

New Chapter Members

Since the last e-magazine we have had the following new members join the chapter and we are sure you will make most welcome.

They are:

Gary Menmuir PE9

Steve Yorke PE12

David Simpson PE21

Chapter Fundraising

You will know that Rutland Sailability was chosen to raise funds for as it is a local chapter. What you might not know is that Simon Terry was interviewed on Rutland Radio about our fundraising recently! Our aim is to purchase sails and have Rutland Chapter printed on them if we can.



Director's dialogue

David Hetherington – Rutland Chapter Director

With Christmas coming up I've had time to reflect on what we've done/achieved over the year. There has been a full calendar of rides which have been well attended and enjoyed plus the weather has been great. Let's hope that 2015 will bring fine riding weather again. If the winter is as mild as autumn has been there may be some last minute rides posted on Facebook. We've raised money for Rutland Sailability and will continue doing so next year and we have also started the ball rolling for closer ties with other chapters here and abroad.

The committee is busy adding the final touches to our 10th Anniversary Horseshoe Rally.

Coming up is the Christmas Toy Run which is always well supported. In addition the Winter Party is organised for Saturday 28 February with a black and white theme so you can dress up, wear black and white fancy costume, whatever suits. Hotels/prices can be found on our Chapter Facebook.

Many new members have joined the chapter and it has been great to see them along with our regular members.

When I took on the role of Director I promised to enhance communications. Lots of work has been done and feedback has been very positive.

I would like to thank the committee for their support and hard work and I am sure that, together, our varied programme for next year has something enjoyable for everyone.

David

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Editorial...

Dawn Hetherington

France is a popular destination for touring and we have a couple of different articles of tours which some of our chapter members rode over the summer. They make excellent reading and may give you ideas of other places you would like to visit across the Channel.

Thank you to everyone for their kind comments on the last e-mag. I am sure this will be a fabulous read thanks to all of you who contributed. It is very much appreciated.

I attended a HOG HOT Communications Course in October and, phew, it confirmed that our communications for our chapter members are spot on!

If anything in this publication inspires you to write a future article or you would like to, but don't have the confidence, get in touch with me and I will help put it together for you.

CBT ✓

125cc (YamaHarley) ✓

What's next I wonder?

D'Russell's Ruminations ...

David Russell

After reading the last very good edition of the chapter newsletter I thought it was time for an article from a member who next year would have been riding Harley's for ten years and indeed who has been a chapter member for the same time! A rider that doesn't do Rallies but likes to ride, participate in a ride out when he can and just enjoys riding his Harley and rides solo these days. There are probably more chapter members in this category than we realise so let's not forget about them and here is something that may be of interest to those particular chapter members.

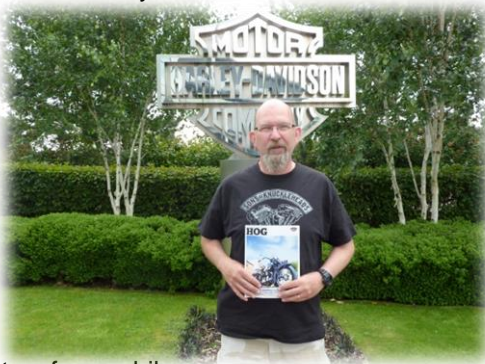
To that end last year I started to participate in HOG's ABC's of touring program, an excellent idea that only costs you your fuel, gets you out and about visiting some cracking out of the way places and more importantly gets you riding your bike. I won't go into the full details of what's required here as you can get information from your handbook or online but suffice to say you get normally one point for each different village or town you visit one of each from A-Z (lots of other locations in addition) Just take a photo of your bike with a HOG magazine and the 'official' sign. You also have to be in a set number of photographs too which in itself makes for some interesting selfies getting all the aforementioned in shot and that's about it, simples!

Send off your photographs to HOG at the end of the season and that's it all done. For 2013 I was awarded thirty points and came 73rd in Europe and the Middle East which I was well pleased with for a first effort and for those points I received a patch, pin, SS side-stand plate and a guardian bell, and it cost me nothing to enter, a bargain. I'm just surprised more riders don't take part in this event, rewards start at a very low points total too, so there's no real



excuse for not having a go. This year I decided that that I would go for the 2014 event and aim to get more points and finish higher up the final standings and visit

some different places to last year. So far this season it's going well and by the time you read this I would have probably finished the tasks. I have managed to get in excess of thirty points already at the time of writing this, with a few more still to come and I've been doing what I love



again, riding my bike. I've ridden some fantastic back roads again and visited some small quaint little villages on my travels and some new HD dealers

too. So let's see if I can improve on 73rd for 2014 (fingers crossed.) So there you go, there is life on a Harley beyond touring and rallying you just don't hear much about it but we are out there rumbling along in the background come and join in. See you on one of the runs...

