

2009

Full logs for previous years are available from the Members Area

Dec

Sat 12

Hogsback Christmas Cracker What do you get when you put a bunch of far out hippies with the smart sixties set, throw in a few boys from The Shed, a spaceman, a great live band called The Mods, all bopping together in a faithful recreation of Carnaby Street? What you get is the **Summer of '69** - the latest and greatest Hogsback Christmas party! Wow, what an amazing evening. The skills and dedication of fabricators Martin Oliver and Dave Knight and the hours of construction by Howard's crew were to be seen to be believed. Fabulous evening enjoyed by all - including a fair number of dealership folk and new DP, Russ Dacre and the gorgeous Alethea. The Mods were just outstanding and with sound by Bevo, and promotion by Andy, they showed they are just at home in Bookham's version of Carnaby Street as on the main stage at Faaker See. Plus we raised just shy of £300 for our Chapter Charities - outstanding!

Thu 3

Club Night Special We were all down at the dealership for our December Club Night. In exchange for giving in to the temptation to buy something or other for the Christmas stocking, we were treated to complimentary eats and drinks, not to mention the great atmosphere generated by a great Chapter literally at home with an equally great dealership. Great event running up to Christmas.

Nov

Thu 19

Fashion Show What an excellent evening! Such fun! Good food. Good company. Great way of seeing the merchandise that is on sale. Thanks to all at the dealership for all their hard work and to Ruth and the other LOH for making it happen. Plus we made nearly £170 for our charity account!

Sun 8

Remembrance Ride Leafy lanes meant Andy needed to stay on wider roads for safety, but it didn't rain and the 33 bikes plus trike from Hogsback and Thames Valley Chapters got a welcome reception from the locals who had just finished their service when we thundered in to Shamley Green. Mac's pipes provided a fitting accompaniment to our tribute and then it was down to the pub. A worthwhile day!

Thu 5

Club Night Fireworks Special The good folks at Bookham Grange organised a great night (with a little help from Chapter!). Bonfire, hog roast, jacket potatoes, mulled wine, HUGE fireworks display. The 200 Chapter and family members that came along certainly seemed to enjoy themselves!

Oct

Sat 31

Spooky Ride The few - the very few - who looked out of their windows and decided that the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' was going to become another Indian Summer's Day, they were not only right. They also had the benefit of a delightful country ride with the bonus of the entertaining surprises contained deep within the Chislehurst Caves. For the rest, you'll have to wait another year!

- Sun 25 **Ken's Breakfast Ride** 15 bikes on a nice day. Rykas to the Chalet Café, Cowfold. Dell was at the back with Andy running in his new Road King. Food was worth the wait!
- Sun 18 **Hoggin the Bridge 10** Steve and Catherine led 23 Hogsback bikes down to join with the thousands converging on Bridgwater Chapter's 10th annual charity bash. Despite the very reasonable start time, we arrived in plenty of time - via Membury Services - for a coffee and a stretch before setting off over the Severn Valley Bridge at 11am and then invading Chepstow, where the streets were soon thronging. Fabulous day, fabulous sight and fabulous sound - the constant roar all day was something else. Gorgeous day for it too! And for those who returned via the empty twisties of the A4, what a great ride back!
- Sun 11 **Brightona** Carl says "We left Rykas with 28 bikes this year, including several newer members, some for the first time. Heading for the south coast out of Dorking I could see behind me how disciplined all the riders were. I felt a true sense of pride in leading an official HOG chapter ride. Brighton sea-front was packed as usual, and John Tenner got a good work out on his road king clutch operation. Great to see Guildford Harley-Davidson dealership flying the flag with their own display stand. This is the third year I have been and the fish and chips get better and better".
- Sat 10 **Ride To The Wall** Another amazing spectacle and another amazing opportunity for bikers all over the UK to pay their respects to those who have fallen since WWII. Hogsback Chapter started very early in the morning to arrive at Drayton Manor before 9.30. Hogsback Road Crew then rode out with 50 other Marshals ahead of the main ride to cover all the roundabouts, intersections and pedestrian crossings on the 18 mile route to the National Memorial Arboretum. 3,000 bikes rode in the main convoy, with Dave and Sandra flying our Chapter flag in the front section. Many more bikes made their own way to a packed site. The BBC estimated 6,000 people were there and we can believe it. Major General Lamont Kirkland, who had ridden his own Harley-Davidson from Aldershot, gave a short address. The pipers played, and a lone spitfire gave a stunning low level flypast, courtesy of the RAF. This event owes a great deal to Nene Valley Chapter Director Martin Dickinson - and to the thousands of us who responded, raising a huge amount of money in support of the Arboretum. It owes unimaginably more to those whose memory we honoured. You need to do this next year!
- Sun 4 **Maserati Magnifica** After finishing the 'dead rock stars' tour in London at midnight on Saturday, some brave souls were up again early on Sunday morning to join Graham for a 9am departure from Rykas for the Maserati Magnifici at Goodwood. On a brilliant sunny autumn morning the first 17 bikes enjoyed a progressive ride on near empty Sussex lanes arriving on time for the rendezvous with 10 more bikes ridden by our Sussex based members in the market square at Petworth. We left in good time for a biker's breakfast at Goodwood, sitting on the lawn enjoying the sunshine & chewing the fat, before admiring the impressive display of Maserati, Ducati, Ferrari and other Italian machinery, returning home in time for Moto GP and F1 - another great autumn morning.
- Sat 3 **Dead Rock Stars** Twenty Chapter members joined Andy to pay their respects to Rock and Roll legends who had fallen by the wayside on account of their various excesses. Tears were shed at the Marc Bolan statue and Steve Cork's bike was so overcome at Freddy Mercury's house that it promptly died and refused to continue the ride. On to

