

## 2007

(Logs for previous years are available from the Members area)

### Dec

Sat 8 **Gothic Christmas Cracker** What a fantastic party! The transformation of the venue into a Gothic dungeon was a triumph for the Surrey HOG Party Team, headed up by Sharon and Howard. Huge thanks to them, as well as everyone else - especially our assistant constructors from Meridian Chapter. The event was a blast from beginning to end, and such a pleasure to see our friends from neighbouring HOG Chapters. The gothic theme sparked everyone's imagination and the outfits a sight to behold! Congratulations to all the Raffle winners - we raised well over £200 for Surrey HOG charities - and special congratulations to the lucky goth who won the specially inscribed state of the art iPod nano on the ticket number draw. HOGWASH were brilliant and the venue was superb - ably supported by Ted and his staff. We will be back for our Club Night Supper on 7 Feb!

### Nov

Sun 18 **Colin's Early Bird Breakfast Ride** to Kent. Well, the tough guys enjoyed themselves anyway!

Sun 11 **Remembrance Ride** We met at Rykas in time for the 2 minute silence at 11, and were very pleased to be joined by Thames Valley Chapter. Then Andy led a long line of Harleys on a fantastic ride through the Surrey lanes to the churchyard war memorial at Shamley Green where we laid our Chapter wreaths. We finished up for refreshments at the Hautboy pub where they opened up the Oboe Bar for us. A special day.

Sun 4 **Spooky Ride** Early fog lifted to reveal glorious late Autumn sunshine for the Chapter pilgrimage to Chislehurst Caves, where Jimi Hendrix and the Stones played underground just round the passageway from where druid sacrifices took place 1000 years before! We were very pleased to be joined by several new Surrey members and by a few Meridian and Chelsea & Fulham Chapter members as well. A lot of bikes for the time of year and an excellent day!

### Oct

Sun 21 2 for 1 in the sun on Sun 21!

**Hoggin' the Bridge** is Bridgwater Chapter's totally awesome annual charity fund raising ride. This year - its 8th - the Surrey Bravehearts' gamble paid off and it was one of the best yet. Lovely sunshine all day after a cold start delivered an outstanding 3,500 bikes over the Bridge and into Chepstow! Great weekend starting with the ride down and Sat evening with 1066 and ending with a glorious ride back through A4 towns and villages. Autumn Harley riding at its best!

**Run in the sun** - was just that. Those brave enough to venture out early Sunday morning in the frost were rewarded with a splendid ride through the lesser known byways of Surrey, via Petworth, Bury Hill for a coffee and chat to other Harley riders from the New Forest, Arundel and Littlehampton, to visit the new *Driftwood Café* on the seafront before finishing up with the best Fish and Chips in Sussex on the harbour wall. The sun shines on Surrey HOG again!

Sun 14 **Dave's Sunday Jaunt** Advertised as a nice ride through the lanes to biker's breakfast at the Devil's Punch Bowl, Hindhead. In the event, a complete understatement! Fabulous lanes that not many had ever seen before. Dave will need to do this one again!

- Sun 7 **Gone in 60 seconds!** Well, the breakfast was, but the glorious weather also made sure we had some time to chat in the sun while the chuck wagon lines slowly shortened. The crowds appreciated our Harley presence on top of the large number of classic American autos. And Graham parked us right in the middle of the lot - nice one! A fair few had time to go on down to Brightona when the breakfast event was done - a lovely day all round.
- Sep**
- Sun 30 **Breakfast before Bodiham**
- 21-23 **Wye Not ride to the Forest of Dean** What an amazing weekend! Catherine's first major event as Road Crew - a ride to her birthland - was an outstanding, truly memorable trip. We didn't seem to stop laughing - except to eat. And as for that Nigel - we don't think we've seen the last of his drumming in Surrey HOG!
- Sun 16 **RIP Ride** to Highgate Cemetery
- Sat 8 **Woody's Midnight Madness** On a clear saturday evening a surge of New Surrey members joined Graham & Gina for the 'Midnight Madness' London City Tour. With many of our members attending European events our Activities Officer and new road crew were given a baptism of fire, successfully navigating the large group through Graham's complex City route without losing a single member. A brilliant reception with the usual sea of flashbulbs at Covent Garden prompted one young member to comment "This must be the closest thing to being a movie star. As we left Covent Garden he was justly rewarded when some scantily dressed beauties climbed out both side windows of a stretch Limo to take pictures of the group for the length of the Strand. The tour of floodlit London landmarks finished at our favorite Turkish restaurant on the south bank where Surrey HOG filled the reserved terrace and enjoyed some delicious delicately spiced Turkish food washed down with a few beers.
- 6-9 **Faaker See 2007** Surrey HOG were there again on the shores of this fabulous Austrian lake for the biggest Harley Rally in Europe. More details as we get them from the returning riders.,
- 1-2 **Reims Champagne Rally** Our twin Chapter did us proud again this year with Champagne breakfasts and memorable evenings in great venues - all joined up by wonderful riding through the French Ardennes. This year the Reims Chapter extended Surrey HOG the honour of helping to road crew the ride - French style! Thanks Pierre, Gerard and all the other Reims Officers who made the Rally possible. And thanks to Annie for the liaison work to set this up again. We can hardly wait for next year!
- Aug**
- Mon 27 **Bank Holiday Breakfast in Bognor** Quite a few fancied this one - gorgeous A29 route on another gorgeous morning. Just as well Colin called ahead to book our tables for a Full English in the sun and by the sea. Glorious!
- Sun 26 **Wings & Wheels at Dunsfold Airshow** Brilliant day out in brilliant summer weather - photos and videos say it all!
- Sun 12 **Surrey HOG Garden Party** The only shower of the afternoon (and was it a heavy one!) came after we had all safely returned from a wild mixed Harley and Hot Rods ride-out. And what a

