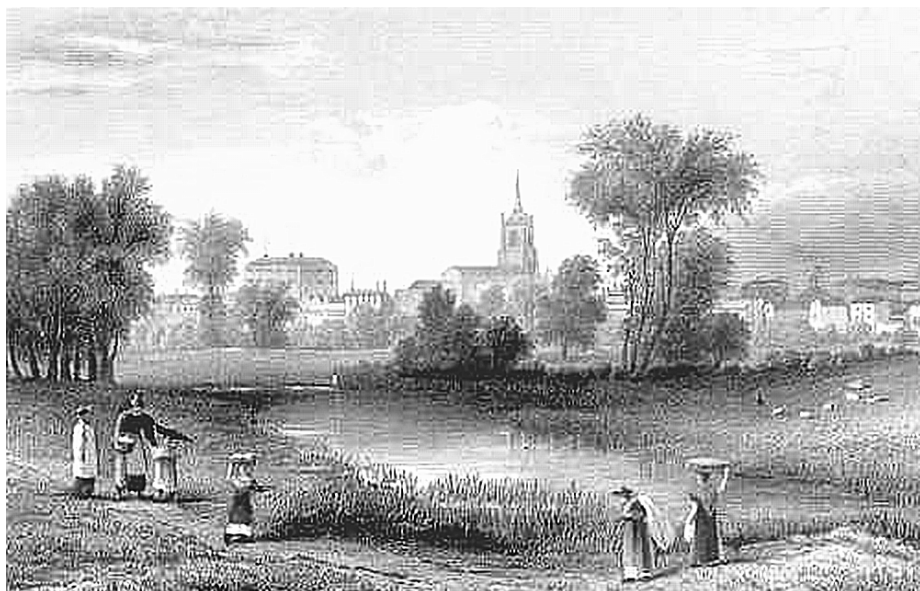


**November / December 2009**



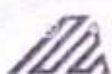
Once upon as time... Finchingfield

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**Spotlight** – Magazine of the CTC Essex DA, a local member group of  
CTC, the national cyclists' organisation

President: Brian Penny

Volume 06/2009

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## **Impressum:**

DA Secretary: Brian Taylor, 45 Fairfield Rise, Billericay, CM12 9NP,  
Tel: 01277 657867

Editor: Stefan Eichenseher, 44 The Approach, Rayleigh, SS6 9AA,  
s.eichenseher@googlemail.com

Advertising Officer: Rachael Castleton, as editor, Tel.: 01268 655619

Postal subscriptions: Peter Moore, 35 The Ridings, Chelmsford,  
CM2 9RR, Tel: 01245 263165, petebernmoore@tiscali.co.uk,

**Price per annum: £5.00 inc. p&p**

Closing date for the Jan/Feb 2010 edition is on 17 December 2009.
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## Officers of the CTC Essex DA - we are serving you ...

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(preferred) Contact</u>
President	Brian Penny	b.penny522@btinternet.com
Chairman	Peter Moore	☎ 01245 263165
Secretary	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867
Treasurer	Martin Cockersole	martin@cockersole.co.uk
Members' secretary	John Smith	johnwsmith4635@talktalk.net
Welfare officer	Brian Penny	b.penny522@btinternet.com
Promotions officer	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867
Editor	Stefan Eichenseher	s.eichenseher@googlemail.com
Advertising officer	Rachael Castleton	s.eichenseher@googlemail.com
Web master	Ian Cable	webmaster @essexcycling.co.uk

### Section Representatives (for more information see member group details)

		Postcode of runs start	
Brentwood	Steve Bearpark	☎ 01708 375018	
Chelmsford	Adrian Leeds	☎ 01245 260272	
Colchester	Alan Palmer	☎ 01206 792929	
Havering	Brian Stevens	☎ 01708 851636	
South East Group	John Steer	☎ 01702 309958	SS12 0AL

### Other Committee members

EDARF	John Davis	jldavis_123@talktalk.net
Veterans Rep	Dot Sharp	☎

### Also check out online:

CTC Essex DA	<a href="http://www.essexcycling.co.uk">www.essexcycling.co.uk</a>
Website of the Havering section	<a href="http://www.haveringctc.btik.com">www.haveringctc.btik.com</a>
Chris' site: route planning resources	<a href="http://www.velocipede.org.uk">www.velocipede.org.uk</a>
Cyclists' Touring Club	<a href="http://www.ctc.co.uk">www.ctc.co.uk</a>
Yet Another Cycling Forum	<a href="http://yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php">http://yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php</a>
Nutty cyclist's insane world (Mike's site)	<a href="http://www.nuttycyclist.co.uk/">http://www.nuttycyclist.co.uk/</a>

## ***Editor's foreword***

When I met Buster at the Mildenhall Ralley, who, for a change, has come back from his foreign adventures, I tried to encourage him to put his experiences in words. I argued that cyclists joining the freedom through exercise league can read up on what is possible and what is out there to learn. Also, it serves as a memory of the wri(d)ers who contributed to the magazine. Likewise, I would like to encourage all senior members to contribute with their stories. It provides material for our Spotlight, but also puts a name to a hear-say (or other type) of account.

The important date is November 15<sup>th</sup> when the Annual General Meeting of Essex CTC is to be held at the Chelmer C.C. clubhouse (see note on page 6). At this meeting we decide on the 2010 event programme and elect next year's officials with all jobs being up for grabs.