Conversation

It went something like this.

Female: I think I might take my CBT. **Male:** Why would you do that? **Female:** So I can take my bike test. **Male:** Why would you do that? **Female:** So if you're late home from work and it's a nice day I can take your bike out. **Male:** *complete silence*



Ladies of Harley

So what is Ladies of Harley (LOH) and why does it exist? Well, motorcycling is a male dominated activity and LOH was introduced to promote riding for ladies as well as welcoming lady pillions into the HOG family. There will be a number of events during 2015 targeted at the ladies but men are welcome to join in. These may include a:

- LOH ride out (ride led and marshalled by ladies but open to all riders)
- taster riding session on small bikes (not Harley's though)
- basic bike maintenance evening including how to pick up a bike safely



Thunder in the Glens

Denise Del Rosso

At 7am Thursday the 21st August Daz and I left home to meet up with Mike and Lucy on route to Scotland for Thunder in the Glens, then met up with Scratchy at Newark on the A1; a quick coffee then onwards we go, next stop Scotch Corner where we turned onto the A66 towards Penrith. This is a lovely bit of road across the moors but windy as Lucy and I found out, although the guys on their Street Glides hardly seemed to notice a thing!! The next stop was at Annandale Waters services on the A74 just past Lockerbie and it was starting to feel as if we were in Scotland. We had a quick pit stop for bikes and people and off we go again. We're getting some pretty heavy showers now which make it quite interesting as we go through Glasgow but as we turn off at Stirling the sun finally breaks through so we stopped at a lovely little town called Callendar for a cup of tea



The last bit of the day's ride was to Crianlarich where we had booked a B&B for the night where, after drying off and a quick change, dinner in the pub and then exploring (which took all of half an hour) then back to the pub for a nightcap

The next morning dawned bright and sunny and we set off to ride through Glencoe towards Fort William stopping at the visitor centre for tea and then onto Fort Augustus with an impromptu stop at the imposing Commando Memorial. Next stop Fort Augustus and then Loch Ness. Unfortunately we didn't see the monster but Daz thought he did!

For the last stage of the journey it was decided that instead of riding up to Inverness then back on ourselves to Aviemore, so as to go around Loch Ness, we would take the B851 road across the mountains which was much more interesting. It's amazing to pass little villages and houses in the middle of nowhere, but on to Aviemore we went arriving finally at the accommodation which we were glad to find had central heating which was needed over the next few days.

After settling in we thought we would hit the town and took the short cut in which was pretty confusing I can tell you. It was quite a walk and we had all worked up an appetite by the time we got there. We had a look around the stalls on the way past which offered some good bargains and then down into the town for food and drink. As we were sitting outside the Cairngorm Hotel listening to the band it started to rain again and the temperature seemed to suddenly drop. My goodness it felt like October brrrr!! The central heating looked tempting so we went home.

When we woke up on Saturday morning it was misty and wet so a decision was made to go up the Cairngorm Mountain on the funicular railway which was lovely. How lucky that, after we had eaten lunch in the restaurant at the top, the mist cleared so we were able to see the view which was really impressive, and even, better the roads were nice and dry for the ride back down ready for a night out on the town.



Still thundering in the Glens...

For me the highlight of the weekend was on Sunday. We all wrapped up warm because although the weather forecast had been for sunshine it's best to be prepared and first thing in the morning it was chilly. We headed up to Inverness then took the coast road off towards Kinlochewe, filling up to go across to Applecross which was featured in Hog Magazine last year as one of the iconic roads to ride. After chatting to a couple of people in the café who advised us to go to along the coastal road and come back over the pass that was what we decided to do though, for me, being the least experienced rider of the group and never having done anything like this, I was nervous to say the least.

Off we set in beautiful sunshine and considering this coastal road is the route that all supplies etc. for the village have to go this way, it's very hilly and, in some places, the road is extremely narrow and at all times single track. Eventually we get there to the tiny village (just one street) of Applecross and park up for fish and chips and an ice cream. The weather is so nice and sunny. Off we go over the pass and wind up the mountain, passing the sheep who look at you as if to say 'you must be mad' as the path (you really can't call this a road) goes up very steeply. Luckily there are plenty of passing places. As we get to the top I breathe a sigh of relief thinking that it wasn't so bad so don't know what the fuss was about.

There is a car park and I thought we might stop to take photos but, well, Scratchy said he didn't think I would get back on my bike if I saw the descent so we went straight past it and wow!!! When I turned the corner the road just looked as if it disappeared. It was so steep just zigzagging down the mountain as seen on some film sets. I have never been down a road like this even in the car it was so steep!

