

2006

December

9 **Christmas Cracker 06.** Cracking venue, cracking food, cracking band, cracking atmosphere and cracking people! So that's why it's called what it's called! What a great evening! Photos are [here](#), courtesy of Ian Thoburn - thanks Ian! Have a great Christmas everybody and keep checking the website for last minute rides through the winter, plus the odd notice or two, as well as the new season ride-out schedule. The Programme will be resumed as soon as possible!

November

12 **Remembrance Ride.** The incredible weather lasted yet another week for this special ride in which we were invited to join Chelsea & Fulham Chapter on its annual pilgrimage. The occasion plus the sunshine meant that 30 bikes from Surrey HOG joined with 40 from C&F to thunder through the Surrey Lanes to Tilford where we paid our respects at our double Chapter wreath laying at the War Memorial and then lunch at the Spotted Cow, Farnham. This was a great ride on a great day to mark an auspicious occasion. Thanks to C&F for inviting us and a special thanks to Marjorie Ragg (HOG Manager UK) for joining Surrey for the ride.

5 **Roger's Rocket Ride.** Another glorious day, another fantastic turn-out for Surrey's finest. Lovely ride up to Town where we proved a bigger draw for the tourist cameras than the seat of Government as we thundered round (and round) (and round) Parliament Square for a superb photo shoot in the morning sunshine. Then down the Kings Road for a full English. Ahhhh. This is what Sundays are for... Thanks Roger - nice one!

October

29 **Spooky ride.** Great turn out on a lovely day. These mild sunny weekends will surely disappear soon... Everyone had a great time riding to Chislehurst Caves through the Surrey and Kent countryside. A special welcome too to the several new faces - both brand new, and returning old members to Surrey HOG. See you all again soon at Club Night!

22 **Howard Goes To Frankies/Hoggin the Bridge 7.** Great turn out of Hot Rods to welcome us at Franky & Benny's! And a great breakfast too after a nice ride in mild, dry conditions. Not so the ride home! Jeez did it pour! Even more so for Hoggin' the Bridge. Chapter member Ian Thoburn writes "At Chepstow it was lashing it down - small rivulettes running down the road, damp people huddling everywhere, not a tea shop or marquee unpacked. I grabbed my t shirt and splashed back to where poor Milly stood forlornly. Visibility on the motorway down to ZERO, lovely!" Ian managed to take [this photo](#) over his shoulder on the way over. On the way back he says he could only see a few feet ahead! Now that's a biker!

8 **Brightona.** Surrey HOG was pleased to ride to this event in support of Brighton Heart Support Trust. Apart from the hundreds of bikes there was the dance group Brighton Jive demonstrating 50's style Rock and Roll dance, live bands, Andy Harris advertising his mobile H-D servicing business and a Custom Show containing some the most amazing bikes, trikes and scooters. We are grateful to Peter Vincent for his [photos](#).

1 **Goodwood and Bootsale.** While Graham took a Surrey HOG riding group for a hearty breakfast at Goodwood, Kevin and Andy stayed behind to supervise the sales of Chapter donations to the Surrey HOG boot stall at Pippbrook Car Park. It is only thanks to Beaky that this event has been resurrected. It was a wet old day, but it is huge thanks to Kevin and co for

the surprisingly large amount of money raised by your old bits and pieces. This considerably increases our options to benefit the whole Chapter - brilliant!

September

4-13

European Bike Week, Faaker See. This fantastic event wildly exceeded all our expectations. The most amazing roads down through Germany and winding through the mountains and valleys of the Austrian Tirol - and with the most glorious weather the whole time (except a spectacular 15 min shower high up in the Black Forest on the way back). What surprised us about European Bike Week was that 80% of the bikes were Harleys - and there were uncountable thousands of us! Great camping, entertainment, and merchandising in the Harley Village and huge numbers of trader stands. Faak is a place where you can have a relaxed breakfast al fresco in Austria, a superb (and cheap!) lunch in Slovenia and ice cream in an Italian piazza in the afternoon - with the most spectacular mountain riding in between. Huge thanks to Keith who led this, and to Wendy and Hillary for crewing the support vehicle. For those of us that did the Reims/Faak double we rode 2,500 miles through 9 countries in 2 glorious weeks - download the route we took from [here](#). We think we will be doing this again...

