



Bridgwater HOG
April 2025
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

The clocks are about to go forward and hopefully spring is on its way - hope the weather is kind to us this year so we can get out and about more. The calendar is full and it's likely we'll add a few more Ad hoc rides as we go along, so keep an eye out to see any changes and extra events. Don't forget to give me a shout if you want to come to any of the Rallies we are going to - I'll give you details of where to go, book etc, although Sherwood Rally ticket are now sold out.

If you were at last month's meeting, Kev and Chris did a brilliant presentation on group riding and HOG's expectations for all chapter's. This is also on the website so you can go back and look at it if needed. If you have any questions or queries about rides etc., please ask - there is no such thing as a silly question. Also when coming on a ride, if you are unsure of anything just ask one of the Road Captains as they are there to help in any way..we don't bite - LoL!



We had a joint ride to Jolly's down in Newton Abbott with Great Western and Plymouth Chapters. We had 55 bikes in total and it went really well, so well done to Kev and the Road crew that day - we've had some great feedback from both Chapters. We are looking at doing more with other chapters so watch this space.

As mentioned in last month's mag, our Chapter Cider Rally will soon be upon us and there is still accommodation on site, but only 3,4 and 6 berths. If you want to come, you will just need to pay a supplement for a bigger room. Go onto the website to fill out the booking form, then Gina will send you a reference so you can ring Sand Bay to book ya room. If you can't make the whole weekend, we will be selling day tickets at the gate on the day at £10 each - it would be great to see you there!

Moggy's Bits Cont...

All Ride Outs will be on the Saturday and the Grand Parade will be on the Sunday, which will be going to Burnham on Sea, following the normal route then straight through Weston onto Burnham. We will then park up on the sea front in Burnham. We would like to thank John Alexander once again for sorting out all the road closures, council red tape etc. - he has done an amazing job as usual, so well done John!

The Bike show will be back at Sand Bay, to be held Sunday afternoon. As last year Sharon and her gang of LOH lovelies will be hosting the LOH get together, this will be around 3.30pm on the Saturday - Theme: Pyjama Party.

As per usual we are looking for help over the weekend with decorating, balloons, posters, banners, bunting etc. and help with registration, dishing out the T-Shirts and goodie bags etc. on Friday afternoon, then at certain times Saturday and Sunday. Then we shall need lots of help taking it all back down again on Monday. Please see Sharon if you want to help at Registration, and see Jim Nutland for decoration etc. Many hands make light work, as they say.

We will also need folk to help with the Grand Parade so, even if you are not coming to the Rally but can still help, that will be great,. We need Road Marshals, and Parking Marshals at Burnham. We need quite a few volunteers at Burnham, so let Kev know if you can help - you will need to be on the sea front way before the ride so, if you can help with any of the above, contact me or Kev and then we'll point you in the direction of who's doing each area.

If you have any queries regarding the Cider Rally then please give us a shout.

Jo is still looking for articles and write ups for the magazine, so if you want to tell us a bit about yourselves: what you do; how you got into bikes; what bikes you have had; or any story you think we would like to hear about your trips to biker friendly hotels, B+B's etc. don't be shy! Just drop her a line to editor@bridgwaterhog.co.uk by the 20th of the month so she can get the mag out at the end of the month. It would be great to hear about you all. And what you have all been up to.

Moggy x

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Editor's Highlights

Now, I know some of you have been wondering why I've not been out on my bike of late, so here is my condensed story. I basically have a condition called "slap foot" or "foot drop" to the sensible lot of us! This means I have lost the ability to lift my toes towards me on my left foot, hence stopping me from changing gear. Now, we don't know what has caused this, and I am waiting on some results from my MRI but, thanks to my wonderful husband (he told me I had to say that!), he has now fitted a toe / heel shift to my bike, thereby enabling me to once again be able to change gear. The thought of never being able to ride my beautiful bilke again, which has just been ceramic coated, serviced and tuned, has been making me sad, so I am very relieved that I have a 'workaround' while I wait to find out what's going on. So look out guys and gals, I am going to be back out there and giving you all a run for your money on the mileage challenge!!



Anyway, that's my saga - so what about yours?

I want to hear from you! Share your stories, tips, and experiences with your chapter. Whether it's a memorable ride, a favorite route, or advice for fellow riders, your contributions are what make our community vibrant and inspiring.

There's nothing quite like the feeling of freedom that comes with riding, and with warmer weather on the horizon, our bikes are calling us to explore new adventures.

Please send in your written articles, and let's celebrate the spirit of Harley-Davidson together.

