

January / February 2010



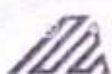
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Spotlight – Magazine of the CTC Essex DA, a local member group of CTC, the national cyclists' organisation

President: Brian Taylor

Volume 01/2010

Index

Index	3
Impressum:	3
Editor's foreword	5
The President's piece.....	6
Member Groups' Reports	8
Honours List 2009	15
Essex Cyclists' Touring Club Proposed Calendar for 2010.....	16
Forthcoming Events	17
Easy Rider Meets	17
Brentwood Member Group – Runs List	17
Chelmsford Member Group – Runs List	18
Colchester Member Group – Runs List	19
Haverling Member Group – Runs List	20
South East Essex Member Group – Runs List	21
Member Groups' Reports - continued.....	29
Observations on the DA AGM, by the "Bike Police"	33
Thinking of.....	34

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Closing date for the Mar/Apr 2010 edition is on 17 February 2010.

Officers of the CTC Essex DA - we are serving you ...

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Also check out online:

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

Editor's foreword

A new decade has begun with new faces at the helm of our DA. For the “active” cyclists, the faces may not seem so new. One could say they are re-cycled – pun intended. Please see the *Impressum* for the changes. In fact it's only the president who had to give up his post as his time was up – 5 years of Brian Penny already completed. My thanks to him for his support especially in the committee's paperwork (as minutes secretary at the DA meetings and ploughing through the policies and procedures with the changes of the CTC hierarchy).

A special thanks also goes to Dot Sharp who left us for a well-earned retirement. Her many years of dedicated support to the Essex DA and the Brentwood member group have very well shaped our setup. A special tribute to her will be featured in the next edition of the Spotlight.

Providing the yearly statistics there is the “Honours List for 2009” on page 15 and the “Essex Cyclists' Touring Club Proposed Calendar for 2010” on page 16.

Charles Comport's “Riding through the night” got a couple of replies by email on page 31 and the *Bike Police* left its report on page 33.

Still trying to encourage contributions, I can see them coming bit by bit. There are again a nice series of events for this year and no doubt this South East Eager Organiser JS, will bring on trips to France and elsewhere.

So I wish you all a good year 2010. Happy days on the bike and off - but safe cycling throughout!

Your editor,

Stefan Eichenseher



The President's piece

Hello fellow cyclists,

As the new president I would like to thank the old president for his last 5 years in the job. Also, I would like to thank Dot for helping me as secretary to organise the AGM for the last 5 plus years, as Dot was secretary for the previous 10 years. I don't think she wanted to give up the whole job, just parts of it, so I nowish her health, wealth and happiness in her new life at Kings Lynn in Norfolk.

On the subject of AGM / Prize giving: thanks to all who turned up and offered to do jobs and support the Essex DA - and councillor Martin for telling us about the plans for the CTC, and John Davis with Chris Mills for offering to organise the Vet's Triennial next year.

Congratulations are also due to Chris Mills for winning the best Spotlight article award relating to Scotland and Cape Wroth with a kamikaze sheep. I was privileged to witness this kamikaze sheep leap of a bank and hit Chris on the back and domino Ken into the field. It seems quite funny now, but a bit scary at the time.

Congratulations also to everyone who received certificates and awards at the prize giving.

Finally, re AGM, if there is anybody who would like to help the Brentwood member group so that it may be change it to an off-road member group, I may be able to help them. My number is in the Spotlight.

Take care on the road and safe cycling for the coming year.

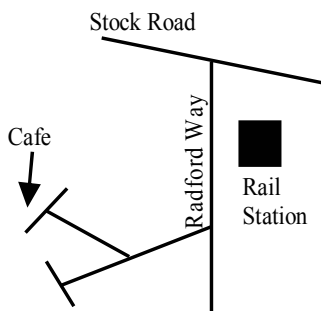
Brian Taylor

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Member Groups' Reports

Chelmsford Member Group

November 22nd – This was the first of our 10 o'clock starts, straight to lunch type rides. Most pubs do not open until 12 o'clock, so this means a two hour ride to lunch at least. Also, a lack of elevenses stops means loss of flexibility as some usually go home from there. Having bitten this bullet, I don't think we will be extending the idea.

This ride was also notable for the horrendous storm that struck us near Spellbrook on open ground – not a tree in sight or a hedge. However the "Queens Head" at Allens Green was most welcoming with eight types of draught beers and very reasonable bar snacks. **Dave Russell**

November 29th – Finchingfield - Six optimists set off in wet conditions on the second of our experimental 10 a.m. "Winter" starts. Remembering the biblical drenching I had suffered the week before on the way to Allens Green, I was wearing every piece of *wet gear* in my cupboard.

