

Rutland Chapter NEWS



**HOG Chapter
No: 6730**

**Newsletter
August 2011**

SCRATCHY'S SCRIBBLINGS



Blimey it's August already and as I write this I'm just back from our Horseshoe Rally. The forecasters predicted showers all day for the Friday, but as I left home early in the morning I said to Anne, "their always wrong, we'll get a couple of heavy showers, it won't be too bad, it rarely rains all day in the Summer". Unfortunately this was the day they got it right, it started as I arrived at the site at 9am and never stopped till about 8pm, we had thunder, lightning, hail, heavy showers, light showers, the only thing we didn't have was snow. You can plan all you want but the one thing you can't control is the weather. Too my surprise people continued to arrive, not just the pre-booked ticket holders either, we also had on the gate payers too. By the end of the day numbers were only marginally short of last year, which considering the weather, was fantastic. I think overall the Rally was a success and most important thing was that all attendees seemed to enjoy their selves, and commented to that fact on leaving Sunday morning. To all the members that helped out during the weekend, a big thank you, to you all, without that help the event could never take place.

Other than the Rally we've had plenty rides and trips taking place. Since the last newsletter, we've been to the Naseby Field Rally, northern France, Hunstanton, Skegness, the Ace Cafe, the Peak District and Sherwood Forest to name but a few. With the Sofer Rally fast approaching, closely followed by Nene Valleys "Back 2 Basics" Rally, then Thunder in the Glens, it looks like being a busy few weeks as per normal. In addition to these Events there are plenty of Ride Outs going on, check out the Chapter Website for the latest news.

Well obviously, I made it back from Florida with Anne and the kids. I actually quite enjoyed it but don't go telling Anne that. Was quite disappointed with the Harley dealerships I went to, plenty of women's clothes on sale but all the men's clothes were 3xl and bigger, and I'm not quite there yet!

I have just part exchanged my Heritage for another one, this one is not white but has an 8 Ball custom paint job on it. No doubt the micky taking cries of Elvis and here comes the Ice Cream van will be changed to Woody or something similar. I've already changed the bars for fatboy ones and fitted my tow

bar. Also just had my trailer wrapped to match at the Sign Team at Thorney near Peterborough. I must say they have done a brilliant job, you really have to look closely to realise its not painted.

So with the trailer all sorted I'm all set for Sofer, don't forget those of you that have bought tickets, that Sycamores are kindly supporting us to Bisley with their van. We'll have the BBQ and Gazibo there and there will also be space in the van for those of you that want tents taking.

August is a very hectic month for activities, my advice to you, is make the most of it. Lets hope we get some real nice weather to party in.

Ride Often, ride safe and have fun!

Scratchy



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A HOBBITS TALE

It was a Thursday 2nd June 2011, and the time had arrived for our big trip to the Ireland bike fest Killarney. As usual I left things to the last minute to book our over night B&B at Holyhead, and after ringing around there was no room at the inn anywhere.

So I thought I would try Bangor which is about 20 miles or so from Holyhead port on the A55 and as luck would have it I found one, The Garth Guest



House. Horrie the Harley was all excited about it as well, so off we go with my new little sat nav

guiding the way, course plotted to the B&B a bit later than planned but what the heck.

We got about ten miles (ish) out of Bourne on the A151 heading toward the A1 on a nice sunny afternoon then disaster struck, I felt something hit my leg thinking it was a stone so carried on for a while until I looked down to see what sat nav was doingGONE ! I now know what hit my left leg.

We turned around and roughly stopped where I thought the sat nav fell off, we both walked up & down that road but deep ditch's and long grass did not help we could not find it. Needless to say I was not a happy bunny now, so we came back home to print a hard copy of the route and grab my old sat nav (which was not charged) so could not use that until later. And once more we set off a lot later, the trip to Bangor seemed to take forever and the A55 was never ending, we finally arrived at Bangor and stopped at a local pub where some scooter lad's n lasses were to ask where

the B&B was. We had a good chat and a laugh with them and found out it was only around the corner, by this time it was about 11 pm the Les who owned the B&B kindly waited up for us and showed us to our room.

After a good night's sleep and all batteries charged spare sat nav and all, we had a cracking full English brekkie

and then off again to catch the ferry at 08:20 am, arriving at Dublin port at 11:35 am



on Friday 3rd June. However we arrived a tad late and missed the ferry, this was starting to be a nightmare road trip, we had to pay an extra £20 and catch the next sailing, and so we paid that and thought what's the worst that can happen now?.

From Dublin we still had another 300 km (186 miles) to travel to Fossa Caravan and Camping Park which is located in the village of Fossa, Killarney. Fossa is 5km (3 miles) west of Killarney Town centre on the main Ring of Kerry/Killorglin Road (N72/R562).

