

# **SCRATCHY'S SCRIBBLINGS**

Well the long Winter wait is thankfully over and we're



else that helped to make the event happen, Also in February was Hogs on Ski's at Tallington Lakes, thanks to Dave for organising this and of course we had Sycamores Custom Show at the start of March (see event write up later on).

The Ride Out's started in March with Foxton Locks and 17 bikes in the rain, followed a week later with 25 bikes taking part in the Nene Villages ride. I led this ride and as we passed through Blatherwick I came across an old man dressed as farmer waving his arm at me, at first I thought "oh no there must be herd of cows round the corner". Then I realised it was Bob Galley and he was giving me some rather rude hand signals. Apparently he'd heard us coming but couldn't find any where to hide. We've also attended the April Fools Run in Northampton and we've had our Easter Egg Run to the children's ward at the new Peterborough District Hospital with over 50 bikes in attendance..

We as a Chapter will once again be attending the Sofer Rally, at Bisley, so if you fancy going, get yourself onto the HOG site and get registered. It will as usual sell out ! Sycamores will once again be supporting us with their van, so we'll once again have a Saturday afternoon BBQ and they'll have room for some tents.

As last year, myself and other members will be attending the "roundheads return" rally at Market Harborough, Rugby Club. If you fancy joining us give me a shout. If camping is not your thing, I have put a ride out on to the event on the Saturday afternoon which Dave Hibbert will be running. It's a good afternoon out with a custom show, stalls etc and the "houndogs" rockabilly group to entertain you. All for a couple of quid and that goes to the air ambulance.

For those you that don't know our own Horseshoe Rally this year takes place between the 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> July. After last year's success, it is once again at the Plough Inn Events Field, Farcet Fen near Peterborough and the planning is at a very advanced stage. Tickets are on sale and are currently selling

well, check out the Rally page on our website or ask at the dealership to get your Tickets.

I am going away with Anne and the kids for 2 weeks to Florida - are you shocked? Not as shocked as I am, I can assure you! I normally only last about 4 days on holiday with them, before getting bored and missing my bikes - how the hell I'll last 2 weeks I don't know? Add to that my dislike of theme parks, kids, excessive heat and burgers (they're foreign) I don't know how I'll get on?

Well here's looking forward to the summer ahead, there are plenty of rides and events to take part in. Some members will do all, others will pick and choose, the choice is yours! Whichever you choose to do, your presence will be more than welcome. Most important of all though, ride safe and have fun!

Scratchy



# **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Garry Adam (Scratchy) Director

Email: rutlandchapter@btinternet.com **Peter Hewett** Assistant Director

Email: peter.hewett@dhl.com

Tel: 07980779940

Tel: 07900257230

**Assistant Director Kenneth Shepstone (Shep)** Email: kennethshepstone@sky.com Tel: 07740531256

Treasurer **Mark Buckmaster** 

Email: mark@buckmaster.com Tel: 07812393288 Secretary **Lucy Gumbley** 

Email: lucybility@tiscali.co.uk

Tel: 07908766538

**Activities Officer Dave Hetherington** Email: davehetherington57@hotmail.com

A/ Activities Officer **Bob Galley** 

Email: flange52@yahoo.com Tel: 07727496394

A/ Activities Officer Richard Kitchen Email: rich2skint@yahoo.co.uk Tel·

Photographer Mike Grant

Email: mikemowbray@ntlworld.com Tel·

Dealer Rep **Andrew Winham** 

Email: andrew.winham@sycamoremotorcycles.com Tel: 01572823296

Membership **Jackie Mcintyre** 

Email: jackie.mcintyre@sycamorehd.co.uk Tel: 01572823296

Webmaster Garry Adam (Scratchy) Email: rutlandchapter@btinternet.com Tel: 07900257230

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# **CUSTOM SHOW**

On the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Sycamore Harley Davidson held their annual Custom Show. It had been moved forward a month in the

calendar, to
try and
avoid the
snow that
fell during
the previous
two events
and to try
and attract



more bikes. This year Matt Hamblin, had taken over the organising and had included a Saturday night Party in the Falcon Hotel, located right across the road. Rooms were available at very reasonable rates and I had been quick off the mark to snap one up. I wasn't sure how his Custom Show organising would turn out but he's a dab hand at organising a "piss up".