Jimmy Pages Gothic mansion where Graham had to be restrained from making an offer, and onward through the streets of London as the pilgrimage continued. Hendrix, Mama Cass, Keith Moon the Loon and Brian Epstein, all their final departure gates were celebrated. A Rock and Roll eatery had to be our final destination and Bill Wyman's Sticky Fingers did us proud with its good food, great atmosphere and wonderful staff. It fitted the bill perfectly, even Steve's bike could not resist and recovered sufficiently to bring it's owner there in time for a burger.

Sep

- Sun 27 **Bandits at 9 o'clock!** 26 bikes left Rykas on what was a beautiful late September day, heading for Biggin Hill for breakfast, taking the A25 to Westerham. A change of direction as we arrived at Biggin Hill took us through Downe village, past the home of Charles Darwin, and back towards the famous Battle of Britain airport. A short stop for a group photo with the Spitfire and Hurricane gate guardians and then off to the Spitfire Cafe. Tables had been reserved for us inside and what an impressive site as we parked up along the pavement! Breakfast was fantastic too - with a variation on the Full English to suit every taste - excellent!
- Sun 20 **Forget-Me-Not Ride** Around 40 Hogsback Chapter bikes set off to Godstone Green sporting Forget-Me-Not blue rosettes in support of Catherine and Dave's ride for the Alzheimer's society. After coffee on the green we met Ruth Langsford from ITV's 'This Morning' who was one of the sponsored walkers and were photographed for the local paper. The ride then continued to Squerryes Court, a stately home near Westerham where we parked up on the lawns between the house and lake for a group photo in this idyllic setting before returning to the green to form a static display for the returning walkers. We raised over £200 for our Club Charity. Thanks to all of you who came along and made the day such a success!
- 8-13 **European Bike Week, Faaker See** Veteran Hogsback members Ernst, Vera and Nigel accompanied some newer Chapter members on the spectacular ride to this annual Austrian biker fest at Faaker See. If you are thinking of going, these photos should convince you to make it sooner rather than later! Stunning riding and memorable scenery. It's what you and your Harley were made for!
- Sun 13 **Brighton Burn Up** 35 Hogsback bikes turned up at Rykas for Ken's ride to Brighton, but thousands descended on the place, with the road signposted by the many Scooters broken down beside it! Despite the numbers, the traffic flowed remarkably well and bikes were parked everywhere. Madeira Drive was jam packed and seemingly every approach road was as well. There were some fantastic bikes on display and as well as some interesting owners. Lunch, a drink (or two) some tyre kicking, live music, the beach, the sunshine and before you knew it, was time to go home ... avoiding the numerous Police speed traps!
- 11-13 **Weekend in Whitby** We roamed the North Yorkshire Moors; we explored Heartbeat country; we munched on cream teas; we mingled with the goths; we wowed the locals; and we rode the coastal roads around the delightful fishing port of Whitby. And all in the most magnificent weather of the summer! Fantastic weekend with a great crowd - including our very own John Tenner, on his first weekend ride!

