

#hardlynews
#bridgwaterhog
#bwhog



BRIDGWATER HOG
JULY 2024

HARDLY

NEWS



Every month, Bridgwater Chapter committee meets to discuss how to improve the Chapter.

The committee serves the membership so if you have ideas for an event, activity, ride or simply a way to attract new members, then we want your input.

So, what else should we be considering? If you have concerns or complaints please contact a committee member directly, it will be addressed.

**Let's keep this as a forum for positive suggestions please.
Bridgwater Chapter Committee**

Moggy's Bits

Sorry we didn't have a June mag, what with Jo taking over and then she was away riding to the Senigallia Rally, but from now on lovely Jo will be doing the magazine so please send your articles to editor@bridgwaterhog.co.uk. Like we have said before, it's your mag so get your bits in. Jo can only do the mag if she has articles to put in so get writing my lovelies!

The trip to the European Rally looked brilliant, so hopefully over the next couple of months we can read all about it and see all their photos. They haven't announced next year's Rally as yet but, as soon as they do, we'll let you know.

We've had some great rides over the past couple months, with Gary and Andy taking them during the week, so check the calendar and Facebook and join in much as you can. What with bloomin work and family commitments, I've not been able to do as much as I'd like but hey-ho, such is life. With all these miles you're all doing, if you have not already done so, please register your bike with Dave Kepple for the HOG mileage programme - you'll need VIN and HOG numbers, photo of mileage and bike reg. Dave is on our Facebook page, so send him a message for info. Once registered, all your miles are added to your annual mileage and you'll receive mileage patches, and then all of the miles go towards the chapter amount at the end of the year. We also do our own chapter competition, so top 3 males and females get trophies for most miles - just message Dave and he can explain it all further.

We have a couple of proms coming up at the beginning of July we need attendance for. One is on the 2nd, so please see Ryan, if you are able to help him. The other one is on the 5th and we will need 3 pillions, but more bikes would be great for the WOW factor! So far we have 6 volunteers, thank you Shirley, Bernie, Chris Earley, Andy Woodhead, Darrell and DaveBoy.

Moggy's Bits Cont...

For the 5th July, we are just gonna meet across the road from Taunton school and the lads are coming to us. A very short trip, but we need to be at the Matalan car park for 5.30pm - hope that's still ok 😊 Let's make this night a special one for these lads, with an excuse to make some real noise!

At the July meeting there will be a lady from the Southwest children's Hospice, one of our charities for 2024, coming to do a presentation about what they do so it would be nice to have a few of us there to welcome her. Also Portland and Mike P will be doing a quiz and I suspect that's not gonna be an easy one 😂😂😂 so see you there!

Looks like Tuckers Grave is sold out on the Saturday of our summer bash. If you still fancy it let me know and I'll contact them to see if they can squeeze you in but you can always just come for the day, as you don't need to book for that, or just stay the Friday night. Just message me if you need any more info.

Lastly, the first weekend in Sept a lot of us are off to the 'Rally in the Valley' in Llangollen Wales. They still have tickets left, so again if you fancy it give me a shout.

Remember get your articles off to Jo, and let's have a great mag!!

Take care and see you soon.

Moggy 💋💋💋

Editor Introduction

Hi everyone,

Firstly, I just want to thank the committee and members for trusting in my ability to spell and for allowing me to take on the editor role!

I had originally prepared an application for this role, which I have now converted to be my profile, as I think it sums up my time as a Harley owner perfectly!



You'll see that I have been committed to Bridgwater chapter for quite some time and have loved clocking up the miles and making memories with such a wonderful bunch of people.

I'm hoping that, with my experience in IT, and your fantastic stories (I'm sure you all have many tales to tell and will be eager to create lots more) you will be able to help me produce a professional looking and interesting monthly magazine for us all to enjoy! I hope you find my inaugural edition entertaining!

Hope to see you at club night on Wednesday 3rd July...Ride safe everyone!

Jo xx

Email: editor@bridgwaterhog.co.uk

Editor Profile

What's my job?