Let's make this season unforgettable.

Jo xx

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Head Road Captain's Thoughts

April 2025

Spring appears to have sprung! No doubt that will turn out to be a false dawn but here's hoping!

Both bikes are away at Riders of Bridgwater presently – mine is having two new tyres fitted after I found a nail in my rear tyre and decided it was time for new ones - I've gone with Metzeler Cruisetecs so only time will tell if that was a good choice or not!

Jo's is having its 1000 mile service ready for the new riding season to begin in earnest.

We had a cracking first Sunday Ride of the year back at the beginning of the month, with 55 bikes setting off from Dunball to make their way to Jolly's for coffee, bacon rolls, custom motorcycles and dinosaurs! If you've been before, you'll know what I'm on about - if not - go take a look some time! Our friends from Great Western HOG joined us for a lovely days riding to this memorable venue.



HRC's Thoughts Cont...

A little later in the month, Chris Hembrow was the lead Road Captain for another excellent ride to Budleigh Slaterton, with a good crowd of us enjoying both the journey and venue at the beach café.



In April we have a number of rides planned, starting with Jim Nutland leading you all on a ride to Five Zero Supercars in Bradford on Avon on Sunday 6th April.

On 13th April, Heather Barlow will be leading a ride to West Bay, taking a different route to that normally taken. A few of us reccied this one a few weeks back and it was a lovely ride on a lovely clear day - it was bloody freezing that day through and I had to buy more clothes at Helmet City when we arrived!!! Its gonna be warmer for her actual ride - trust me, it couldn't be much colder!

Saturday 19th April, Moggy is off to Double Gate farm for cream Tea Ride and on Sunday 20th, Clive and Jo will be leading you all on an Easter Sunday Mystery Tour!!!

All events and meet times etc. are confirmed on the events page on Facebook but as you all know Sunday Rides are same time, same place!!!

HRC's Thoughts Cont...

- Dunball meet point 10:00am assemble
- 10:15am - Briefing
- 10:30am - Stands Up

Just a reminder to try and be on time, as HOG rules advise :-

- “No briefing , No ride. “

Full tanks and empty bladders as always please.



Wednesday Wanderers continue with their rides most weeks and, with a bit of luck, one of the fellas or ladies who attend regularly might put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and tell us more about those - as I said recently on Facebook, I would love to join these mid-week rides but, having checked my finances, it seems retirement is a long way off and I'm currently working until the day of my own funeral!!

HRC's Thoughts Cont...

Last, but not least, we have a Cider Rally Parade ride rehearsal on Sunday 27th April - meeting at the car park along from Sand Bay. The post code is BS22 9SE, according to Google anyway!

We will meet at 11:00am and get moving by 11:15am - I've spoken to most of the marshals about positions, so please come along and join in, even if you don't have an allocated slot as I have some spare slots and need reserves as well as riders to act as our "pack"

See you all on the road and remember

Be safe, and if you cant be safe ...

Be careful!

Kev



Is Best Always Better?

By Allan Bowden

You would think that buying best is better in whatever product you are purchasing, but now I'm not so sure. I owned my 2004 XL1200R Sportster for about three years, and have discovered that if I use super-unleaded petrol (98 octane), I get approximately 5 to 10 mpg more, than from unleaded (95 octane). With the sporty's miniscule peanut tank, the extra 10 to 20 miles from a full tank of fuel could mean the difference between arriving at the next fuel stop on the bike or on foot. So best IS better, or is it?

In 2007, I was determined to get out on the bike more, and whenever I needed to fill up it was down to Sainsbury's, as they were one of the few petrol stations around that sold super-unleaded at the time.

We were preparing to go to St Ives for the Cornish Cream Rally so off I went for a short ride. Setting off from Bridgwater, I got as far as Raleighs Cross on the edge of Exmoor, when it seemed as if the bike was running out of fuel, so I dropped down into Williton and filled up but it didn't need as much petrol as I thought it did. I thought it strange, but never mind and off we went with no problems after that.

A couple of weeks later, with the tank filled to the brim with Sainsbury's best, we set off for Cornwall. We had to go via Taunton to deliver a birthday card, and guess what, the Sporty didn't want to go to Cornwall - it started missing and not pulling, as if the engine was choking up and no I hadn't left the choke out. So, with a handful of throttle, slipping the clutch and revs rising, we took off. The engine cleared and we continued down the A38, M5, and A30 to St Ives and not a bit of trouble all the rest of the weekend and the return journey - not a problem at all.