1-3

Reims Champagne Rally. Our twin Chapter excelled themselves with this one - as did Annie who did all the liaison for us. Champagne reception on arrival in a local Cave, champagne grape-picker's breakfast at a grower's the next day, another breakfast on the Moselle, superb locations for lunches and dinners and lots of great riding to connect it all together. This was all pre-paid and incredibly well researched by Pierre and his team. Even the fuel stops were manned by the road crew who simply passed the pumps to the next bikes. With some of the most skilful and exciting road crewing we have seen - these guys stop whole towns if they have to - the Reims Chapter can be proud of themselves. And with only 70 members in total, they vividly demonstrated that it's not size that counts, but what you do with it.

August

28

Festival of Transport, Sussex. Surrey HOG was honoured to be invited to this event by 1066 Chapter. They did us proud with their welcome and BBQ - thanks Greg, Jane, Alan and all the crew. The sun shone on us - a lot of us! - as we took the country route from Rykas to Hellingly. It was a real pleasure to greet so many Surrey HOG members - old and new - for this one. And it was just great to see the Surrey HOG road crew working so effectively to ensure a tight, smooth and safe ride. Huge thanks to Gary, Kevin, Colin, Roger, the Marks and Keith - as well as other experienced members and past road crew - for their anticipation and skill in knowing exactly what to do without being asked. Wonderful stuff.

20

15th Anniversary Open Day BBQ. Postponed from the week before due to rain, this turned into a hugely enjoyable event in fine weather. The Carson's were wonderful hosts and we are very grateful to them for allowing us to take over their (rather large!) front garden with a spectacular display of Harleys and Hot Rods. As advertised, this was a relaxed summer afternoon BBQ to celebrate our 15th Anniversary year as Surrey HOG. Howard's Harleys and Hots Rods Cruise was a delightful ride through lovely twisty roads, as was Gary's route from Rykas to the Farm. Many thanks to Howard and Sharon for the considerable effort they put in to making this all happen; to Gary for a great ride to the event; to Dave Francis and The Receders for the excellent live music; to the Carsons for their grounds, their delicious burgers and bacon rolls, and their generous contribution to Chapter Funds at the end of the afternoon; and to everyone who came. Wonderful! (During the afternoon were able to issue special Bisley Rally Crew pins to most of Surrey HOG volunteers who earned them, but if we missed you, Catherine will keep it safely for you until Club Night.)

4 - 6 **SOFER 2006.** What a great Rally! Close to 2000 people passed through the gates to fill the campsites in fantastic weather. Many thanks to all the members of Surrey HOG and their families who contributed their time through the whole weekend. Between us, we managed Arrivals ticket checking and gate sales through both long days. Vera Sommer led a superb LOH Sunset Cruise, co-organised with UK HOG Manager, Marjorie Ragg, and ably supported by Steve Cork (with official photographer on board) and Ernst Riess (purveyor of fine cocktails). Our self-guided rides went down well, and we had good feedback from our Poker Run riders. Andy England spent huge amounts of time managing the evening bands into the site, through their sound checks to their performances. Notably stomping stuff from Bad Influence on Friday and the utterly amazing Skinny Molly on Saturday night. Chapter BBQs every evening – and Surrey HOG still had time to come third (out of six) in the Chapter Challenge including winning the trophy for the clay pigeon event with 19/20 hits! Superb marksmanship under pressure from Paul Greenstreet, Smokes Woodman, Steven Palmer and the awesome Roger Ferris, who last picked up a shotgun 2 years ago! Well done to everyone else who entered the Games, too. The real target next year is 1066 who came second: no-one gets close to Nene Valley and their audacious points-winning strategy! But one of the best things about this rally was how great it was to work with the other Chapters in a true spirit of cooperation and mutual interest – we can't wait to do it again! On which note, if you would like to send us feedback about SOFER 06 for the debrief meeting, please send email [here](#). We will use it to make the Rally even better next year.

July

Sun 30 **Surrey Lanes Ride.** Mark promised you Surrey Lanes and a nice lunch and I think you'll agree you got just what it said on the can! And in rather more sunshine than forecast. (Jeez, does Mark know some lanes!)

22-23/7 **Up and Down the Quantocks.** A magical ride through the leafy lanes and byways of Hampshire and Dorset, and of course, up and down those wonderful hills in Somerset. This was a big, memorable ride in glorious weather and a memorable stay in the faded glory of a time-warp hotel deep in the hills. We never seemed to stop laughing ... what a weekend!

Sun 16 **A Rural Sussex Ride.** Another wonderful sunny day for a well-attended ride through scenic Sussex country lanes. We headed for Chichester, meeting with others and stopping for a welcoming drink and lunch at Smith & Western. Congratulations to Carrol on her first ride-out – well done!