P.S.: John Steer pointed out to me that he didn't want his article that he sent to me last time to be called a "rant", but a collection of comments from various members about issues occurring on the rides. So, I give my apologies to him for exaggerating his assertive essay with such a firm term.

Your editor,  
***Stefan Eichenseher***

### **Note from Charles Comport:**

"Joan and I will not be distributing Christmas cards to D.A. members this year. Instead the monies saved will be shared out between "The British Heart Foundation" and "Sustrans".



## ***The President's piece***

Our dear editor has asked me to keep my piece short for this edition. This is a pity because this will be my last contribution before handing over the Presidential Reign to A.N Other. So my last piece will be three short points:

- i) Please attend the Essex Annual General Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November
- ii) At the AGM please do come with ideas on what you would like in the DA Events calendar for 2010 or any other issues.
- iii) I wish there was time for me to have done the President's job properly. Perhaps the next President should be somebody of retired status

But more than anything my deepest thanks to Dot Sharp for her wonderful, unswerving support to the CTC over many, many years and my very best wishes to her for her new life in Kings Lynn.

All the best,  
**Brian**

## ***DA Essex – AGM !!***

The **Essex CTC Annual General Meeting** will be held  
at the **Chelmer C.C. Clubhouse**  
in Meteor Way, Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford,  
on the **15<sup>th</sup> November**  
commencing at **10.30am**.

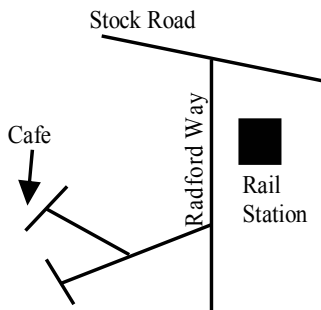
Nominations for office are accepted on the day. Propositions must be received by me Brian Taylor by **12<sup>th</sup> November**. The Prize-giving will take place after the meeting with some food to stop you getting hungry, so please support Essex Cyclist's Touring Club.

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## **Essex DA Archives – Take over**

*by Brian Penny*

At the last couple of DA AGMs we have wondered how to store a growing collection of photographs, minutes and Spotlight magazines that have been collected by the DA and its sections.

After finding an excuse for taking a day off work I popped round to the **Essex Records Office** in Chelmsford for some advice. The result is that the ERO would be happy to look at any material we have to offer and might be willing to store it on the basis of a donation or to lend our collection for retrieval as and when required. The source of much of the material would have come from the Charles Comport household but my investigations were too late because by the time of my ERO discovery, he had made his own arrangements. However, Charles did hand over some real old editions of Spotlight which I will catalogue and take to ERO for storage when I next get a day off work [in about 2 years' time..., Ed].

This storage at ERO does not just apply to material held by previous Spotlight editors. If section secretaries have any documents or photos of their own cluttering up the hallway then do let me know. I'm sure the ERO would be delighted to see it. Let me know if there is any such material by e-mailing me at [b.penny522@btinternet.com](mailto:b.penny522@btinternet.com).



Clear instructions!

From the 🏠: "Cycle Fun Montreal"  
[http://cyclingfunmontreal.blogspot.com/2009\\_05\\_01\\_archive.html](http://cyclingfunmontreal.blogspot.com/2009_05_01_archive.html)



## ***Member Groups' Reports***

### **Chelmsford Member Group**

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** - Edwardstone - On a morning which was colder than it appeared, eight riders set off from the bus station, including Dick H from the SE Group. The grade of Springfield Road, combined with the North wind, slowed progress considerably. On reaching Hatfield Peverel, time was judged not to be on our side, and a mildly unpleasant but shorter journey was made on the cycle path alongside the A12 to Kelvedon, instead of the Wickham Bishops route I had envisaged using. Dave Southin turned back just after Great Tey, and thus seven riders joined Dave and Beryl at the "Mill Race Garden Centre", Aldham, elevenses stop. Suitably refreshed, we headed out toward Boxford, in which we encountered a veteran and vintage motorcycle club run. Reaching the destination, we found the pub had its own brewery, and were purveying a very nice mild at 2.9% ("Mawkins Mild"). Luncheon was consumed with customary vigour, and the party benefited from the tail wind in the direction of Stisted, where ample threeses were taken at "Sean's Tea Room" at very little cost.

The ride home was uneventful, and overcast. I don't think we saw the sun all day! **Peter Tibbitts**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** - Monk Street - Seven of us set out for elevenses at "The Blue Egg" at Great Bardfield. John and Margaret joined us shortly after our arrival. Most people had scones which looked like small loaves and apparently tasted like them. Normally "The Blue Egg" is ok but not this time although my chocolate crunch was alright.

Only four decided to carry on to Monk Street. The sun was beginning to appear and with little wind it was turning into a pleasant day. Going via Little Bardfield and Thaxted we arrived at the "Farmhouse Inn" at about 12:30. I was the only one without sandwiches but the pub provided a choice of tasty sandwiches, but inferior wine.

