



The Hoggitt

Magazine of the Oxford HOG Chapter





Edquarters

A new riding year is well underway, but what a wet one! The weatherman announced that it has been the wettest February on record. There have been days when we have been totally isolated in Chinnor with all the approaching roads flooded.

Let's hope the sunshine soon breaks through, although it doesn't seem to dampen our spirits as there has been a lot going on already.



Just before Christmas I represented the Chapter by delivering the toys that staff on the John Radcliffe Children's Ward had requested for their outpatient's area; using the money donated from Jake Spicer pins. Jo and her team were delighted and extremely grateful as this will improve the experience for the children and their siblings when they are waiting to go in for appointments. Thank you to everyone for purchasing a pin.

The front cover shows a group of members that helped out at the Standing for Giants. Pat has kindly written an article that tells you more about what they did. There are the usual articles from our Director Bridey and Road Captain Stew. A big welcome to Pam, who has written her first Ladies of Harley article and Davide Felappi who went out on his first ride out with the Chapter. Thank you to Bounce who has prepared details of the Wednesday Club rideouts, which I am sure many of you will enjoy. Many thanks also to Dave for use of the photographs that he has taken.

The deadline for the next edition will be Friday 24th May. Please send articles to editor@oxfordukchapter.co.uk in Word format with any photographs as jpeg attachments. I look forward to hearing about your adventures.

Anne



Yes, sounds a little strange as we're in March but as it's the first 2024 edition seems rude not to. I don't know about you but after the excitement of Christmas and the build-up to NYE that actual dawn of a New Year is rather anti-climactic. Of course, we have the Brass Monkeys ride on the 1st which is fantastic but as bikers it's the spring we're all waiting for and the promise of good weather to get out and about and ride. It is rather frustrating as I'm writing this on the 1st March and it is incessant rain outside... but spring is coming!

We're lucky to have such an active social calendar over the winter months so we can all still see each other and have fun even if it is minus our special companions... December had the double celebration of the Xmas do; a night of blow-up ponies and baby Guinneses and a chapter night at the dealership which was a night of awards and prizes. Director's Awards were awarded to the dealership, Mac, Steve P, Jane, Tim and Ruth and Stew. 10 riders received the new Rideout pins, Graham won the prize for best dressed and Chris Burchard scooped the £100 cash draw... a great night out! But it hasn't stopped there with bacon baps continuing, breakfasts on-going and two chapter meals eaten. All of this was followed by the AGM and an opportunity to thank committee members stepping down (Clare, Mark, Ian) and to announce changes to the committee; Stew taking on Assistant Director, Martin taking on Historian, Charmaine changing role to Webmaster and Pam joining the committee as Ladies of Harley. And as we handed out calendars to all celebrating the end of our 20th Anniversary year we announced the new bike photo competition winner and I can't wait to see Dave O'Dell's pic up in the dealership lounge later this year.

So what's new for 2024 I hear you cry..?

Well, 5th April presents an interesting opportunity to support local artist Dan Barton and his 1475 silhouettes making their way to Normandy as part of D-Day commemorations. Three lorries and hundreds of Harleys will make their way to Portsmouth before crossing the channel to complete their journey. Details on our Events page on Facebook.

Then 1st June is our overnighter to Wales winding our way through the beautiful Welsh countryside to Aberystwyth. Make sure to book your own accommodation and get ready for some fun... and if Mac has anything to do with the route planning... some exciting roads ;-)

And, of course, the highlight will be the European tour that the amazing Clive has organised which I am so excited about and can't wait to go on. I am, however, a little anxious about some of the mountain passes so I've booked 2 days in Applecross to practice my handling; and why not ride 600 miles to tackle a few hairpins... I've ridden further in a day!

For me personally, the only down side to paying for this is that I won't be attending any rallies this year but please do check out the Rally page on the website as there are so many amazing rallies hosted by other Chapters up and down the country that are such incredible events and I hope lots of you will attend them and write all about your experiences for the Hoggit.

Of course, the Ride calendar is ready and packed with amazing rides (see the website calendar); the breakfasts continue as will chapter nights at The Railway Inn; bacon baps and chapter chats at the dealership as well as charity coffee mornings and anything else we can think of to ensure that 2024 is an action packed fun-filled thrill for everyone to enjoy. We've already had a pre-season ride thanks to Stew and now his official season opener is only a few weeks away so time to do those post winter checks and get ready to Ride and Have Fun!!!