Without boring anyone too much, I work in IT as a Change and Transition Manager at Bath Spa University. If I were to explain my role to a child, I'd tell them I spend most of my day marking work and deciding whether it's ok for changes to be made to our computer systems, as I don't want them to break!

My riding story

I've been riding for 16 years with 2 of those being on my 125 Kawasaki Eliminator, which nearly lived up to its name on a few occasions!

I decided to take up riding after a wonderful trip we'd done to Jersey for 'Hogs around the Rock'. We had returned to Poole by ferry in the early hours of the morning, and I was feeling rather delirious from lack of sleep! I was pillion on Kev's Fatboy, and I must have drifted off to sleep. Next thing I knew, Kev whacked his hand out behind him to stop me sliding off the seat! That was the frightener I needed to make me take the plunge.



I wasn't a born natural at riding, due to the fact I never really learned to ride a bicycle, having inherited an adult trike as a child (yeah yeah, you may laugh!). I turned up at the motorcycle centre in Bristol and jumped onto one of the geared bikes, when one of the instructors asked me if I could ride a bicycle, to which I responded "no, not really" at which point he recommended I learnt on a twist and go first. I refused that offer, and with a little patience and determination, I got my CBT.

Editor Profile Cont...

The 125 didn't really help me build my confidence and as 2 years approached to either take my CBT again or quit, I made the decision to just go for it and do my direct access instead, in the middle of November. Apart from the weather being freezing, riding a Honda 600 was a complete gamechanger! After getting through the theory and then Modules 1 and 2, I was finally able to get out on my brand-new denim black 883 Iron, from Riders of Bristol, which had already been purchased and was sat in the garage waiting for me to pass. I took her out the same day and screamed in shock at the responsiveness as I opened the throttle on the main road.... what a thrill!



My very first riding trip abroad happened soon after passing my test, through France and Spain, and their roads were just what I needed to build my confidence and improve my riding skills. It's been heaps of fun ever since, having attended rallies all over the UK and taken a few trips abroad, including Benelux, Budapest and more recently, Italy.

Kev and I initially joined Great Western Chapter, following the purchase of my bike, but we didn't really get involved much with them, so we left and just bimbled around with a group of like-minded friends going to the odd events, including Bulldog Bash, Popham and Shakey's River Run. Anyone recognise this chap?!



We then met and befriended members of the Bridgwater Chapter through attending several rallies, being Cornish Cream, Benelux, SOFER, Hogs in the Hayfields and Cider!

They were such a lovely bunch we decided to join them in 2012 and we've never looked back!

Editor Profile Cont...

Since my first bike, I've made my way up through the engine sizes. In 2013/14 I purchased a brand-new Sportster XL 1200 Custom CA. In 2017, myself and few ladies you might recognise, made our way to Lynn's Raven Café, and broke the female biker's world record with 1132 women bikers riding round Silverstone racetrack!

In 2019 I purchased an older slim with all the trimmings. She was a lovely colour but there was something I wasn't quite comfortable with so a few months later I traded her in for a brand new slim instead and toured the NC500 on her.



Now I have settled on my perfect bike, the Heritage Softail, which I have found to be the most comfortable bike for touring.

I'll be sticking with her for a while...she says...but never say never!

Head Road Captain's Thoughts...

Not sure if I've mentioned it ... but 😊

Well, what a month June has been More on that at another time!

This coming Month (July) we have a couple of Prom Rides, a meet up with Hogsback Chapter, Raise your Ride, The summer Bash, Gary's Great Big Grand Adventure Ride, a Fish and Chips Evening and last, but by no means least, a Club Ride to Compton Abbas Airfield !!!

Prom Rides are:

- Tuesday 2nd July with Ryan in Bridgwater – full details on the events page of Facebook.
- Friday 5th July with Moggy in Taunton – full details on the events page of Facebook.

Then on Saturday 6th July Portland, (Rob) will lead a ride from Dorchester back to Portland (Island) full details on the events page of Facebook.

Sunday 7th a handful of us will be taking part in Raise your Ride with The team from Somerset Council.