The weather was still sunny and the crossing was a calm one, once in Dublin and my spare sat nav set up and



destination set, Dublin is like London ...MAD! But once out of

the city and on the N7/M7 toward Limerick it was easy cruzin, on our various rest & fuel stop's met & chatted to other bikers & HOG Chapter's going to the bike fest in Killarney.

Things were going good and all was fine, until the sat nav told me to turn off the M7 onto the N8/M8, to cut a long story short I did not check the route setting and it was taking the scenic way (my fault) after checking the map's it was not that bad so stuck with it and enjoyed the scenery etc on our extended ride.

By the way if you ever attempt the N72 from junction 14 of the M8 heading toward Killarney hold on tight that is all I will say about that road. We arrived at our site shaken not stirred after the N72 ride, found our static caravan and rested ready for the next day.

Saturday morning arrived the weather was good so this was a bonus, and off we went to the show, lot's of great bike's to be seen and that was just in the car parking area. We entered the show to see



lots of stalls food/clothing etc and some bikes on show, I had a go on the "Win a Harley" ...nope did not win! walked

around the stall's the usual stuff for the afternoon.

I must admit it was not as big as I thought it was going to be, but still a grate atmosphere all the same and we enjoyed our day. When we arrived back at the campsite later that afternoon, I seen some new arrivals, so thought I would pop over for a chat, well it was more difficult than I expected as these guy's & gal's had rode all the way from Russia... Bugger that is amazing! none of the the "Rolling Anarchy" mcc could speak English. But by means of mime and gesture we communicated and I was given an invite to their rally and they were a very friendly bunch.



If you are interested, see the web site www.rollinganarchy.com and the info about them and the rally (22-24 July Logoisk, Belarus) needless to say it's a flippin long ride 1,564 miles (Belarus', Zaslauje, Minsk Province, Belarus) according to Google maps from Peterborough if I have my bearings correct.

Sunday arrived and the big bike parade through



Killarney was the main thing, there must have been hundred's of bikes as it seem to last a long time, the custom show

was later that afternoon, which was a great event and had some amazing custom bikes on display. The next

couple of days we spent sight seeing around the Ring of Kerry which has the best ever scenery you could wish for, I must admit for Ireland the weather held pretty well in our favour with the odd shower on the last couple of day's so can't grumble about that.

The trip back I decided not to use the spare sat-nav and write the route down and pop it in the top visible cover of my tank bag, and found it easy on the trip back. The crossing back departing on Wednesday 8th June 2011 at 16:00 hr so we had plenty of travel time to be in Dublin ferry port, then arriving in Holyhead at 19:15 the crossing was great with no rough sea's and we had nice meal on board, I changed the route back (no sat-nav) A55 >A54>M6(south)>A14 nice & easy back to the shire.

This end's my tale.

Hobbit

A RIDE OF RESPECT

Mothering Sunday 3 April, what a great day to spend with your family, buy a pot plant and off to visit mum. Or even better forget mum, get the Harley out and off to

Wootton Bassett, now Royal Wootton Bassett, for the second Ride of Respect. I'm sure the Chapter



member's neighbours really appreciate us showing our respect. They just love to hear those bikes firing up at five in the morning. Now I'm a bit more considerate and push mine out the garage and away a bit before firing it up. The plan worked well this year, unlike last time, having now learnt to take the key fob with me, so

no alarm sounding on the drive and unhappy people at windows.

Most of us met up again at the A14 Services



at 6.30 and yes it was cold again but having decided heated gloves were worth being called a 'Nonse' it wasn't too bad. DHL Pete was half okay with only one of his gloves working.

Tall Dave led the route again and it wasn't, long before we were all at Oxford Services for a

slimline breakfast and coffee. Then back on the bikes and down to Sainsburys at Swindon where Dave had done a great job in getting them to open early just for us to use the loos and the cafe, it was really good of them.

Refuel and then off to Hullavington airfield. Not sure how Constable Mick got in as I saw his entry tag pass



my helmet on the way down. There were about 10,000 bikes this year which was the limit set.

The organisers had learnt

from last year and the departure in groups of about a 1,000 at a time for the ride went much smoother. None of it phased 'Harley Diner Richard' who spent most of the time on the airfield asleep on his bike.

The ride through the villages and then through Wootton Bassett itself was great. As last year the locals were out in force for the whole route to support the troops and the ride. Union Jacks were everywhere. You get the feeling that people just wanted to say they supported our troops, were proud to be British and no one was going to stop them saying so. There was a bit of rain as we went through the town but nothing that dampened any enthusiasm. Mind you some of the roads between the villages were a bit 'third world' to say the least. What do we pay road tax for?