ride-out! More than 50 bikes from the joined forces of Surrey and 1066 Chapters plus 10 cars from the Surrey Hotrodders - brilliant stuff with people out of their houses and waving through the Sussex villages! Thanks to the Gary for a fantastic Surrey Lanes ride, the Carsons for the venue, Howard and Sharon for all their organisation and the Sussex ride, Dave Francis and the Receders for the live music and everyone who came. Very nice to welcome David and Sheila Lewis too - the Bisley Rally Management - a lovely afternoon!

3-5 **SOFER 4** at Bisley. What a rally! Phenomenal weather, record attendance, wonderful atmosphere. Couldn't ask for more! Keep the photos and videos coming in - send them [here](#) and view them [here](#). You can also see photos taken by others [here](#) and [here](#).

## July

Sun 29 **Steaming Summer Ride** This was not a promising looking Sunday morning for a steaming summer ride. The weather was not looking good. Since no-one fancied riding all the way to Dymchurch & being out all day, Colin Shonfield said he knew a wiggly woad way to the Chalet café at Cowfold so that is just what we did. Breakfast blow-outs all round plus 2 poached eggs on toast!!!!!!!!!!!! No names!

Sun 15 **Hastings Holy Grail** Graham found a wonderful route to Hastings in the most glorious weather. It was a pleasure to welcome several new members on their first ride with us too. And yes, we found the Holy Grail itself - fish 'n' chip heaven. Glorious ride home too. Strange then, the news that evening of freak hail stones in Hastings. It seems the Holy Grail turned into Golfball Hail just hours after we left! Now there's a lucky thing!

Sat 14 **Headley Village Fair** Surrey HOG raises the flag at Headley Fair Day! Shortest ride of the year from Rykas to Boxhill for a static display of chrome and horsepower. Somehow the machines looked right at home in Headley's agricultural setting ...

Sun 8 **Paras Parade** Surrey HOG helped swell the numbers for this major military event celebrating the contribution of Parachute Regt veterans - especially in the Falklands. We joined New Forest and Thames Valley Chapters to form a large invasion of Portsmouth and Southsea, culminating in the military parade along the sea front. The Paras were very pleased to see us and have already invited us again next year. It was a pleasure to do our bit to honour them. Thanks for the invite, Spud!

Sat 7 **Queen on Fire** What a fortnight! Non-stop rain wiped out the last two weekends ... but never mind, because this event at Polesden Lacey was a great way to celebrate the return of the good weather. The band lived up to expectations and Sharon, Mark and Danielle produced a surprise feast for everyone to mark Howard's big 5-0. A lovely evening with special parking for the bikes. Everyone seemed please to see us - even one or two old members of the Chapter who were pleased to catch up with us again.

## June

Sun 17 **Harleys R Us at Petworth House** The National Trust at Petworth House invited New Forest and Surrey HOG members to join them for a special 'Harley Fathers Day'. The idea was to display loads of Harleys on the lawns next to the house as a surprise treat for all the fathers bringing their family to the house on Fathers Day. We were given free entrance to the grounds; and the NT were even persuaded to give us free entrance to the House as well for all those

culture vultures amongst us! Corky's ride from Dorking through the Surrey lanes was certainly more relaxed than the blast to Avebury the previous week, and we met up with the New Forest Branch at Petworth House to form an impressive display of Milwaukee Iron on the lawns for the afternoon. As usual, Joe Public came up with all the usual questions – *Can I take picture?* – Of course! – *How big is the engine?* – Bigger than most cars! – *How heavy is the bike?* Very – especially when you drop it! – *How fast does it go?* I don't know – there is a 70mph speed limit in this country you know! Seriously though – we loved being there – they loved seeing us and it was great to meet up with fellow HOGS from New Forest. Afterwards, we received this email from the NT: "*We just wanted to say a big thank you to you and your Chapter for making it such a great day yesterday. The bikes were absolutely fabulous and very interesting characters to talk to. All our visitors enjoyed it (no complaints - which is a first) and we recruited about 50 new members because of it. I hope you all enjoyed it too and meeting up with a fellow Chapter. Thank you all again - you are a great bunch of people and hope you will visit us again.*"