We went to Andrews Field for threeses and watched numerous planes landing and taking off while we drank our tea. The sun continued to shine and what wind there was generally was helpful as we journeyed home stopping once for Dave to pump up his tyre which had a slow puncture. **E Oliver**

## **Haverling Member Group**

**Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>** – New rider Paul Wilson from South Ockendon joined Phyllis, Paul, John and Brian for this Softees ride to old favourite Langdon Hill's via the long route. On their way they bumped into the Becontree Wheelers who managed to bump into themselves leaving one of their riders hitting the deck! No damage done to himself or his cycle just a rather embarrassing moment for this rider with the Haverling looking on. Our journey to and from our cuppa stop was uneventful. **E. C. Ryder**

**Aug 9<sup>th</sup>** – An 8.30 start saw just Dave, Mike and Brian speeding out of Upminster and through Bulphan, Billericay and Stock to reach Great Baddow and Bringey Pine for their cuppa and yummy toasty tea-cakes. This was followed by a short stretch of the A1060 which led them back into the lanes and Little Baddow. All three took the footbridge over the ford, and after a climb or two plus a nice downhill bit they found themselves at "Paper Mill Lock". This was of course rather crowded, but they found a seat beside the water-edge and watched the boats and ducks go past while enjoying their lunch. Then, climbing away from the Lock towards Boreham, they sped through Russell Green, Little Waltham and Broad Green. At the A1060 Dave took the lead and led them along the cycle path to Writtle, which turned out to be rather boring and long way around! At Margaretting they got onto the B1107 to Ingatestone for a Supermarket stop, then through Mountnessing to South Wealds and Upminster with mileage for the day 73 miles. **E.C. Ryder**

**Aug 16<sup>th</sup>** – New rider Mark Dalby from Hornchurch joined Dave B, Paul, Tashfeen and Brian for this Softees Ride, with their first cuppa stop being the "Aviator Café" in Damyns Hall Airfield. Here they came under attack from dive-bombing wasps! Back in their saddles they sped towards North Ockendon and into Fen Lane where the cry of "puncture" came from Mark. Whilst repairing the tube, along came another cyclist who said: "You think you have a problem? Just look at my frame." One of his seat stays had parted company with the seat tube! Anyway, Tashfeen to the rescue with a piece of string - we later met him again and he had found a stronger piece of string beside the road and was busy strapping the seat stay up again. We said our goodbyes and good luck to this cyclist as he headed for home in Laindon and we headed off to the "Farmers Market" in Pike Lane for another cuppa before home. **E.C. Ryder**

**Aug 24<sup>th</sup>** – Six riders, Brian, Dave, Gordon, Mark, Karine Merritt from Paris, France, and myself set off on a sunny Sunday morning. At Langdon Hills new rider Gordon and Brian left us for a cuppa before

returning home. The rest pushed on through Billericay and onto Hanningfield Reservoir for our cuppa in the visitor's centre where we bumped into Peter Moore & co. A wind assisted blast took us to Bicknacre and then some main road stuff followed including a stretch of A414. Skirting around Maldon we reached Heybridge Basin, we met our man in Manningtree, Graham Pettit, outside the "Jolly Sailor". After lunch we set off into the wind for our return, Graham heading for home via Goldhanger, the rest retracing our steps around Maldon and then a slog up Loddarts Hill. At West Hanningfield we stopped briefly on the grass for early 3ses then pressed on to Stock, a quick splash at Buttsbury Ford and another quick stop at Hutton to raid the shop for cold drinks. Soon after Mark left us to make his way to Lakeside as he was late for a dinner date. The remaining trio set off up the Avenue and the last bit to Upminster where we split for home clocking up 75 miles in the process. **David Rowlands**

**Aug 30<sup>th</sup>** – This week Softees ride saw Brian leading Dave, Gordon and son Mark, John back from sick leave, and Stuart back from his holidays, plus sleepy-head Tashfeen who missed the start but caught the group up at North Ockendon. Their destination was Langdon Hills, via the longer route through Orsett and Horndon-on-the-Hill. It was a lovely morning's ride with lovely weather, and a nice cuppa and a good old natter in the visitor's centre was had. **E.C. Ryder**

**Aug 31<sup>st</sup>** – With no planned destination for this Bank Holiday Monday ride, the team lead by Brian with Dave, Gordon, John, Stuart and on-time-this-morning Tashfeen, took the cycle path along the A127 to climb over the M25 and speed down Dark Lane. Which took them to South Wealds and a rather long but enjoyable route to reached Blackmore for a cuppa. This was followed by a pleasant ride to Willingale and Radley Green and some rough-stuff along the Horsfrith Park Farm bridleway, back on tarmac they climbed up through Mill Green passing a very packed out "Viper" due to the beer festival. The team pressed on through Ingatestone passing the rail station and the hall to reach a Flower Festival at St. Giles' Church, Mountnessing, for another cuppa plus the odd bit of yummy cake. They returned home via Doddinghurst and South Wealds. The weather had been lovely, a bit windy at times, but an enjoyable day out. **E.C. Ryder**

**Sept 6<sup>th</sup>** – Just four out for this "Easy with Brian" ride, and they were Phyllis, who's not been out for a wee while due to illness and holidays, Gordon, Stuart and of course Brian. A tailwind pushed them nicely along

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through Bulphan and Billericay to eventually reach Hanningfield Reservoir for a very welcome cuppa. Then on through Stock and Margaretting Tye, where they stopped for a chat with our Essex Easy Riders in “The White Hart”, and at last the sun came out to greet them. Now with a bit of a head wind they made their way to Mountnessing and South Wealds to reach Upminster and home with a nice 50 miles on their clocks. **E.C. Ryder**

**Sept 13<sup>th</sup>** – After that lovely warm and sunny Saturday, Sunday was cool and cloudy but that didn't stop two new riders joining the Softees ride. So making our number up to eight were Reg from Upminster and Steve from Rush Green. Our other riders were Colin, Gordon, John, Paul, Stuart and Brian, who set off taking the short way to Langdon Hills for a cuppa and a natter. On their return and a tailwind they made good time in reaching Pike Lane for another cuppa and the odd yummy cake at the craft show.