Then it was back to Sainsburys and then the ride home with some getting in dry and some soaked, but what a great day.

I am not sure if there will be another one next year as the poor souls who do not make it back alive are no longer going to be taken through Royal Wootton Bassett.

Mike



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat 30th July – Ride Out – Science & Industry Museum, Manchester – HD Exhibition

Join us on a Ride to Manchester to view the Harley Davidson Customizing Culture Exhibition. .

Organiser Mick Robinson - Departs Peterboro Xtra Services (A1/A605 Junction) at 9am – Also picks up at the Colsterworth Services A1

Fri 5th – 7th Aug – SOFER Rally, Bisley

Members attending this years Sofer Rally at Bisley (Sold Out) are invited to join other members who are riding down. Sycamores are once again supporting us with their Van and Richard – Should any members have a tent or bags they want transporting down, can they ensure it is at Sycamores no later than 12 noon on Thursday 4th August. We will be having a free Chapter BBQ Event on the Saturday Evening..

Organiser: Scratchy /Dhl Pete - Departs Brampton Hut Services (A1/A14 Junction) @ 9am

Sun 14th Aug – Ride Out – Lucy n Mikes Breakfast then Mystery Ride

Join Lucy & Mike for Breakfast at the Harley Diner in Market Deeping from 10.30am. Followed by a Mystery Ride leaving Deeping at about 11.30am.

Organiser: Lucy & Mike - Meet Harley Diner, Market Deeping @ 10.30am for 11.30am Ride

Sun 28th Aug - Harley and Buell Bash - at the Ace Cafe, London

Daytime meet for Harley's at the famous Ace Cafe, London, situated on London's North Circular. This historic meeting point for Motorcyclists holds this "Harley Day" only once a year so be sure not to miss it !

Organiser Lucy Gumbley.- P,boro Extra Services A1/A605 – Time TBC

**FOR CHAPTER TEXT UPDATES
CONTACT PETE HEWETT**

HOGGIN THE FROGS III

(Return of the Five)

If someone had told me 10 years ago that this would be the third time I would do a write up about Hoggin the Frogs and a trip to northern France, I would never have believed them!

For 2011's trip, there were five Harleeters. Lucy, Little Pete - hereafter to be known as "the boat boy" (those of you who have attended high church would understand) and myself. We arranged to meet



up with Val and Martin - who take more holidays than the rest of us and had therefore

left good old Blighty 3 days beforehand.

We made the decision to travel down to Poole on Tuesday evening, the night before we sailed. The rendezvous at Northampton Services was a foretaste of my organisational and navigational skills, as two of us were on one side of the M1 and Lucy stranded on the other side facing the right way.

The pub we stopped at had 4 real ales on tap, but even with limited drinking time before bed, we managed to sample them all. Arriving at Poole ferry terminal next morning we were greeted with high winds and mountainous seas and that was just in the harbour. Little Pete and I were both stopped and searched by customs. I was asked if I had a gun, ammunition and/or a knife in my luggage! "I didn't think I needed them, as I thought the war was over," I quipped. Made a mental note next time not to be so smart, as then they searched my bag and did a thorough body scan with their scanner thingy.

The trip over was "Mildly unpleasant," but it only takes 2.5 hours so we all arrived at Cherbourg breakfasts intact. We stopped for



tea 'n' cokes at Ste-Mere-Eglise to find Red Buttons still hanging from the steeple. Following brief stops at Pointe Du Hoc and Omaha beach we rolled into Bayeux, where we were booked in for 4 nights at the Premier Classe Hotel. Val and Martin were already present and correct, so after a quick shower and ablutions, we walked into town for food and beverages. We found a restaurant that proved such good value and with an excellent choice of menu that we went every night.

The first full day, Thursdays, found Little Pete, Lucy and myself heading for Mont-St-Michel. We had to see it in the dry as last year it rained



solidly whilst we were there. Within a very short period time after leaving Bayeux, we realised why we liked Normandy so much. The roads are clear, well maintained and this year, also dry. We took out a small mortgage, used the toilets (40 cents for a wee) and bought tea 'n' cokes on the Mont and set off by the back roads to head back to Bayeux. I led without



mentioning that I can only remember the name of the next village on the map before I have

to stop and get the map out to work out the route. We got back to Bayeux after a round trip of 200 km in time for dinner and found a bar with beer – Leffe, a 6.6% alcohol that slipped down very nicely and meant that after retiring to bed, drowned out the noise of two busloads of 15/16 year olds that were also stopping in the Hotel.

At breakfast, on Friday, I showed some of the school children how to shut doors using the door handle provided. Noisy little g**s!! We decided to head for Pegasus Bridge near Caen, to see my lady

friend who runs the café near the first piece of mainland France liberated by the British in the Second World War. We didn't stop in the end, as Lucy managed to upset the customers with noise from her Big Radius exhausts.