The Chapter had a promotional stall at the event and were once again supporting the Event with the BBQ. I was there, bright and early on the Saturday morning, setting up the stand and helping Mike, Ruth



and Janet to set up the BBQ. No disasters this year, unlike last year, when we had to run down the road and buy a new

BBQ. For those that don't already know, Sycamores buy all the sausages and burgers, we as a chapter buy the rolls, coffee and tea etc, we man the BBQ for the two days and all the takings are the Chapter's. We are very lucky to have a Dealership who continues to

support us in this way, without this support, running a small Chapter like ours would be much harder.

There were over 30 bikes in the show and some very nice ones too. Without question, the overall standard was much higher than last year, and, there



were more
of them. I
had put my
sporty in that
I have been
messing
about with,
trying to
bobber it up

a bit. Little did I expect Matt to locate it in a group of four bike's, with, Martin Dickinson's Gold Softail Bobber, his RTTW Streetglide and Lee Hurst's Iron, all three of which had won prizes at numerous events last year. He could have stuck it out the way a bit, at least that way its oil leak would have been less obvious! Other's that struck my eye were Eezo from St Ledger's Indian Larry bike and a very nice red Trike.

It wasn't long before the place was packed and it was great to meet up with some friends, i hadn't seen during the winter and to meet some new ones as

well. The BBQ seemed to be going well and I spent the day between there and the Chapter Stall, but mostly chatting to people. Within no time at all it was approaching time to pack it all up and hit the bar!

Matt had made the booking of the Falcon Hotel quite some time ago, and unfortunately it had



recently changed hands (for quite a considerable sum) and the new owners are in process of gutting it and redecorating, obviously at even more cost. They were quite nervous about letting a load of Bikers loose in their newly decorated room, add to that the Gents toilets being out of use and the Ladies being used as Unisex one. There's something a little strange when standing in a cubicle having a pee, when young lady who works at Sycamores (who will remain nameless, Charlotte) starts banging on the door screaming "come on Scratchy hurry up I'm desperate for wee". Sort of affects your concentration! Anyway none of these potential shortfalls affected what turned out to be a great night and there were sure to be a few sore heads in the morning. The band Tunnel started a little slow, but soon had the place thumping.

After breakfast it was back over to Sycamores to set things up for the day, I was right, there were a few sore heads, myself included. Within no time at all the place packed again, probably more so than the Saturday and it back to the same routine of the previous day. Before long it was 3pm and time for the results to be declared, who had one, well my choice would have been Martins



Gold Softail
Bobber, and
I was
pleased as
punch when
it won. I am
very partial
to bobbers
and it is a

particularly nice one. I did hear through the grapevine that the Red Trike run it very close.

Time to pack up the BBQ and cash it up, this also confirmed what a well attended, great weekend it Twith all the bits taken off, had generated £800 for the Chapter Funds. Special thanks to Mike, Ruth & Janet for running the show and thanks also to all the Members (too many to mention) who helped them out over the two days. Overall I thought it was a cracking weekend and a big improvement on previous years. Hopefully they will keep the dates the same as well, it is now ideally placed to kick off the main riding season. I won't say roll on next year because I want from now to October to go slowly!!

# **RUTLAND "TRIVIA"**

**Stephen Fry** was a student at Uppingham School (and was expelled!)

It has been claimed Rutland is only the **smallest county** when the tide is out on the Isle of Wight. This is not quite accurate, for reasons that get complex, so we'll just leave it that Rutland is England's smallest county!

Rutland was reinstated as a county **in 1997** after being absorbed into Leicestershire in 1974.

**Rutland Water** is the UK's largest man made lake, similar size to Lake Windermere in the Lake District Rutland is the only county not to have a 'McDonalds' fast food chain

Rutland is the only county not to have a **static speed camera** on its roads

Rutland residents are known as 'Raddlemen' Peers of the realm who pass through Oakham for their first time must give a **horseshoe** to the Lord of the Manor, this unique custom started over 500 years ago and still continues today. Over 200 horseshoes are displayed in Oakham Castle (which is actually a Great Hall), the oldest surviving horseshoe is said to have been given by Edward IV in about 1470.

In Rutland, all horseshoes are hung with their tips at the bottom, which some people consider to be upsidedown and bad luck. The reason for hanging them this way is so that the devil cannot make a nest in the bottom of the horseshoe.