Once we got under way, the showers dried considerably and the southerly tail wind sped us on to the extent that we had time to stop for a quick cuppa at Rayne Station. We still arrived in good time for lunch at Finchingfield where Edgar, John and Margaret were already sitting down at the table. During our meal, rain could again be seen, sloping at a close angle to the pavement through the ancient windows of the Red Lion. We added a further tea stop/warm up in the afternoon after battling a dry but strengthening headwind down to Blake End.

The final leg home developed into the first really full-scale wind-and-rain lashing of the day but at least I was home indoors at the end of it. **Adrian Leeds**

Haverling Member Group

Oct 4th – Six riders, Kelvin, Mike, Reg, Ian and new rider Lino from Hornchurch set off on a lovely autumn morning bound for West Hanningfield. We were swept along to Langdon Hills where Kelvin, suffering with a bad back, took early 11ses before turning back home. The rest pushed on through Billericay to our 11s at Hanningfield Reservoir. This followed a short, windswept ride to lunch at the "Three Compasses", after which fed and watered we set off with the headwind not as bad as expected, in the direction of Blackmore via a dry Buttsbury Ford and two photo stops at Stock and Mountnessing windmills. At

Blackmore those yummy cakes where enjoyed for the last time this year. On our return Reg peeled off at Pilgrims Hatch while the remaining four carried on to Upminster. **David Rowlands**

Oct 11th – A new lady rider, Faith Smith, from Romford joined Phyllis, Colin, John, Stuart and Dave for a spin along St. Mary's Lane. At West Horndon we paused so Faith could recharge, after fiddling with John's chain we were away. Into Thorndon Country Park and the "South Pavilion" provided our 11ses and cycle maintenance stop (more fiddling with John's gears). A gentle bit of off-road took us to the Visitors Centre for lunch. The return saw us fly down Bird Lane and a bumpy Warley Street led us back to Pike Lane where we split. I led a struggling Faith back to Roomes to complete her longest ride to date. **David Rowlands**

Oct 18th – A new rider Chris Hague from Chafford Hundred made our number up to eight at the start but only seven rode off heading to Hutton and our AGM, and they were Phyllis, JC, Chris, Dave, Mike, Stuart and Brian. A cuppa was called for in "King George's Park Café". Then on they went to the Brentwood Club Hut where already installed was Peter Jolly and Peter Bowers. After our Officers were elected or bribed and the Attendance Shield and that much loved Puncture Trophy were presented, it was down to the real business of demolishing Dot Sharp's yummy bread pudding! And who did get that last piece? What are we going to do next year? **E.C. Ryder**

Oct 25th – A sunny but windy morning bought 5 riders to the start at Roomes: Gordon, Stuart, Faith, Phyllis and a new rider Barrie Blazeby from Upminster. We set off round the Lanes heading for the RSPB at Rainham Marshes. Faith did really well this week as she is getting used to her new bike and the gears. Instead of continuing round the quite busy Lanes to the entrance to Belhus Country Park, we decided to follow a rough track that led to the bridleway in the country park. We had been this way months before and ended up with bikes and trousers rather muddy. Faith said that she didn't mind a bit of mud and could always wash her new bike afterwards. Although the track was rather rugged, there was no mud this time, but watching us from a bank at the side of the track was a group of cows. They looked at us but luckily didn't move towards us as we sped past. We arrived at the Rainham Marshes without any mishaps. There, after refreshments, we started for home back through the country park with a stop for a photo session. Then Stuart headed for home while the rest of us carried on through the park and out of the main entrance to Aveley Road. At the junction with Warwick Lane

Phyllis turned off while the remaining three continued for Upminster.
Phyllis Gregory

Nov 1st – Five brave souls, Mike, Alex, Stuart, Reg and Gordon, gathered in Upminster for the first ride of November and the winter clock. The weather forecast was spot on: the whole morning was filled with heavy rain and we were all fairly soaked within a couple of miles - so who cares after that. Our destination was the “Rainbow & Dove” PH at Hastingwood, near Harlow. We followed a familiar route around the South Wealds Country Park, up through Stondon Massey to Chipping Ongar. It was a relief to arrive for 11ses, but a disappointment to find that the excellent bakery in the High Street has now closed down. However, Alex had spotted a newish café on the way in and we returned there for a warm welcome, tea and toast, while outside the rain was sheeting down. Nevertheless, we decided to move onwards and arrived at the pub around 12 noon just as the rain was easing. Most of the tables had been booked but we took over one as a first sitting and enjoyed an excellent lunch. As always we were made very welcome. Our route home in the dry, and a little sunshine breaking through, took us through Moreton, Fyfield and Willingale, just outside of which Reg picked up a nasty back wheel puncture. It took us a little while to fix it and when we got underway the light was beginning to fade. We eventually got back into Upminster after 50 or so miles at 16:45 when lights were essential. All felt that it had been a good ride despite the rain. **Mike Mecham**