The following weekend Friday 12th to Sunday 14th we have the Summer Bash at Tuckers Grave Inn and Campsite – expect rough cider and shenanigans!!!!

Sunday 14th is yet another Club Ride with “Gary's Great Big Grand Adventure Ride” – full details on the events page of Facebook.

Friday 19th we have a Fish and Chips Evening with our very own Moggy – taking a ride form Riders to the Sundowner Beach Café

Then the final Club Ride of the month will see Jim Nutland leading a ride to Compton Abbas Airfield...

What a month !!! And we are only just coming into Summer !!!

A brief entry from me this month as I'm trying to catch up with two weeks of work that didn't get done while I was away, but normal service will be resumed next month !!! See you all in July! **Kev** 👍

Lisa & Jayne: Coast to Coast 2024

We booked our trip back in the summer of 2023 and were due to pick the bikes up on the 16th of March in Orlando. We had some extra leave so decided to fly out to Miami a few days earlier on the 12th and have a little tour around Florida. We headed down to the Keys and back up the coast to Orlando. At this point it's worth mentioning we may have done a little bit of shopping on our tour of Florida!!



We stayed in Orlando the night before picking our bikes up and we were able to check in for the bikes that evening at the hotel to save time in the morning. The first shuttle bus left the hotel at 7am and we were determined to be on it. As we headed outside to wait for the bus it became obvious that we had considerably more luggage than everyone else!!! We arrived at Eaglerider to see all the bikes neatly lined up and we had to look for our names.



We found our bikes and confidently started to pack ALL of our luggage, which I might add we managed quite spectacularly, all the while conscious of everyone watching us as they were not as confident!!



Coast to Coast 2024 Cont...

Bikes packed, the next step was to ask the nice man at Eaglerider if he would just move our bikes out a little so we could get a nice photo and also to avoid us not taking the whole lot out in a domino effect! There were 90 bikes going out that morning and seemingly we were the only lady riders AND we had all of the luggage, we didn't want to look foolish!!!



We had till the 30th of March to get to LA!! We had a vague plan but decided to wing it and just take each day as it came. Keeping an eye on the weather and going wherever we fancied, I mean what could possibly go wrong!!!

So off we went!!

We headed to Daytona, as we had had to make sure it was literally coast to coast, and from there to Tallahassee, saw the sights and found a motel.

Easy, we've got this!!

Coast to Coast 2024 Cont...

So this is how it all panned out (we would write it all down in detail but we'll probably bore you, we've probably mentioned it to you all a few times already!!)

Day 1: Orlando to Tallahassee 270 miles

Via Daytona, Road works, gravel roads, slow control in the traffic, freeway, highway and small roads and that was us used to the bikes!!

Oh and the best fried chicken ever!



Day 2: Tallahassee to Panama City 109 miles

Stayed on the beach and somehow ended up being part of 'Spring Break Florida 2024'

Day 3: Panama City to Mobile ALABAMA 151 miles

Beautiful place, hotel, and food.

Day 4: Mobile to New Orleans and on to Baton Rouge LOUISIANA 225 miles

So many bridges and a near death experience as a truck came sliding down the road!

Coast to Coast 2024 Cont...

Day 5: Baton Rouge to Waxahachie TEXAS

467 miles

Weather was on the turn so a longer day to beat it.

Stunning scenery

Day 6: Waxahachie to Fort Worth TEXAS

62 miles

Short day today as we are still avoiding the rain and we'd planned a couple of nights in Fort Worth, I mean there's cowboys and a tattoo place.

Day 7: Fort Worth TEXAS

0 miles

What an amazing place, we absolutely loved it here so much to see and do AND we went to the Rodeo, just fabulous

Day 8: Fort Worth to Fredericksburg TEXAS

272 miles

Via Waco as we needed to see the silos.

What a stunning place Fredericksburg is, so much to explore and food!!

Day 9: Fredericksburg to Fort Stanton NEW MEXICO

264 miles

Probably the scariest riding experience of our lives, to say it was windy was an understatement!!