Sun 6 **Hogsback Convergence Ride** What a way to end the season of Inter-Chapter rides! 120 bikes from all 5 Bisley Chapters - including 45 from Hogsback - converged on Newlands Corner before a Surrey Lanes ride to the Bookham Grange, flawlessly marshalled by the awesome Hogsback Road Crew. At the Grange, Bad Influence (Bisley band) played in the background while we all lunched on burgers and beer in the late summer warmth. MitziTV was there for interviews to camera, the £100 iPod first prize in the Charity 3 Card Brag game was won by Ian of 1066 and we raised over £200 for our Charities fund. And the band played on. We think we might do this one again!

Aug

Sun 30 **Wings & Wheels** On a dry but overcast day, Ken took us on a very pretty ride through leafy lanes arriving at Dunsfold for an air display which was simply awesome. A very pleasant day.

Sat 29 **New members ride** 22 new members & 6 Road Crew enjoyed a complimentary bacon roll & coffee from the chuck wagon outside GH-D, sponsored by DP John Tenner. After a briefing from Safety Officer Graham, the group split into two rides. One was led by Road Captains Graham, Colin & Gary, with the other by Steve, Andy & Catherine. The planned scenic route of A & B roads, dual carriageway and single track roads gave ample opportunity to practice riding in formation, the 'drop off' and negotiating narrow single track roads and road humps. Both groups met at Rykas and after a de-brief, joined in a mass ride out into the Surrey Hills for a bikers lunch - another 22 members now confident to join the wide-ranging Hogsback riding programme.

28-31 **Reims Champagne Rally** 15 Hogsback bikes with 25 Chapter members aboard joined 50 French and Belgian bikes for a spectacular series of rides through Champagne villages and up into the Belgian and French Ardennes. Our twin Chapter, Reims, certainly knows its roads! Weather perfect, company convivial, and road crewing once again awesome - a most enjoyable and exciting weekend!

Sun 23 **Close to the Edge, Down by the River...** to a pub close to the edge of the spectacular annual Shoreham Airshow. 28 Hogsback bikes rode through the lanes to a perfectly placed pub garden where we were joined by two more bikes. Our conviviality was interrupted from time to time by the overhead action - especially the awesome Eurofighter doing vertical climbs from 250 feet. Great ride on a perfect riding day - nice one, Roger!

Sun 16 **Run Rabbit Run** Andy's gentle jaunt through country lanes to the Black Rabbit at Arundel for a pleasant lunch in good company. Lovely to see more new members join this 22 bike ride-out on a nice day for it.

14-16 **Cornish Pasty Ride** Relaxed weekend with Gary and Chris and 16 other Chapter members as we visited some of the rare and true delights of North Cornwall. We rode through Polzeath (where, if you live in Surrey, you are bound to meet someone you know on the beach); we mooched around Padstow (better known these days as Padstein); lunched in Port Isaac (where the TV series Doc Martin is shot); and best of all, spent two memorable nights in the Camelot Castle Hotel, hosted by the self-styled World's Greatest Living Artist and his dedicated promoter. And, you know, by all the images on display, you could tell you were in the presence of something quite

astonishing. A great weekend!

7-9 **SOFER 6 at Bisley** WOW! What a Rally! Now that's how to chill in the heat of summer with 2,000 HOG friends and 1,400 Harleys. Andy's evening bands were sensational. Vera's *Mamma Mia* LOH ride was a huge success with lots of Agnethas and Anni-Frids taking part - look out for the coverage in Hog Tales! Norm and Dave's Sat evening buffet t, sponsored by our good friends at Guildford H-D, surpassed last year's high standard and well over 100 Chapter Members were joined by our special guests from our twinned Reims Chapter. Donations from this and the 80 people who entered Steve and Catherine's well organised Poker Run generated over £750 for Hogsback Chapter Charities! Howard and Hedley's merchandising outlet had phenomenal sales all weekend - with all profits going to SOFER. Special thanks to the very many Hogsback volunteers who made this event the most amazing SOFER so far - including Wendy Evans work in Registration, Ruth's raffle sales, and Sharon's phenomenal Rally ticket coordination, endless smiles and boundless energy. Thanks too, to Carl for organising our Chapter Challenge Team: Nick won the Human Demolition and Amy managed to stay on board the Bucking Bronco for 126 seconds to easily beat a large number of other hopefuls! We now need more space in the dealership to display two more huge cups! Overall, Hogsback came 3rd equals (with 1066), just beaten by Invicta and (surprise, surprise!) Nene Valley - not a bad result out of 9 Chapters who entered! We are all only just getting over it, but already we can't wait for SOFER 7!