Nov 8th – Brian came out of his so-called retirement (not leading anymore rides!) to lead this week’s Softees ride, as Phyllis was unwell and Dave had gone AWOL. So Faith, Tashfeen, Barry, Gordon, John, and new rider Geoff from Elm Park followed our Brian along the A127 cycle path up and over the M25 to the muddy bridleway to reach their first cuppa stop in “King George Park Café”. Then they went on to Hutton to deliver a going away present to Dot Sharp, and continued up the Avenue where Tashfeen managed to lose her chain. So they (some with greasy fingers) followed the cycle path through Thorndon Country Park, dodging the walkers, dogs and horse riders along the way to reach the Southside of the park for their lunch and wash their hands! Then it was all downhill to West Horndon and back to Upminster with an easy 26 miles clocked up. **E.C. Ryder**

Nov 15th – The wind and rain finally gave way to clear skies in time for our annual pilgrimage to Chelmsford. John Wynstanly led Brian, Gordon and Dave. On the outskirts of Upminster Brian bade us farewell and the

remaining trio carried on to South Wealds and a real rollercoaster ride complete with water-splash!

After a stop at Coxtie Green to strip off we pressed on in the autumn sunshine to Blackmore and onto the Chelmer CC Clubhouse. Gordon who was just out for a ride said his goodbyes and made his way home while John and Dave stayed for the serious business of the AGM. We filled up at the buffet and bagged our certificates and Brian's trophy and set about our return via Blackmore and onto Ingatestone garden centre for 3ses. We headed off into the setting sun in the direction of Brentwood where it was on with our lights and a bit of rough-stuff in the High Street thanks to the new cobblestones. At the Nags Head we said our goodbyes and headed for our homes. **David Rowlands**

Nov 22nd – Gordon, Barry, late as usual Tashfeen, and myself found we had no leader for this Softees ride so I was appointed leader as I had the most attendance points. We decided to go to Langdon Hills as this was a route we knew well. It was a rather windy day with dark clouds rolling in fast, but we were making good time so I decided to take the longer route via Horndon-on-the-Hill. Just as we arrived at Langdon Hills it started to rain so we reminisced about the last ride when we soaked the café, we went in and made Wallace and Gromit inventions. On the way back it was still raining but soon cleared up and the wind helped to blow us into Upminster via Dunning Lane. **Stuart Layzell**

Nov 29th –Alex, Gordon and Dave had a natter with Kelvin who had just come to the start to say hello. Then they set sail from Upminster bound for their 11ses stop at Chipping Ongar by the way of South Wealds and Doddinghurst with accompaniment of light showers. “Delimores Café” provided tea & toast and turned into a much extended 11ses as the heavens opened up. Eventually the deluge abated and they continued to the Lavers where we negotiated deep water at a swollen Ford. They reached Hatfield Broad Oak as the rain started up again and just managed to lock up their bikes before the sky fell down again. The menu in the “Dukes Head” was a bit upmarket for their tastes but being wet hungry cyclists they found something in the end. They were treated to more rain plus a headwind for our return via the Rodings and Willingale where a quick banana stop was taken in the bus shelter. On to the last lap through Blackmore and Doddinghurst with lights on, as it was getting dark. At Pilgrims Hatch they split for Upminster and Dagenham. **David Rowlands**

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South East Essex Member Group

October 18th - The ride out to Bunsay Downs this morning was by a fairly straight, short route until I turned off for Runsell Green and up Danbury and back around towards North Hill and finally turned for Bunsay Golf Club. The route had a few members turning the wrong way at times. Our 11ses was going quite well until the second group arrived. Then things slowed down in the Kitchen. Eventually we got away and headed for Beeleigh Abbey. Once through the beautiful scenery and out by the old Pumping Station we headed for the quiet lane up into Wickham Bishop. About half a mile from our right turn, Peter H stopped to disrobe as he was hot. The next time we saw him was while we were eating our lunch. At the top of the hill into Wickham Martin P had stopped and we didn't miss him until the cross roads. We waited for a few minutes and then carried on as we knew that Peter would pick him up on his way through, and he did. While we were at the "Green Man" my left leg was swelling up and getting very stiff. After leaving the pub we set off down hill as I turned round a corner my left leg gave up on me and a few seconds later Ian C's steering stem broke off. This meant that he couldn't steer and I couldn't cycle any further. After much discussion Ian phoned his sister Sara to come and get us (this was another long story). Needless to say, we eventually got home ok and my leg has (by the time you read this) recovered, I hope.