50-60 mph winds with 75 mph gusts, how the hell we stayed on, we will never know.

Big girl pants were required, and we smashed it!!

Glad to find a motel.

Coast to Coast 2024 Cont...

Day 10: Fort Stanton to El Paso TEXAS

236 miles

Forecast didn't seem too bad so went for it and found the wind again!!

The motel we stayed in may have also been some sort of knocking-shop, but we had a lock on the door and there was heating so really didn't care and it was fun judging out the window.

Day 11: El Paso to Bisbee ARIZONA

294 miles

Fancy that it's windy and for the first time we found rain and then hail stones and then snow. Managed to avoid a tricky situation with the parking at the hotel!! Unlike some other riders who came in later.

What a hippy place Bisbee is - very different.

Day 12: Bisbee to Eloy ARIZONA

167 miles

The bikes were iced up, we kid you not, ICE, we had to de-ice the bikes!!

Went to Tombstone, what a place and through the airplane graveyards heading north.

Probably the dodgiest motel we stayed at in Eloy but it's a bed and the bikes were still there in the morning!!



Coast to Coast 2024 Cont...

Day 13: Eloy to Yuma ARIZONA 233 miles

What a ride, perfect weather, and amazing scenery just fabulous.

Day 14: Yuma to Los Angeles CALIFORNIA 297 miles

The ride over the mountains and along the coast was stunning. We had planned to stay in Temecula and do the last 100 miles to Eaglerider on the last day but with severe weather forecast for LA we decided to head straight there leaving us only a few miles in the morning. As it happened it was one of the best decisions we made!

Day 15: LAX to Eaglerider 5 miles

The weather was unbelievable, the amount of rain that came down! Roads were flooded and there were weather warnings all over the place. We were due to check out of our motel at 11am and there was due to be a break in the weather at 12, we had sensibly put bags over our seats the night before, so they were dry and amazingly enough it stopped, and we got to Eaglerider without getting wet!!

So proud that we had done it and so sad to say goodbye to our trusty bikes, they were amazing!

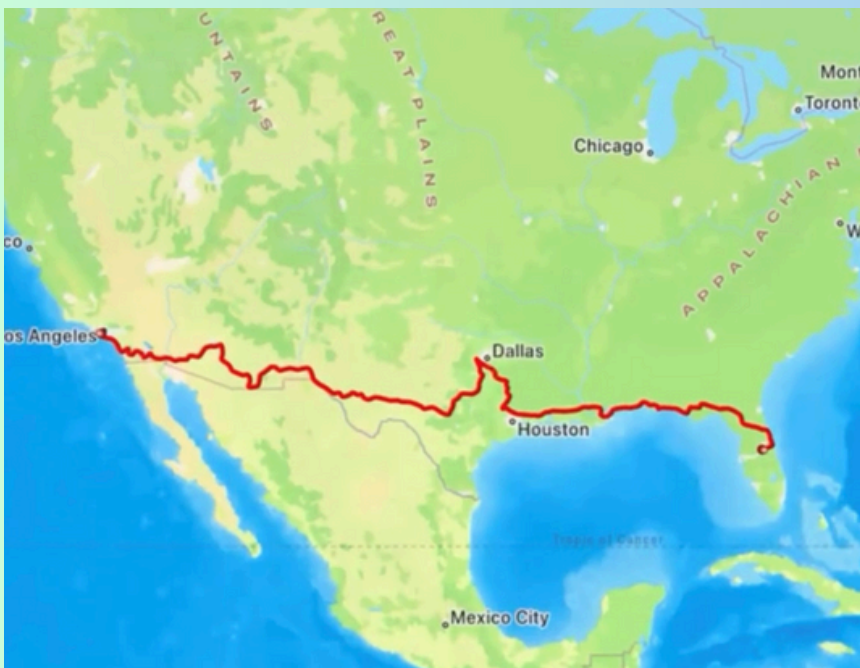
**3052 miles coast to coast,
we even got a certificate!!!**



Coast to Coast 2024 Cont...