Sun 2 **Whitstable Oyster Run** 25 bikes roared into Whitstable High Street - including expat Hogsback member Patrick Munroe, now in residence in Ramsgate: nice to see him again! Oysters, fish & chips, beach, weather were all up to Whitsable's high standards. Ride was an interesting meander through the A, B and C roads of Surrey, Sussex and central Kent. Great to see so many newer members on this ride, as well as old faces. Lovely day.

Jul

25-26 **Iceni Invasion** We came, we saw, we conquered - but only in the nicest possible way of course! Carl and Flo led 50 Hogsback members on 36 bikes, - just outnumbering the local Iceni tribesmen. Great riding and great weekend with our sister Chapter. Carl & Flo did a lot of work for this one - and it showed - backed up with some energetic involvement from Ross and the Iceni crew. Sat evening party at Graham Dacre's marina was most entertaining - complete with boat rides, a fine live blues band, hog roast and a bar that only shut down when we did! Excellent weekend - huge thanks to all involved.

Sun 19 **Lord of the Rings** For the third year in succession, the Corks topped and tailed this excellent ride to the Avebury Rings. 6000 years of history in a couple of hours was a great challenge when we got there - but not as much as the memorable lunch. Complete with huffing staff, long delays, and sticky tables, it was all exactly as Corkie advertised - outstanding stuff! What wasn't forecast was the rebate on the food bill due to the shocking service - a welcome contribution to the Chapter charity account - then back on the bikes for a brisk ride home. Marvellous!

- Sat 18 **Holy Harley Hop** A bit of a damp ride to the Oakdene Cafe where we met up with about 25 Meridian Bikes. The rain held off for much of the ride out through some beautiful Kent countryside and villages, arriving at the venue about 7.30 pm. The band was "very average" and the master of ceremonies seemed to find it hard going with the charity raffle and auction with the low turn out, due to the weather,. The BBQ food was excellent though and I'm sure we all raised a few bob for their worthy cause.
- Sun 12 **Southend on sea** - Bikes left Godstone Pond on time and had an uneventful ride round the M25. Met Dave Shean at Thurrock Services who led us (Scenic Route) to Southend. Met up with prospective new member Roger Hawkes(Skipper). Watched the tide come in over a cup of tea and wended our merry way home. Nice day!
- 10-13 **Kruise to Koblenz** Great trip to the confluence of the Moselle and Rhine, well planned and executed by the Palmers. A weekend full of interest, variety and good riding on great roads. Mustard mill tour was hot, atmosphere was chilled, company was warm and weather was dry - a really good weekend!
- Thu 9 **Sunset Cruise & BBQ** Ride started from Box Hill on a lovely warm evening, taking in some of the Surrey Lanes to a pub in Dorking for dinner with Morris dancing and a sing-a-long to end the evening ride.
- Sun 5 **Invicta Convergence Ride** 15 happy Harley riders left Rykas heading for what was to be an unbelievably well organised ride into the Kent countryside by Invicta Chapter. Meeting first at the services on the M20, around 75 bikes including some late comers from Hogsback and 1066 snaked our way though the back lanes with Invicta marshalling every junction on route, in advance. A band and several food outlets were laid on for our pleasure. The weather held and several small groups headed into the City centre to enjoy some sight seeing, churches and things! Well executed Invicta.
- Sat 4 **Independence Day BBQ** Late, lazy ride to the dealership was rewarded by a great live band, American Diner, Hogsback ale, some good offers in the dealership and a chinwag in the sun with friends. Lovely way to spend a sunny summer Saturday!
- June**
- Sun 28 **Battistinis or Bust** Nice long jaunt down to the legendary Battistini shop in Bournemouth for eye-watering candy of several varieties. Good weather and little traffic. And wasn't that Toby at the services? Hardly recognised him in those shorts
- 26-29 **Thunder on the Lakes** - Wow what a weekend ride! First to the Lakes, then onto Hadrian's wall taking in the Kirkstone and Wrynose pass, then a ride back home over the Yorkshire Dales. Over 1,000 miles covered - what a trip!
- Sun 21 **Harleys at Petworth** We returned, by special invitation of the National Trust, to display over 30 of our bikes to the adoring public on Fathers Day at Petworth House. Great afternoon with sunshine, BBQ, entertainment and free entry to the House for all Harley participants. National Trust Organiser, Jacky Boyle, told us *"As always it was fantastic to see so many brilliant Harleys all together. The feedback we had from our visitors was fantastic (even the people who did not know it was on and had just come to see the House). I hope you all enjoyed it too and if you have any feedback from your*