In the 17th Century, Rutland was home to **England's** smallest man, Jeffrey Hudson, who was 18 inches tall and presented to Queen Henrietta Maria in a pie and lead an amazing life.

Rutland has a **latin motto**: Multum in Parvo, which means Much in Little

There is a **Duke and Duchess of Rutland** who reside in Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire

Rutland hosts a World Championshipship of **Nurdling** every late May Bank Holiday. Nurdling dates back to the middle ages, competitors throw old pennies on to a drilled hole in a wooden seat. This takes place at The Jackson Stops in Stretton and the winner is known as the **'Best Tosser'** 

# HORSESHOE RALLY TICKETS ON SALE NOW GOT YOURS YET?



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### Sat 7th May - Ride Out - Iceni Chapter / Norfolk

Join us on a Ride to meet our Eastern Neighbour's, the Iceni Chapter, at Norwich Harley Davidson. Following some refreshments at their dealership, join them on a dual Chapter ride through the picturesque Norfolk Broads.

Organiser D.Hetherington Departs Shop 9am - Eye Green 9.30

#### Sat 14th May – Ride Out - Roundheads Revenge

Naseby Field our Riders Club friends hold their annual "Roundheads Revenge" Rally over this weekend. On the Saturday they open the event up to the general public for small admission (for charity). There are custom bikes, cars, traders and a band for you all to enjoy. Also meet up with fellow Chapter members who'll be camping at the event.

Organiser: Dave Hibbert - Departs Sycamores 11am

#### Thurs 26th May - Harley Night - at Ace Cafe, London

An evening ride out to the famous Ace Cafe, London, situated on London's North Circular. This historic meeting point for Motorcyclists holds a "Harley Night" on the last Thursday of each month. Join us on a ride to this iconic venue and sample the unique party atmosphere of a "Harley Night".

Organiser: D.Hetherington - Departs Phoro Extra Service 6pm

#### Sun 29th May.- Ride - Sherwood Forest /St Ledger

Ride Out to the Sherwood Visitor Centre in the heart of Sherwood Forest. Take a stroll along the wooded walkways to view the famed "Great Oak Tree" and maybe bump into Robin Hood and Maid Marion along the way.

Organiser: Mike Grant - Departs Shop 11am

#### Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Jun – Ride Out - Skegness

The first Seaside Ride Out of 2011. This one is to the busy East Coast resort of Skegness. Situated north of Boston, this thriving town has been named the "Blackpool of the East Coast". So grab your bucket and spade, and join us on a run to the sun!

Organiser – Pete Hewett - Departs Sycamores 10.30am

#### Sat 11th Jun – Ride - Bakewell & Buxton

Ride out up to and through the Peak District through Ashbourne, Buxton, and returning via Bakewell. A full day ride with chance to stop to pick up a tart on the route!

Organiser Dave Hetherington - Departure time/location TBC

#### Sun 19th Jun – Ride Out - Hunstanton & Wells

A second Seaside Ride Out this time to Hunstanton. "Sunny Hunny" as it is nicknamed is the only west facing seaside town on the east coast. It is a very popular haunt for bikers, who park on the seafront and treat themselves to the resorts "fish n chips". From there follow the twists and turns of the coast road to the delightful little town of Wells-On-Sea, where you can try your hand at crabbing.

Organiser - Departure time/location TBC

# FOR CHAPTER TEXT UPDATES CONTACT PETE HEWETT

## **OTHER CLUBS — EVENTS**

# NENE VALLEY CHAPTER

## FAMILY FUN DAY

From 10:00 on the 28th May 2011
Towcestrians RFC Greens Norton
Rd Towcester Northamptonshire
NN12 8AW

o Bar
o Music

- o Bike Show
- o Kids Entertainment
- o Attractions
- o Stalls
- o Refreshments
- o Food
- o Games
- o Merchandise

The Fun Day Is Part Of Our 10th Anniversary Celebrations And We Would Like You, your family & friends To Join Us for a Day Out And Lots Of Fun

For further information contact
Activities Team:
brumbo@brumbo.com
jacqui.gray@silverstone-motorcycles.co.uk



# EASTER EGG RUN & "HARLEY DAZE"

It's been said many times before that biking in the UK has its "Marmite" moments; we can either love it or hate it. On the first few rides I have done this season I have either frozen my nuts off or got drenched and ended up with a bike that resembled a



motocrosser. (Thanks to all of you who took the mick out of my bike at Foxton Locks). But today, April 17<sup>th</sup> was the

kind of day I very often dream about, warm, dry, sunny and best of all, loads of friends to share the day's ride with. To put a cherry on top of that we were treated to a real "chillin" afternoon at the **Harley Daze** event put on by the crew at Harley's Diner in Market Deeping.

