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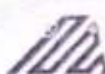
  
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**Spotlight** – Magazine of the CTC Essex DA, a local member group of  
CTC, the national cyclists' organisation  
President: Brian Taylor Volume 3/2010

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**Price per annum: £5.00 inc. p&p**

Closing date for the July / August 2010 edition is on 16 June 2010.

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

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Colchester	Alan Palmer	☎ 01206 792929	
Havering	Brian Stevens	☎ 01708 851636	RM14 2UB
South East Group	John Steer	☎ 01702 309958	SS12 0AL

### Other Committee members

EDARF	John Davis	jldavis_123@talktalk.net
Veterans Rep	John Davis	☎ 01787 474224

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

Well, the contributions are coming steadily now and I had the first opportunity to cut a report into pieces. It'll become thirds, depending how I get the pictures in. Ken Rickwood is describing their Pennine Tour 2009 on page 25. With these magnificent pictures I think it would be nice to display the essay online.

From the information on our last committee meeting it seems that the popular Triennial Veterans Ride is already oversubscribed. I wish those of the older generation cyclists who take part a good day and some reminiscence of the (g)olden times. (Not without self-interest: it could lead to more contributions ☺)

I would like to repeat the invitation to this year's great *Summer Social Get-together* with another edition of Strawberry Tea on page 13.

On page 29 Dot Sharp is "reporting from foreign parts" that she is settling in well in her new environment.

Charles has brought back some memories of inter-section "games on page 31.

We have quite a heavy couple of months with lots of events going on. Please try to support the organisers with your attendance.

I hope that the weather at some point continues the same as the short spell that we had in the middle of April, so that we can better enjoy our exercise.

Your editor,  
***Stefan Eichenseher***



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

The Brentwood Off-rovers: Many thanks to Charles for his words of wisdom and offers of help to set up a new group.

It appears that, although some of the group are CTC members, they do not wish to ride in an organised group. Three or four people get together and drive to their destination and then ride Off-road, but at Thorndon Park they ride the trails in a larger group and do not need to be members of the CTC, BCF or AUDAX. – For insurance purposes, however, we would like to encourage these riders to take up membership with any of these organisations.

On Tuesday there were twelve cyclists in the Novice group being lead round the trails by Alison and Keith, obviously because it was a nice day. There are less riders when it's raining.

In a few weeks time the more experienced Thursday group in Chelmsford will have some cycle maintenance instruction to increase their knowledge and ability. They are very keen to be associated with the CTC.

This is a situation of how we can best help each other, to get more people involved with cycling with the benefits of a large club or a Charitable Trust.

Take care on the road and safe cycling!

*Brian Taylor*

## **Reminder – I also organise the Windmill rides on 27<sup>th</sup> June!**

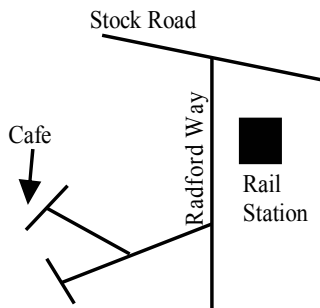
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## **Member Groups' Reports**

### **Chelmsford Member Group**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** - It began with a very cold start from Chelmsford, aided by a stiff N.E. breeze. Just three riders set off, (Martin C and Dave S being the other two). We took the cycle-path through Writtle College and on to Thorndon Park via Blackmore and Doddington. The roads were dry for the most part but we encountered sheet ice over a few short, flooded sections, necessitating dismounting. Once away from the town, temperatures dropped and remained low, and the sun seemingly failing to make much impact. The bright clear conditions however showed up the countryside to very fine effect, particularly the several part-frozen ponds we passed en route. A leisurely elevenes was enjoyed on time at the picturesque "Visitor Centre" following which, we made the return trip (against the wind this time) via Hutton, the "A12 tunnel" and Fryerning.

#### **Adrian Leeds**

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** - Easter Sunday, and not unusual for Easter it was drowned with an icy cold wind and showers of rain. Five of us left Chelmsford to ride to Finchingfield for 11ses. The only unusual event happened as I was riding on Adrian's inside and he was waxing lyrical about the properties of various makes of Mayonnaise. Quite interesting actually but he did not hear me say "going right" at the tee junction, so we sort of tried to amalgamate into one cyclist – luckily no harm done. 'Hellmans' vs 'Heinz' then carried on in improving weather.