The things we experienced, the amazing roads and scenery we rode, the places we got to see, all the mishaps and all the laughter is something that's hard to describe. How we didn't get caught in all the horrendous weather that surrounded us all the way across is quite an achievement, turns out we make quite the team in this "winging it" and weather watching. Oh, and the shopping!! "Get it, we'll get it on the bikes" was a frequent statement at many of the stops, and we have become experts at packing!!

All in all, it was such an amazing experience and one we will always treasure. To be able to do this trip is something we will never take for granted and to spend it with your bestie is just an honour.



Now where shall we go next?.....🤔

Lisa & Jayne

XXXXXX

Standing with Giants

By Kelvin

Riding with Standing with Giants; this was something that I had to do for my own personal reasons. My Dad was actually involved in the D day landing, he was an able seaman, a member of 551st landing craft assault flotilla aboard the SS Empire Javelin (front row 4th from the left) so for me I had to pay my respects to these brave souls.



SS Empire Javelin.



Members of the 551st Landing Craft Assault Flotilla, R.N.V.R.

The day for me started at 7.45 am, so to ride to Leigh Delamere would be at least 42mls and over an hours ride in rush hour traffic. I contacted my good friend Paul Martin, assistant Director of Rolling Hills, to see if I could join their ride of 5 guys who were actually making the crossing to pay their respects, so no problem there. I rode to Cheltenham HD to meet up with the guys and, as it happened I was the 2nd one to arrive just before 8.15 am.

Standing with Giants

By Kelvin

Well it wasn't a great start, as when the Director arrived he realised he had left his cut at home, so it was a little detour to pick it up. Our ride would take us to Oxford HD their sister dealership (2nd time in a week, following the Ace Cafe weekend), then on to Blenheim Palace, and hopefully meet up with Mike and the Bridgwater contingent where we would all assemble, 17 chapters I believe, before making the final journey to Fort Nelson in Portsmouth.

After our little detour to pick Mike's cut up, we headed up the A417 then cut across country to pick up the A40 then the 34 to the Oxford dealership, while travelling down the A40 we pull into a lay-by only to be told by Paul he'd left his passport at home, not good if you're going to France, so for a new Road Captain!

We eventually got to Oxford HD but, due to our detour and lay-by stop, we got to Oxford just in time for a pit stop and then were back on the road back up the 34 to Blenheim, which we'd only been about 3 mls away from on our trip to Oxford.

Blenheim Palace is awesome, the birth place of sir Winston Churchill, the ideal setting for such a special occasion. I've never been there but must put it on the list as it's only 34 mls from home, across some beautiful Cotswold countryside.

There were 4 articulated lorries draped in amazing artwork to mark this occasion to remember the fallen.

Standing with Giants

By Kelvin



Our final journey would be to Fort Nelson in Portsmouth, we would travel back down the A34 pick up the M3 then on to the M27 to J11 where we would exit to Fort Nelson, where various ceremonies would take place, lasting until 7pm. As I had a 109 mls to travel home and unfortunately for me most of it would be on my Larry lonesome, unlike some who had decided to stay the night, Mike decided that it would be a good idea to fill up for the trip home, so at 5pm we made a move for our trips home.



Standing with Giants

By Kelvin

Mike put in the sat-nav the nearest fuel station but unfortunately for us and a few others, we encountered a road closure, so it was a u-turn in the road. By the time I'd managed to turn around, in all the confusion, the Bridgwater gang had disappeared and I didn't have a clue where I was going to find them! Luckily enough I saw another group had pulled up in a lay-by, so being the sort of guy I am, I joined them as I knew that once I got to the M27 I'd be able to find my way home.

As luck would have it Mike and the Bridgwater gang had pulled into a lay-by a bit further down the road as it seemed I was not the only one to have lost the ride, in true Bridgwater fashion! Mike recalculated a route to a fuel station, some were riding on fumes, so we needed to get some soon. We pulled into Sainsbury's fuel station and bumped into a few from the Great Western chapter, so a quick chat and we were on our way.