The day started with our annual Easter Egg run organised by Pete Ward, this time to Peterborough City Hospital Children's Ward. Not too sure, but to me it seemed to be even better attended than last year. Good to see so many non Harley riders join in and experience our dazzling and thunderous ride through the springtime countryside. I should mention the unbelievable efforts of Dodo, a trike riding mate of scratchy and I. He works at Perkins Engines in Peterborough

and he collected over 150 eggs from workmates to add to haul of presents for the kids. Fantastic support for the



run, I am sure you will agree.

From Peterborough we then headed to Market Deeping in convey and rumbled into "sleepyville" together and woke up the locals. They all knew when Rutland Chapter hit town again. As we rode into the CO-OP Car park the party was already starting to get

rocking!



Harley
Davidson riders
from as far as
Leeds, Watford,
Lowestoft, and
Northampton had
come over to

enjoy the afternoon and raise money for the Afghan

Heroes Charity. We also had several non Harley bike clubs join us, notably Halfway Heroes, Eagles, Vintage, BMW and a few members of "Back Patch" clubs. The local community turned out in force and it



was great to see families with small children and senior citizens mingling with all the bikers in the glorious sunshine.

We all enjoyed the tasty "American" food provided by Harley's Diner and the relaxed Country Rock music played by the excellent, Lesley Curtis Band. Graham James added to the musical mix with his fine renditions of classic Soul, Pop and Rock and Roll, something for all tastes.

Sycamore Harley Davidson led the trade

stands with a large range of HD clothing that was eagerly snapped up by the locals as they caught "Harley Fever". It seemed to me



the local Deeping folk were experiencing a great "Harley Love In" moment with every one wanting to be photographed next to their favourite bike.

Hadrian HD Tours from Newcastle showed us the fully escorted trips they provide to the States. Route 66 was understandably the one most people wanted to know about.

There was a "ride in" Bike Show with the "Best Harley" trophy being donated by The Market Deeping



Town Council and presented by Bruce Tokens the Mayor. The best non Harley award was won by 89 year old rider Henry and

his stunning Suzuki Marauder sidecar outfit.

Children's Face painting, a HD colouring / drawing competition and a highly competitive arm wrestling competition kept the fun going all afternoon. Martin beat me in the men's final with his awesome right arm ("beware of the quite ones" that's for sure)

In summary, owning and riding a Harley Davidson is about great days like this. They balance

the cold and wet days we often get and thankfully stay in my memory a lot longer.

We were all truly blessed with great bike weather, good company to ride and share it with, and an opportunity to give something back to the local community be it the Easter Egg run or charity fund

raising event for our brave young troops and their families.

To do both in one day was absolutely brilliant and I hope the Rutland Chapter members that could make it on the day enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all generosity and kind support



on the day. Added to the fantastic Easter egg and cuddly toy donations to the Peterborough Children's Ward in the morning, we raised £300 for the Afghan Heroes in the afternoon. Well done everyone, I think we can safely say Rutland Chapter showed every one the very best of what motorcycling can be about.

Dreams are made of "Daze" like this, let's hope we get many more this summer

Swinnie

# **FOXTON LOCKS**

The brief for the ride out to Foxton locks should have read 'Rutland Chapter ride to Foxton Locks - all the fun of the canals, set in the heart of rural South Leicestershire. Watch colorful narrow



boats ascending the 'staircase' of ten locks, as their crews turn paddles and heave gates open to move their boats up

the hill. Discover the wildlife in the side-ponds - ducks, herons, rare reeds and ride into the fields literally, on your Harley and much, much more!!'