Sun 2 **Roller Coastal Ride.** Beautiful summer's day ideal for a roller coaster ride. We made our way to Beachy Head through leafy country lanes for lunch, then on the coastal road to Littlehampton for an ice cream. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable day! Chapter member John Ellis sent us [this pic](#) of some of the coastal riders at Beachy Head as well as [this one](#) of him standing by his pride and joy.

June

23/6 - 3/7 **Corsica Invasion.** A blast through France, including a spectacular ride through the Burgundy vineyards of the Rhone Valley, a rather long, hot evening in Nice and then a dream of a week in the French sunshine. A great welcoming lunch by the Testa Mora Free Chapter, stunning scenery, lovely riding, sandy beaches, great food in shady terrace bars, wonderful company ... and absolutely no sign of Napoleon. Great that so many made this trip from both Surrey HOG and 1066 Chapters. The blast back was intense - but surprisingly tolerable despite the heat. A memorable ride for all. Photos are on our own website [here](#), and on the Testa Mora website

[here](#).

- 22-25 **Killarney HOG rally.** Simultaneously with the Corsican invasion, several members of Surrey HOG's finest braved the Irish Sea for an equally memorable ride to an excellent rally. The weather was kind, the bands were excellent and the atmosphere was just great. Roger Ferris and Colin Shonfeld flew the Chapter flag in a Parade of thousands about which the Irish were most appreciative, to be sure. Photos are [here](#).
- Sat 17 **Woody's Midsummer Madness.** This was Harley cruising through London's streets on a warm summer night at its very best. We caught the eye of hundreds up Kings Road. Then Steve's rat bike, ridden by Ruthie, developed a problem right outside Warrs (it's trying to tell you something Steve). She climbed back on the Ultra and then it was Sloane Square to Buckingham Palace. We thought we wouldn't get away as tourists kept joining us for the group photo! Then Admiralty Arch, Trafalgar Square and the Strand where we wowed them in Covent Garden as we threaded between the security posts, parked up on the cobbles and turned on the light show. Then through the crowds to Aldwych and Fleet Street to a floodlit St Paul's Cathedral for more photos. Tower Bridge, The South Bank, Westminster Bridge, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, finishing at the London Eye for refreshments at a quiet and welcoming Turkish terrace. Lovely cool ride home via Warrs so Ruthie could pick up Steve's bike after its brakes had cooled. Spectacular evening - well done Graham! And well done to all the newer members who braved this one - especially Jeremy: it was his very first!
- Sat 17 **St Bede's School Fete.** We were welcomed once again by the staff, parents and children of St Bede's school as we roared in on cue and put our bikes on display for the kids to pose on and their folks to admire. A rather pleasant way to spend a couple of hours on a hot summer's afternoon.
- Sun 11 **Whitstable Oyster Run.** What a glorious day! Perfect for a relaxed ride to the North Kent Coast - the country way. It was just great to see so many new, recently joined and original members on this one as we rode down the A25 before dipping out into the lanes and byways of Kent. After a refreshment stop in a country pub, we threaded our way through miles of single track lanes (the more so, due to having to divert around Leeds Castle), finally arriving in Whitstable for lunch. Not sure how many ate oysters, but fish and chips on the beach seemed popular while others chose a pub meal al fresco. Superb ride back too, as we managed to exit left several times to avoid building congestion. Well done to the newer riders on a challenging ride. Thanks, Mark for excellent work at the back.
- Sat 10 **Shepperton Village Fair Procession.** Thanks to everyone who did this. The organisers asked for 6 - 8 bikes, but we managed to sneak a few more in (it helps that Dik is the Chair of the Fair Committee!) It was very hot for the bikes and riders, but the hundreds of people lining the streets really appreciated the spectacle. The police looked on in amusement as we rode round the war memorial several times waiting for the Procession to move on, while they held up the traffic for us. The ride round the arena in front of the Mayor also went down well - highlighted by Andy's offer to the Master of Ceremonies to climb onboard for one of the circuits. You made her day, Andy!
- Sun 4 **Up Periscopes.** The weather gods were kind again so we set off south using the A31 and the glorious A32 through the Meon Valley, which must be one the best motorcycling roads in our neck of the woods. Gentle curves, sleepy villages, beautiful countryside and trees forming tunnels over the road that you can burst out into the sunlight from - brilliant! Then a comprehensive tour of Gosport (I was not lost Colin) and onto the Naval dockyards. I am not a

great museum person but have admit the submarine is pretty cool and the setting over Portsmouth harbour was wonderful in the sunshine. Ken got his museum finally, John got his meat pie (but no peas) and the rest of us got sun tans: great day, great roads and great company.

Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb. While Andy and Colin's ride headed for the South Coast, 11 others went way out West, Worcester way. We were invited guests of Pendragon who have been involved in the Hill Climb since its inception 100 years ago. We made a weekend of it and had a great ride over some fantastic roads through the Cotswolds and Malvern Hills (thanks, Keith). We spent the day in the VIP grandstand area with free drinks and HOG roast, watching an amazing variety of racing, sports and enthusiast's cars race up a half mile hill with twists and two hairpins. Especially good to see a female group of Buell racers take their bikes up. The grandstands built into the hillside were filled with hundreds of people as they watched the winning car do an average of 140 mph. Incredible. Then it was our turn with 40 other Harleys from other Chapters to parade up the Hill Climb and back down again. Great stuff. Weather was superb and it provided a perfect opportunity for some very useful Chapter discussions with both Pendragon and H-D senior management.

May

Sun 28

Sammy Miller's Harley & Indian Day. Ah the great British summer arrived and our merry band made the most of it and toddled off down the A31 stopping at the M27 services for the Palmers and John Ellis. Found the Palmers and 1066 but no John. Turns out John fell out with a railway crossing and the good news is both he and the bike are repairable. Onwards and upwards and into the forest. England can be so nice when the sun shines and as we meandered through the ponies and their foals were out in force to add to the whole experience. Sammy Miller's had a great BBQ, atmosphere and cream scones - sorry you missed out on another museum Ken. But things come to an end and we were off for more views of the Hampshire countryside and home.

Sun 21

Tally Ho to Tangmere! Rain coming down steadily. Anyway off we went on the bike in our wets full of positive thoughts that the sun would shine, (I even took my sunglasses, ha ha). Alas it didn't shine. We were not put off, and we all set off from the dealership just as the rain came down again. Catherine lead us through some wonderful country roads on the route to Petworth where Steve and Ruth served coffee from the back of the car, what a welcome! Unfortunately for the men there was a jewellery market which was an obvious magnet for the gurlies. After a good look round the market off we went to Tangmere. On arriving at the museum it was agreed that we needed a lot more time to investigate and as Ruth and Steve had a restaurant booked for us we took off leaving just Ken and Roger to enjoy the thrills of aviation. We arrived at the restaurant looking like drowned rats, but a well-arranged day and welcoming staff saw that we had somewhere to dispose of our wets and inside a blazing fire dried the rest of us off. The company was great, the food superb and we will definitely be going back, both to the museum and the restaurant. A big thanks to Steve and Ruth for top notch organisation.

Sat 13

Roget's moules et frites. What a great idea! Get a load of friends old and new, get them up at the crack of dawn and chuck them on a train bound for France - and that is exactly what Roger did. There were no delays on Eurotunnel so off we jolly well went, a quick splash and dash pit stop in Calais, picking up Gary, Chris, a couple of Marks - and then that lovely coastal road to Bolougne. As we parked guess what? Place was full of French Harleys! So just time for a quick moules avec les grand frites and our new friends insisted on showing us the way to Wimereux. Onto the sea front for ice cream, goodbye to our comrades in arms, then back

towards the tunnel with the sun shining and the sea glistening. A big thank you to Roger - a great day out that's gone from strength to strength - a definite for next year, too!

Sun 7 **Spring New Members Ride.** What a lot of new faces! We all managed to dodge the rain clouds and after an inspiring ride on some of Britain's most wonderful roads, we reached our destination and a display of pre-war cars at Goodwood, set in the middle of very beautiful Sussex countryside. After coffee & breakfast at Goodwood Motor Circuit's Vitra Café another two Harley owners joined us on the ride back to Surrey HD and were so taken with the experience that they signed up as new members there and then! Quite a few road crew weren't able to make this ride due to sickness or advanced riding training - so thanks to all the volunteers for marshalling and children's pillion rides.

April

29 - 1 May

Chocolate Soldier Run. What is big, totally awesome and glints in the afternoon sunshine? You'd be right if you said the convoy of Surrey HOG Harleys that thundered through Bruges city streets and lined up neatly in the middle of the Old Square on Sunday. You'd also be right if you said the hundreds of people that filled the square and streets to photograph our equally thunderous departure! What a weekend! What a party! And what a blast! Lovely riding as Terry and Keith took us on well-planned routes to, from, and around the Motorcycle Loft Hotel. Fantastic atmosphere throughout the weekend as chocolate virgins mixed with older soldiers. Thanks Bing and Bong, for a trip that we won't forget - even the Monday rain couldn't remove our smiles!