BRIDEY DYER

Director's Awards 2023



10 years rocker



Congratulations to Geoffers, who was presented with his ten year rocker.



Bridey also presented Stew with his assistant director's rocker, Pam with her Ladies of Harley rocker, Charmaine with a Webmaster rocker and Martin with a historian rocker. Many thanks to Mark Wardman, Claire and to Ian Hood who have stepped down from the committee.



Christmas Party



Photograph Competition



Congratulations to Dave O'Dell for winning the photograph competition with his beautiful bike, taken during their stay in Scotland for Thunder in the Glens. Can't wait to see it hanging in the dealership alongside last year's winner, Bridey. Well done Dave!

If you would like to be in with a chance of winning the next dealership competition, then make sure to take lots of photos of your bike, just your bike and nothing but the bike with a great backdrop to set it off. So get riding and get snapping. Good luck!



Bridie Dyer
Director

2024
Oxford UK Chapter Committee
Who's Who
UK CHAPTER



Stew De Jong
Assistant Director
Head Road Captain



Dave Mabbett
Treasurer



Janette King
Secretary
Membership Secretary



Pam
Ladies of Harley



Charmaine Till
Webmaster



Leigh Gough
New Members



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Out with the Old ...

A big thank you to everyone who turned up at the dealership on Saturday 27th January for the presentation of our cheque to Andrea, the representative from Helen and Douglas House. Andrea was delighted with the £1,250 that we raised. The money will provide end of life care for two children, and accommodation and support for their families during and afterwards for as long as they need it. A cheque for £1,250 will also be presented to Thames Valley Air Ambulance at a later date.



and in with the New!

Pancreatic
Cancer
UK



FIGHT
FOR EVERY
HEARTBEAT
bhf.org.uk

With the most popular votes, the membership have chosen Pancreatic Cancer UK and British Heart Foundation as the charities we will support for the next two years.

These charities contribute much needed research and support and care for patients.

A warm welcome to our New Members



On behalf of the chapter, I am delighted to welcome new member Matthew Howe, and guest members Emily Adamowski, (daughter of Marcin) and Siobhan Egan.

Please look out for them at Tuesday's Chapter night, or at any of the rideouts or events and introduce yourselves.

Ride Safe,
Leigh Gough



Congratulations to Ruth for achieving 10 rideouts with the Chapter in 2023.

She was one of ten members to receive the new Rideout pin which was awarded to her by Paul.

Well done everyone, and don't forget you too could get a 10 Rideout pin or maybe a 20 Rideout pin.



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Member Kev's wife, Esther does a brilliant job at sewing on member's patches.

She undoes the lining on the waistcoat, attaches the patches and then sews it back together so that you do not see any machining on the lining. It's just so neat.

Head Road Captain's Bit

Hi there. How's 2024 shaping up for you?

It's certainly been a wet one so far and unless you're lucky enough to be going skiing or off to some far flung place in the southern hemisphere then this time of year is definitely more for planning than it is for doing.

Speaking to people last Chapter night it seems that more than a few have big plans for the year ahead. Some are lucky enough to be travelling to other continents to ride, while others have plans for adventures in Europe. Honestly, I'm not at all jealous.

On a personal level, like most people, my plan for 2024 involves a mixture of biking and non-biking stuff. I'm determined to get out and do more camping and hill walking with the dog this year, something which, unless we go all 'Wallace and Gromit', will be done in the car. I'd really like to get up to the Isle of Skye and Applecross too. I've wanted to do this trip since I was in my twenties, but who knows, this could be the year.

As far as biking trips go, I've got a couple planned. A short one to France and a longer one to join Clive's 'European Tour' at the Stelvio Pass, for the last leg of the Chapter's three week adventure across Spain, France, Italy and Germany. For me, that's going to involve a couple of solo days, riding across the Alps to reach them. That way, hopefully I'll have mastered the hairpin bends by the time I reach Stelvio. I'm going to take a tent and hopefully camp for the first part of the journey, which I'm really looking forward to.