I think the worst part was a Landrover had parked in one of the hairpin corners and it was extremely hard for the guys to get the street glides by it as their turning circle is much bigger than mine was. I do think if they had not been such experienced riders they would not have got past it!! The rest of the main descent turned and twisted down, switching back on itself with hairpin bends and was so steep as to be unbelievable. The rest of the ride back down was absolutely stunning with sweeping corners down to Lochcarron where we stopped for; you guessed it, more tea!! And we treated ourselves to cakes as well this time as we thought we deserved it.



On the Monday (the next day) we set off early for home and unbelievably found ice on the bike seats when we loaded up. The thick mist burnt off quickly to reveal lovely sunshine all the way out of Scotland. We were expecting seriously bad weather but it wasn't until we got as far as Leeds that the drizzle started as well as the traffic jams. We had to filter for miles and miles which takes serious concentration and is extremely tiring so were glad to get out of it. But when we got to Newark the heavens opened. Thank goodness it's only 35 miles home.

Well, that was another fantastic weekend with brilliant company and lots of challenges. We were sorry that it had to end.



Spanhoe

The Macmillan coffee morning chapter members supported at Spanhoe raised about £1150 in total. Wow!



Caption competition



This picture is begging for a caption, and, you could be the lucky winner of a £25 Sycamore's gift voucher if you win. Entries in the chapter post box by 31 December 2014 please.



We have a wide variety of Rutland Chapter and HOG items for sale at the shop. If you wish to purchase any of the items below just ask any of the team at Sycamore's.



Large LOH Patch £15



Large Diamante Hog Patch £22



Large HOG Patch New Style £15
Small HOG Patch New Style £8



Large Rocker Heritage Style £15
Small Rocker Heritage Style £8
Large Rocker New Style £15
Small Rocker New Style £8



HOG
Rutland Chapter Mug £8



HOG
Rutland Chapter Cap £15



HOG Cap £15



Large Hog Patch Heritage Style £15
Small Hog Patch Heritage Style £8



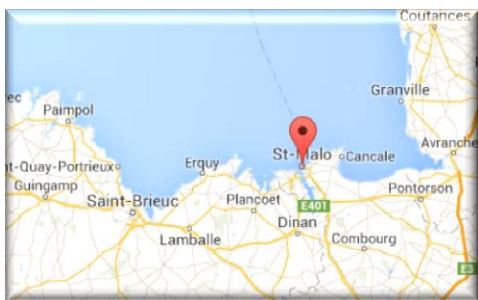
HOG Rutland Chapter
Friendship Pin £7

Tours des France – May/June 2014

Dawn

It was just an innocent comment, which, somehow turned into reality. You know how it is; talking about numerous things over several hours and only one of them alludes to 'wouldn't it be nice to tour round France'?

Planning started with a hilarious FaceTime session, holding up maps of France while talking to one another and pointing at various towns to agree the route. That sorted the men had the task of planning the ride for each day and plotting them into their Garmin sat navs. There were stipulations though. Avoid motorways, maximum of 180 miles per day and aim to get to our next destination with time to explore. Cuzzy Lol's guidelines were for accommodation to be in or near the old towns, a truly typical French hotel/B&B (preferably not a chain) and oh, of course, secure parking for the bikes!



Day 1 Our overnight ferry from Portsmouth docked at 8am French time in St Malo. We headed off to Paimpol to meet L&W who had sailed from Plymouth to Roscoff. *Hint and tip – if you dismount to the left and you are in a country where people drive on the right remember you might end up in front of a car... nuff said!* Leaving Paimpol we followed the coast road back to St Malo and re-lived very happy memories from our teenage years at Val Andre. The Hotel Elizabeth (2 Rue de Cordiers) is, we think, the only hotel within the beautiful old walled town of St Malo (all cobbled) which has secure parking. We were here two nights. There are plenty of places to eat and drink and brilliant views when you walk round the battlements. It wasn't until later in our holiday that we realised how expensive it was compared to other towns.

Day 2 was a trip to Mont St Michel taking in the local area. A bar at St Sever Calvados was even factored in for lunch but sadly it was closed as was the whole village! Mont St Michel however was a different story.

It took a while for us to work out that we had to park in car park number 9 which was solely for bikes. There were three different modes of transport to the actual island; horse, bus or walking. What a delight the island is with hidden, narrow lanes and spectacular views. They are dredging the silt from around Mont St Michel to make it a true island again. Lunch and then off exploring again, stopping at Vire (nothing to write home about) for afternoon tea. We did witness a strange festival though... We spent the evening in the old town of St Malo. *Hint and tip – ensure you are on a bench seat, and not a chair, before you slide along to get up else you'll land on the floor... nuff said!*

Day 3 was our trip to Ancenis. Before we set off there was a minor incident so our plans changed and we went via the Harley Davidson dealer in Rennes. *Hint and tip – better to use plain water to clean your visor than recommended visor cleaning fluid that everyone else uses with no problems.. nuff said!* It was now Monday and we discovered that most of France is closed. Well, Castel Magnolia on Rue Bareme (parking in the garden behind locked gates), was our favourite accommodation on the whole trip. Glorious rooms, great hosts and an absolute gem in a fairly non-descript town but it does have a castle and it is on the banks of the Loire River.