Margaret and John were just settling into "Bosworth's Café" with the usual crowd of motor cyclists as we arrived. Refreshed three returned to Chelmsford and we four proceeded to Delvin End to the pub called "Bottle Hall", and where their cottage pie was too big for Margaret who had to leave some. Real ale was straight out of the barrels behind the bar, so it was quite a good lunchtime.

The ride home was via Castle Hadingham and Gosfield to tea at Stisted where the 'Maldon and District CC' showed great interest in John's Tandem Trike. **Dave Russell**



## Haivering Member Group

**Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** – New rider Ken Hamilton from Romford, Barrie, Gordon, Jeffrey, Michael and myself Dave were accompanied briefly by Brian who left us on the outskirts of Upminster. Soon afterwards the Puncture Fairy paid the first of several visits striking Gordon in Hall Lane. He decided to turn back leaving the five to carry on to the ups and downs of South Wealds and Lambourne End, then swooping down to Abridge for 11ses. The “Log Cabin” was busy serving a CTC group from Harlow/Bishops Stortford and it was quite full, so we were scattered about a bit. As we were about to leave, the Fairy struck again: at Barrie’s rear tyre. No sooner was this fixed, when Jeffrey was struck down. By now Ken was turning blue with the cold, so the climb out of the Roding Valley was the thing to warm up. On through Theydon Bois and we were soon at High Beach, where Michael said goodbye and headed back to Forest Gate. And the dreaded Puncture Fairy struck yet again! Barrie’s front this time, so a working lunch was called for, as the tube was changed outside the café. Thankfully our return was puncture free as we plunged down through the forest to Loughton then dived under the M11 and puffed up Pudding Lane. After a blast past Hainault Forest, we split for our homes managing to get indoors before the rain started. **David Rowlands**

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** – On a cold and cloudy Valentine morning only Jeff and Barrie turned up for this Softees ride. But before setting off, Mike Mecham came down for a chat. Still unable to cycle yet but making good progress, this is good news to hear and we all wish him well and look forward to his return to the saddle. Having no leader we decided to cycle to Langdon Hills via the long route with Barrie leading the first leg, along Pike and Fen Lanes to Bulphan, Orsett and Horndon-on-the-Hill. We did pick up another companion on a route that was a bit of a drizzle. After stopping for a cuppa at the “Visitor’s Centre”, it was suggested by Jeff that we go onto Herongate for a pub lunch at “The Old Dog”. So Jeff led the way. Neither of us having been to the pub before, Jeff located it on his navigational equipment before we left Langdon and assured us we had to do a right when we come to the end of Dunton Road. Alas, this was not the case! So there we were heading in the opposite direction from “The Old Dog” going towards Billericay. After several miles we decided to retrace our steps, eventually finding the sought after pub. Jeff will have to face a court martial for this offence and if found guilty, shot at dawn! After our lunch, our return journey was rather wet as we sped through Thorndon Country Park, then picking up the B186 into St. Marys Lane and into Upminster, where I said goodbye to Jeff, who continued on

to his home in Elm Park. I just hope he was able to find his way. **Barrie Blazeby**

**Feb 21<sup>st</sup>** – Icy roads so nobody went out today.

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup>** – It was a cold, wet and windy morning but three brave souls turned up to fly the flag for the Havering Section - myself on a rare break from university work, Gordon and Barrie. Due to the bad weather we wanted a short ride, so Laindon Hills it was then. At the turn-off for Pike Lane we got a taster of what was ahead, as the drains had overflowed and were pumping out water all over the road. Pike Lane wasn't too bad but Fen Lane was awash with water often resulting with the entire road being under 3 inches of water. After an extended cuppa break we sped back to Upminster; all rather wet and cold but all happy and satisfied from an enjoyable ride. **Stuart Layzell**