Sun 23 **Dragonslayer ride.** Sooner or later, like it or not, you are going to find yourself in charge of that beast of yours in the wet. Not good if you are unprepared. And so it was that Gary and Chris arranged their dragonslayer ride - just for you - so you could practice taming your very own chrome dragon in the elements. In the end it was a near thing - 24 hours before, the weather was sunny, warm and dry - utterly hopeless for the task in hand. But we were in luck: by Sunday morning the roads were glistening and a gentle Spring rain kept up for the whole ride! The dozen or so adventurers that accepted the challenge coped very well. And there were entertainments to boot! The carefully selected route past the George & Dragon pub, the Dragon Roast at the London Motorcycle Museum and all those scooter beastlets at the Ace Café. Nice one!

Sun 17 **Howard's Hot Rod BBQ.** What a great day and what a great turn out! It was so nice to be welcomed so warmly by the Surrey StreetRodders and the ride to Bracknell to meet them was topped only by the ride back with several of the Hot Rods to a roaring arrival at the dealership. The BBQ at the farm was a most congenial affair, with Spring warmth, good food and great company. This was a first ride for several new Harley owners - we are pleased to see them and very glad they enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Howard and Sharon for a great day, to Geoff for his hospitality and to the Englands for their help with the logistics.

Sun 16 **Keith's Steaming Easter Sunday.** Always a pleasure to ride to the dockyard at Chatham. The Festival of Steam was quite a spectacle, too, as we wandered around in the Spring sunshine gazing upon the recent ancestry of our own prized traction engines!

Sat 8 **Ogri Café.** A delightful ride along country roads to a great breakfast at this famous biker's café, a browse around an interesting shop full of bike gear, and then an equally pleasant ride back through the Ashdown Forest. Ahhh! The sunshine is here and that lovely Spring warmth seems to be just around the next corner or two...

Sat 1 **Start of Season Party.** What a fantastic kick-off to the riding season! And what a difference a superb live band makes! Status Clone did us proud - nice bunch of blokes too. It was spooky - we kept thinking it actually was, you know ... them! Rob Paxton was tremendous in support, the venue and food excellent again. Huge thanks to Andy and Carrol whose idea and energy made this event happen, to Gary, Chris and Steve for running the raffle, to the Woods family for the spectacular raffle prizes, and to all of you who came. This was a considerable outlay for the Chapter: all of you made it not just a social success, but we broke even too! Onwards and upwards!

March

Sun 19 **Pioneer Run.** Wasn't the weather kind to us! Cloudless day ... bright sunshine ... superb turnout ... glorious ride! Thanks Corkie! And it was most entertaining to see again some of those old timers from a previous era - both along the way and puttering about down in Brighton. But was it us or were there a lot less of them this year? Obviously age, breakdown and the increasing unavailability of spare parts take their toll, so we take our hats off to the determination of all who continue with their passion for the past. See you next year!

Sun 12 **Breakfast with the devil** ... Lovely ride through a crisp morning to a welcome breakfast at the Devil's Punchbowl Café. Nice one Graham! And well done to Tania for her first ride-out and one of the most confident and well-executed overtakes the road crew have seen - excellent riding!

Sun 5 **Lunch in Littlehampton.** Well, late breakfast really. Couldn't have asked for a better day in early March: not too cold, lovely and sunny, destination perfect. Well done Mark McTigue for leading the ride so well, ably supported by Corkie at the back on his brand new Road King. No-one can miss those lights!

February

Sun 26 **Dog's breakfast run.** Homage to the nine hardy souls from Surrey HOG who turned up for this one - but they did not brave the hard cold sleet in Dorking High Street for nothing. The cold remained, but the precipitation quickly vanished as we headed south. And the sun came out as we joined the other 80 bikes on the scenic calvacade from Shoreham to the RSPCA at Patcham. Lovely biker atmosphere as we wandered round the animal enclosures with welcome coffee and biscuits. They certainly won't go hungry with all the chow we dropped off there. And the sun then came out big time for a lovely country lanes ride home. Just great.

Sun 12 **Bacon Buttie Brunch** at the dealership. Wow - what a great event! Great timing with the weather too - munching on bacon rolls in the warm and dry seemed to be a particularly good choice for the day! Start of Season Party tickets started selling well as soon as they went on sale and the Ultimate Ear guy was doing a brisk trade too - see new link to them [here](#). Two bikes sold to boot! It was great chatting to so many people after these cold days. Big thanks to Terry for organising this and to Mike, Tanya and Wendy for their essential support. And thanks to Yasha who came in on her day off to help. Brilliant!