**E.C. Ryder**

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup>** – An 8am start for this ride out to Burnham-on-Crouch saw just the leader at the start! So after a phone call to Graham in Manningtree to cancel the meet, our leader led himself through Navestock in lovely warm sunshine and light winds. At Kelvedon Hatch he stopped to watch a few deer trotting across the road just in front of him. Then he continued on through Blackmore and Mountnessing to reach Hutton collecting our Spotlights and reaching home at 11.30 with a nice 40 miles on the clock.

**E.C. Ryder**

**Sept 27<sup>th</sup>** – This Sunday saw Phyllis, Alex, Colin, Dave, Paul, Gordon, Stuart and Brian leaving Upminster on a lovely warm and sunny morning, with sleepy-head Tashfeen catching them up in Bulphan. On through Orsett they sped until they reached the A128, where Alex on his new Airnimal turned for home, while the rest headed for Horndon-on-the-Hill and then Langdon Hills for their cuppa. Just a pleasant ride home afterwards with a short stretch of false-teeth-rattling bridleway to North Ockendon church. Then in Pea Lane as the group was about to spilt for home a cry of puncture came from Phyllis. **E.C. Ryder**

## **South East Essex Member Group**

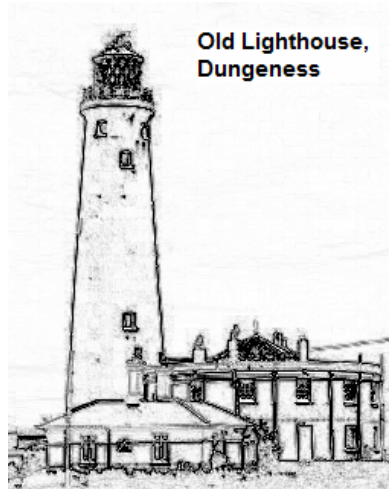
**August 9<sup>th</sup>** - We don't get to visit Nounsley very often. It's one of the locations that's fallen off the runs list despite it being popular on the occasions when we have been there. A nice sunny day and the usual 20 arrived at Wickford. Elevenses at Writtle Garden Centre was a

prolonged event. Kind hearted John Steer stayed back with newcomer Pam who was unfortunate in picking up 3 punctures before 11 o'clock. Real bad luck. Then the fast group turned up 15 minutes later. After these set-backs we eventually got underway to Nounsley, until Martin also got a puncture two miles short of the pub. The puncture award will be popular this year. Through the ford and "The Sportman" pub appears and it was great to see it again. Recently refurbished and with lots of customers in the beer garden "The Sportsman" looks fit and strong. Hopefully we won't leave it so long for another visit. **Brian P**

**August 16<sup>th</sup> - Hythe-Dungeness** - Eleven of us met at the café next to Hythe station for a ride though Romney Marshes to Dungeness.

After some confusion with the directions and some map consulting we headed on in the correct direction, only to lose Martin. I rode back and found him. His water bottle had fallen out and he had ridden over it leaving a big dent in it as it is an aluminium one. We continued on, stopping for refreshment at a delightful pub in Lydd. Our journey continued into a headwind - the area is at sea level and completely flat - towards Dungeness, but unfortunately we lost both Kevins. After a phone call (what would we do without mobile phones?) they caught us up and we made it to Dungeness. There we stopped at "The Britannia" pub for lunch, where some of us enjoyed fish and chips and we found out that the landlord comes from Leigh-on-Sea.

After lunch, a suggestion to climb all 300+ steps in the old lighthouse was quickly dismissed. Some of us who enjoyed their fish and chips struggled somewhat to get back on the bike. But the return ride was assisted by a tailwind as we rode along the sea front to New Romney, where we arrived at the station just in time to see one of the steam trains depart. Our journey continued to Donkey Street, where we stopped at Lathe Barn tearooms. Those of us that weren't too stuffed with fish and chips enjoyed an assortment of cakes and cream teas, before heading back to Hythe, where we loaded the bikes on to our cars, with 53 miles on the clock. Well done to John Steer for organising a fantastic day out. **Ian C**



Old Lighthouse,  
Dungeness

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Mike C, Jason R, Colin B, David H, Allan S, Ken W and Bob K were led out of Wickford by Peter W at the front and Chris W as tail-end Charlie. As we ascended Brock Hill at a rather fast pace Ken and Bob announced that they would make their own way to our elevenses stop at the Margaretting "Saddlery Café". However, Bob decided to hang on with the main group. Taking the Reservoir on the back and via Butts Green into Galleywood the group separated and re-formed as going along. Turning left at Piper's Tye into Watchouse Road Colin recalled he was still there, but nearing the traffic lights at the top, there was no sign: we lost Bob. I went back to the turn-off but in vain. As I asked an oncoming cyclist whether he'd seen someone, this one as it turned out told the rest waiting at the top, that I indicated to make my own way. So when I got back to the traffic lights I just glimpsed the others leaving. Although the road-works lights at the bottom of London Hill, Galleywood, held me back, I managed to catch the group before our elevenses stop. There, a bunch of staff were waiting in the sun before our storm, probably anticipating that we should be more riders with this good weather.