October 25th - On a sunny and breezy morning, Ian M and Charlotte V left Shoeburyness at 8am to cycle to Wickford for the start of another odyssey of the South-East Member Group. What epic adventures awaited the group on its ride through the Essex countryside today!

At Wickford, we divided into two groups. Chris W led 6 members using the latest global positioning technology - would they go via Jupiter or Mars, only time would tell. John H led the remaining 14 members by more traditional means (map, compass, piece of string, memory). The ride passed uneventfully until Pam had a close encounter of the Yorkshire Terrier kind when she rescued the dog from the road and saved us all from crashing or was it the other way round. Shane and Tom on the tandem developed a slow puncture and soon had to stop and fix it. We arrived safely and sound at Maldon and headed for elevenses at "Morrison's", where Charlotte V struggled with the hot water dispenser whilst making a simple cup of tea. All you have to do is press the button once, but somehow the water kept on coming. Disaster was only averted by a gallant gentleman rushing to her aid and taking the excess water to fill up his water pot. Thankfully, no further calamities befell us and we

were soon joined by the GPS 6 and we all tucked into our grub. Initially, 12 decided to go onto lunch, but we soon lost 2, who headed home soon after leaving "Morrison's". The route took us through Mundon and then to the "Roundbush", where John H got a puncture. We huffed and puffed up the hill to Purleigh and then went through Cold Norton, where Peter H took us up to St. Stephens Church to look at the view across the peninsula. John H left us at the beginning of the road to North Fambridge and when we arrived at the "Ferry Boat Inn", Ian C was waiting for us. After a good meal and a pint, we headed back through South Woodham Ferrers and Lynda & John C left us here. When we got to Battlesbridge for afternoon tea, our numbers had gone down to six. Ian M, Ian C & Charlotte V headed for Shoeburyness via Hullbridge and Alan S, Peter H & David W (recumbent) went in the Rayleigh direction. **Ian Mather**

November 25th - This morning saw four of us meeting at Dover docks for a foray into France again with a new lunch stop that had been selected by my French friends. As you may remember it was a very windy day and with the wind coming across from the Atlantic and up the canals we had some tough challenges at times. I had set out a route that would bring us close to the lunch stop at - I hoped - the right time. As it was we arrived five minutes early. The restaurant was closer than I thought to Ardres. The restaurant was obviously very popular with the locals as the place was packed (that is, the warm part was). We had been directed to the lean to /conservatory which was very windy and not as warm inside. (Still we are cyclists who cycle in all weathers aren't we?) As we ate our meal the extension filled up with more French patrons. We would recommend the venue for its selection and choices on the menu as well as the friendly patron and staff. **John Steer**

October 25th, 2009, Sunday, A cycle ride near Calais - John, Melissa, Kevin and I met at Dover docks at 7.00am, having driven from Southend, Essex. We were fortunate in that the clocks went back 1 hour that morning, giving us all an extra hour in bed.

We assembled our cycles in the multi-storey car park, rode down to the reception area and left the entrance at exactly 7.30am as planned. We obtained our ticket and then boarded the ferry for the 08:30 sailing to Calais.

After tucking into a hearty full English breakfast, we discussed the route, which had been carefully planned in advance by John. We were to head for a restaurant called "Aux Marronniers" at Autingues near Ardres where some places had been booked in advance for us by John's French

Continued on page 23

Honours List 2009



Inter-Section Trophy

Brentwood	44 points
Havering	64 points
Colchester	96 points
Chelmsford	139 points
South East	183 points

DATC Salver

(highest placed Essex rider in DATC, see CTC website)

- John Rootkin
[plus replica to keep]

Measor Trophy

(best Spotlight Member Group report)

- Brian Stevens, Havering
(May/Jun issue)

Special Awards

Premier (5 events)

- John Rootkin
- Standard (4 events)
- Dave Russell

Spotlight Trophy

(best article)

- Chirs Mills
"Savaged by live sheep"
(Jul/Aug issue)

The person to select the best Spotlight article is chosen by the editor and was for the previous year: Felix Omerod.