- Sun 10 **Hauling up the Spinnaker** Great ride to Gun Wharf Quays, ground zero for the Spinnaker Tower. Weather was amazing as was the view of Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight from the top. Surrey HOG's bravest – curiously all female – walked the glass view point. Fantastic fish lunch and a relaxing ride home - ahhhhhh - what a great way to spend a sunny summer Sunday!
- Sat 9 **Shepperton Village Fair** Surrey HOG Harleys performed a fantastic sweep through Shepperton Village High Street at the front of the Procession. Sirens wailing and people waving - what a sight! Then we parked up in the arena for half an hour for a static display. A novel feature this year was the Fair Announcer on the back of the lead bike, commentating for the crowds back in the arena via radio control mike. Absolutely tremendous! Then it was a nice sit down in the beer tent for complimentary drinks and later, burgers and hog roast. It could be you as well next year - we'll be back!
- Sun 3 **Lord of the Rings** The weather forecast was bad – heavy rain moving in from the west, and the review of the selected venue for lunch was worse – "*A poorly organised, unwelcoming, exploitive pub, tables were sticky and dirty and the food was nothing special*". In spite of this an enthusiastic and excited group joined Corky at Rykers at 10 to head west with the sun on our backs, to Avebury in the heart of the Wiltshire Downs, the largest known stone ring in the world –even older than Stonehenge. For some it was the first ride with Surrey HOG – for more details you must wait for the magazine! For others it was the fastest ride with Surrey HOG, well it was a straight duel carriageway at the time and Corky had to check if the Stage 2 1550 conversion was worth it! In spite of the weather forecast the sun shone all day, the pub gave us Sunday lunch and there was even time to fit in some druid worship if required! A great day out yet again!

## May

- 25-28 **HOG in the Woods** Keith played a blinder with this one! Fantastic 3 night weekend in the very centre of the Ardennes Forest. Days spent tooling around fabulous twisties, evenings spent back at the Hunting Lodge hotel, which we completely took over for the duration. Gourmet food, Belgian beer fountain, high good humour and the very best company. Oh and not to forget the most astounding luck with the weather, which turned only as we exited the Tunnel back in the UK. You can depend on Blighty.
- Wed 23 **Palmers go to Rolls Royce** What a simply perfect day to spend on the bike as we wound our

way through the lanes to a superb pub lunch spot – Steve & Ruthie's local – followed by a VIP visit to the Rolls Royce factory at Goodwood. The tour was just fascinating and out front, two internationally recognised quality brands with equally long (100+ year) histories stood side by side. A great sight, a great site and a great day. Thanks Steve and Ruth!

- Sun 20      **Whitstable Oyster Run** Nice relaxing ride up the A25, coffee stop in nice country pub, more riding through increasingly tiny Kentish country lanes, then the sunshine, seafood and fish'n'chips in the delightful beach and harbour area at Whitstable. Lovely day!
- Sat 12      **Moules et Frites** Keith stepped up to the plate for this one after Roger had to rush off to Syria for a 3 month movie shoot. As we rolled off the train in Calais, the grim and rather early start transformed into sunny, dry and beautifully clear conditions that lasted all day - even for the final blast back home in the UK. From Calais Keith took us cross country on winding lanes ending up at great lunch within the old walled city of Boulogne. Then down into the town and back along the coast road through a series of villages for some spectacular views of the bays and beaches of Northern France. Great day out for older and newer riders alike. Good to have some of the 1066 Chapter with us too!
- Sun 6      **Toast on the Coast** For the non-chocoholics, Graham led a nice blast down the back lanes to Brighton, a biker's breakfast on the beach with floorboard scraping return route through the lanes via Horsham & Ruspur, back in time for the superbikes. Excellent!
- 5-7      **Chocolate Soldier** Superb weekend in Bruges organised by Keith. The Motorcycle Loft impressed us all again with its laid back biker-oriented approach and the DJ's playlist on Sat night till late was perfect. Keith's route to Bruges through Ypres was well chosen and the spectacle of the large number of bikes entering the main square in Bruges on Sun was received with the usual admiration by the many tourists. Even better after Roger had moved his bike from between the queue and the horse carriages they were waiting for! The audience was even bigger as a huge band finished its set and we roared out of the square just before 6,000 marathon runners came through. What a sight! Refreshments on the front at Ostend was followed by the spectacle of 50 or so American cruisers - huge iconic cars from the 50s and 60s. It only rained on us Monday as we rode home, but it didn't take the smile off our faces! We've already booked this one again for next year!
- Thu 3      **First Club Night at the Hautboy.** Wow! What an amazing turnout! And what a great venue! I think we convinced ourselves that this place is a worthy place for Surrey HOG to meet every first Thursday of the month. Great to see the Surrey Hot Rods there too. Can't wait for the next one!