I rode up the M27 with the Bridgwater gang, then exited onto the M3 up to the A34 exit, then up to the M4. I picked up the A419 at Swindon and headed for Cheltenham. My biggest concern was that there would be night closures further down the A419, so would be touch and go, but my trip home was uneventful, if not a rather lonely one, and god did I miss my wingman! I arrived home at 8pm just as it was getting dark, a 12 hour day.

Am I glad to have done it? 100% - as I'm sure everyone that made the effort is. All I can say about my journey with the Giants is

LEST WE FORGET

[#bridgwaterhog](https://twitter.com/bridgwaterhog)

Welcoming our New Members

In the last 6 months we have welcomed some new additions and returners to the Chapter, so if you haven't met them already, here are their names and some of their background biking stories:

New Members

- Darrell and Tamsyn Cole
- Robert Harris
- Laura James
- Steven & Sophie Benney
- Shaun & Tracey Hutter
- Shaun Oconnell
- Nigel Pearce
- Dave & Alison Girt

Returning members

- Mervin Baldwin
- Martyn Brown
- Eddy Coles

Laura's Story

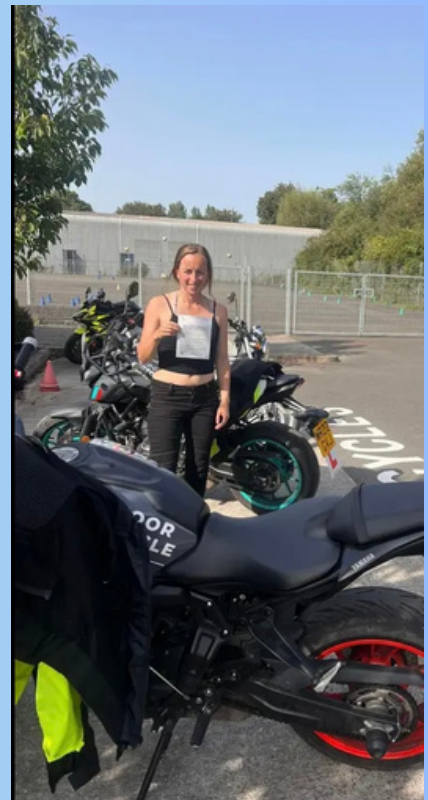
Hello all,

I've met some of you already but, for those I haven't yet, here's a bit about me.

I've been riding just over a year but only gained my license a few months ago - I passed 1st time with no minors!

My 1st bike was a Yamaha, which had a kick start, it didn't last long as I struggled to start it. My 2nd bike was a Yamaha YBR, this had a luxurious electric start as well as a fuel gauge. I had this bike until I passed my test, then my partner, Jon G (also a HOG member), encouraged me to get a bigger, better and newer bike.

I'm now the proud owner of a Harley 750 Street!



New Members Cont...

I'm looking forward to gaining lots of riding experience, making memories and friends along the way. I'm always willing to listen to any wise words of wisdom you may have for me.

Thanks to all the members for being so welcoming to the chapter. Hope to meet up again soon.

Laura

Shaun's Story

Hi to all at Bridgwater Chapter,

My name is Shaun Oconnell. I was born in Greenock Scotland but left when I was 5yrs old. Went to New Zealand, where at the age of 6 yrs old was taught to ride my first bike a 50cc dirt bike.

At 7 yrs old became North Island dirt bike Champion under 10s. We moved to Australia for 18 mths, then moved to Durban south Africa. I joined the under 15s dirt bike racing team but was only third. We then went to America when I was 14 yrs old. Got my first chopper a 1967 Triumph Trident in a box. My father helped to rebuild it (He done most of the work) 😊. I then joined The United States Marine Corp and went to several countries before leaving.

I came back to the U.K. Greenock in 1983. Met my wife who was from Milford Haven. Moved to Pembrokeshire in 1984 and have been here ever since.

I have Owned an 1100cc Honda shadow; a 1500 GL Goldwing; an 800 Suzuki marauder; a 800cc Intruder; a Heritage softail classic; and now own a 2013 FXDB Dyna street bob 103. Now I'm just an old man that loves to ride.