Closer to home, over the past couple of months the road-crew have been busy planning the ride-out calendar for the year and it's looking in pretty good shape now. As a Chapter we try to put something on each week. This could be a ride, or a breakfast club or a coffee morning, or some other event. At present we have twenty seven ride-outs planned for 2024, spread across a total of fourteen road captains.

That doesn't mean that's it though. There's always the possibility of a few impromptu rides throughout the season, weather depending of course. We were lucky enough to get one such ride in at the beginning of February, to Koti in Chipping Camden. There was a small break in the weather window and a few of us took advantage of it. It was nice to see a mixture of old and new faces on the ride, hopefully a sign of things to come for the season ahead.



For me however, 2024 has already been filled with disappointment. I felt sure that the photo of my bike outside Greggs in Tidworth would win the annual photo competition. I'd assumed that capturing two iconic brands in one photo had to be a shoe-in for first place but unfortunately the judges didn't agree and my picture failed to even get placed. Perhaps Greggs wasn't sufficiently 'American'. This year I will have to try getting a pic of my bike next to a McDonald's or Burger King.

In the immortal words of D:Ream, 'Things can only get better'.

Stew

RIDE OUT CALENDAR 2024

	Other Events	Ride-out	R/C Lead
MARCH	Sat 16th Mar - Breakfast Club		
		Sun 17th March St Patrick's day ride	Mac
	Easter	Sat 30th March - Season Opener And 'New Members' Ride	Stew
APRIL		Fri 5th April Normandy 80 (Oxford - Portsmouth)	Bridey
		Sun 7th April Dunstable Downs	Bridey
	Sun 14th April - Breakfast Club		
		17th April - Wednesday Club Tavern Inn	Bounce
		Sat 20th April Pam's First Ride	Pam C
	27th April - Bacon Baps @ Delaership/ Open Morning	27-28 April	TBD
MAY	3rd to 6th May Cider Rally	Sat 4th May IFRD	Bridey
		Sat 11th May Jackaroo Café Thruxton	Dave O'D
	Sat 18th May - Breakfast Club		
		22nd May - Wednesday Club Rowdy Cow Café	Bounce
	25th May - Bacon Baps @ Delaership/ Open Morning	Sat 25th May Greg's First Ride	Greg's C
JUNE		1st & 2nd June - Aberystwith Weekend	Bridey/Mac
		Sat 8th June TBD	David C
	Sun 16th June - Breakfast	Sun 16th June Harley Meet @ Sammy Millers	Geoffers
		19th June - Wednesday Club TBC	Mac
		Sat 22nd June Bourton on the Water	Dave O'D
		Tue 25th June Poole Bike Night (evening ride)	Clive R
	29 June - Charity coffee morning	Sat 29th June	Ian Hood

JULY		Sat 6th July TBD	Kevin Elding
		Sat 13th July - Breakfast Club	
		17th July - Wednesday Club Flag and Whistle - Toddington	Bounce
		Sunday 21st July Avebury	Steve Price
	27th July - Bacon Baps @ Delaership/ Open Morning	27July TBD	Stew
AUGUST	4-25 Aug Euro Tour	Sun 4th Aug TBD	Mac
	4-25 Aug Euro Tour	Sun 11th Aug TBD	Ian Hood
	4-25 Aug Euro Tour	Sun 18th Aug - Breakfast Club	
	4-25 Aug Euro Tour	21st Aug - Wednesday Club Fovant Cap Badges	Bounce
	4-25 Aug Euro Tour	Sun 25 Aug Reading Museum of Rural Life	Martin Fisher
		Sat 31 Aug Gils Café Kineton	Steve Price
SEPTEMBER		Sun 8th Sept TBD	David C
		Sat 14th Sept - Breakfast Club	
		Sun 15th Sept - Toy Run	Stew
		18th Sept - Wednesday Club Caen Hill Locks - Devizes	Bounce
		21-22 Sept	TBD
	28 Sept - Charity coffee morning	28-29 Sept	TBD
O		Sat 5th Oct - RTTW	Geoffers

A big thank you to Bounce for providing more detailed information about the Wednesday Club rides on the following four pages.

17TH APRIL WEDNESDAY CLUB.