Essex Cyclists' Touring Club Proposed Calendar for 2010

DATC Events for 2010



Complete 4 DA events out of 6 for Standard Award

Complete 5 DA events out of 6 for Premier Award

18 Apr	Witham 150km	Ed Nevard
2 May	80km	Brian Penny
27 June	Windmill Rides	Brian Taylor
18 July	100m / 100km	Stefan (Lake Meadows)
8 Aug	Colchester 40/40	Brian Penny
5 Sept	Rough Stuff	Brian Taylor

Other events



14 Feb	South-East '75'	Stefan (Lake Meadows, Billericay
13 Jun	George Welch Memorial Rides	John Steer
4 July	Strawberry Tea	John Davis
20 June	Vets Triennial	John Davis & Chris Mills (St John's, Mountnessing)

Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
14 Feb	[MG] SEG 75 miles - 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



14 Feb	The Crown	Ingatstone
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

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

Date	Destination	11ses	Leader
17-Jan	Allens Green	Sawbridgeworth	L Hurrell
24-Jan	North Fambridge Ferryboat Inn	Heybridge Basin	A Leeds
31-Jan	Andrewsfield	Dunmow	D Russell
07-Feb	Rowhedge	Wilkins Jam Factory	M Cockersole
14-Feb	[MG] SEG 75 miles event		
	Start from Lake Meadows	Billericay	
	Alternative; Thaxted	Andrewsfield	E Oliver
21-Feb	Horsemanside	Hastingwood	D Emery
28-Feb	Tolleshunt D'Arcy	Perrywoods	A Leeds
07-Mar	Thorndon Park	West Hanningfield, The Compasses	B Taylor
14-Mar	Green Tye	Dunmow	D Russell
21-Mar	Copford, (The Alma)	Coggeshall, Dutch Nurseries	A Leeds

Colchester Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: Alan Palmer

☎ 01206 792929, mob 07939 395067 or

alanpalmer@phonecoop.coop

A gentle, mostly traffic-free ride: <i>Cycling Back to Health</i>	11am Wednesday's , 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)

"

Haverling Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: Brian Stevens

3 Gidea Close, South Ockendon, RM15 6PF

☎ 01708 851636 or bristevens@btinternet.com

Memberships Secretary: Phyllis Gregory ☎ 01708558221

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

	Destination	Leader
Jan 17 th	Softees Ride	
Jan 24 th	Chipping Ongar	
Feb 7 th	High Beach	David Rowlands
Feb 14 th	<i>[MG] SEG 75 miles event</i> Start from Lake Meadows Billericay	
Feb 14 th	Softees Ride	
Feb 21 st	Writtle tearooms	
Feb 28 th	Softees Ride	
Mar 7 th	Bicknacre	David Rowlands
Mar 14 th	Softees Ride	
Mar 28 th	Matching Tye	

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

The Haverling local website is <http://www.haverlingctc.btik.com>.

South East Essex Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: John Steer

☎ 01702 309958 – e-mail 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 2nd & 4th Fridays of the Month

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

Date	Elevenises	Destination for Lunch
January 2010		
17 th	Maldon (Morrison's)	Woodham Mortimer (Hurdlemakers Arms)
24 th	Ingatestone (Garden Cntr)	Bicknacre (Brewers Arms)
31 st	Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)	North Fambridge (Ferry Boat Inn)
February		
7 th	Grt Baddow (Bringey Pine)	Purleigh (The Bell)
14 th	[MG] SEG 75 miles event Start from Lake Meadows Billericay	
21 st	Ingatestone (Grd Cntr)	Newney Green (The Duck)
28 th	Margaretting (Saddlery Café)	Little Waltham (White Hart)
March		
7 th	Round Bush (Café)	Bicknacre (Brewers Arms)
14 th	Billericay (Lake Meadows)	Stondon Massey (Bricklayers Arms)
21 st	Writtle (Gdn Cntr Tearooms)	Pleshey (Leather Bottle)
28 th	Morrisons (Café)	Burnham (The Anchor)

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

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friends Jean-Paul and Collette. This was to be a new restaurant to us. The regular ones were either closed or full.

After leaving the ferry, we cycled out of the docks, through an industrial area and past some grimy chemical factories belching thick grey smoke; however we were quickly out of this area.

We rode east on the quiet and pleasant D119 level with the coast as far as Oye-Plage, where we turned south and headed towards Audruicq on the D219. We stopped for a quick break near Fort Batard on the Canal de Calais, where we also had a near-miss with a car towing an over-sized boat trailer.

At Audruicq, we veered west onto the D224, passing the café we used to visit (which has now closed). There was quite a strong headwind on this stretch of road and after some effort on the pedals we reached the outskirts of Ardres and could see that we were quite close to Autingues on Kevin's sat-nav. We were relieved to see the restaurant just down the road and arrived there exactly on time at 1.30pm.

At the restaurant, we explained in Essex French that we had a booking and were then allowed in, and shown to a fully-covered terrace area at the rear. We ordered our food, again in Essex French, with most of us having steak and chips for the main course. Snails and Frogs' legs were on the menu for starters, but nobody chose them. The food was excellent. I think we were there for 2 ½ hours, taking our time as the locals do. The only bad thing is that the terrace area was a little cold.