members please let me know so we can make it even better next year".

- Sat 20 **Woody's Midnight Madness** Over 30 Hogsback bikes followed Graham up the Kings Road and roared into the City via Buck House, Covent Garden, St Pauls and Tower Bridge and the sights of London. We finished up at a fantastic Turkish restaurant right next to the London Eye - a great night and an unexpected spectacle for the Covent Garden crowds. Outstanding!
- Sun 14 **Sammy Millers** - Nice ride to the Sammy Miller Museum with Norm leading. To end the day a ride around the lanes to a pub to end a great day out. Great stuff.
- Sat 13 **Shepperton Village Fair and Procession** 12 Hogsback bikes were joined by 12 more from the Icen Chapter to lead a big procession through Shepperton High Street. An estimated 8,000 people attended the Fair and many came over to see the bikes and chat to us after we rode into the Arena for a 30 minute static display. Several of us were interviewed on live Brooklands FM radio and the sunshine and crowds made this a great event for us. Excellent day out.
- 12-14 **Frisky French Frolics** The best way to invade France is to find a quiet little town on the banks of the Seine and sneak up on them in a surprise attack. Unfortunately we had a load of Harleys and the Hogsback Chapter so they were ready for us. Roger took the coastal path through Wimereux towards Normandy in glorious sunshine picking up Dave, Tina, Dell and Wendy on the way as they could not wait to get at the Moules and Frites and stayed in France the previous night. Lunch at Abbeville in the square was followed by more of the French countryside until we reached Caudebec-En-Caux, our base for the next two days. We left for Rouen the next morning and went the long way round by taking the ferry across the river and riding down the Seine until a convenient bridge brought us back. After lunch it was down to the Legend 76 Dealership who made us very welcome. A suitable table was found by the River that night before the call of the bars beckoned. Here lies a cautionary tale If you insist on turning the music up in the bar and start dancing in the streets the locals fight back and yours truly was mortally wounded by a clothes peg thrown from the 3rd floor by a French non-music lover. The ride was always intended to be laid back with enough riding to be fun and with plenty of time for relaxing and filling our faces in the way only Harley owners can, and that is exactly what we did
- Sat 6 **Roger plays Newmarket** What started out as a damp miserable morning turned into a nice little winner. It was odds on favourite that the weather would improve but the intrepid three members left the dealership replete in waterproof gear in the hope that we would find sun somewhere on route. It was at the 'Silver Bull Cafe' on the A10 that we met up with another four and had a hearty full English breakfast. Things were brightening up, and from then on we were bathed in sunshine for the rest of the day. At Black Bear HD in Newmarket we met with another two before heading off to the Harley Monument in Littleport about 30 minutes away. The pictures tell the story. A quick stop at the local canal side pub and we were on our way home. A good result.