LUNCH AT THE TAVERN INN, KEMBLE



One of the best things about visiting Arkell's pubs is that they all have a character of their own - and The Tavern is no exception. Bang opposite the London-line train station at Kemble, this small but cosy pub has a very special charm, with a real fire and old-fashioned window seat. This is a town pub in a country location.

It did not become a pub until 1946 and was bought by Arkell's five years later.

Meet at the toy shop (dealership) 1000 for 1030 depart. Full tanks please.

Our route will take us through Frilford, Kingston Bagpuize, Faringdon, Highworth, Purton Stoke, Minety, East Court, then on to The Tavern Inn at Kemble. After lunch the return rout will be through Cirencester, The Ampny's, Fairford, Lechlade, Highworth, Shrivenham, Uffington, East Hanny, Frilford and back to the toy shop.

Total milage 100miles approx.

22nd May Wednesday Club.

Rowdy Cow Café and Ice Cream Parlour.



Our incredible ice cream is made fresh here on the farm every day!

This delicious fresh ice cream is available in up to 16 different flavours which change on a daily basis.

We have a café which offers scrumptious cooked breakfasts, lunch and teas every day, all sourced from local farms and providers.

You can also enjoy home baked cakes and barista coffees.

Our glass fronted café offers spectacular views of Roundway Hill and the surrounding farmland.



Meet at the toy shop 1000 for 1030 depart. Full tanks please.

Our route will be Kingston Bagpuize, Faringdon, Highworth, around Swindon, Royal Wootton Bassett, Lyneham, around Calne, Rowde and on to the Rowdey Cow. After lunch our route back will be back through Rowde, a round Devizes, Alton Priors, Pewsey, Hungerford, Great Shefford, Wantage, Frilford and on to the toy shop.

Total milage approx. 100 miles.

17th July Wednesday Club

The Flag and Whistle



Toddington Station is home to the Locomotive Departments and the North Gloucestershire Narrow Gauge Railway.

Memorabilia Displays. The Restoration & Archiving Trust operates three small displays of artefacts at Toddington Station. One is located in a former GWR Collett Brake Coach dating from 1935, and houses a display of memorabilia and early scenes of the railway. There is a small toy museum in the old Honeybourne Signal box and another collection in the cabin on Toddington Platform 2.

Demonstration Signal box. Make sure you visit the mini signal box on the far side of the car park between the locomotive yard viewing area and the narrow-gauge Railway at Toddington and try your hand at being a signalman.

Yard Viewing Area. Visit our loco yard viewing area at the south end of the Toddington station complex. A gated access track near the south-west corner of the car park leads you from the car park, past the locomotive depot buildings and round to the yard area south of the depot. Bring your camera to take a shot or two of the locomotives in the yard.

Narrow Gauge Railway. The North Gloucestershire Railway Company operates the Toddington Narrow Gauge Railway which is co-located with the GWR, adjacent to Toddington Station. The 2foot narrow-gauge line runs services on selected dates during the GWR operating season.

Guided Tours of the Loco sheds. Guided tours (organised by the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway Trust) are available on Tuesdays and Sundays at 12.00, 13.30 and 15.05 - terms and conditions apply. Meet at the GWRT Information Office opposite the Toddington station building. There is no admission charge but we do seek donations (suggested minimum £2 per person) via a bucket collection.

Please note the locomotive shed is a working environment and maybe subject to sudden loud noises and vehicles moving. We therefore ask that you remain with your guide at all times whilst on the tour. Also, we request you wear flat, closed toe shoes.

Meet at the toy shop 1000 for 1030 depart. Full tanks please.

Our route out will take us through Dry Sandford, Cumnor, Eynsham, Charlbury, Stow on the Wold, Ford, and on to the Flag and Whistle.

After our visit (Lunch) our return will take us through Winchcombe, Gutting Power, Northleach, Colin St Aldyns, Lechlade on Thames, Faringdon, Kingston Bagpuize, and on to the toy shop.

Total milage 96 miles approx.

18th September Wednesday Club.

Caen Hill Locks Devizes



The Kennet and Avon Canal has awesome examples of canal engineering. The 16 locks that form the steepest part of the flight at Caen Hill are not only a scheduled ancient monument, they are an Olympic sized challenge every boater must do.