After leaving the restaurant we took some very quiet country roads on a roundabout route towards Guines. Some of these roads even ran beside a canal which made for very pleasant cycling. At Guines, we became a little disoriented as we struggled to locate the D127 north towards Calais. We eventually found it but by then it was starting to get dark



and we had to don our high-visibility vests in accordance with a new French law. The D127 is again a canal-side road, so is nice to ride along. We crossed the canal on the outskirts of Calais, but by then it was quite dark, and we had to put our lights on.

From there, we followed the signs to the car ferry and checked-in for the 19:55 ferry back home. While waiting for the ferry, we met with a group of four cyclists from Dover who had cycled from Calais to Le Touquet on

racing bikes and had returned on the train as they had under-estimated the distance and hadn't reckoned with the strong headwind (I make it 69 km on main roads one-way). We had cycled about 45 miles in France.

On the ferry, the captain announced that the ship had a slight list to one side owing to a water leak into a crew compartment, and this was cause for some discussion. Personally, I did not notice any list.

The drive home from Dover was trouble-free and I returned home at about 10:30pm. **Mike Curtis**

November 1st - Nine brave souls ventured out this morning in one of the worst down-pours of the year (Well it was on this Sunday.). We arrived at the King George's playing fields dripping water everywhere and leaving puddles where we had been sitting. After 11ses I changed the lunch stop venue as I had been told by the "Viper" that if they were full up we would have to sit outside (No way, we were wet enough.). Instead we went to the "White Hart" at Margaretting Tye. Here we were told that all the tables had been booked and we would have to sit outside (No way, even though the weather was improving.). Just because they have had a refit and put up their prices they wanted us outside (But come 13th December they would want our money.). We eventually squeezed onto a table that was in the corner and not wanted until 2.00pm, as it turned out Peter Moore and company were on the next table and as they left we moved over to their table then left before two o'clock. The ride home was uneventful apart from us all drying out as we rode home in the sunshine after the rain (words from a song I think) **John Steer**

November 1st - John S & Ian M braved the torrential rain from Shoeburyness to Wickford and were joined by seven other equally drowned but intrepid cyclists at the start. These were Paul H, Brian P, Linda & John C, David & Ross H and Kevin (•_•) J.

We proceeded in the wind and rain to King George's Playing Fields at Brentwood and were soon thawing out and leaving pools of water in the cafe, as we tucked into scrambled egg on toast and drank from great big mugs of tea or coffee.

As the weather had been so bad and John had a meeting with Peter M at the "White Hart" we set off for our lunch there instead of the intended lunch stop at the "Viper" (well they had told John that if the pub was full of ramblers we would have to sit outside) not so likely on such a wet and windy day. **Ian Mather**

November 8th - For some this was the morning after the night before (as it had been Ian Cables 30th birthday party the previous night) I arrived just

before 11 o'clock as the "Beehive" can get quite packed on a Sunday morning. Eventually the group from Wickford arrived in dribs and drabs. By the time they had all been served it was mid-day and I was raring to get the all day riders out and on to the lunch stop. I had chosen the only roads that we can safely use, but I rode them in a different direction to the normal way. This confused some of the group who had left the café some time after us as they arrived late. We passed them along the way going the opposite direction to us. On our arrival at the "Red Lion" they claimed not to know of our coming. I told them that I had phoned on Wednesday and spoken to a young male voice to which the Landlord said that was my son who cleared off to Spain that afternoon for two weeks. They soon found and supplied food for us nine, when my phone rang. Two of the riders we had passed on our diversion had gone to the "Rose Inn". They soon joined us meaning the chef had to do more work (For once a mobile was used for it's purpose on a club ride.). After lunch I led the group through the newly completed cycle path which goes through the Shoebury Garrison grounds. Even the locals in the group didn't know of this route, only David B and myself. It's been open about 2/3 months. We stopped for 3ses at Southchurch Park (5 of the 11 did) while the others went straight home by various routes.

November 15th - Parent Member Group AGM - As usual this went as AGM's do with the same members being elected for the jobs on the committee (I managed to keep my head down.). Our thanks go out to Dot Sharp for her devotion to the Essex member groups over the years and we all hope that she has a happy retirement from cycling fraternity. I brought away seven shields and two cups (Only one shield had been won by my group.) The others were now looking for a good home to store them in. I think that I might have found it in the Old Bicycle Company Showrooms in Aythorpe Roding?

