



July issue 2025



The Hoggit



Magazine of the Oxford HOG Chapter

Proudly sponsored by Cheltenham Harley Davidson





Since writing my last editor's piece, I have enjoyed taking part in a prom escort ride and the display of members Harley's at Brize Norton's officer's ball with the chapter. One of the officer's wives was delighted to sit on my bike.

Chris and I rode the scenic route to Cassington Bike night with Kev Harris and Stu and Lyn Bennett. It was a scorcher! So pleased I changed into my shorts and sandals when we arrived. Thankfully by the following Monday the weather had cooled a little for Ludgershall bike night, making for a more comfortable ride and a pleasant evening looking at the bikes.

Ryan Young (fastsnapsphotography) captured some fantastic shots of all the bikers on arrival. When browsing online to order found out that Chris was followed in by Richard Owen. What a coincidence!



Hope everyone is out enjoying the rideouts and events too.

What's in this edition?

Bridey's Director's piece follows my editorial and she has also shared the Magical Mystery Tour to Northern Ireland; then there's the presentation of rockers and rideout pins at July chapter night; Paul welcomes our new members; after that, Dave's article about planning the Croatia trip complimented by Ruth's piece "from where I'm sitting"; next Head Road Captain Stew shares his experience of Greenham Common; following on from that is Pam's Ladies of Harley ride to The Banton; Frank reminisces about his time at Brize Norton and finally, Davide shares his experience of his first Dawn to Dusk ride and breakfast at the Waterfront Café.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition and to Dave O'Dell for the use of his photographs.

The deadline for the next edition will be 30th September. Please remember to send articles in Word format and your photographs as separate .jpeg attachments.

Enjoy, and Ride Safe!

Anne

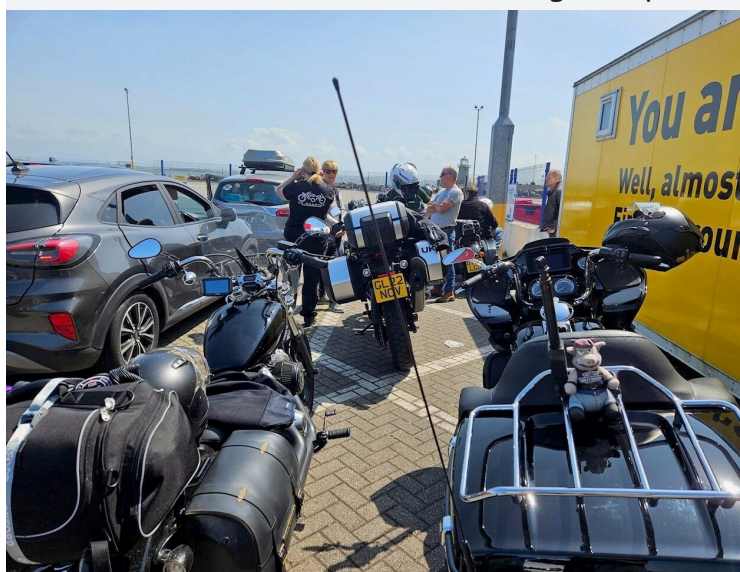


Magical Mystery Tour of Northern Ireland



Long anticipated and delayed even further thanks to Irish ferries finally we arrived in Dublin and so had the rain so a soggy start to the trip but wet weather gear on we began the first leg of our trip and off we went riding through Carlingford and Newry to Rostrevor. Despite the weather Mac was not deterred from a windy mountain road and an interesting choice of a turn that kept us all on our toes.

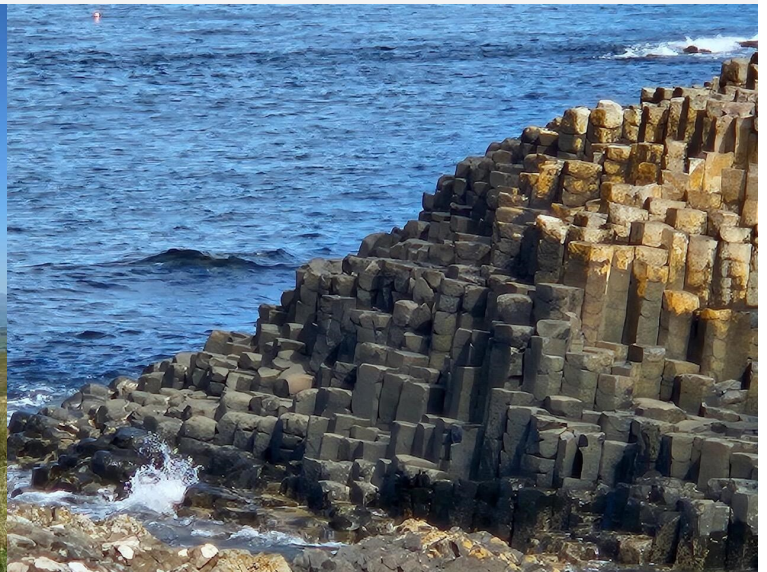
A little behind schedule we found Kim and Bob at the bar and sat down to a good evening meal. The Guinness was flowing and the music from the bar filtering through when a bearded fellow with a resemblance to Mac appeared to join our merry band and a few hours later in a change of bar the stories were flowing especially of the pub we sadly didn't have time to stop at... PJ O Hare's and the legendary leprechaun hunts. More Guinness flowed and a song or two got sang and when bedtime came around we were all in good spirits and anticipating what tomorrow would bring.