Only Colin B and I continued to the lunch stop at "The White Hart" in Little Waltham. Going pretty much straight up, we passed a great valley filled with tents and adjacent a sea of metal boxes (i.e. cars): the campers for the V-Festival had a glorious day.

After some strengthening we faced the way back against very strong headwinds. I had only a glance at Colin's copy of a car map for a rough guide, and wondered how each time turning a corner some way markers made me recognise the environment and picture where I am in order to continue and find the next turning.

We had a quick stop over at Butts Green nursery for a tea. However, their electricity was down and we had only light refreshments. In the end I clocked up 87km, about 55 miles. **Stefan E**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Thirteen members met at Dover for a days riding in France along canals to Watten. As we left Calais docks we were met by our French friends. Colette was waiting whilst Jean-Paul had gone looking for us thinking that we had docked early and gone off without him. When J-P arrived we set off through Calais down onto one of the canals we were going to follow. I briefly explained our route to J-P who said that he would go along with my ideas, when we arrived at the restaurant he told me that I had chosen a "magnifique route". When our lunches started to arrive Norman's came out first - the biggest salad that any of us had ever seen. The plate must have been 15"x15" square and it was full up. After our lunch and our good-byes to our French friends we set off along **Ctd p23**



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## Forthcoming Events



*Organisers: please advise me of what you wish to be included*

Date	Event	Organiser
15 Nov	<b>Essex DA AGM</b> - 10:30 at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067	Brian Penny
13 Dec	<b>[DA] Christmas Meet</b> , at the White Hart, Margaretting Tye	Brian Taylor
14 Feb	<b>[MG] SEG 75 miles</b> - from 8:30 am at Lake Meadows Café, Billericay, CM12 0AQ	Stefan Eichenseher

If not stated, please see the Impressum (p4) for organisers' contacts.

## Easy Rider Meets



13 Dec	White Hart	Margaretting Tye
<b>Note:</b> This is also the Essex DA Christmas Meet venue and date.		
10 Jan	The Viper	Mill Green
14 Feb	The Crown	Ingatestone
14 Mar	The Brewers' Arms	Bicknacre

**Easy Rider Lunch Meets** - for details contact Pete Moore 01245 263165

## Brentwood Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: Steve Bearpark  
43 Court Avenue, Harold Park, RM3 0XS, ☎ 01708 375018,  
[steve@stevebearpark.com](mailto:steve@stevebearpark.com)

## Chelmsford Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** Adrian Leeds

4 Oaklands Crescent, Chelmsford CM2 9PR, ☎ 01245 260272

**Runs Secretary:** Dave Russell

7 Willows Crescent, Hatfield Peverel, ☎ 01245 381055

**Rides Start:** Sundays: Civic Theatre, Fairfield Road 9am for 9.15am

All day rides start 9.15am

For Tuesday evening destinations

call Peter Moore ☎ 01245 263165 or Dave Russell ☎ 01245 381055

**Please Note** new Winter 10 a.m. start from 15 November onwards

Date	Destination	11ses	Leader
08-Nov	Gt. Sampford	Thaxted	D Emery
	<b>NOTE: Winter 10 a.m. starts</b>		
15-Nov	<b>[DA] AGM, 10.30 am, Chelmer Club Hut</b>		
22-Nov	Allens Green		D Russell
	10 a.m. start - straight to lunch		
29-Nov	Finchingfield		A Leeds
	10 a.m. start - straight to lunch		
06-Dec	Fordham		M Cockersole
	10 a.m. start - straight to lunch		
12-Dec	<b>[MG]</b> Section Christmas Dinner, The Orange Tree, Chelmsford, 7 for 7:30 p.m.		L Hurrell
13-Dec	<b>[DA]</b> Christmas meet, Margaretting Tye		D Russell
20-Dec	Bishops Stortford		B Taylor
	10 a.m. start - straight to lunch		
25-Dec	Appetiser Run, Rose & Crown, Gt Waltham		
	10 a.m. start - straight to lunch		
27-Dec	Great Bardfield "The Vine"		L Hurrell
	10 a.m. start - straight to lunch		
01-Jan	Meet at "The Roundbush", Purleigh		
03-Jan	Earls Colne		A Leeds
	10 a.m. start - straight to lunch		
10-Jan	Monk St		E Oliver
	10 a.m. start - straight to lunch		

## Colchester Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: Alan Palmer

☎ 01206 792929, mob 07939 395067 or

[alanpalmer@phonecoop.coop](mailto:alanpalmer@phonecoop.coop)

A gentle, mostly traffic-free ride: <i>Cycling Back to Health</i>	11am <b>Wednesday's</b> , by Skatepark at Leisure World, Colchester	Led by Richard Monk.
Around 5 miles distance, taking somewhere between an hour and two. We stop for refreshments somewhere half-way.		

This is a faster-paced ride for more experienced cyclists: <i>The Pete Finch Thursday Night Ride</i>	7.15pm by Tenpin, Colchester	It must be mentioned this is run by the SUFFOLK DA:
Distance usually upwards of 15 miles at a steady pace. The destination is always a pub in one of the surrounding villages and cyclists make their own way home (there will always be someone to cycle with, however).		