Day 4 to Limoges via Oradour-sur-Glane (a memorial from the 2nd world war). This was a very sad place where 642 townsfolk were killed in one day on 10 June 1944. It is well worth visiting to find out the full story. Our accommodation in Limoges (Americans en France, 8 Impasse des Argentiers) was once part of a grand house belonging to the owners of a glove making factory. Massive rooms with typically French stylish décor. They are due to have en-suite bathrooms installed which will make it much better. Parking was in their garden.



Lost in France, trip continues...



Day 4 continues... We stayed two nights as we were due to head out to Sarlat in the Dordogne for the day but the forecast was dismal and, as I had no visor and the ladies fancied a day out of the saddle, we explored Limoges. There are lots of things to see and do. If you go, buy something from the Gavroches patisserie/boulangerie in the old town. Mmm. A visit to the local Harley Davidson dealer and three other motorcycle accessory places failed to find a replacement visor.



Day 6 had to be everyone's favourite day. We were heading to Clarmont Ferrand over the mountains into the Limousin region and the Puy-de-Dome. We have no idea where the sat nav took us that day but we were on beautiful bendy roads, ending up at a hilltop,

serene, surreal lake where we ate our packed lunch and relaxed. The roads continued to be on the 'wow' scale with views of the snow line, ancient forts, oh I could go on.

Clarmont Ferrand was the only place we stayed in a 'commercial hotel' Hotel de l'Europe. It was clean though and perfectly situated to walk into the old town. We found the most incredible eatery just by chance and it was wonderful. We would definitely go to Clarmont Ferrand again. Another Harley dealer but no visor!



Day 7 next stop Blois. This ride ended up being on red N roads so much busier and very boring for the pillion. It wasn't my type of riding as we only went through towns every 40-50 miles so not much to break up the monotony.



Hint and tip – always pack bottles of water on the bike so you don't become dehydrated... nuff said! Eventually we stopped at a small market town where we re-hydrated and continued on to Blois. This place had a wow factor as soon as we crossed the bridge and we were not disappointed. Hotel Anne de Bretagne was great, within 5 minutes of the stunning chateau and old town.

Day 8 to Vitre back on good, old fashioned, interesting D roads through some stunning villages and towns including one, which I cannot remember the name of, where all of the buildings including the chateau were made of white stone. Lunch was beside the Loire somewhere, we had no idea where but it was amazing! Le Petit Billot (hotel) was our accommodation for the night in Vitre and our doubts were unfounded. We had the best breakfast here. *Hint and tip – if a sign says Chateau 2 mins walking distance make sure you do it... nuff said!* Dinner was particularly good at Le Candiot. The following morning L&W had to leave early to catch their ferry so we said our goodbyes and decided to explore the town and the castle. Wow – I think Disney based his castles on this one.



All packed up but, rather than head straight for Cherbourg (we were catching the Fast Cat), we decided to explore the coastline on the way. Without the route in the sat nav we took a few wrong turns but oh, did we discover some gems along the way.

So would we do it again? Discussions have been underway since our trip in May/June to catch the ferry down to the Spain, explore the Picos Mountains and then ride along the Cote D'Azure to Antibes. Will it happen? Tours like this can be expensive when you take into account the food/drink and accommodation costs. Maybe using Eurocamp would be a cheaper option?



Richard's ramblings

Richard Garner

Coming to the end of the year, there are not many outings left and the weather forecast is telling us we are in for stormy weather until January when it's going to get cold!

Time to reflect on what has happened and where we have been since the beginning of August when I went to France. We had a good number go to the Stilton Bike Show organised by a couple of Peterborough bike clubs. Stilton should be a good venue for a show, dead end street, three pubs and nice weather. It could become the "Sturgis" of the fens? It certainly has potential.

The next weekend we went to the Nene Valley Rally at Towcester. I led little Dave on my Buell and we didn't get lost. I didn't see the police car that followed me through Northampton with his flashing lights on either. Luckily he just wanted to get past and as he cut me up on the inside, he gave me a very stern look. The rally was well organised but I thought our rally's showers and toilets were better. The bands included a Ska band on Saturday night that even got Cubby up and strutting his fancy stuff. Where was his scooter? The weather stayed dry for the weekend, the food was a good price and it's always noble of us to support neighbouring chapters and Harley riders groups.

I serviced a couple of the bikes over the next two weekends. In addition I visited the OK Diner on the A1 for toast. Bought myself a bike lift from Machine Mart. They are red and not too expensive. You can use them for servicing as well as getting the bike up in the air for wheel cleaning and storing off the tyres through the winter.