**Mar 7<sup>th</sup>** – Alex, Barrie, Dave, Jeffrey, Kelvin and Reg set off on a beautiful sunny but cold morning. A brief stop to let Stuart catch us up and to swell our numbers up to eight. A biting headwind slowed progress a bit as we dodged potholes, some old and many new, plus lots of icy bits. After a brief halt at Langdon Hills we pressed onto Billericay via Little Burstead. "Lake Meadows Café" was packed so we took our 11ses alfresco. Not quite so cold now, but we were glad to get going again. Kelvin set course for home and the magnificent seven pressed on through the Hanningfields to reach Bicknacre and its new mini roundabouts. We installed ourselves in "The White Swan" and awaited our lunch. Food and service were good. Our return was wind assisted and a little warmer. We took Stock, ignored the "Road Closed" sign at Buttsbury and pressed on to Hutton. At The Avenue, Reg made his way home via Warley Hill while the rest made for Upminster via Bird Lane. A chilly last lap and we were home with daylight to spare. **David Rowlands**

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>** – Dave led Alex, Anna, Barrie, Brian and Jeffrey in the direction of Langdon Hills. A brief stop was taken in Doesgate Lane, when the Puncture Fairy struck Barrie's back tyre. After a leisurely 11ses Alex and Brian made their way home, leaving the rest to carry on to Herongate and Thorndon Country Park, where Anna left us for Brentwood. While the remaining trio took a very early 3ses in the sunshine, we saw our first bee and first butterfly of the year and with crocus in bloom, it seems spring has sprung at last. After a quick plunge down a bumpy Warley

Street we were back in Upminster with a nice easy 30 miles recorded.

### **David Rowlands**

**Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Barrie, Brian, Dave, Gordon, Jeffrey, Ken and Stuart met on a fine spring morning, with Mike turning up for a chat and back on his bike after his New Year fall for a short local ride on his own. We set off and after a couple of miles Brian left us. At Chipping Ongar we went thirsty: “Delimores” was closed and the “Clock Tower” is now a Pizza restaurant. We carried on to Greenstead Log Church and had DIY 11ses in the churchyard. We then went across a busy A414 to Moreton and High Laver to reach Matching Tye. At “The Fox” we were served promptly, as the pub filled up with hungry cyclists. With full bellies we set off into the wind for the return, through Abbess Roding and Willingale to Blackmore where the shop was raided for 3ses on the green. At Doddinghurst we retraced our outward route back to Upminster, home and 60 miles clocked up. **David Rowlands**

**Mar 28<sup>th</sup>** – Our first ride of summertime saw usual suspects Barrie, Gordon, Jeff and Dave joined by new riders Caroline & John from Elm Park. Old faithful Langdon Hills were chosen for 11ses during which we were joined by Brian who had been out getting in those extra miles in with Kelvin. After 11ses Brian headed home while the rest carried on to find the Dunton Flyover closed for resurfacing. So we took a scenic diversion along the A127 to the “Halfway House” followed by a little off-road into Thorndon Country Park. At the visitors centre John & Caroline headed for The Avenue and home, while the remaining four basked in the sunshine, before making our way back to Upminster via Warley covering 30 miles in the process. **David Rowlands**

### ***Bike Week – Change of Dates: from 19<sup>th</sup> June - 27<sup>th</sup> June***

For further info check the March / April issue of Spotlight or contact John Steer of the SEEMG (☎ 01702 309958, email: [jonsue@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jonsue@blueyonder.co.uk))

John also organises a Wednesday evening bike ride to the Barge Gladys on the 24<sup>th</sup> June from Leigh-on-Sea train station (further details will be in the next issue of the Spotlight).

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## ***Strawberry Tea update – 4th July 2010***

*by John Davis*

The box office for the Strawberry Tea is now open for serving on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July (any Americans present will be very welcome). It is the usual fare of ham salad followed by strawberries and cream and the price this year will be £7.

The Purleigh W.I. will be providing the tea for us again this year at the Purleigh Village Hall, the same venue as last year.