November 22nd - This morning there was 15 members hoping that the weather gods would be good to them as they set out from Wickford. Just after the start of the ride a voice was heard to say, no way is this a route to Ingatestone. I forgot to ask them, after we arrived, if they thought that we might have been going somewhere else instead? I led the group out to Little Burstead and along the way, Martin did his usual and stopped to investigate roadside rubbish - an old car radio. We arrived at 11ses without getting wet and met four more members there - only two were SEG's. Ten set off for lunch against some very strong head winds at times hoping that this was all we were going to get as heavy rain was forecast after 11 am. Just as we left Buttsby ford the rain arrived and boy



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did it rain all the way to the other side of West Hanningfield. Andy and Margaret left us and raced for home. The remaining eight of us arrived at the “Brewers Arms” suitably soaked but we tried not to make the seats wet as three of us have done in the past at another hostelry. After lunch we set off for South Woodham Ferrers, where Lynda and John headed for home while the remainder of us stood on our pedals as we fought against the head wind trying to get to the Rettendon Turnpike. There two headed to Wickford, two to Rayleigh and two to a café in Battlesbridge before heading to Southend. Only just over 64 miles today but in those weather conditions it felt like double the miles. **John Steer**

November 29th - John S, Ian M & Charlotte V set off from Shoeburyness in torrential rain to ride to the start at Wickford - a distance of 15 miles accomplished in just over 1 hour and twenty minutes. At Wickford we met up with Chris W, Linda & John C, Paul & John H, Brian P, Colin B, Kevin (♣♣) J and Claire H. It rained intermittently on our way to the “Bringy Pine Café” at Great Baddow and many of the country lanes were like rivers. It was fortunate then that we were joined along these roads by none other than Superman (aka KJ), who was soon forging a safe passage for us with his red cape flying in the wind.

After filling our bellies, seven went on to “The Bell” at Purleigh and we were soon drying our clothes in front of the warm coal fire and enjoying yet more food and beer. We were joined by Ian C, who had been working in the morning. Ian M was soon showing KJ and others some yoga poses, notably Plank and Cobra. Obviously the Maldon Gold had gone to his head.

We left at 1.30pm and headed via Stow Maries to South Woodham Ferrers (John & Linda C left us here) and then onto Battlesbridge, where it just started to rain as we arrived. John S bought us all a round of drinks and Ian C, Charlotte V & Kevin (♣♣) J had scones with jam & cream. John S had a teacake and Ian M an Eccles cake (it’s a Northern delicacy and he felt right at home). Charlotte V also had toasted fingers when her gloves started to burn on the fire. We left in the dark to go our separate ways after another enjoyable days cycling with the SEMG.

December 6th - John S, Ian C & Ian M set off in the wind and rain from Shoeburyness to Wickford and were joined at the start by Peter W, Paul H, Kevin (♣♣) J and one other. As we were about to set off in the rain Ian C got a puncture and while he fixed it we sheltered under a canopy. He’d no sooner got the wheel back on when the inner tube split at the valve and Peter W came to his rescue with a spare inner tube. By the time this was in place the rain had stopped and we saw the first glimpses of blue sky

and sunshine peaking out from behind the clouds. We were soon pedalling hard up Brock Hill, coasting past a fuller Hanningfield Reservoir and dodging the rotten tomatoes in Stock. We enjoyed the downhill stretch to the "White Hart" at Margaretting Tye, where the Christmas meet will be held on 13th December and we were soon dismounting at the "Saddlery Café" for elevenses.

As we were leaving the Saddlery, John & Linda C appeared having had to deal with a household emergency in the morning. Peter W & Paul H moseyed on home and we were also joined by Peter H, who had been swimming - not sure if that was a muddy brook or a clean pool, but from the look of him it was the latter.

We arrived at "The Cricketers" pub at Danbury and were soon enjoying the warmth of the surroundings and a hearty meal and pint. Afterwards, we headed for Battlesbridge and arrived early at the "Haybarn Café" for scones or cake and a drink. On leaving here, three went via Rayleigh and three via Hullbridge to Shoeburyness and home. **Ian C**



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Member Groups' Reports - continued

Easy Riders' Report

Since last writing we have had five Sunday Meets, with members taking lunch at "The Viper", "The Crown" Ingatestone, "The Three Compasses" West Hanningfield, "The Brewers Arms" Bicknacre and "The White Hart" Margaretting Tye.

Numbers have varied from 1 to 10 the 10 being for the DA Christmas Meet at the "White Hart". However, although the group has only officially one meet each month the other Sundays being taken up with 40+ meets, the same people attending these. The inclement weather lately has caused other than usual numbers of members taking to other forms of transport to lunch. Whatever form of transport used it is good for members to get together for a chinwag.