Building myself up for the Isle of Wight with a brilliant turnout for our chapter. It promised rain on the way to Portsmouth but it never materialised. Now I am not that good at booking ferries, but at Portsmouth it was Lucy's turn for the "walk of Shame". Lucy booked the ferry times the wrong way round and so had missed the ferry over to Fishbourne and had to go into the office and rearrange.

We filled The Palmerston in Shanklin and Pete Smith looked after us in his own inimitable style again. Don't be upset if the language is a bit strong at breakfast. Just don't leave tomato stalks or the egg whites on your plate.

Black Hawk Down didn't play at the pub this year but I still enjoyed myself and they still had to throw a number of us out at the end of the night. We managed to get lost and split up on the Saturday ride out. Crikey we can even get lost when we know where we are going!! Saturday night back down the front for many of us. We lost one man down a manhole. Ask him where the warning cone was? Another cracking weekend and great fun.



HUNDREDS of bikes gathered at a motorcycle service station for an annual show of support for the armed forces. Leicester-based 40 service men and women of 11 assembly points nationwide for the Ride to the Wall. About 100 motorcycles set off from there for the National Memorial Arboretum, in Alrewas, Staffordshire, on Sunday.

October 4 was time for the RTTW (Ride to the wall). Turnout from our club was a bit disappointing but the weather was grim.

However it did stop raining once we got to the Arboretum. Very poignant this year, with what's occurring the Middle East. The scooter riding Padre

was very humorous and the last post was played with gusto. Best turn out ever and a real credit to Martin Dickinson and the team's effort.

All that leaves is for me to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

PS see you at the Toy Run?

You're nicked (nearly)

Sunday 16th November and it's time to head to the shop for the final tweaks to the Rutland Chapter event calendar. David's bike needs an MOT so I suggested I ride as well and then he can ride my bike back with me as pillion. Mmmm... All sorts of excuses in the morning but I was keen so we headed off.



"We need to take the L plates off" I say. "No, we'll be alright" he said.

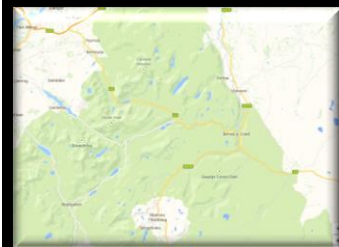
Well, we were until we got to Peterborough when a police traffic car went past us, pulled off, then went past again with a sign in the window saying 'follow me'. We duly followed then pulled over. They couldn't find David's bike licence on the system so we suggested they escort us home (about 1.5 miles away) which they duly did while we were giggling on the bike. Not nicked but still smiling!

Chapter Weekend

Breaking news! An end of season Rutland Chapter weekend away has been organised for 18-20 September 2015. The beautiful town of Betws y Coed is where you will be staying which is set within stunning Snowdonia National Park.



Details can be found on a dedicated Facebook group and will also be published in the 'weekly' update newsletter. This is a glorious area with amazing scenery and fantastic riding. We hope that you will be able to join us. If you want a chat about this please contact Dave Romney.



Isle of Wight trip

Simon Terry

Friday 19th September at Brampton Hut Services with enough Disruptive Pattern Material on display to rival 'Desert Storm'!!!



Nineteen bikes lined up (accompanied by two of the seven dwarfs, who in turn invited Richard and Lucy to join the trip) and raring to go for the annual trip to the Isle of Wight. Having all experienced a cold, damp or wet start to the morning, no-one was taking any chances – wet weather gear was the order of the day.

By the time we set off, the rain had passed and we rode dry (via our customary stop for a brew at the A3 services) all the way down to the docks in Portsmouth.

At the harbour we were greeted with sunshine and clear blue skies, prompting the vast majority of the travelling party to change to more suitable attire – much to the delight of the 'blue rinse' brigade three cars back in the queue!!

A smooth sailing with ice creams all round and before we knew it we were being welcomed by Peter Smith and his many entertaining and diverse stories – most of which seemed to end with a punchline (excuse the pun) of him flattening someone!!

After Friday night dinner on the seafront it was on to the pub for a beer or three and the band. The four piece band was not what people had expected but improved as the night went on. At one point (to my shock and disbelief), sporadic 'line dancing' broke out with Di and Dave showing the locals a thing or two (well done guys).

At the end of the evening, a forward 'scouting' party comprising of myself, Paul, Brian and Mr & Mrs 'Westie' successfully negotiated up to 30 tickets for a fancy dress party taking place on Saturday evening in the wine bar. To our surprise, the manager took one look at the negotiating team and informed us that there had been an unfortunate mistake and the event was sold out – I can only assume our skull and gorilla attire may have clashed with the theme for the night.