While we still have the option, your cheques will be gratefully received by me, John Davis, at Stones Farm, Tidings Hill, Halsted, Essex, CO9 1ND, with an indication, if you have a preference for a vegetarian option. Some Member Group secretaries may be arranging a Member Group block booking which will be equally acceptable. The time for the "off" will be 3.00pm and I hope to see some new faces as well as those of long standing.

So let's see if we can give a new meaning to "40 plus" this year.



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## South East Essex Member Group

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** - What a day it turned out to be. What should have been the SEG's 75 mile event turned into a no go event in the end. I along with Charlotte V and Ian M drove out to the Water Tower at High Easter to await the riders. We passed on the way the odd iced puddle, but not much else. While we were sitting waiting for the rides to appear, the heavens opened and we had sleet, snow and then heavy rain, I stopped three riders and asked, if they were on the event to but no avail. After sitting at our post for one and a quarter hours the message came through that the event had been called off. We drove home into bright sunshine and a warmer afternoon. How disappointing, that the weather picked up later and not at the start.

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** -The venue this morning had been changed, as the café at "The Roundbush" was closed for the new owners to do their cleanup before reopening. This meant that "Morison's" at Maldon was taken over by twenty odd members that arrived in three groups. An extended route was taken to the lunch venue as, it was very close to 11ses. Whilst eating our lunch, a strange smell kept wafting across the table which later turned out to be Jon C's sausage and onion roll. After lunch an easy ride was taken down the lanes and passed the back of Hyde Hall to Rettendon Common, then on to Battlesbridge, before parting and heading for home with 64 miles on the clock.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** - Three groups set off from Wickford - meaning that we had over twenty riders out again. On the way to Lake Meadows, Bob K was seen to be struggling especially up the hill past Little Burstead church. On entering the road through the industrial estate the potholes seem to have taken over (Radford Way). Even when we turned into Radford Crescent there was one hole going right across the road that was about 150mm wide and about the same depth. (The third group that was only doing the morning ride was not seen at the café, did they make it? Yes they did about half an hour after we had left.) The lunch venue had been changed again, as it was Mothering Sunday day and "The Bricklayers Arms" claimed that they would be full up, which meant a phone call to "The Cricketers" at Mill Green and a change of venue was arranged (I think that some of the members were more enthralled by the two dogs at the pub than by their food). The route back took in Fryerning and Ingatestone with a trip down the closed road - the bridge had been damaged in the heavy rains and flooding earlier in the year. Even the road down from the Buttsbury church to the ford was closed. On the way through Hanningfield it was discovered that Lynda C was missing along

with Dave B, Lynda was caught up with at South Hanningfield Road while Dave “had disappeared into the distance” (Lynda’s words).

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** - Once again three groups rode out from Wickford to Writtle and took over the café. I was informed that Kay and Rob have now moved out of Shoeburyness to Limehouse by one of the waitresses. (NB: if I will let them know the dates of London rides then they can meet us in Victoria Park.) Our ride to Pleshey was uneventful, except that Peter H kept turning off and going different routes, as he couldn’t remember where the roads went. On our arrival at “The Leather Bottle” we were informed that the landlord was away on holiday and the bar person was standing in. (They don’t do huffers on a Sunday any more we were told.) We set off from the pub through the fields by the old castle/fort and stopped to look at the old moat and mound - the first time for most of the group, even though we had been through here many times before. On the route back to Chelmsford Clare and Kevin turned off to the left (towards Chignall Smealy) following two riders in front of them, which after about a mile turned out to be strangers (oops). Luckily for them I knew where we were and where the rest of the group was - in the next road down. **John Steer**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** -The usual gang of four left Shoeburyness to cycle the 15 miles to the start in Wickford, where we were soon joined by another 24 cyclists keen to enjoy another foray into the Essex countryside. We divided into three groups Chris W leading the fast GPS gang, John S and Ian C leading the other two gangs, with Ian M & Brian P bringing up the rears. (We know our place!). An uneventful ride culminated in our arrival at the café in Writtle, where we met Andy & Margaret and Dave B. We were soon tucking into lattes, coffees, teas and toasted teacakes, beans on toast and all efficiently served by charming staff. As usual John S & Kevin J were up to their usual antics of ribbing Manchurians or is that people who come from Manchester. Twelve went onto lunch at “The Leather Bottle” in Pleshey, but unfortunately huffers were off the menu and so we settled for a bap and a pint instead. Afterwards we headed off to see the remains of the castle (actually a large mound surrounded by water) and then headed out along quiet country lanes. Unfortunately, some of us took a wrong turn having lost sight of the leaders but thankfully we all joined up on the outskirts of Chelmsford. We cycled through the park and headed for Battlesbridge where we had afternoon tea in the “Haybarn Café”. Another good day. **Manchurian**