We think Lucy wanted to go by train to Honfleur, instead of by bike, as she led us to the Railway station in Deauville. We finally arrived in the very pretty port of Honfleur where we all had a baguette (French for a cheese and ham roll). I led on the way back and we stopped at a nice little roadside café for tea 'n' cokes. Anybody see a pattern forming here? All Lucy and little Pete could say was "Doesn't Richard take us to some nice places for a holiday!!" Evening food and beverage arrangements were as before.

We decided not to go too far on Saturday as we all wanted to see the tapestry in Bayeux. Also we wanted to talk all the way through the school party's debriefing session to see if we would get detention or lines. We went to the coast early and after a baguette and getting lost again on the way back, much to the amusement of the only two people at a café in Cruelly, we parked our bikes back at the hotel and walked into town. Little Pete was hoping to liberate a piece of the tapestry, as he still hadn't got the souvenir tea towel that he always buys when he goes abroad. No thimbles or sticks of rock for Little Pete!!

The tapestry is worth seeing. Try telling that to some of our party. We managed to forget to tell Val and Martin and they were still waiting in the hotel. Sorry. Evening food and beverages arrangements, again, were as before.

Sunday morning saw us waving goodbye to Val and Martin and heading back to Cherbourg. The crossing was very smooth, but a sea mist that did not clear until we were leaving Poole prevented us from seeing anything whilst at sea. The weather was scorching all the way home and we gradually peeled off on the final legs of our journeys to all arrive home safely around 5:00 pm. Brilliant, now when can we book up to go next year?

Richard

(Not Gaspar or Leonard)

As a footnote, the trip was tinged with a bit of sadness as when Little Pete got home, his budgie had broken its legs whilst we were away. However Little Pete managed to make it some splints out of two Swan Vestas. You should have seen the budgie's little face light up when he tried to walk on the sandpaper sheet on the bottom of its cage!

OTHER EVENTS



BACK PAGE BEAUTY

2011 – HD SOFTAIL ROCKER C

CONVERSION – 1584cc



1584cc, Manual 6 speed, 2,383 miles, Black, 1 Owner. 2011 Harley Davidson Rocker C This bike is truly a one off built by us and needs to be seen to be appreciated modifications and extras include Heartlands back end conversion, chopped rear fender, chrome swingarm, performance machine wheels, lowered suspension, Rowlands Sands air cleaner, VHT two into two black radius exhaust, chrome switch housing, narrow band grips and pegs, side mount number plate, flush mount fuel cap and gauge, power pro fueller and billet tears rear indicators please contact Stuart or Andrew for further details on 01572823296 Alarm, Full Service History, Immobiliser, Remainder of manufacturer's warranty.

£20,995

SHOP TORQUE

Firstly, congratulations to Scratchy and the Committee on organising another successful, Rutland Chapter Rally, which despite the wet Friday was well attended on both days, the feedback at the dealership has been good from customers and staff even Ben in parts who I gather was comatosed.

During July I was fortunate to go to the 2012 Harley Dealer Meeting in Anaheim California, at the show we were shown new parts, clothing, accessories

and bikes for 2012. The highlight of the bikes was the new Dyna Switchback. While it looks like a mini Roadking this comes with the 103 engine, detachable screen, saddlebags and ABS as standard and guess what, we have one on show in our showroom. The Sportster range has stayed the same but with some great new colours. All Dynas now come with ABS apart from the Streetbob and also in a great selection of new colours. Softails now all come with the 103 engine as standard and again a range of new colours.

This year will see the 10th anniversary of the Vrod. So we have a Vrod 10th Anniversary model. The Touring models now all come with the 103 engine as standard and the reintroduction of the Ultra Classic. This years CVO models consist of the Roadglide, Ultra Classic, Street Glide and Softail Convertible.

Chapter Members are invited to the 2012 model launch on Friday 9th September 2011 between 6.30 pm and 9.00 pm, to view these models where we will serve refreshments and offer test ride booking for the full open weekend on 10th & 11th September 2011.

Currently here at Sycamore dealer ship we have some great offers on our 2011 demo bikes and showroom displays bikes including 0% finance, please speak to Stuart or Andrew for further details.

The 2012 CVO bikes this year are on a 1st come 1st served basis as we are not getting an allocation to sell we will order direct from the warehouse so speak to us now if you are thinking of purchasing one.

Next time you are in take a look upstairs you will see Matt's latest custom project, please speak with him if you fancy doing something different to your bike from paintwork to a full customisation project.

Ride Safe

Andrew

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2012 Model preview evening - Friday 9th
September

2012 Open House Weekend - Saturday 10th &
Sunday 11th September.