



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



Welcome to the June edition of the Chrome Hill newsletter.

What a strange time we are all having just now. For many of us confined to our homes, unable to work. For others of us who are key workers, facing potential danger every day.

We are all in the same storm, albeit in different boats but it will be over, soon we hope. Then, we will be all out and about, saying hi and missed you, and best of all riding our Harleys' lets hope the summer stays long enough so we can enjoy good weather.

In the meantime this edition is a little different, there is a great article from Bryan about another of his fabulous trips. Also some of our favourite places that we are looking forward to revisiting, and some of the activities we have been doing in the lockdown to keep ourselves busy.

In the words of Vera Lynn 'We WILL meet again' lets hope its soon

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Meanwhile lots of HOG rallies, which are cancelled pretty much for this year are available to join through virtual meetings, have a look through Facebook, and if you fancy a giggle check out the video the Midlands Sparkle Tour LOH put together



[LOH Sparkle Lockdown video -FB link](#)

A word from our DIRECTOR

Hello fellow Chromies!!



Things have changed a fair bit haven't they? I should have been talking about our 'first official' ride out of the season but instead all we have is COVID 19. I am sure you are as fed up as me with the whole situation and are itching to get out riding and socialising again. Hopefully it won't be

much longer before we can at least start to get back to some sort of normal. I think that this is now going to be the next change we will all have to get used to. The NEW normal. Whatever that may be, only time will tell.

I can see changes to working practices, social events and a lot of what we have taken for granted in our lives so far. Whether the changes will be for the best, again, only time will tell. I am encouraged by the sheer number of people making the effort to help others. People they have never met or even new existed but they happily go shopping, fetch medication or just stop and have a chat over the fence while out exercising. We stand out front of our houses and clap to an invisible bunch of heroes that are doing all they can to help keep this country going.

Our NHS workers who are risking their lives to treat those unlucky enough to be infected with this terrible virus. The people driving many hours to ensure that food is on the shelves for us all. The emergency services for carrying on in the face of this invisible threat to help us stay safe and receive treatment if we need it.

I would also like to thank all of you for doing your bit. Whatever it may be, even if it's nothing, you are helping. As much as it is very, very tempting to go for a ride, especially with the weather being so good I would like to thank those of you who have resisted the temptation. You are the reason we are beginning to see the end to this turmoil. I do believe that we would have been coming out of this sooner if EVERYONE stuck to the guidelines but some

chose not to. Unfortunately not everybody seems to think this applies to them. As motorcyclists we are a privileged lot.

There are many who cannot afford to ride but would love to. I feel that we should set a good example and show that we are not selfish leather clad loonies who think of nothing but themselves, but are actually a group of bikers who look out for everyone around us. Willing to help in any way we can. I would personally like to stand out the front of my house and clap for all of you doing it right. Good for you.

HOG are not sitting back doing nothing. There are plans afoot for a HOG event to show our gratitude for the NHS and key workers. I attend a fortnightly video call with the chapter directors and UK HOG reps and there is many a lively discussion. Rest assured that I will let you all know what HOG propose for us to get together and show our appreciation. Nothing is set down yet as no-one knows when we can start to meet up again but as soon as plans are set, you will know about them. If you are on Facebook then keep an eye out for other chapters news. Some are setting up virtual rally's and the like. Not sure how they will work but might be interesting and will certainly pass a couple of hours. Your chapter officers have also had a video meeting and will have more when things start to move towards an end to lockdown. Yes we do have plans to kickstart things as quick as we can and you will know how and when as soon as we can be sure its going to happen.

Anyway, enough rambling from me. Here's to us all being able to get together for a chat, drink, ride, meal or whatever we want to do as a group in our new 'normal' lives. Hopefully it won't be long. In the meantime, keep your chrome shiny, your tyres pumped up and your helmet polished (ooer missus) as we will ride again, real soon. Keep healthy, keep in touch, keep chatting, keep your distance, keep it Harley!!

Stay safe and see you soon.

Derek

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Wish We were There!

From our Chapter member Ian Davies

Back in 2016 Sarah and I went on a great 2,000 mile bike ride - on my old Heritage Softail - through Northern Spain and France.

We got the overnight ferry from Plymouth to Santander and rode back home via the Channel Tunnel.

Ian and Sarah enjoyed some great weather fantastic roads and the occasional company of a French H-D pilot (I guess there is a tale there you will have ask Ian directly on that)



This picture was taken on the Mulsanne Straight at Le Mans on the journey home



From our Chapter member Jon Beal

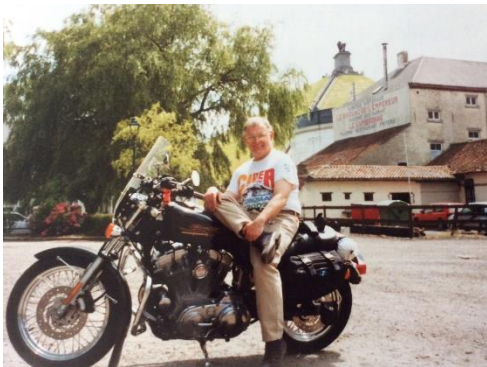
These are 2 pics from our visit to the Lake District in 2018 during the heatwave. They are both taken on the Honnister Pass which was an amazing ride.

Since then I've spent several months unable to ride having been wiped out last May. I was looking forward to getting some miles in this year and re-visiting the Lakes but I suppose I'll have to wait and see if that happens.



Wish We were There!

Chapter Member Tony Hough has shared some memories of his Harley journey – from being solo with his Sportster to how we know him today joined by Janet – who takes many more pictures so they have lots of places they would probably rather be just now



Wish We were There!