This 'wonder of the waterway' is literally a rite of passage (Or should that be a flight of passage?). Caen Hill (pronounced 'cane' by the way), is one of the longest continuous flight of locks in the country - a total of **29 locks** with a rise of **237 feet** over **2 miles** with a 1 in 44 gradient for anyone who's counting!

But you don't have to be a boater to appreciate this beautiful waterway. Visit our Welcome boat, The Admiral, for activity sheets, local walks and information and stories about the locks before taking a stroll over to our newly planted, Diamond Jubilee Wood. To help you explore, follow our Jubilee Woodland Discovery Trail.

Meet at the toy shop 1000 for 1030 depart. Full tanks please.

Our outward route will take us through Frilford, Wantage, Great Shefford, Baydon, with a comfort stop at Chiselton, Wroughton, Avebury, Clane, Rowed and on to the locks. After our lunch we will return via Rowde, around Devizes, Alton Priors, Pewsey, Burbage, Hungerford, Kintbury, and on to Newbury and finishing at Burger king Newbury.

Total milage 100 miles approx.



Officer's Report

I'm Pam and I am excited to have taken over as the ladies of Harley officer. My biking career started many years ago in the early 80's long before I could drive. Reaching back into my distant memory my first bike after passing my test was Benny the Benly a Honda 200 with a great plate mad200v. (I so wish I'd kept it)!! The plate not the bike !

I progressed onto a GSXR 400 of which I had 2 off and then a Ducati 600 TL. I had always wanted a Ducati and this was a steal however it didn't have a side stand, only a main and the only way I could pull up and get off was to find a curb.. As you can imagine this became somewhat of a problem. I swapped it in for a Honda 400 four F2 which I absolutely loved. During this period I was a member of two different motorcycle clubs the anonymous mcc Forest of Dean and later the moonrakers mcc in Devizes. (Lots of rallies in the snow)!!

Then came the first sports bike a Loctite Yamaha FZ600 and that was the beginning of my sport bike period. Being short in the leg however caused me quite a few problems with size of bike. I have had 2 Honda 600 CBR old and newer models in the 90's. Then came my VFR 400 NC30 (British model, 1 of only 200 made) which I bought in 1993 and still have today. It takes pride of place in my kitchen and has followed me around for the past 30 years. I always wanted a bike in the house and as much as I loved it to ride, it's so racy that I could only just touch the ground and was petrified of dropping it. My last sports bike was a CBR 400 Castrol which was lots of fun to ride. I have done many rides to all over Europe and alps over the years; mostly as pillion. During my working career I was fortunate enough to do a great advanced riding course which I used as part of my work. Along came children and I stopped riding for some 15 years.





That takes me to now and being older and a bit more sensible (maybe) and the start of my Harley journey. Greg and I had both ridden bikes but not together. Once the kids had flown we kept going into Oxford Harley and looking and you know we thought if we don't do it now we probably won't and as we get older we realise our mortality and loss of family and friends. I bought a Honda rebel 1100 to bed in back into biking . (Light and easy to ride) Then Greg bought his fat boy and I spent ages looking as weight and size was definitely a thing. I settled on Bobbie my Street Bob, which I have ridden for 16 months. Loved Bobbie but didn't feel I'd like to go more than a few hours on her and have been looking for something else. We joined the club in January 2023 and have really enjoyed the camaraderie and bike runs and have wanted to get more involved with these. I am as we speak in the throws of upgrading Bobbie to a low ride S which I should take possession of in early March . Very exciting and will do the road captains course in March. I will then be looking to arrange some ladies of Harley ride outs and if you have any special requests of places or events you would like to go to, please let me know.

I think that's probably enough from me for now. I welcome any ideas or suggestions you have as ladies involved with the club.

Unfortunately, I was unable to be at the Coffee morning at the dealership on Saturday March 2nd; so thank you to Charmaine for stepping in and organising the event and to Shirley for doing the raffle. Thank you to everyone who baked and for supporting our charities. I am told we raised £70. I look forward to seeing you at future coffee mornings, chapter nights and events.

Pam



My first ride out with the Chapter



Hello all, my name is Davide, pronounced something like “Dah-vee-dehl!” and I am a fairly new member of the Chapter.