May

- Sun 31 **Air Ambulance Day** Estee led a great ride on a fabulous day to Dunsfold air field. Close on 40 Hogsback bikes roared into the airfield to help Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulances raise money for further flying time. Around 20 more bikes followed from Thames Valley. It costs over £4,500 per day to keep the Surrey helicopter flying and we were very pleased to be able to help ahead of the Bisley Rally - from which the Air Ambulances also benefit. Then it was off to a local hostelry for refreshments via lanes that only Norm can find. Lovely day!
- Sat 30 **New Members Ride** Another dozen or so new Chapter members were shown the ropes by the Hogsback Chapter Road Crew - and a lovely day for it too! Questions and answers at both stops (Rykas and Newlands Corner) and some very positive feedback.
- Sun 24 **Corfe Castle Cruise** Glorious day for a long cruise through the countryside, though some heavy traffic required a little filtering on the way down. Lovely clear run on the way back. It was such a nice day that Yeovil-based members Linda and Bernie left home at 6.30am to get to Rykas in time for the departure! Outstanding!
- Sun 17 **Not so secret bunker** Unfortunately the weather for this ride was rather wet. However, 10 brave bikers found their way to the secret bunker and took refuge there until the worst of the hurricane had passed. Tthe weather improved for the ride back through some very pretty country lanes which we were unable to appreciate on the way up.
- Sun 10 **Hauling Up the Spinnaker** With the sun shining, 21 Harleys left the Guildford Dealership for the South Coast. Using as many back roads as possible we cruised down to Portsmouth. Free parking and easy access to the Spinnaker Tower, along with plenty of good food made the day really enjoyable.
- 7-10 **St Tropez Rally** Norm and Gwen went down with a group from Hogsback Chapter - where they met several other members, as you can see from their photo record. By all accounts it was a fantastic ride and rally - food for thought for even more of us in 2010!
- Sun 3 **Thames Valley Convergence Ride** Although numbers were depleted by The Chocolate Soldier, The Cider Rally and St. Tropez we managed to muster together 11 bikes at Rykas. Steve Cork led the ride with a double helping of Daves at the rear. Roger took the initiative as 'flying marshal' at the difficult intersections, so the ride was still intact at the M4 Reading Services convergence point. Somewhere in the region of 65 bikes made it to the Hatchgate pub at Bramshill, thanks to Russell Lovelock leading the way, where we found a warm welcome and some tasty BBQ'd food.
- 2-4 **Chocolate Soldier** Fabulous 3 days mooching through Belgium, munching on chocolate, dining on mussels and chips and generally having a great time. The weather was very kind to us and 18 Hogsback bikes did the usual awesome entrance to Bruges central square, as well as taking in the sea air over an ice cream at Ostende and cruising down wonderful coast on tbhe return leg. Great ride, Keith!

Apr

- Sun 26 **Hunt the Dragon Ride** After a damp start the skies cleared and 25 Harleys arrived at GH-D for the joint ride-out with TV Chapter. Short ride to Newlands Corner for a quick coffee and bacon roll while we waited for the boys and girls from Slough. Then over 50 Harleys set off together from Newlands Corner making our way along the A25 towards Westerham. Nice to see several new Hogsback riders among the group, each carefully looked after to ensure they got the full enjoyment and feeling of riding and being part of a group. Live music along with good food where waiting for us at the George & Dragon. Oh and a few sports type vehicles on display, in fantastic condition. Parking was tight - 9 is the new 3 in 'point- turning'! A great atmosphere with new friends made from both Chapters.
- Sat 25 **New Members Ride** Early showers cleared to a bright sunny morning. After coffee and introductions Graham gave a pre-ride briefing on the HOG riding style to another group of new members.
Afterwards two assembled groups led by Grahan and Steve marshaled by our Hogsback Road Crew set off for demonstration rides through the leafy Surrey lanes. After a descent of the zig-zag both groups re-joined at Ryka's for a de brief. Then a mass group climb up to Ranmore common and through tree-lined corridors to Newland's corner for brunch, where skies had cleared for us to enjoy the magnificent views over the Surrey downs. Many of new riders commented they had 'enjoyed our introduction to group riding - a great ride'. - A big thank you goes to the Hogsback Road Crew members (Steve, Colin, Carl, Dell, Richard, Dave and Andy) who contributed to the success of this introduction event.
- Sun 19 **Past & Present Ride** Loads of bikes on a glorious Sunday made for the London Motorcycle Museum for a gander at our glorious past and a hog roast special. What a great day!
- Sun 12 **St Roger's Egg Run** A dozen bikes picked their way through the fog and mist to raise £60 for our Charity fund as well as bringing chocolate and good cheer to some old folks, followed by an excellent lunch at the Watermill. Well done - and well deserved to all!
- Sun 5 **1066 convergence ride** A great idea for getting to know our fellow Chapters, this was the first of five planned convergence rides in 2009, each organised by one of the five Bisley Chapters. This month it was the turn of 1066. Nice ride through the lanes to Pease Pottage for the convergence, then a superb ride through the Sussex Weald to the Kings Head in North Chailey. Mass ride was well recced and managed by 1066, though perhaps a little long, given the ride to the convergence point by many of the riders. Our turn is in September - and we are planning a corker!
- Sat 4 **SOS Club Night Special** This is the kind of chilled event for which Hogsback Chapter has a well-deserved reputation. Chapter members piled in for fried chicken in a basket, some great music from the multi-talented Neil Mack and a fine evening of laughter and chat. A superb opportunity for members new and old to get to know each other ahead of a much anticipated riding season. Fantastic evening - Chapter thanks to organisers Howard, Sharon and Andy. Also to Roger and Tracy for organising the raffle, which raised nearly £200 for our Chapter Charities, and to the dealership for their generous donation of the raffle prizes.