Unfortunately, what the morning brought was more rain so a damp departure, but after a refuelling (coffee and cake) stop the weather eased as we headed north toward Enniskillen along the Lower Lough Erne and the river Foyle to our abode for the evening and after decanting luggage to our rooms (a long walk for some) it was into the bar to plan the night ahead. The bar and menu were inviting so after some hot food taxis were called and into Derry we went. A reduced tour of the Derry murals and the Derry walls we followed our driver's recommendation to head to Waterloo St where Irish music could be heard coming from every bar and headed down hill to Peadar O'Donnells where, you guessed it, more Guinness and from a safe distance taking advantage of the mild evening we sat and drank and enjoyed the atmosphere.



Such a memorable week and all I can say is bring on Part 2... come along if you can handle the craic.
Thanks Mac... such fun!





July

The Oxford Rugby Club, Tuesday 8th July, and another fantastic turnout. It was fine for a change, so it was good to see lots of bikes out making the most of the good weather.

Congratulations to Graham and Hilary who were presented with their 10 year Rockers by Bridey; also to Geoffers for his 40 ride out pin and to Jane for her 10 ride out pin.





Paul



From where I'm Sitting

Having spent the past year alone in the living room whilst David sat in the dining room planning the trip was all worth it. The added bonus was I had total control of the TV remote.

I can only give you a small look into our trip as it would take far too long to list everything that was simply amazing, as I'm sure you could see from the many photos David and others posted. As a pillion I got the chance to take in all the wonderful sights. From mountains to lakes to picturesque villages. Passing through the National Park in France where there was no one to be seen, villages deserted it all seemed a bit Marie Celeste, I wondered where did every body go? Riding along Lake Constance in Germany and staying overnight was such an opportunity to admire, and enjoy the sights.

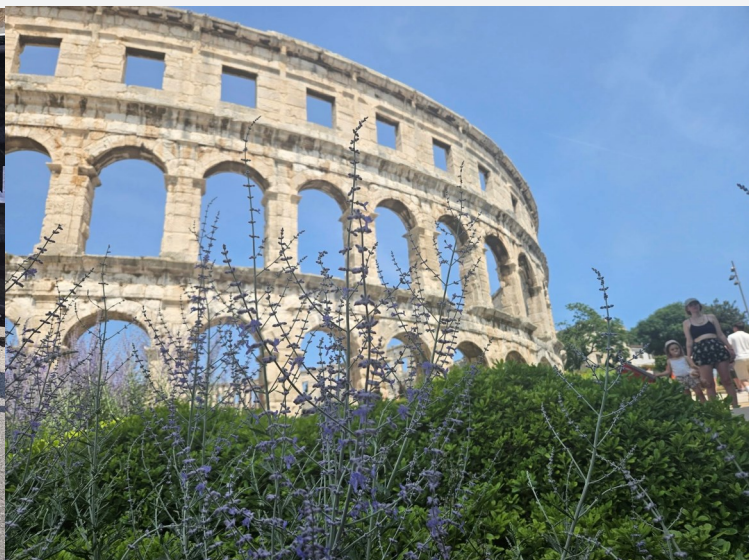


Austria never failed to deliver, the mountains are spectacular with snow still tucked away in the shadows. Planning a trip of this scale without the opportunity to recce the ride, made it all the more interesting, never totally know the roads, hoping there would be something for everyone. Each day would bring something new and interesting. From escaping luggage, landslides, a rider who went AWOL and a shot that I can only describe as jet fuel. Each hotel offered conversations from do you have air con? How big is your shower? Do you have a kettle? More importantly are we going to eat?

None the less we were all together, having a great time.

Getting to visit a few HD dealerships to collect poker chips, or buy t shirts was great, but tinged with a little sadness at having lost ours.