Take care all and Ride safe and free.

Shaun (Stray dog) Oconnell

In the Picture!

By Patsy

Bike night at Rider's in Bridgwater

Great evening for bike night at Rider's in Bridgwater, hot dogs provided by Rider's and hot and cold drinks proceeds for our charities, lovely weather thanks to all that came.



In the Picture!

By Patsy

Minehead Rideout

Absolutely a fantastic rideout to Minehead, 20 bikes in beautiful weather and amazing scenery, fish and chips, and ice-cream what more could we ask for to be with a great bunch of biker friends, great to see Fred and Zena from Weymouth.

Thanks Moggy for a great trip and back man David Kepple and Shirley Churchill for keeping us all safe.



#bridgwaterhog

In the Picture!

June Randoms! (various contributors)



In the Picture!

June Randoms (various contributors)



Tri Chapter
Black Tie

Winter Ball

Sat 1st February
2025

Hosted by Bridgwater Chapter

**£45 per ticket, this can be bought through
the shop on our website
www.bridgwaterhog.co.uk**

**Double Hilton Cadbury Hotel,
Frost Hill, Consgresbury,
Bristol, BS49 5AD.**

**Please quote "HD Winter Ball 2025"
when booking your rooms**

[#bridgwaterhog](https://www.bridgwaterhog.co.uk)

2024 Rally Dates

Date	Rally Name	Chapter
3rd to 6th May	Cider Rally	Bridgwater HOG
17th to 20th May	Iron Horse	St. Leger HOG
7th to 10th June	The Gathering	Clyde Valley HOG
14th to 16th June	The Rumble	Great Western HOG
21st to 23rd June	Rear on the Moor	Aire Valley HOG
28th to 29th June	Oak Tree Rally	Black Mountains HOG
28th to 30th June	Horseshoe Rally	Rutland HOG
4th to 7th July	Wake the Lakes	Red Rose HOG
12th to 14th July	Sherwood Rally	Sherwood HOG
25th to 28th July	Fenlanders	Fenlanders HOG
2nd to 4th August	Hog 'n' Bog	Belfast HOG
16th to 18th August	Cirencester	Hogsback HOG
23rd to 26th August	Thunder in the Glens	Dunedin HOG
5th to 8th September	Rally in the Valley	Circus Maximus HOG
13th to 15th September	Dragon Fever	Welsh Dragon HOG

Committee Page

PRIMARY OFFICERS

Director



Gill

Assistant Director
& Secretary



Peter

Treasurer



Gina

**THE
COMMITTED!**

Head Road Captain



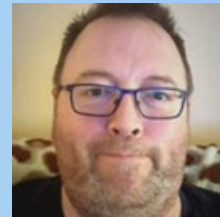
Kevin

Ladies of Harley



Sharon

Webmaster/Social



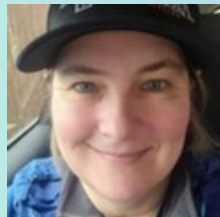
Keith

Membership
Secretary



Sue

Merchandise



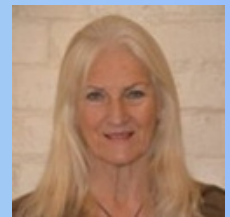
Jane

Editor



Jo

Photographer



Patsy

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Assistant Head Road Captain
Health & Safety
New Members Rep



Mike

New Members Rep



Chris

New Members Rep



Clive

Our Road Crew 2024

Road Captains

Kevin Dagggar
Gill Mogg
Gina Chapman
Nigel Chapman
Debbie Atterton
Clive Pegram
Gary Illes
Ryan Barlow
Heather Barlow
Graham Hancock
Lisa Davies
Mike Akehurst
Chris Hembrow
Jason Warner
Jim Nutland
Dave Kepple

Road Marshals

Dave Ellis
Jayne Antonelli
Jo Grist
Jo Dagggar
Keith Mitchell
Karen Akehurst
Andy Woodhead
Mike Petersen
Paul Bailey
Peter Every (Yorkie)
Mark Godfrey