In May 2019 I joined the

Bubbles and Chocolate Tour

with 11 other to tour France. Sadly cancelled this year, but I will back in 2021 to share in the fun with a bunch of awesome ladies



Our Safety Officer Phil Wilks (and me!!)

Would rather be touring France again, as well as the off road trip he had planned for May while Sandy would have been with the ladies

Roll on 2021



And not forgetting being able to go to HOG rallies and events, this is from last years LOH Sparkle Tour



Wish We were There!

Our Director Derek Tate shares a tale of a bar ...

Just a couple of photo's that show the inside and outside of one of my (and Viv's) favourite places.

A biker bar in Arundel, Maine, USA. It's called Bentleys and is owned and run by the man himself. He was a famous Daytona driver back in the day and he decided to open a Biker Bar for himself and his friends to chill out in when he stopped racing. It is brilliant. The customers and staff are great, as is the atmosphere.



Live bands. Whole Hog Roast every Saturday and the infamous ride the hog challenge. What's that? Well, if the mood takes you, while music is playing, you get up on to the table where a metal Hog stands proud (you can see it on the photo). You get on the hog and if you accept the full challenge and remove your bra, placing it over the rafters to be

proudly displayed then you get a free T-Shirt to prove you did it. Not sure if the same applies to the men? Anyway, if you look closely at the picture of inside the bar you will see many of these 'trophies' hanging proudly from the woodwork!! It's just a great place to chill out, relax, have a few beers and chat with fellow bikers. Cannot think of anything better.



But in the meantime



Lockdown activities

Just because our lives have changed does not mean Chapter members have not been busy. Here are a few of the activities



Our Photographer **Tina Clifford** has been working throughout managing a customer services team, setting up food donation centres and supporting customers. She has also been teaching colleagues how to do sign language



The food parcels have had one of our Chapter members, and Tina's hubby **Steve** helping



Phil Wilks, our Safety Officer and myself have registered with Volunteer Riders UK, and have been lucky enough to be selected for a couple of runs to deliver PPE and non-medical supplies.



And **Bryan** has been enjoying the sunshine



Sydney to Adelaide

Another great article from Bryan Hartshorn. I am sure he would rather be t here just now ...

We had been attending our Neice's wedding in Gosforth, just north of Sydney and as part of our holiday decided to hire a Harley and ride to Adelaide to visit some dear friends.

We hired the Harley from an independent company – he had about 30 which he described as his pension as well as his passion. We parked the hire car in his yard in Paramatta, loaded up the bike and set off, deciding to go over the Sydney Harbour Bridge just for the hell of it. Out of town and on the highway at 50-55 mph we joined up by chance with a convoy of American muscle cars; AC Cobras, Mustangs and the like.

Heading down the coast towards Wollongong there was an unusual sign at the side of the road saying put on your headlights, slow down, fog ahead. Given that it was in the mid 30's in the Australian summer we thought it was some kind of joke until the highway dipped down towards the ocean and we were enveloped in thick fog, presumably caused by the cooling effect of the water. 10 minutes later, back up and out into brilliant sunshine and a cloudless sky. Time for a coffee said my wife.

We arrived in Wollongong looking for a place to stay, lots of people were sat out in the gardens on their sofas with a cold tinny or two as it was Australia Day. The

first hotel we found which was open was surrounded by a golf course near the beach. After a nice Thai meal that was our first night's stop.

The next morning out on the balcony we could see an oil refinery further down the coast and unbeknown to us our Godson was working there at the time, which we found out 10 years later. Small world.

After Wollongong, we hugged the coast road down to Bateman's Bay, calling at Ulladulla and Mollymook, where Rick Stein has a restaurant. Leaving the Harley in the main street at Mollymook whilst we went for a coffee, we came back to it to find a group of people admiring it. Leaving the coastline we headed inland on the Canberra road there were some lovely twisty mountain roads. The weather had been pretty hot even by Australian standards; the bike thermometer registered the air temperature at 42C and I noticed that the tarmac was melting. My wife said... I can smell smoke... obviously a bush fire nearby. I reassured her by saying... I am sure it is a long way from here.... half expecting to see around the next bend a car coming towards me with burning tyres and skeletal occupants.

Heading towards Melbourne we were diverted away from the main road by the Fire Service, because the fire was burning across the road. After a further diversion Dot pointed out there was a hotel very close to a local fire station and suggested we stayed there the night because they look after their own and

that would be the last place in town to burn down. As we unpacked the bike we looked up at the sun which was coloured a dark blood red by the smoke. So what do you do in these circumstances? We had a couple of beers, a meal and then went to bed. The next morning we had to brush the ash from the vehicles but we were reassured to note that it was very light and not at all sticky which would have indicated remains of animals and/or people.

The next day we hightailed it to Melbourne receiving lots of text messages from our family and friends, once we were back in coverage, asking if we were ok because apparently we had been surrounded by several bush fires. It was nice to arrive in Kyneton and be greeted by our family. Lots of beer ensued.

We left early the next morning going through Geelong and headed out on the Great Ocean Road. Lovely sea breezes, spectacular scenery and the Twelve Apostles. We stayed the night in a hotel in Warrnambool run by the rudest person we met in Australia.. but hey.

More spectacular scenery the next day and after a short stop at Mt Lofty, with the whole of the City down below, we arrived at our friends in Adelaide. Three days of surfing, wines from the Adelaide hills and some lovely home cooked food, then we were off again. Inland this time, over to Mildura and then to Wodongo via Swan Hill. We spent a couple of nights in Wodongo then continued on to Sydney travelling through Gundagai - where the dog sat on the tucker box - dropping the bike back off at Parramatta.



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