Saturday, another fine day and a ride round the island led by Scratchy – his parting comment as we left the hotel car park for the ride – "let's hope that no more of the cliff road has crumbled into the sea" (Scratchy – do my lottery ticket numbers next week). An adjusted, but fantastic, coastal ride culminating in us all meeting up at Blackgang Chine. Great views of the Needles and many braved the chairlift and steep drop down to the beach to view the coloured sands – this despite some questions being raised concerning H&S.



More enjoyable sights and roads as we made our way on to Ryde where we broke into three groups – the ice cream brigade, tea and sandwiches diners and the fish n chips ragamuffins!!

Back for an enjoyable evening filled with the normal banter and humour we have grown accustomed to and a brave attempt by a few to integrate with the locals in a local Sports Bar!!

Sunday morning started with a 'hearty' breakfast before the journey back home – all completed in welcomed September sunshine.

A great and enjoyable trip.



Normandy 2014

Di Smith & Dave Romney

Well it has to be said, I blame Neil and Helen Hall!

Why what have they done I hear you cry? They showed us what was on our doorstep (France) and we fell in love with it! So after two trips with them we decided to venture there on our own. Just one thing wrong with that cunning plan Baldrick...where do we start planning a trip to a country where we don't speak the language or even know what's really there to be seen?

Trip advisor... and so our trip was born.

After chatting with others on a ride out Andy Tracey, Richard and Kath decided to join us. Great, the more the merrier. Mind you still not a word of French could be spoken!

Richard and Kath were already going to Belgium so they would meet us in Calais.



The ride down to the Channel Crossing went well although we were held up for an hour there. Once on the other side we met up with Richard and Kath and were soon on our way to Boulogne. Parking was easy, right in town by the harbour where the locals were busy buying the fresh catch of the day and plenty of restaurants and bars/cafes in walking distance. An excellent location for a quick beer in the sun!

Then it was on to Berck and the Mister Hotel (approx. 70 miles). This took us through some really picturesque villages. I always get the feeling that France hasn't changed since the war?

Renville was the first village to be liberated on 6th June 1944. . Many who fell on the D-day Landings are buried at the RWC. It's a beautiful and well-kept place. Although quiet it screams sadness at the same time. It was here that we met 'Jack'. Amongst the headstones I noticed a wreath of poppies had been placed at one. Jack fell on 6/6/44.

His descendants had recently made the journey from Ireland to pay their respects to a family member that they lost so long ago. The poem they left had six bikers from Rutland all in tears, time for reflection the onwards to Pegasus Bridge...



We made good time so decided to go into the museum which houses the remains of one of the gliders which landed/captured Pegasus Bridge and a full model of one. Really amazing! Hundreds of photos and memorabilia are there to see. The receptionist even offered to look after our helmets for us!



But the most amazing thing we saw was on the way out. By the door were a few photos of the construction of Renville War Cemetery. The first few plots had been laid amongst which was 'Jacks'...

The Mister Hotel, it has to be said, was cheap and cheerful. Clean tidy but basic. That said it was ideally located for our next leg of our trip and it had a restaurant within 20 paces.

After breakfast of breads/fruit/coffee/juice yoghurts we were back on the road and heading for Pointe de Hoc. It was a much larger area than we expected, free to walk round and the actual gun emplacements (which were mostly taken by the USA on D-day can be totally explored. The landscape still bears the scars of that day. Next was Omaha beach. Parking wasn't a problem at all. We parked across from the beach itself which is very flat and wide. You can see for miles in either direction. Children were chasing the gentle tides in the sun. It's hard to imagine the horror that went before...

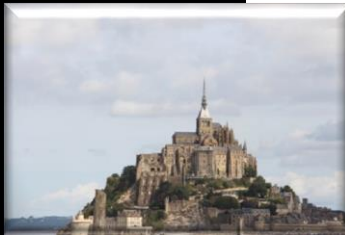


Normandy trip continues...

Bayeux was next on the list.



What a nice place! Everywhere we looked the architecture was lovely. After hot chocolate cakes and coffee we headed for Cathedral Notre Dame. Amazing! Free to enter and located in the centre. Although cobbled streets, so not good for bikes but we managed. Parking was easy but at a cost. The Bayeux Tapestry lives here as well (9 euros to get in but sadly time wasn't on our side). Whilst in Bayeux we also went to British War Cemetery. Again it was beautifully kept but over whelming sad. A must visit.



Sunday was Tracey's birthday and had planned a full day at Mont St Michel. Easy to find, and a truly amazing sight from the off! Motorbikes have separate parking. They operate a park and ride system

although if you feel the need you could walk it takes approx. 45 minutes. We choose the bus! Buses are very frequent and are caught by the information centre, where they have lockers and toilet facilities.

