Road Crew for the day), and you know when Ash and Kev are at the back you can relax and just enjoy the journey.

The route carved its way through some of the county's most inviting roads, bendy, straight, slow, fast... those perfectly quiet Essex lanes where traffic is a rarity and the bends seem drawn with a rider's pencil. On a steady buddy-buddy system, we went in a perfect formation without losing anyone.

The destination was The HUB, a favourite food stop for me (and some Pilates enthusiasts as well apparently), especially due to its amazing handmade, natural food and today it delivered exactly what everyone needed.

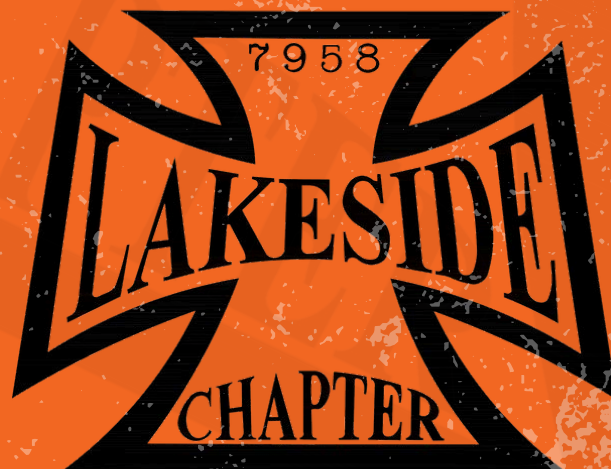
Waiting there for us were Neil and Dee, ready to join the group for a well-earned, quintessentially English brunch. Think warm mugs, hearty plates, and that relaxed post-ride glow as the helmets come off and the stories start flowing. Laughter echoed across the tables—tales from the road, the odd cheeky jab at each other's riding styles, and plenty of good-natured banter, all at the table of Lord Joel (some will understand).

As engines cooled and the brunch plates emptied, it was clear the ride had been a success. It's days like this that make you feel happy to belong to Lakeside Chapter: we don't just fill miles, we fill the soul, we ride for fun, we ride for joy, WE RIDE FOR FREEDOM!!!

Joel "The Jackal" Bandeira



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 coms for most up to date information, including on the up to date start times of rides.

Ride outs (starting 4 December) through to the January Natter Night:

Sunday 14 December – Christmas ride to Southend. Meet at Boreham Services at 11.00 am for an 11.15 departure.

Saturday 27 December – The Icy Blast to Southend. Meet at Starbucks at 10.00 am for a 10.15 departure.

Then we are at our January 2026 Natter Night, Wednesday 14th January at the Kings Arms, Orsett from 6.30pm.

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
(GO ON - YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO)**

**SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND ARTICLES
TO:**

EDITOR@LAKESIDECHAPTER.CO.UK