Members are welcome to attend *Bike Drinks*, for all local cyclists, held on the second Tuesday of the month, 8pm at The Bricklayers (CO4 5AA)

"

## ***Havering Member Group – Runs List***



**Secretary:** Brian Stevens

3 Gidea Close, South Ockendon, RM15 6PF

☎ 01708 851636 or [bristevens@btinternet.com](mailto:bristevens@btinternet.com)

**Memberships Secretary:** Phyllis Gregory ☎ 01708558221

[phylgreg@homecall.co.uk](mailto:phylgreg@homecall.co.uk)

**Runs Start:** Roomes (Home & Fashion) Store, Station Road, Upminster

All rides meet 09.15 for 09.30 start unless otherwise stated

**Softees Rides:** Meet 09.45 for 10.00 start

	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Essex AGM, 10.30 am</b>	<b>(08.30 start)</b>
Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Softees Ride	
Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	Hatfield Broad Oak	
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Havering Christmas lunch	
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Christmas meet</b>	John Wynstanly
Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	Softees Ride	
Dec 27 <sup>th</sup>	Ride that Christmas pudding off	
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Day to Herongate, ride start 10.30	
Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Softees Ride	
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mill Green, The Viper	

**The leader will either be decide on the morning or see website for up to date information about rides**

The Havering local website is <http://www.haveringctc.btik.com>.

## South East Essex Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** John Steer

☎ 01702 309958 – e-mail [jonsue@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jonsue@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Runs start:** from the Market Café in Woodlands Road, Wickford SS12 0AL,  
Sundays at 9.30am, unless otherwise stated.

Club Nights are the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the Month

@ St Laurence All Saints Church Hall,  
Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood

Date	Elevenses	Destination for Lunch
<b>November</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup>	[DA] AGM Chelmsford Club Hut,	10.30 am
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ingatestone (Garden Cntr)	Bicknacre (Brewers Arms)
29 <sup>th</sup>	Grt Baddow (Bringley Pine)	Purleigh (The Bell)
<b>December</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Margaretting (Saddlrey Café)	Danbury (The Cricketers)
		<b>Sections Xmas Meeting</b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)	Margaretting Tye (White Hart)
20 <sup>th</sup>	Round Bush (Round Bush Café)	Nounsley (The Sportsman)
27 <sup>th</sup>	Billericay (Lake Meadows)	Stondon Massey (Bricklayers Arms)
<b>Or [MG] London River Thames &amp; Canal Ride</b>		
<b>January 2010</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	[DA] 11 am start, ride out to the Viper Mill Green for lunch.	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rochford (Beehive Café)	Wakering (Red Lion)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Margaretting (Saddlery Café)	Newney Green (The Duck)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Maldon (Morrison's)	Woodham Mortimer (Hurdlemakers Arms)
24 <sup>th</sup>	Ingatestone (Garden Cntr)	Bicknacre (Brewers Arms)
31 <sup>st</sup>	Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)	North Fambridge (Ferry Boat Inn)

Also a member's website with other cycling information about the group with GPX and TrackLogs (TCX) files provided: [www.velocipede.org.uk](http://www.velocipede.org.uk).

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## ***Member Groups' Reports - continued***

different canals back going through Bourbourg, Gravelines and on to Grand Fort Philippe, where we got our ice-cream, as the fair was in town. On our return to Calais four riders raced off the front along the D119. **How many more times must I tell them not to go in front of the runs leader except up or down a hill?** They went rushing past our turn off where we would have been sheltered from the strong easterly wind that was slowing down our new rider, Fiona. The route I had in mind gives us shelter/a break for a couple of miles from the wind. We only just made it back for our ferry in time as they had started to load up the cars, which they stopped to allow us on board. A good day's ride with about 60 miles on the clock included riding from the parked car in the car-park and back again. With this we left our French friends with quite a route that they had never tried before logged into their sat-nav.

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** - Mildenhall event - Is it me or do others think that the traders there seemed to be in short supply this year? The main Marquee had less stalls in it and there seemed to be a couple of stalls missing inside and out. Is this because you can get cycle stuff as cheap or even cheaper from the internet? Maybe cyclists just can't be bothered to go to it any more or the younger generations/returnees aren't interested in going to these events? **John St**

Nine riders set off on this rather cooler day, a cue that the end of summer is in sight! As no one was interested in going on to lunch we all followed Peter W as he led out on one of his more interesting routes to our 11' venue" Bunsay Downs". Thanks Peter. **Lynda C.**

A lot of others were at Mildenhall, so I was leader for the whole group. Used Bunsay1-30 course which is a good ride and I know it well enough not to miss any turnings. Due to slow riders and late leaving we didn't reach Bunsay until 11.30. Dave had his new Van Nicholas frame. Linda collected the cash and the names. **Peter W**

**September 6<sup>th</sup> - Leukaemia Event.** - Seven SEEMG riders took part in the yearly Leukaemia event. It should have been eight but Robin felt unwell and never made the start. The day started out dull and miserable but picked up as the day progressed. All riders enjoyed the event ride, even though the distance had been raised this year to 30 miles - 15 miles

once around the circuit. The miles had been extended as it was the fifteenth year of organising the event and my fourteenth year of taking part. Only one member of the group accepted my offer of a drink after the event, then he made his way wobblingly back to the inner-reaches of the dull Essex countryside. **John St**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>** - 9 riders set off from Wickford and we met another rider at the 11ses stop at "The Roundbush Café". 10 riders were more than we expected as there were several other cycle events on today. 6 rode on to lunch at "The Green Man", Bradwell. One of our newer members, Melissa, took the plunge to ride on to lunch for the first time and she seemed pleased that she decided to stay out. By the time we got to Bradwell the sun had broken through, so we were able to lunch outside in the sunshine. The sun stayed with us as we headed back home. This was my first time leading a ride and I was pleased not to lose anyone on route. Thanks to everyone for your support and for being a great group. A good experience for me, but I do hope Mr Steer will be back at the helm next week! **Lynda C.**