Mar

- Sat 28 **New Members Ride + Thames Valley Grand Opening** Solid briefing by Graham on the do's and don'ts of group riding the HOG way, then the weather behaved itself while we took the long route to Newlands Corner for a coffee and a debrief. Then it was off on another scenic route to Thames Valley to see how they were getting on with their Grand Opening. They were doing fine, but we know a dealership that's better!
- Sun 22 **Pioneer Run** Wow - what a fantastic day for a nice ride to the coast! Norm's splendid route took in the bikingly awesome A272 on the way to Cowfold's Chalet Café where (after a short wait in line!) we once again munched on bacon rolls and sipped hot tea while we waved at the old timers pattering by. Then we thundered down to Brighton the scenic way to see who made it. Wonderful stuff.
- Sun 15 **LOH Luscious Lunch** Spring continued to blossom for Ruth's inaugural Ladies of Harley ride to a delightful beachside restaurant for a great lunch overlooking the sea at East Preston. Nicely paced ride through picturesque countryside, excellently road crewed by Catherine at the front in support of Ruth navigating, with tailenders Steve Cork and Steve Palmer. Lovely day!
- Sun 8 **Grand Opening Day 3: Ride-out Day** Following bacon rolls courtesy of the dealership, Dik led 28 bikes through the Surrey lanes in glorious sunshine to the Old Mill at Elstead. Lovely ride with many new members - a taste of things to come.
- Sat 7 **Grand Opening Day 2: Public Day** 2000 people and almost as many bikes descended on the dealership in early Spring sunshine that lasted nearly all day. The free hog roast from the 50's American Diner, the live music, hot rod or two and the huge Chapter ride-ins from surrounding HOG Chapters as well as visits from a welter of other motorcycle clubs all combined to create a vibrant and very successful day. Most of all, the people created an atmosphere that truly conveyed wholehearted Harley fun. Hogsback Chapter were there in force to witness the Charity presentations with the Mayor and Mayoress of Godalming officiating, followed by the Chapter photograph. An amazingly successful day that properly established the dealership as the 'Home of the Hogsback Chapter'.
- Fri 6 **Grand Opening Day 1: VIP evening** Special invitations went to the whole Hogsback Chapter - now doubled in size since the dealership opened its doors six months ago last Sep. And what an evening! The bubbly flowed all evening and the Chapter was honoured by the presence and kind words of owners Graham and Russ Dacre and host DP John Tenner. Marjorie Rae from HOG UK presented the Chapter with a special certificate recognising our origins in Oct 1991 as one of the oldest Chapters in the country - albeit now with the coolest name! A great evening that we have looked forward to for a very long time and which, on the night, exceeded even our high expectations!
- Sun 1 **Breakfast ride to Goodwood** - Excellent turnout with 17 bikes and lots of new members. Good ride down, led by Graham but very cold. The new members got a nice buzz from a biggish group and many enjoyed a full English in a great setting.

Feb

Sat 14 **Lovers Leap** A lovely little ride through the Surrey lanes. Shame it didn't happen owing to rather a lot of black ice on the very same Surrey lanes!

Jan

Sun 18 **Winter Breakfast Ride** Ride to Cowfold, led by Colin, for the intrepid few!