On way, you can hop on and off bus as there are hotels and restaurants en route. For those who don't know it's basically a church/abbey built on a rock in a bay. This happened before the year 1,000 so it's steeped in history. It has grown over the years and has even been a prison but to this day still houses monks and nuns who take service every day. To gain entry into the abbey is a further 9 euros plus the audio tour is an extra 3 euros but it's worth it! What wonderful views. There are houses a few hotels and loads of restaurants within its walls. All come at a cost of course! We took sandwiches, cakes, a special bottle of pop and had a picnic on some grass below the abbey. Brilliant!



We had moved into a hotel in the Port en Bessin which was located right at the harbour side. We could see the fishing boats unloading the catch of the day. It's an ibis hotel and after consulting trip advisor we knew just where to eat, Le Vauban (brilliant and reasonably priced), within walking distance. It served typical French food including snails, crabs, fish, mussels wine and puddings. Could have stayed a week but it was time to start the journey back. There was light rain when we woke up which didn't seem too bad but then it didn't stop during the 220 miles ride back to Berck.



At one point we took shelter in a Mcdonalds and used their dryers to try and get respite from the weather! It was then onward to the hotel. Amazingly our clothes dried overnight but the rain hadn't stopped! After breakfast we made our way to the crossing and back home. The rain finally stopped at Cambridge services!

After a warm bath and dry clothes it was a chance to realise what a great trip it had been. I just wish it had been longer but then there's always next year....!Amener sur (bring it on!)

Route planning – an idea

Many chapter members have sat navs and record their bike trips/tours. We think it would be a good idea to put links to these trips on our website so that they are available to others and may save hours of planning. Of course they would be clearly named with start location to finish location and the date ridden. It would then be your responsibility to check the route before setting off and making any necessary adjustments. What do you think? Can you send us any? The routes can be both in the UK or abroad.

Shop news

Andrew Winham

During August I was fortunate to go to the 2015 model year launch in Nashville. The highlight of the trip was seeing the Project Livewire electric bike which really was a great looking bike. I got to ride the bike on jump start but next year Project Livewire will be touring Europe and the UK to gain feedback from 'real riders' on what they are looking for from this kind of bike. Any final decisions about bringing this to the motorcycle market will be made at a later date.

We also have the Road Glide back in the model range for 2015, this is the number one selling bike in the states and here at Sycamores we have one on demo so please speak with myself or Stuart if you fancy giving it a try. The other changes to the model range this year are the new braking system on the Softails and the Street Glide Special now comes with Sat Nav, Gloss Black inner back wing and pin striping to the paintwork as standard. All other models remain the same but now in some great new colours.

Our CVO allocation for this year is 4 bikes, 3 of which I am happy to report are already sold! We do have an Electra Glide Ultra available so if anyone is interested in this please do speak to myself or Stuart sooner rather than later.

Many thanks to those of you who came and supported our Grand Finale Custom Show, it really was a great weekend and feedback regarding this year's format has been fabulous, so roll on next year so we can do it all again! Also, many thanks to those of you who manned the barbeque for two days which added money to the club funds.

We are currently carrying our work upstairs in the clothing department to create changing rooms and a storage area.

This, together with new flooring and new fixtures and fittings to display the clothing and merchandise will make for an all-round better shopping experience. But in the meantime please bear with us until the alterations are completed. We will be holding our secret sale/birthday weekend on 13th & 14th December, so make a note in your diary to pop over and purchase that much wanted Christmas gift for your other half or just to treat yourself!

Now that you are thinking of packing your bike away for the winter, remember there is no better time of year to get any customisation or engine upgrades carried out to your pride and joy, please speak to either Todd or Luke about your plans and they will gladly help, offer advice and quote you a great deal.

We currently have some great offers on bikes at the moment. Our 2014 Street Glide demo bike has only 3000 miles on the clock and is available for only £15995. We will soon be taking delivery of five 2015 883N ABS models for only £6995 each, that's a huge £650 saving on the list price. We also have great finance deals available at the moment with up to £1000 deposit allowance. Again please speak to myself or Stuart for further details.

I look forward to seeing you all in the dealership over the next few weeks.

Ride safe.



HOG Membership

Remember that, if you buy a new bike you will be entitled to one year's free membership of HOG. It is an idea to make sure this is noted by Sycamore's so that it is renewed by them when your membership runs out.



Benefits of being a member of HOG

HOG is all the time working towards adding new benefits for HOG members. You will already know about the Best Western and Eurocamp deals they have. Recent additions have been Macdonald Hotels, BMF and the Institute of Advanced Motorists. To find out more log in to the Benefits section of the HOG Gallery for UK and Ireland which can be found using this link: <http://hogeuropegallery.co.uk>

Blazin' Blazers – Sept 2014

Dawn & David

Everything is packed and the bike loaded we were ready to set off. We were meeting some of the members of the Rolling Hills Cheltenham Chapter at Cobbs Farm Shop near Hungerford at 1pm to then ride to Weymouth with them.