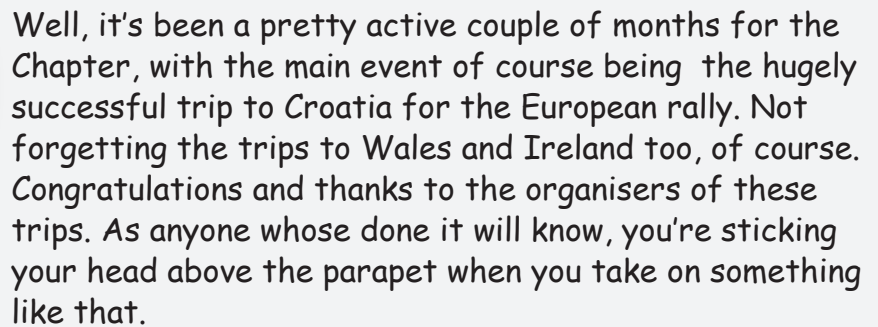




I loved the trip from start to finish, how could I not, it had everything from fantastic sights, great locations, great company, even the fuel/lunch stops were fun and interesting.

Ruth





The Chapter website gives the year's calendar of rides and this is updated regularly, but the latest information on upcoming rides (and other events) is on Facebook Events. Click on the 'going' button if you plan to turn up and that way the ride leader knows to look out for you at the briefing. If you can't make it, then by all means click on 'not going' but it's not compulsory and there's no need to tell us why in the comments (unless it's embarrassing of course). If you click on 'maybe' that's fine but please, if you can, update your status when you know what you're doing, again so that the ride leader knows on the day.



One ride I was pleased to finally go on was Kev Elding's to Greenham Common Control Tower tea rooms. He'd tried to run it twice the previous year but both times was beaten by rain of almost biblical proportions. This time, the forecast was mixed but hopeful, so it was a case of third time lucky.

We met up at Tesco's car park, Abingdon and Kev took us on a ride over the Downs to Pewsey before working our way back past Choppers to Hungerford and Newbury then on to Greenham Common. I think it stands a good chance of winning the prize for the most indirect route to a destination this year (beating my own ride to the Atwell Wilson museum the previous month).

I'd never been to Greenham Common before. Of course everybody remembers it from the peace camp back in the 80s and the nuclear protests but the base is all gone now and the common has been returned to nature. Apparently a lot of the old runway was broken up and used as hardcore for the A34 improvements and the control tower is one of the few remaining reminders now of what used to be there.

It was getting pretty warm when we arrived at the Control Tower and it was good to find Trevor and Frank (J) waiting for us there. We ordered from the cafe then sat outside in the sun watching the storm clouds roll in. Kev's luck had lasted just long enough to get us to our destination and it wasn't long before everyone was huddled inside as the rain lashed it down outside. When the clouds passed we parted and all made a dash for home. I made it as far as Newbury before the rain started to come down by the bucket-load again. I pulled over and stood under a tree as I fought to get my over-trousers on. A young couple walked past and as they did the girl said "Nice bike!". I thanked her, but at that moment I'd have gladly swapped it for a nice dry car.





Soon it will be time for the Jake Spicer Toy Run again (Sunday 7th September by the way, you can find it on the Chapter's Facebook Events).

With the closure of the Oxford dealership we've needed to find a new starting point for the ride this year and it's not been as easy to come up with somewhere as you might think. The criteria have been, it's got to be big enough for up to a hundred bikes to park safely, folk need be able to at least get a cup of tea there and finally (and possibly most importantly) there needs to be a toilet.

I'm please to say that we've now found somewhere, the H-café in Berinsfield. We still need to figure out how to marshal it but we've recce'd a route and it seems reasonably straightforward. Most chapter members will have been to previous Toy Run's but if you're a newer member and you haven't then its an event that's well worth supporting and a bit of fun too. Hope to see you there.

Stew

Jake Spicer Toy Run 2025



Sunday 7th September

Depart H-Cafe, Berinsfield, OX10 7LY. 11a.m.

**To Children's Ward at John Radcliffe Hospital.
Donations of toys to suit all ages would be
gratefully received. (No soft toys please)**

Thank you for your support.