We had an excellent turn out for the first organised ride of the 2011 season, led expertly by Lucy (Snow White). The weather was kind and the roads reasonably dry. No harm was done when one of our members went straight on and parked 50meters into a ploughed field on the way back from the ride

thus emphasising why Harleys are known as tractors. Also the sportster owners without front mudguards also looked like they had been scrambling, when they got back to the dealers. All things considered a good start to the year. Now let's put that mudguard back

on my bike! **Ríchard** 

(not Farmer Giles or Worzel Gummidge

# **GOING MAD IN THE FENS**

The weather was good and the turnout of 27 bikes was well impressive. The purpose of the ride out, brilliantly planned and led by Scratchy, was to pay homage to William Harley's father birth place. William Sylvester Harley, who founded the Harley-Davidson company along with Arthur Davidson, was the son of William Harley, who was born in Victoria Street, Littleport in 1835. Unfortunately the house in Victoria Street no longer stands. In 1859 William Harley left Littleport and emigrated to Oswego, USA. And the rest is history.

In 2003 a stainless steel statue of a Harley was unveiled opposite the church in Littleport and this was our first visit as a chapter. After having assorted photos taken in various poses on and around the statue, we got back on our bikes and made for Ely. We rode through the City centre (Ely's a city by virtue of having a Cathedral) before we parked up in a pub car park by the side of the river (Oh the look of delight on



the customers already there. Were they pleased to see us!!) After lunch, drinks, sitting talking in the sunshine, watching the boats and the trains it was time to go, Delayed only whilst we managed to unchain a couple of helmets, we set off, in various directions for home.

A thoughrably enjoyable day! Let's hope the riding season carries on in this way, Good weather, dry roads and excellent company.

Richard

(Not web footed or with 12 toes)

### **BACK PAGE BEAUTY**



#### 2011 - 60 REG - HD HERITAGE SOFTAIL CLASSIC FLSTC - 1584CC

This new unregistered Heritage Softail has been

custom finished by 8 Ball Custom Paintwork and I think you agree it has made an already fantastic looking bike even more fabulous! Full manufaturers year warranty,



Alarm, and Immobiliser.

£17,835

# **SHOP TORQUE**

First of all I would like to say thank you to Matthew and this team for the organisation of the Custom Show we held in March. I think you will agree with me that all their planning, hard work and effort was definitely worth it and was rounded off nicely with the entertainment on Saturday night. My thanks also go to the chapter members who helped over the weekend with the BBQ etc, the entrants of the bikes – it was amazing to see so many of the bikes together and thanks also to the customers who supported us – it was great to see so many of you at the event. Matthew certainly has his work cut out to make sure next year is even better!

Here at the dealership we have some great deals on new bikes as Harley-Davidson are currently running a trade-in campaign which could see you get up-to £1000 trade-in allowance. Speak to Stuart or Andy for further details.

Charlotte recently held a Ladies Of Harley event which proved a success. I was told it was a great night with lots of laughs and she would really like to hold another soon. Please feel free to talk to her or

email her your suggestions/ideas for future events at <a href="mailto:charlotte.tyers@sycamoremotorcycles.co.uk">charlotte.tyers@sycamoremotorcycles.co.uk</a>.

Events don't just have to be for the Ladies, why not let her organise something for you and your partners to get involved in. Charlotte has also just taken delivery of the new 2011 clothing range and it is proving to be very popular so make sure you have a look next time you are in the shop and don't forget we can order anything your require. Also available is a new luggage collection which is a great product, please speak to Matt or Ben for further details.

Coming up in May is the BMF being held at the Peterborough Showground. This year Sycamores have the Harley-Davidson full demo truck there and will be offering demo rides all weekend. Together with a few display bikes and clothing stand it should prove to be a great weekend. If you do fancy a demo don't forget both parts of your licence.

For those of you going to the Harley Riders Rally, Matthew will be there with his usual stand selling T shirts etc and be warned – he has the BMW X5 again! Also coming up is the Horse Shoe Rally which Scratchy and his team are doing a great job of organising. We have already sold over 60 tickets so hopefully it will be bigger and better than last year. Tickets are also available from the dealership.

It is really great to finally see some excellent riding weather and fantastic to see you all catching up at the dealership on the weekends drinking coffee and munching burgers! Burger man is here on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and on a serious note this gives the dealership a great buzz and encourages new riders to stop by and you never know they might just want to join your chapter – keep up the good work!

Lastly, for those of you not aware, Janet Shepstone has just hit a milestone birthday – HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANET from all at the dealership – we won't mention the number!!!

Ride safe! **Andrew** 