We are pleased to see Charles C is recovering from his op and were pleased that he managed to get to the D.A. Christmas meet. Hopefully, by the time the weather gets warmer he will be able to join us regularly.

Pete Moore

From a GCSE Exam Paper

supplied by the Ancient Mariner

Q: Name the 4 seasons.

A: Salt, mustard, pepper and vinegar.

Q: What causes the ocean tides?

A: The tides are a struggle between the earth and the moon. As there is no water on the moon all water tends to flow towards it as nature abhors a vacuum.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

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Riding through the night – Follow up

from email replies

Charles's lament for the demise of night rides is premature! For a few years now, there have been monthly rides to the coast starting from Hyde Park Corner at midnight (usually) on the last Friday of the month. Full details on www.cyclingswlondon.org.uk. Click on Cheam & Morden then FNRttc in the second paragraph.

Colin Quemby, 16 Nov 2009

[...]There are a good number of local members and we organise a regular Wednesday evening ride to a different pub each week. Distances vary between 20 and 40 miles with riders coming from all points of the compass. The current programme can be found here: <http://yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php?topic=24967.0> with ride reports and general chit chat here: <http://yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php?topic=22529.0>. Obviously the rides taking place at the moment are in complete darkness.

The inestimable Simon Legg of Cheam and Morden CTC also organised the Friday Night Ride to the Coast. The ride leaves Hyde Park Corner at midnight each month on the Friday closest to the full moon. The 2010 calendar (attached) includes regular rides to Brighton and Southend [...]

Steve Rowley, 21 Nov 2009

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Observations on the DA AGM

by the "Bike Police"

Looked in the 'Mag' - no meeting was there!
But we all had a letter telling us where.
To the Chelmer club hut we are making our way,
There's lots to do, and things to say
Some come on bikes, some in a car,
From near and handy, some from afar.
tea is made and served with smiles,
For some of the cyclists have ridden miles.
The meeting starts and it's serious now,
'Maggie' takes the minutes, 'cause she knows how.
Buster arrives a trifle late,
He's had a puncture - act of fate?
There is no reason to look dejected,
Last year's minutes have been accepted.
Reports are read and their authors' clapped,
No one has had their knuckles rapped.
The president's retired, he's done his time,
Thank you Brian, your five years were fine.
There's tension now and no one is bold,
They don't wish to wear the Sprocket of Gold.
Names put forward, and mutters of No!
Another Brian says, "I'll give it a go."
Crisis is over, 't was just a hiccup,
As Brian knew, "Something would turn up."
Offices filled, business almost through,
Hurry up - the buffet is due.
Plates and dishes brought through the door,
Sandwiches, crisps, scotch eggs and more.
High Cholesterol desserts and sweets,
Black forest gateau and sponge type treats.
Back to business and the awards to present,
This one's for service and sincerely meant.
The bowl's engraved and made of glass,
For twenty years as sec' first class.
Thanks to 'Dot', she's given her best,
Now she's off to Norfolk for a well earned rest.
Certificates, trays, plaques and cups,
On road, off road, downs and ups.
The president's finished, the table's clear,
Thanks for coming, see you next year?

Thinking of...

... well-known people who enriched the life of our cycling community:

Roy Davidson – Hail a Centenarian

In November 1930 the doyen of Essex CTC, Roy Davidson, achieved his centenary, one hundred years old. Roy is our last link with the earliest days of the DA although he was not at that time actually a CTC member; he was however a regular cyclist, riding to work as a bank clerk, and knew several of our founder members. He joined the CTC and the DA in 1930 becoming a member of first the Romford and then Southend sections. He toured both in the UK and on the Continent with his wife Margaret (Bunny) and time-trialled with the Viking Road Club. He was an active member for the DA and in 1936 became DA Secretary until 1940 when he joined the RAF.



After the war he became a member of the Epping Forrest section when it was founded in 1949. He became a Vice-President of both the DA and the Viking R.C. The Davidson's were great friends with Eddie and Eve Engel and often toured with them. In his time he was DA Auditor and I remember him at DA Committee meetings in the 1950s putting away at his pipe. He qualified as a time-keeper, both for the Viking and the DA and in later years acted in that capacity when we organised Hill Climbs in the 1980s. Roy was a man of few words but his counsel was always worth listening to. Nowadays he lives quietly in a retirement home near Epping and we send best wishes for his final years. But keep going Roy Launcelot Davidson, I think the record is 113 years! **Charles Comport**

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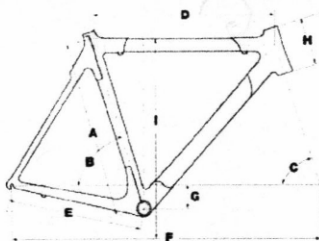
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