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** - The ride out to Lake Meadows was in two groups which had been arranged, so that those in my group that would be out all-day could go on to lunch and not need to wait for the other group to arrive at the 11ses stop before departing. Even Raoul M turned up to meet us at the café. The ride out to Tawney Common on the other side of Stapleford Tawney was a long haul. Both Peter H and I had forgotten how far it was to the Mole Trap, a few of the members suffered on this ride - they hadn't ridden as far as Charlotte and myself, as most of them lived near Basildon or Stanford-Le-Hope - half way there. We covered 82+ miles with a lot of the riding against strong winds. Still, we can't complain, it could have been raining.

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** - A rather large group of cyclists descended on "The Writtle Tearooms" this morning (Essex Roads, Hainault and the SEEMG plus some independent cyclists trying to form a group of fat boys on bikes, then there was the OLD GITS cycling group who also appeared). All this before the second group of SEEMG arrived. I was told afterwards that it's the cycling groups that have kept the café open when the garden centre closed down. Well done Lads and Lasses, it's nice to find a cycle friendly café staying open just for us - even if their prices are going up each time we visit them. At least they are clean and cycle friendly. We never made Felstead, but then I hadn't phoned them to say we were coming. Instead we went to "The Compass" at Littley Green for our lunch. On the ride



back to Little Baddow with half of our group taking on North Hill I was leading Dave on his recumbent over the less hilly route back to Battlesbridge for threeses, where we met up with the other group. **John St**

**September 27<sup>th</sup>** - 9 riders started out from Wickford at a pretty direct route to Maldon. Chris W and I took it in turns to lead and check the back end. After turning in Butts Green for Danbury to group got separated when the front end disappeared round a corner - up Well Lane, as we found out afterwards - whilst I led the back end of the group up to the top across the two roundabouts. There I made a very useful discovery: even though "knowing" the roads and directions fairly well, it helps to always carry a local OS map. There was a cyclist just putting away his map and I asked to have a quick glance since I didn't want to go down the A414 to Maldon. I decided to take the road to Runsell Green and went down the first right after the duck pond. Correct - it didn't quite get me where I wanted to go. But I discovered an off-road stint behind a golf course (from the end of Twitty Fee Lane to Herbage Park Road. Interesting for me - not quite so nice for Dave on his Trice recumbent. We followed Old London Road to get in through the back of Maldon and arrived 10 minutes before the front end of the group.

Tony King was already there and we were joined by Norman and Ray, who sporting the SEEMG club shirt came and went in their own pace.

5 riders went on to Burnham at a much higher pace than in the morning doing a good average of nigh-on 20 mph at times - with heavy tail-wind it seemed I dreaded the way home. "The Anchor" as announced in the runs list wasn't doing food, but we managed to get hot dog and chips in one of the other pubs on the quay.

Going home on the in-famous main road to South Woodham Ferrers was a bit challenging at times. The group got split several times due to impatient car drivers. We collected ourselves through South Woodham Ferrers and finished the day with a cup of tea at Battlesbridge. **Stefan E**

**September 27<sup>th</sup>** - The Viking trail ride went really well today - I've taken a few pictures: [http://www.essexcycling.co.uk/gallery/index.php?q2\\_itemId=11](http://www.essexcycling.co.uk/gallery/index.php?q2_itemId=11). There were 9 of us including myself, increasing to 10 when we met Lynda at Manston. She had a puncture that she fixed before leaving home, and arrived after we had already left Minnis Bay. She must have rode straight past us! Brian P, Peter H and Kevin J enjoyed the ride, having never ridden it before. The weather could not have been better. There was one puncture. I think the person concerned is trying to get the award this year.

**Ian C**

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** - Once again I lead a group of riders that wished to stay out all day while Peter W and Chris W lead a group that wished to ride only in the morning. John H was down to lead the ride, but as we had missed each other over the last few weeks he didn't have the latest Spotlight bringing him up to date on who was leading the runs. I lead my group out using different routes to normal, as I felt that all the riders in the group were experienced enough to cope with the roads. I felt that the icing on the cake was the drop down from Gallywood to Margaretting - if only all roads were as smooth as that one. On leaving Writtle both sections of the group road out through Chemsford Park before turning off on their different routes, our ride out to Littley Green went without a hitch. During our lunch one member was observed to be eating another members lunch at a rapid rate of knots. Another good day's ride with only 72+ miles on the clock for Charlotte and myself.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** - 13 riders set off from Wickford this morning wondering where a few of the other riders were, as they had been expected after not appearing for a few weeks. Perhaps they had other important things to do - at least 7 riders missing from the usual Sunday ride is a bit worrying. Still, we made it to 11ses where we were joined by Ian White bringing our numbers to 14. On arriving at the "Saddlery Cafe" we were told in no uncertain terms that we were to sit outside on the patio in the cool and damp weather. We argued that our group had been booked in for eleven o'clock and that they normally reserved tables for us. They claimed that they didn't reserve tables and so it went on. But within minutes there were three empty tables to which we took command of them and were happy again. Only 7 went on to lunch at Pleshey where we were joined by J Davis on his new recumbent, C Mills (on his ordinary) Chris's wife was on her Green Mercian. We had to swap tables with another group of cyclists that were on the bigger table, as we only had a table for 4 people and they were a smaller group (4). Having had a chat with them they had only ridden from Thaxted to Pleshey. In talking with them I found out that they had driven from the East End of London to do their ride (CTC enrolment forms were handed out) and we hope to see them again some time. Only one of the four was a CTC member. The ride back to Battlesbridge went without any hitches until the café where the owner had shut 15 minutes early and refused to re open for us, we made for the Barge pub looking for a light snack, but at £5.95 for a roll we declined and just had a drink. Just as we was leaving Keith and his wife Julie appeared. After a quick chat we set off for home. **John St**