At 1.10pm we arrived and met up with three Rolling Hills Oxford Chapter members. The Director of Rolling Hills was having his bike serviced that morning and we found out that it was taking a little longer than expected so he was running late. This wasn't a problem because, if you love fine food as I do, roaming around the farm shop with its deli and butchers amongst other things was a rare treat. The Oxford lot wanted to crack on but we were happy to wait. Duly they all arrived we enjoyed a coffee together. There was only one slight problem. The Director wasn't meant to be leading the ride; one of the Oxford chapter members was and he'd left! David thought he might be leading the ride at one point but with a few discussions and some tweaks of the sat nav we were all ready to set off, eleven of us.

It was a very pleasant ride with a couple of wide farm-track type, winding roads. Because of the delay we timed it perfectly to meet up with Lorrie and Wullie (as they had our tickets).

Accommodation was a static caravan. We had to toss a coin to see who was sleeping where because David was too tall for the single beds so it might have been the pull-out. However, we won and got to sleep in the double bedroom.

The site at Sea View is on a hill which works well because all the vans have a great view of Weymouth in the distance. It was a little trickier for the bikes to manoeuvre but they generally managed.

There was an option to buy a daily food ticket at just under £12 but we chose, mainly, to cater for ourselves.

We joined the rest of Plymouth Chapter for Friday evening's entertainment in the main room. All I can say is that the entertainment, under contract from the site from what I understand, could have been much better and hats off to the entertainments manager who tried to remedy the situation.

Saturday's Bike Parade was to Weymouth but before this though we had to practice our cabaret act! Several hundred bikes congregated at a point about 1.5 miles from the site ready for the off with our escort of five police bikes. The 21 mile ride went through some beautiful villages and I'm sure the riders would say the roads were really good as well. Having parked up and voted for the 'best bike' we had lunch and a very relaxed afternoon by the Old Port in Weymouth then made our way back.

Tonight was 'dressing up' night so we duly got changed (but not in our outfits for our performance). You forget how much it makes you smile seeing other people's costumes. The matron wanted to take my temperature and one of the many head teachers nearly gave me a detention! After much toing and froing it was time to hit the stage. Well, I think we went down a storm but you'll have to talk to us to find out what we did. There were only two cabaret acts and we were joint winners. Tonight's entertainment was booked by the New Forest Chapter and was sooooo much better. The first half of the evening was a Meatloaf tribute 'band' (three of them) and after the break they broke out into Commitments numbers, Motown and basically songs that had everyone up on the dance floor. Late to bed but what a good night!



Blazin' Blazers continued...

New Forest put on two ride outs for the Sunday. One was 100 miles to the east and the other 70 miles west. We picked the early option heading west. Interestingly the rides left quite late. Ours left at 12 noon and the other at 2pm. We wondered if the late start was deliberate. Anyway, Andy from New Forest was our road captain. Again we rode along some fabulous roads giving you a real flavour and feel for how beautiful Dorset is. That is until 64 bikes turned down a narrow track that had been closed. You may have seen the video! It was interesting watching all the bikes having to do at least a 5-point turn but everyone managed it. Lunch was in a great setting at Mangerton Mill. The chapter had anticipated about 25 bikes turning up so it took quite a while before everyone was served. We'd anticipated this and taken sandwiches. There was a gift and craft shop there to keep the ladies busy.

After this we headed along the coast past Chesil Beach and on to Portland Bill where we stopped for about an hour and had a cuppa. The weather was glorious but we had to head back at some point.

Andy, who led the ride, has kindly sent us the link for the ride (an amended version without the farm track!) and we will arrange for this to be put on our website.

We packed up most of the caravan as Lorrie went home late that evening so we only had the bare essentials e.g. cereal already poured in the bowls for the morning.

A lot of people had left the site by Sunday evening so the place didn't look as full but the comedian was good and well supported followed by a great disco by the DJ from the Cider Rally.

Monday morning arrived and it was finally time to go home. The bike was loaded up and, instead of doing two-way A roads, we were on either dual carriageways or motorways for most of it. Not my idea of riding but we had to get home. Rain was forecast but, for some reason, not a drop touched us for the whole trip!

Thank you to the New Forest Branch for organising this rally. You could certainly see that a tremendous amount of time and effort had been put in.

If you would like to have a look at the video I put together of the ride out click this [link](#).



This may be a thing of the past!

Since Dawn passed her CBT in October she has been making the most of the fine weather and gaining experience through riding in towns, out in the country and on dual carriageways.

The strange thing is that, where she usually sits behind me she's now in front and I'm following. I didn't in a million years ever think this would happen and I know it is going to take some getting used to. It's surreal especially as I don't get into 4th gear much now either!

Tall Dave



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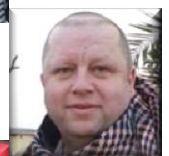
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