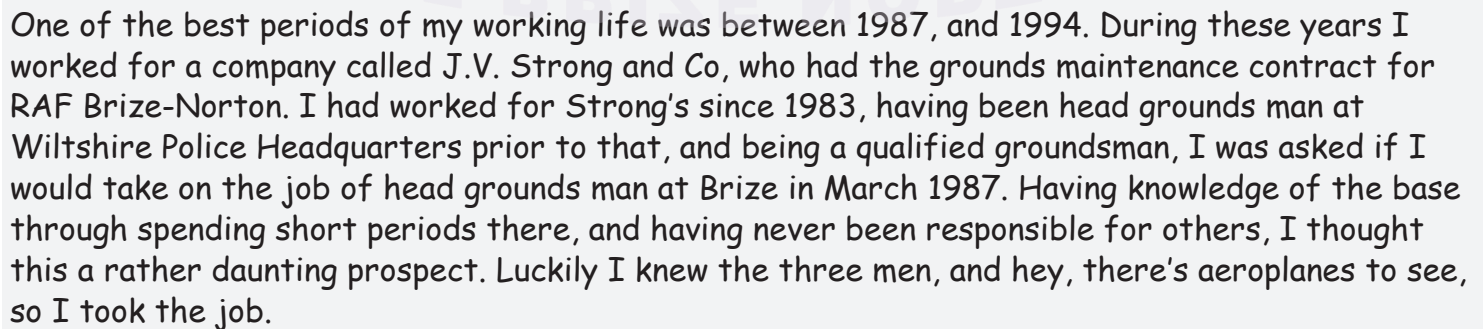




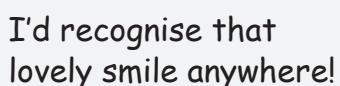
Mostly my world has been taken up with our puppy now 5 months old and a little terror, but I have managed to squeeze in a couple of rides including the Welsh weekender.

First time I've been and a thoroughly great weekend. Lots of lovely rides on fantastic Welsh roads and very few pot-holes and great scenery. A splattering of birthday celebrations for Bridey and a great curry to finish. A few celebratory drinks had by all. Of course nothing too radical and a super ride back led by Paul. The weather was outstanding and I won't say too hot as so good to get such a long spell of good riding weather. Greg stayed at home and looked after the puppy as his bike was off the road.





My duties on the base were obviously looking after all the outdoor sports facilities, plus the prestige areas, headquarters lawns/gardens, and the CO's garden, with the latter being the perfect place to watch aircraft landing and taking off, as it was just a short distance from the runway. Over the years I became very friendly with the Ped Flight, the fire section, staff in the tower, and the parachute school, all these folk helped me in my work, but they also help feed my love of aircraft, including flying in them. Sadly since I was a civilian on the base, I wasn't allowed to take a camera to work with me, and consequently there are no photos except the one of me in the back of a Hercules, with the RAF Falcons display team at 12500 feet, (stood on the ramp, looking down), and watching them free fall below me.





The 25th of July came around, and I took the ride to the Kingsley Café at Eynsham, where the rest of the group were waiting, and off we rode along the A40 to Brize-Norton. Upon arrival we were escorted to the officer's mess, where we arranged our bikes either side of the mess entrance. After a brief pep talk from our illustrious leader, we were at liberty to mingle with mess staff, officers and their ladies, and for me reminisce with anyone who would listen, and of course watch the A400 Atlas, and the Voyager that each did a fly-past, and landed. We were at the front of the queue for the buffet, (and very nice it was too), and an ice cream van provided pudding.





After we had fed our inner selves, we returned to chatting until around just after 20.00 when we were escorted to the main gate to make our way home. I think everyone enjoyed the event, but for me it was a very nostalgic evening, seeing the sports field that I spent so much time looking after. I was surprised that after 30 years the base is largely the same as I remember it, except for a few new buildings, and a few that have gone. The big shock for me was that the Gateway sports field has been stripped of turf, and they are building a new hotel on it.

Lastly, I would like to thank Bridey for organising an evening I will remember for a long time.

Frank





We met at Ness Point as the sun was rising at 4.29 a.m. on Saturday morning: having travelled up with Vince a steady 170/180 miles to Lowestoft the day before.

Way point 1 was the Harley Davidson. Dealership at Newmarket. From Newmarket we rode to Guildford Harley Davidson, where we received a warm welcome. Our next stop was Brightside Roadside Dining at Honiton. From there we rode to waypoint four which was at the Jamaica Inn, Bolventor. Finally, we arrived at our destination; Lands End.

What a great experience the Dawn to Dusk challenge was. I was knackered, but totally content. Thank you to Vince and Mark for their fantastic company and the unique riding adventure we had.





WATERFRONT

CAFE | BAR | BISTRO

Breakfast Club

An intimate affair of a breakfast at Waterfront Benson this morning . Mind you, that was not surprising as I turned up one hour late. So I was just there with these great bunch of gents mainly for a chat! The place is generally much bigger, and quite nicely done. I had a bacon and egg roll which I ate after the others had gone, not bad, although not too cheap (£7.50). But I'll definitely be back again.

Daivide