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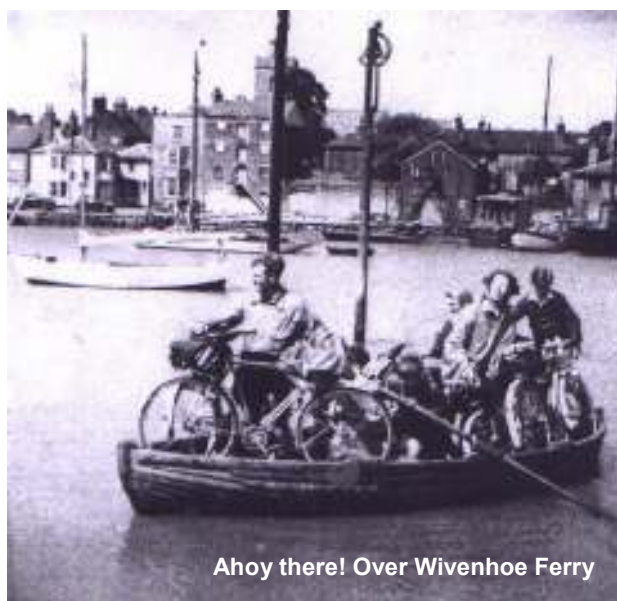
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## **Riding through the night**

*by Charles Comport*

The 'night ride' seems to be a thing of the past for groups and clubs nowadays, even the time trial world only promotes one 24hr event. The only organisation that actively caters for long distance rides is of course Audax UK with their 300, 400, 600k and longer events. There is also the Dunwich Dynamo event which is privately organised from Hackney, London to Dunwich which attracts good support and was written about last year by a couple of our members.

In the Stone Age of the 40s and 50s, there were regular 200/240 miles in 24 hour reliability rides organised by the DA which were quite popular. The DA revived these a couple of times in the early 1980s and we also ran a couple of Audax 300k events. But in the 40s and 50s most sections held a social night ride and I can recall the Dagenham section meeting at Gallows Comer for rides to East Bergholt, where we took rowing boats out on the Stour, and to Clacton where, perhaps unwisely, we spent time in the pier swimming pool. On the return we crossed the river Colne by Wivenhoe ferry where a young lad manfully rowed us across with our bikes a few at a time. One year we met at midnight at Tilbury where we



Ahoy there! Over Wivenhoe Ferry

took the late night ferry for a ride to Dymchurch, Kent. I can clearly remember riding through Romney Marsh with moonlight shining on low mist making the cattle loom up appearing to have no legs. We had booked breakfast at a CTC place in Dymchurch where we were given baked potatoes and herrings, a great disappointment to us youngsters as we were expecting eggs and bacon!

It was the memory of that long ago Clacton night ride that inspired me to join the Brentwood section's night ride to Clacton with my daughter Heather about 1980. I can remember little of the ride - probably in a stupor - but I remember dossing down in a shelter on the front in the small hours before searching for



'He-men' - on the beach at Dymchurch

breakfast. There was no swimming pool on the pier and no ferry at Wivenhoe. I confess I 'cheated' on the return having arranged for son Neil to meet me just outside Clacton with the car. I can quite understand why that, with modern day traffic conditions, the night ride has fallen out of favour.

## ***Obituary***

***Phil Turner***, a belated tribute.

Phil Turner passed away in January from a heart attack at the age of 58. He had joined Brentwood Section some 12 years ago and boosted numbers, on occasions more than doubling the size of the section along with other members of his family including Mary on their tandem.

He joined in with all the section European Tours and brought his guitar along to the barbeque evenings which attracted an even greater number of participants. The post of Spotlight Editor with Steve B as his assistant was one the accomplishments for the D.A.

His job took him to Chichester where he soon became a committee member of the local D.A. and participated in many more randonees including the Paris-Brest-Paris on the tandem.

Both Steves B and C were invited to Phil and Mary's significant wedding anniversary and spent many hours by the pool side along with the other guests and joining in with the community singing and guitar playing.

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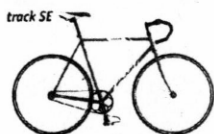
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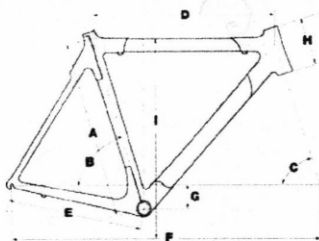
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