*Continued on page 22*



## Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
2 May	<b>[DA] 80km</b> (starting from Mountnessing)	Brian Penny
20 May	<b>[DA] Vets Triennial Event</b>	John Davis
27 Jun	<b>[DA] Windmill Rides</b> (from Chelmer Club Hut, CM1 2RL, Grid Ref TL 698067)	Brian Taylor
27 Jun	<b>[MG] George Welch Memorial Event</b> 10 mile & 30 mile. Start from Lakemeadows Billericay; Rides designed for beginners and Returnees.	John Steer
4 Jul	<b>[DA] Strawberry Tea</b> (Grid Ref: 836021)	John Davis
18 Jul	<b>[DA] 100/100 Event</b>	Stefan Eichenseher

If not stated, please see the Impressum (p. 4) for organisers' contacts.

## Easy Rider Meets



Dates	Pub	Destination
13 June	The Crown	Ingatestone
11 July	Ingatestone & Fryerning Community Club	

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

## Easy Rider Report

Bad weather has affected our Sunday attendance since I last reported. Although I think almost all published venues, except "The Viper" in January, were visited. That day 3 of us went to the Co-op instead. The Chelmsford Co-op does a very good Sunday lunch for £3.99. In July we are going to try "The Ingatestone & Fryerning Community Club", who advertise Sunday Lunches, then in August we hope to visit "The Prince of Wales" in Mountnessing, unless I get unfavourable reports. **Pete Moore**

## 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
16-May	Green Tye	Hatfield Heath	L Hurrell
23-May	Kedington ("The Barney Arms")	Finchingfield	D Russell
30-May	Standon	Sawbridgeworth	D Russell
06-Jun	Epping	Wyevale Gdn Centre, Chipping Ongar (CM15 0LB)	J & B Taylor
13-Jun	Bennington	Sawbridgeworth	L Hurrell
20-Jun	<b>[DA] Vets Triennial Event</b> Contact John Davis, see p. 4		
Alternative:	Greenstead Green		
27-Jun	<b>[DA] Windmill Rides</b> Contact Brian Taylor, see p. 4		
Alternative	<b>[MG] George Welch Rides</b> 10 mile & 30 mile. Start from Lakemeadows Billericay; Rides designed for beginners and Returnees. Contact John Steer on 01702 309958		
04-Jul	<b>[DA] Strawberry Tea</b> Contact John Davis, see p. 4		
Alternative	Heybridge Basin	Perrywoods, Lunch	A Leeds
11-Jul	Elmdon	Elsenham Golf	L Hurrell
18-Jul	<b>[DA] 100/100 Event</b> Contact: Stefan Eichenseher, see p. 4		
Alternative	Horsemanside	Hastingwood	D Russell
25-Jul	Castle Hedingham	Andrewsfield	A Leeds

## 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 Bricklayer's" (CO4 5AA)



The Bricklayer's, Colchester

## **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

[phylmay@talktalk.net](mailto:phylmay@talktalk.net)

**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>
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Hatfield Forest	Brian Stevens
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Softees Ride	
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Green Tye, Herts (9am)	Brian Stevens
Jun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Softees Ride	
Jun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Easy with Brian	
Jun 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Vets Triennial Event</b> Contact John Davis, see p. 4	
or	Softees Ride	
Jun 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Windmill Rides</b> Contact Brian Taylor, see p. 4	
or	<b>[MG] George Welch Rides</b> 10 mile & 30 mile. Start from Lakemeadows Billericay; Rides designed for beginners and Returnees. Contact John Steer on 01702 309958	
or	Maldon	Brian Stevens
Jul 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Strawberry Tea</b> Contact John Davis, see p. 4	
or	Softees Ride	
Jul 11 <sup>th</sup>	North Fambridge (9am start)	Brian Stevens
Jul 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] 100/100 Event</b> Contact S. Eichenseher, see p. 4	
or	Softees Ride	

