



Hog on the Tyme



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DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS....



Image by Ian McClelland

Since our last issue, it has been a very busy time for the Chapter. As I mentioned in last issue October was Breast Cancer Awareness month and at the beginning of the month The LOH kick-started things off by having a ride out, the theme being PINK (more from Debs) what a successful start to our fundraising for the ultra sound scanner for The Breast Cancer Unit at Newcastle RVI. Following on from that, a team of riders consisting of Paul and David and Alan from dealership, Gregg (Assistant Director), Kevin and Mick from Cleveland Police, Nick and Andrew from H-D Buell and last but not least our very own Eric who drove the support van. The plan was to ride from Newcastle to John O'Groats then onto Lands End to raise money for the scanner appeal.

I am pleased to say that everyone returned safely and the Chapter met the group at Scotch Corner to welcome them back. The ride officially ended on the quayside outside of Mal Maison Hotel where tea, coffee and hot sandwiches were served and official photographs taken. Up at the dealership, Debs set up the raffle which was to be drawn in the afternoon. Over 50 prizes were donated

for the cause. What a fantastic way to end the weekend.

Moving straight into November with more fundraising - Debs organised a bag packing exercise at Sainsbury's, Throckley. A group of Chapter Members braved the weather and rode to the shop and raised loads of money towards the appeal. Following on a week later, the Chapter finally got what everyone has talked about for years, our very own bus for the night, for our LOH Mystery Tour. I think it's been a long time coming and boy did it take me back to the days when I got the Scholar's Bus to school. When we arrived at the venue which was The Whitburn Lodge, a buffet awaited us and also live music. Again the fundraising continued with Mick and myself orchestrating the raffle and several domino cards thrown in with instant cash prizes.

This year, the Chapter Christmas Party took place a week earlier, to give members who live further afield the chance to come to the party and not have to return at night having attended the gift ride earlier that day. In previous years this meant they were not be able to come on the gift ride out and the Christmas Party because on the same day. At the party we raffled several food hampers first prize to included a Chapter Christmas Cake which was baked by our very own El Cook, buffet, band and also a free raffle. The Christmas Toy/Gift Ride took place a week later, starting and finishing at the dealership where we handed over our toy donations to the Salvation Army before we set off on our gift ride out.

Last year, it was brought to my attention that members wanted to support the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for the Armed Forces but at the time it was left too late, this year I brought it to your attention well in advance, I would like to thank you on behalf of the SOS Appeal, every box donated is going to a good

cause. New members Al and Karen Thompson enlisted the help of North Tyneside General Hospital and a big THANK YOU goes out to them for their contribution. I delivered them all to the various collection points. The shoe box appeal is continuous all the year round and boxes can be dropped off anytime at the collection points.

Looking back over the year, we've had great ride outs, my thanks to all the Road Crew for their support, the LOH for their help with the BBQ at Easter time and a very successful Heart and Soul Rally considering the financial climate.

In the summer the dealership was taken over and relaunched as Newcastle Harley-Davidson. In October we wanted to highlight Breast Awareness Month and after discussion, Ride Aid was born. The Chapter alongside the Dealership have worked hard to achieve the target but still have a way to go but I'm sure that we will get there eventually.

Finally as the year comes to an end, I would like to thank all of my committee for their time and commitment. The Road Crew for making numerous ride outs possible and most importantly safe. Also those members who have contributed their time and efforts in helping out at the Heart and Soul Rally, you know who you are. Without your support events like this just wouldn't happen. For that I thank you all, I hope it continues in the future - remember "It's not what you can get out of the Chapter, it's what you can put in - that's what makes a good Chapter.

Wishing you all good health, a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Julie



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