## April

- Sun 29      **Sussex Lanes** Cracking ride in the Spring warmth through the Sussex twisties - in fact through lanes we didn't know were there! Fantastic turn-out, fine route and perfect pace from the dynamic duo
- Sun 22      **Will the Weald ride please stand up?** Yes it did! Gary's Plan B was designed to avoid the diversions and traffic in London for the Highgate Cemetery ride, due to the Marathon. Instead he took us on a delightful ride in empty leafy lanes through the Weald of Kent, ending up at a 60's diner in Ashford, where the service was amusingly variable but Keith (Do you know who I am?) Dorling was finally served his burger :- ) Nice ride, Gary and Chris!

- Sun 15      **Palmers go to Goodwood** Is it Spring or is it Summer? Glorious Goodwood came very early this year for us! Ruth and Steve lined up a special visit to Goodwood House for Surrey HOG. Lord March gave us special permission to park the bikes in front of the house for a photo shoot - a stunning sight under blue skies and warm sunshine. The ride down was Dave Atkinson's first at the front, ably assisted by Andy, and between them they chose some great country lanes. The Goodwood guide was fantastic and the pub garden lunch spot perfect. A well organised team effort - brilliant!
- Fri 6      **Wheels & Wild Hogs** Glorious ride to the amazingly well attended Wheels Day at Aldershot's Rushmore Arena to see 2500 custom vehicles including some great custom and vintage Harleys. Then, for some it was on to the Wild Hogs ride-in event at the Ace Café - girls, chilli, stunt riders and an afternoon's fun in the sun.
- Sun 1      **Morning After Ride** I wonder if it's true what they are saying about a record breaking summer in 2007? If today was anything to go by, they could be right! Lovely sunshine, early spring warmth and freshly washed and dried roads made this a superb run to Frankie and Benny's for brunch. Thanks to Howard for leading this and to Norman for tail-ending.
- March**
- Sat 31      **SOS Party** What a great way to gear ourselves up for the riding season! Lovely relaxed evening of music, chat, wonderful grub and a few drinks – thanks Sharon!
- Sun 25      **Breakfast at the Ace** Five bikes with pillions turned up for the early morning drizzle meet at Rykas. The other twenty-odd expected all forgot to put their clocks forward and probably turned up after we had departed. It didn't look so good, weather wise, so I didn't blame any absentees on this ride but as we entered Richmond Park on route to The Ace the clouds parted and disappeared to leave us with strong sunshine and warmth for the rest of our journey north west. We arrived at The Ace in the middle of Kawasaki Day, and joined the queue for breakfast. And what a breakfast we had! The largest plate you can imagine full of the best fry-up you could wish for and all for a fiver including beverage of your choice ... luvrly! We had a good gossip around our table before admiring the numerous rice burners. You thought Harley owners spend money on their bikes? Some of these bikes were 'overloaded' with extras had paint jobs to die for and some, the odd cylinder of Nitrous too! We departed in sunshine at around 12:30, (or for some among us, 11:30), for a lovely ride home to Surrey. Fingers crossed, the weather on future weekends will be as sweet!
- Sun 18      **Pioneer Run.** The forecast was Arctic winds, sleet and snow. But for those who braved the cold and wet start, it was smiles all round at Rykas when Surrey HOG met up in the sunshine to join two vintage Harleys and 360 other pre-1915 bikes who had registered for the Pioneer Run to Brighton. We avoided the busy main route used by the veterans and instead Colin led us through the leafy lanes of Surrey directly to the Chalet Truck Stop at Cowfold – the preferred stop for real bikers – to watch the procession of vintage and some not so vintage machinery pass by, while reviving ourselves with hot coffee. Particularly impressive were a group of early 60's BSA Gold Stars who opened them up for our benefit as they passed. From there. Steve took over and it was on to Shoreham and then along the coast into Brighton to inspect in detail the survivors of the run from Epsom Downs to Madeira Drive. In spite of the forecast the weather turned out great and everyone was home safely before the sleet did actually appear late in the day.
- Sun 11      **Frosty's Breakfast Ride.** So who thought that name up then? 'Cos it wasn't frosty and it

wasn't breakfast either! Wonderful start of season ride in absolutely glorious weather. The ride would have been over far too soon at the Devil's Punch Bowl, Gary and his back seat driver, Graham, just kept on going – through village after village until we hit the Smith and Western at Chichester for a superb burger brunch. Great turn-out on a great day for it! Summer's not here yet, but you could have fooled us!