August bank holiday weekend. After filling up with super-unleaded from you know where, following slow moving traffic on the Minehead road, I got as far as Williton, the same fault occurring, engine choking up. With a bit of coaxing I managed to get the engine revving, I returned to Bridgwater via Taunton with no more problems.

Is Best Always Better? Cont...

Not the Knot rally (the Pink rally) was the following weekend. Making sure the tank was full of fuel (Sainsbury's super-unleaded); I was ready for the ride out to the Bristol Kite festival. You guessed it, same problem, slow moving traffic on the motorway, sporty started complaining, so keeping it in a low gear and keeping the revs up, we made it to the kite festival. On the return route we stopped off at Riders of Bridgwater. After explaining my sorry tale, they immediately got the bike into the workshop, to diagnose the problem. The problem was, there was no problem, at least not with the bike. Phil Jessop and the technician had concluded that the problem was with the fuel; it didn't smell or look right. They suggested that I use brand name fuels in future, and were convinced that this would cure the problem.

If you look at the pattern that has materialised, the problem with the engine 'choking' up, only started after filling up with super-unleaded at Sainsbury's. The St Ives trip started with super-unleaded and subsequent fill ups were with whatever brand of unleaded the next garage had, and no more problems. So, is it Sainsbury's fuel or the super-unleaded? After discussing this with people more knowledgeable than me, they suggested that it was the super-unleaded. Either, it's the additives that are put in to boost the octane rating, (this would account for the smell and appearance, as Riders observed, and a big thank you to Riders for looking at the bike so promptly) or the standard settings on the Sportster engine are not suitable for super-unleaded.

I have now topped up a couple of times with 95 octane unleaded from different branded petrol stations, and been on two mini rides and a Chapter ride out covering 225 miles and not a hint of the problem recurring.

So, is best always better?

Ride safely

Allan Bowden

The Jolly Roger Rideout

By Patsy

What a beautiful day for the 1st main rideout of the year taken by our Head Road captain Kevin Daggar - was good to see many bikers from Great Western Chapter join our rideout to Jolly Roger's in Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot. Thank you to our Assistant Head Road Captain Chris Hembrow and Road Captain Mark Godfrey for helping to keep the ride safe.

Ride safe

Patsy x



Jolly Roger Cont...



Jolly Roger Cont...



Quarterly Meeting

By Patsy

A good turn out with some coming on their shiny bikes for the first quarterly meeting of the year. The meeting started with our HRC Kevin Daggar showing us a video on group riding i.e. second man drop. Then I did our raffle and the lucky box was won by Tony Orus, winning a nice sum of £125, so well done Tony!

David Kepple was awarded his Road Captain training certificate from our HRC Kevin Daggar, so well done David!

Ride safe

Patsy x



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Quarterly Meeting Cont...



Quarterly Meeting Cont...



Quarterly Meeting Cont...



Visiting Noah

with a cheeky stop for breakfast first

By Jane

On Sunday the 9th of March, the Chapter visited Noah, a 7 year old who has recently been diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of cancer. Our director Gill, reached out to the family after hearing of Noah's story and his passion for bikes, particularly Harley Davidson's.

As the meeting for Noah was for a bit later in the day, it was deemed a good opportunity to meet for breakfast first and, as Fowlers wasn't far from his house, it offered a good meet up point as well. Sharon liased with Fowlers for table reservations to ensure we could all be seated. After consuming a lovely breakfast and coffee there was time to have a quick look round and then gather for a group picture.



A briefing from our Head Road Captain Kevin and we were on our way to Noah's. After a brief ride, the Harley's all parked up outside of Noah's house and along the road. Noah came out and was overwhelmed by the amount of bikes - we had 27 in total.

Noah was presented with a bag of gifts from our chapter members by Gill - he was particularly taken with the model bike, which he carried around with him most of the time. Although Noah didn't want to sit on any of the bikes, other members of his family were more than happy to pose for pictures.

Visiting Noah Cont...

An emotional day for many and hopefully some nice memories made for the family.



Visiting Noah Cont...

An emotional day for many and hopefully some nice memories made for the family.



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In the Picture!

The Wednesday Wanderers

Richie's Cider Farm



Edelweiss



Carriages



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In the Picture!

By Sue

Nice turnout for the 2025 launch for the new Harley's at Riders of Bristol.