**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	Elevenes	Destination for Lunch
<b>May</b>		
16 <sup>th</sup>	Writtle (Garden Centre Tearooms)	Woodham Mortimer (Hurdlemakers Arms)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ingatestone Garden Centre	Bicknacre (Brewers Arms)
30 <sup>th</sup>	Great Baddow (Bringey Pine)	Purleigh (The Bell)
<b>June</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Rochford (Beehive Café)	Great Wakering (Red Lion)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Margaretting (Saddlery Café)	Pleasley (Leather Bottle)
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Vets Triennial Event</b> Organiser: John Davis, see p. 4	
OR	Margareting (Saddlery Café)	Chipping Ongar (Cock Tavern)
27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[MG] George Welch Rides</b> 10 mile & 30 mile. Start from Lakemeadows Billericay; Rides designed for beginners and Returnees. Contact John Steer on 01702 309958	
27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Windmill Rides</b>	Organiser: Brian Taylor, see p. 4
<b>July</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Strawberry Tea</b>	Organiser: John Davis, see p. 4
OR	Roundbush (Round Bush Café)	Little Braxted (Green Man)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Grt Baddow (Bringy Pine Café)	Littley Green (The Compass)
18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] 100/100 Event</b> Organiser: Stefan Eichenseher, see p. 4	
25 <sup>th</sup>	Roundbush (Café)	Nounsley (Sportsman Pub)

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).

## **March 28<sup>th</sup> - Didn't we all have a lovely time when we went to France for the day**

I met John at his house at the insanely early time of 4.40am to load my bike onto his carrack and we then set off to pick up Mike in Leigh and Paul in Wickford. We arrived in Dover about 6.45am and met up with Ian, Charlotte, Martin, Ross, Kevin, Melissa and Brian. After driving the cars onto the ferry we were soon tucking into a big breakfast in the food court. Whilst I was taking a stroll around the boat, the rest were having their picture taken by a Sky news team who hoped to put it on a cycling website. When we got to Calais we headed off towards the motorway and were soon on our way to Boulogne and eventually found somewhere to park in Le Portel, a seaside resort famous for its sandy beach. Once we were unloaded we were soon cycling through the town and headed immediately up a very steep hill, which led to a cycle path and some undulating terrain. We had a brief stop in the Forêt Domaniale d'Ecault and soon three (who shall remain nameless) were watering the local flora and fauna in full view of passing motorists. The route to Le Touquet took us along a cycle path besides a main road and all the way into the town where we were soon settling down to cold drinks in the "Café Jean". Three hours passed as we all had a pleasant meal and conversation a plenty in this American themed coffee bar. We left about 4pm and headed back the way we came to Etaple, then took a quieter inland route, which was a little hilly in places. We arrived back in Le Portel at about 7pm and had a bit of trouble locating the cars, but thanks to Mikes GPS we were soon loading our bikes and heading for Calais. John went to get fuel at Cite Europe and we joined the rest in the queue for the ferry at 9pm. We had something to eat onboard but nothing too heavy as we still had the long drive back home. John dropped Paul and Mike back home and we finally got back to Shoeburyness at 12.30pm. Although it was a long day for us all and especially the car drivers, it was well worth it and made a change to our usual Sunday ride. Thanks go to John Steer for organising such a great day. **Ian Mather**



**April 4<sup>th</sup>** - 6 Local riders arrived early at the café, not so much worried that it would be taken over by the group coming from Wickford (later), but more like they wanted to get out of the wind blowing from the North West.

