

Take one derelict cottage, a link to the Davidson family tree and a huge heap of Scottish determination... the result: an extraordinary achievement that has made history. And now you can be part of it



A WEEKEND IN THE WILDS

If you fancy a long weekend in Scotland, there's plenty to be explored from the Nethererton Cottage base. We flew into Edinburgh and rented an Ultra Classic™ and a Street Glide® for our long weekend. On leaving Edinburgh Harley-Davidson®, we headed north to Perth on the M90 and exited on to the A85. We stayed on this road west to Crianlarich and on to Fort William – some great fast roads through the National Park and Glen Coe with stunning views. At Fort William we headed north to Loch Ness and rode the north side of the loch so we could find a hotel before reaching Inverness. The south side of the loch has a single-track road with virtually no traffic and was recommended to us, but this side has no accommodation so it depends what you're looking for.

The next day we continued north to Inverness, then east towards Nairn. Turning south at Nairn we found ourselves on much quieter roads that took us through the Highlands and Cairngorms National Park. Long sweeping roads up and over the hills – some of the best riding we have ever experienced! We continued south through Grantown-on-Spey (a popular part of the annual Thunder in the Glens rally every August!) and on to Ballater. We then went east towards Stonehaven to meet the A90 for the road to the cottage. At Ballater, you can also turn right and pay a visit to Balmoral Castle before riding on to the pretty town of Pitlochry. We spent another full day heading west again, but this time further north via Loch Tummel, the Tay Forest and then south to Killin and Aberfoyle.

On our final day we took a tour of Stirling Castle before returning the bikes mid-afternoon. A fabulous country with roads that were simply built for biking – and now there's a truly special reason for visiting!

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Scottish spirit

HOG® MAGAZINE WAS invited to the official opening of Nethererton Cottage in the tiny village of Aberlemno, Angus in eastern Scotland in July. While we expected an enthusiastic gathering of those involved in this four-year-long historic project, we weren't prepared for a party that not only brought together H.O.G.® members from across Scotland but also united the entire community.

It all began with three people – Harley-Davidson® fanatic Mike Sinclair, community worker Maggie Sherrit and long-time friend Keith Mackintosh – who all had a dream. They bought the run-down

cottage that once belonged to Sandy and Margaret Davidson. In this tiny cottage of just four rooms and a larder, they brought up their six children, one of which was to father three of the founders of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

In moving his family to the US in 1857, blacksmith Sandy Davidson sought a new life for the Davidson family and the cottage was abandoned to Scotland's elements.

In 2008, our triumphant trio saved the remains of the cottage from demolition and embarked on a project that would test them to their limits if they were to see it through to fruition. Battling with planning

issues and the Scottish weather, they made it – and on July 14, 2012, to the sound of bagpipes and the rumbling of several hundred Harley-Davidson motorcycles, the cottage was officially opened.

Known as the Davidson Legacy, the opening of the cottage is the first stage in a plan to celebrate the history of Harley-Davidson in Scotland and create a museum and visitor centre. The cottage is now open to the public, who are invited to experience life as it would have been in 1857.

On entering through the red-painted wooden door, a left turn takes you through to the kitchen where an authentic range

cooker sits on the rebuilt end wall. Original flagstones underfoot, it's difficult to imagine a family of eight in this tiny room. Turn to the right from the front door and you are led past the staircase and open larder to the front room, which would have been kept immaculate for special occasions. With two double bedrooms in the slanted roof space, the cottage is certainly cosy, and the team have restored it beautifully, adding historic photographs and artefacts to add to the feeling of the late 19th century.

Outside, a sympathetic wooden building houses washrooms and a modern kitchen

for guests who may prefer a few home comforts during their stay. A Davidson Legacy rivet wall and etched stone set into the ground mark the completion of the restoration and the protection of such an important part of Harley® history.

And, of course, Nethererton Cottage is the perfect base for Harley-Davidson riders to explore some of the most incredible riding. It is just 20 miles from the east coast and the gateway to Aberdeen. Head north to the Highlands, or just a couple of hours to the west and riders can enjoy Glen Coe and the Loch Lomond National Park. And on its doorstep, Aberlemno is located just four

miles from Brechin – a sleepy town 20 miles north-east of Dundee that came to life as hundreds of Harley-Davidson motorcycles lined the town's high street, and hundreds more came to see the spectacle as the entire community celebrated the opening of the cottage.

As the party carried on into the night, for Maggie, Mike and Keith, the next part of their adventure is just beginning... ■

To book your reservation to stay at Nethererton Cottage and experience life as it was when the Davidson family lived there, visit www.davidsonlegacy.com