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APRIL



JIM'S RIDE

**SUN
6TH**

**TO BRADFORD ON AVON
10 FOR 10.30 DUNBALL
MEETING PLACE**

HEATHER'S RIDE

**TO WEST BAY
10 FOR 10.30 DUNBALL
MEETING PLACE**

**SUN
13TH**

**SAT
19TH**

MOGGY'S

**EASTER SAT CREAM TEA
RIDE**

**DOUBLE GATE TEA ROOM, LEAVE
RIDERS 11AM**

CLIVE'S

**EASTER SUN MSYTERY TRIP
10 FOR 10.30 DUNBALL MEETING
PLACE**

**SUN
20TH**

**SUN
27TH**

**CIDER RALLY
PARADE RUN, 11AM**

**MEAL OUT TO
LOCO MEXICAN, WESTON
SUPER MARE
19.00**

**FRI
25TH**

**For full details on all events see facebook
page or website calandar**

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Mexican Fiesta

3 nights
Half Board
£159 pp

3rd-6th
May

Live music, 4 ride outs and grand
parade into Burnham on Sea

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www.devalegionhog.co.uk/circus-maximus-the-rally-in-the-valley-2025/

DEVA LEGION,
CHESTER



**3 Days and Nights of
Entertainment, Fun & Ride-Outs**

**On-Site Glamping Available in Top
Quality Accommodation**

**'Ladies of Harley' Party - 'Fancy
Dress' Centurion Night**

**Free use of Tented and
Motorhome Areas**

**Onsite food and drinks with
daytime trade stands**

What's On:

Thursday - Roman Theme/
Disco/ Band

Friday - Ride-Out/ LoH
Night/ Disco/ Band

Saturday - Ride-Out/ Bike
Comp./ Raffles & Prizes/
Disco/ Band

Deva Legion
Charity



Rally in the Valley
CIRCUS MAXIMUS
2025
9-11TH OF SEPTEMBER 2025

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Tri Chapter Winter Ball

24th January 2026 from 18:30

Vale Resort, Hensol Pontyclun, CF72 8JY



3 Course Meal and Entertainment
Tickets £45 book direct from WDCC
Email: winterball@welshdragonhog.co.uk

Rooms £119 including breakfast
and use of spa facilities. Book direct 01443 667800

Quote Welsh Dragon Hog

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2025 Rally Dates

Date	Rally Name	Chapter
2nd to 5th May	Cider Rally	Bridgwater HOG
8th to 10th May	St Tropez	HOG Euro Festival
16th to 19th May	Iron Horse	St. Leger HOG
30th May to 1st June	Ireland BikeFest	Killarney Festival
6th to 9th June	The Gathering	Clyde Valley HOG
13th to 15th June	The Rumble	Great Western HOG
12th to 15th June	Croatia	European HOG
20th to 22nd June	Oak Tree Rally	Black Mountains HOG
27th to 29th June	Horseshoe Rally	Rutland HOG
27th to 29th June	Roar on the Moor	Aire Valley HOG
3rd to 6th July	Wake the Lakes	Red Rose HOG
11th to 13th July	Medieval Rally	Sherwood HOG
24th to 27th July	East of England	Fenlanders HOG
1st to 4th August	Hog 'n' Bog	Belfast HOG

2025 Rally Dates

Date	Rally Name	Chapter
7th to 10th August	Heart & Soul	Geordie HOG
15th to 16th August	Cirencester	Hogsback HOG
22nd to 25th August	Thunder in the Glens	Dunedin HOG
4th to 7th Sept	Rally in the Valley	Deva Legion HOG
12th to 14th Sept	Hogs around the Rock	Jersey HOG
12th to 14th Sept	Dragon Fever	Welsh Dragons HOG
12th to 14th Sept	Concorsum	Lindum Colonia HOG



Committee Page

PRIMARY OFFICERS

Director



Gill

Treasurer



Gina

Assistant Director
& Secretary



Peter

**THE
COMMITTED!**

Head Road
Captain



Kevin

Assistant Head
Road Captain



Chris

Ladies of
Harley



Sharon

Webmaster/
Social Media



Keith

Activities
Officer



Jane

Membership
Secretary



Sue

Merchandise



Shirley

Editor



Jo

Photographer



Patsy

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS

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 Iles
Ryan Barlow
Heather Barlow
Graham Hancock
Lisa Davies
Chris Hembrow
Jason Warner
Jim Nutland
Dave Kepple
Andy Woodhead
Paul Bailey
Paul Meeghan

Road Marshals

Dave Ellis
Jayne Antonelli
Jo Grist
Jo Dagggar
Keith Mitchell
Mike Petersen
Mark Godfrey
Paul Condry