I am from Italy and moved to the UK in 2000 to work in Formula 1 in aerodynamics with the idea of doing a few years here, then to move to Ferrari ... alas, I met my now wife Hannah an Oxford girl, and I stayed for the long term!

I bought my first Harley, a gorgeous 2007 red Fat Boy, last October — had a heavy week at work, and needed some distractions; so when I saw the advert on Facebook from Oxford Harley Davidson on an event with discounts on beautiful works of art and engineering, I thought— what best occasion than having a look at these wonderful toys, to raise my morale? When I went over my idea was “just to have a look”, mainly to Fat Boys (my teenage dream since they came out in 1990...) but when my wife saw the big smile on my face as I sat on “Red Fatty” she herself offered to help me financially, and here I am.

“You’re a lucky man to have such a supportive wife Davide ...editor”

I met some members of the Chapter on one of my visits to finalise the purchase, and was immediately hooked by the friendly environment, and the passion for the product we all have fallen in love with, so it was a no brainer for me to join.

Obviously buying a motorbike in late autumn means that in the UK there will be less chances of riding a lot compared to the Spring for instance—yet, despite my hands suffering more than average for cold temperatures (and not having yet bought heated grips—next year!), I managed to cover so far over 1000 miles, of which I am very happy!





The longest single ride I have done has been the “impromptu” ride out organised by our Head Road Captain Stewart on 3rd February. After seeing the forecasts for a mild and mostly dry weekend, with a start at the Toyshop and destination Koti Autotalli, bike Café in the heart of the Cotswolds. The turnout was bigger than Stewart expected, with a total of 12 beautiful bike, 9 riding solo and 3 with pillion. So Stewart opted to use the second man drop-off

This was great for me, as I had the chance of experiencing this group riding set up on my first outing with the Chapter. I started just in front of the tail, so I could see ahead how all of it worked, whilst focusing also on my staggered riding position. None of it detracted from a great ride, with a sunny morning in a perfect landscape which was such a pleasure to soak in. Passing through the villages on route; like a very picturesque Burford, and seeing the impressed faces of pedestrians when we were roaring through was another highlight. We stopped at the Café getting some nice refreshment and a few chats, then on the way back Michael, Jon and I headed back home separately, keeping a northerly route through Banbury, where after dropping off Jon we split to head towards our respective towns, Buckingham and Bicester.

Once home, I had a big grin, couldn't wait to share the experience with my family, and now I am very much looking forward to the next outing, probably with my daughter as pillion and hopefully sometimes also with my wife.

The feeling I've been left with can be summarized with it being for me, what this is all about!



Daide Felappi

STANDING WITH GIANTS



In October 2023 the Standing with Giants proposal to take 1450 silhouettes for display at The British Normandy Memorial received a unanimous YES by The Normandy Trustees.

These will be on display from April until mid August 2024. The installation will be called:

For Your Tomorrow, The People's Tribute.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (the WI) have been busy making thousands of poppies that will be attached to plinths that form the bases of the carriage crates that will transport the soldier silhouettes. They are aiming to get 22,442 poppies which will represent British personnel and other nationalities who were serving in British units who died while taking part in D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, this includes more than 30 countries!



The convoy of silhouettes will be escorted to Portsmouth, leaving Blenheim Palace on Friday 5th April, you can register on the chapter event page on Facebook if you want to go along.

On the day of our visit we were the 54th group to attend and what a day it was. We helped to paint the silhouettes, drill and attached the stands and then made up one of the poppy plinths. It was a very emotional day as we watched a short video of messages from children that had already taken part and the D-Day Juniors and Cadets who sang We'll meet again!

The silhouettes are all made from donated old road signs, the black paint has also been donated. This is all the brainchild of Janette and Dan Barton who have been working for over 4 years to get this project off the ground, a testament to their dedication to get this far with no official funding.



I think you will be able to tell how much we enjoyed our visit by all the smiles on our faces.

A big thank you to Toni, Kim, Lesley, Charmaine, Colin and Barry (for driving us) who came along on the day.

There are still opportunities to get involved [email info@standingwithgiants.co.uk](mailto:info@standingwithgiants.co.uk) check them out on Facebook to register your interest.

Pat Adams