Half way through their 11ses the group from Wickford started to arrive in dribs and drabs. By the time everyone was seated and partaking of their 11ses there were 19 members out (how many were away at the Easter weekend in Suffolk, another 11? While one was in Manchester enjoying the bad weather I guess?) Seven went on to lunch at the "Red Lion" where comments were made on the quality of the soup and whether it was home made or out of a packet – I didn't mind, as I was enjoying my bacon sandwich with it's side salad. After lunch the group rode out from Wakering to Shoeburyness and East Beach then on through the Barracks to Shoebury Common, where I left them and headed for home as the sky looked like it might deposit its load on us. The shortest club run of the year for me just under 24 miles. [*Yep, cheating: and not riding to the start, Ed.*]

**April 11<sup>th</sup>** - 17 riders met at Wickford this morning on what was to be a beautiful sunny and warm day (if you got out of the wind) - the ride out to Writtle. This was a slow one for me as I was escorting Chris G while trying to keep the rest of the group in sight, as Brain P was the runs leader for the day. Chris had a puncture a few miles before Writtle, which he pumped up and got closer before changing the tube. We arrived just as some of the first group to arrive were leaving to go back home (after midday). With 11ses over, we came outside to get ready to leave, when the cry went up that Clare had locked 3 bikes together and couldn't unlock them, as the combination on her lock had been altered somehow. After much juggling by some of the group, I called in (Bugsy Fingers McHand). He cracked it though and we were then on our way. I punctured roughly at the point where Chris had changed his tube earlier, by which time the group was out of sight. I sent Ian C to tell them, as Brian and I had troubles trying to contact each other by phone (no signal). Tube changed Ian and I set off in hot pursuit by the shortest route, only to take a wrong turn in our hurry. We eventually got back on track and arrived at lunch about 15 minutes before the rest of the group that had gone a further 10 more miles more than us. After lunch we all set off for home with Lynda C feeling rather sore around her left knee. While going up Hammonds Lane I offered her some ointment to rub in. We stopped at the Sandown Garden Centre, as we knew that we wouldn't make Battlesbridge before they shut and to give Lynda a rest. Ian, Charlotte and myself arrived home at 7.30pm totally shattered with the longest ride this year under our belts and in what at times was a very high wind. On the way home from Battlesbridge we had the full force of the wind as it was a NE with open fields all the way which we had no choice but to ride into it. **John Steer**

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## **The Pennine Cycleway**

by Ken Rickwood

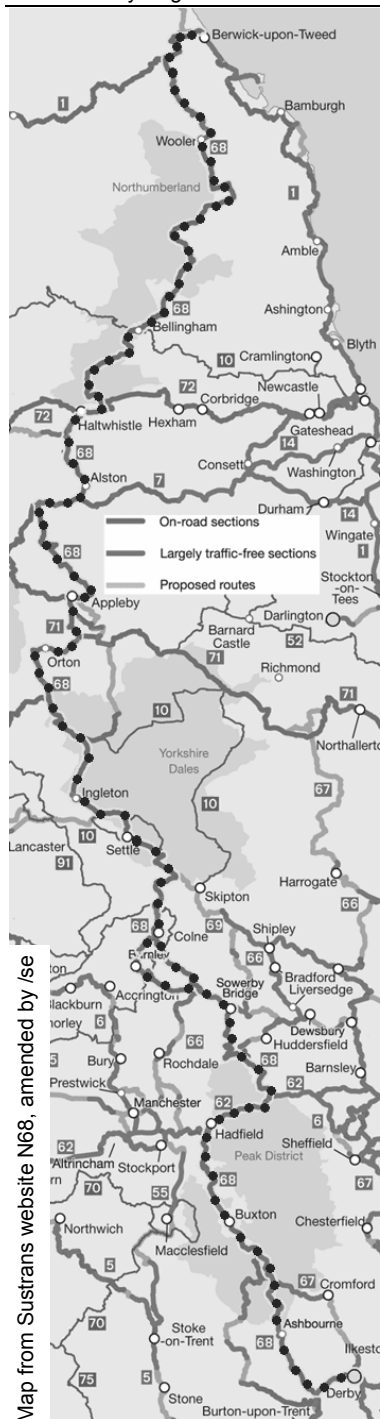
The Pennine Cycleway is England's longest 'challenge' cycle route. It runs from Derby to Berwick-upon-Tweed, through remote and beautiful scenery in the National Parks of the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales & Northumberland. For 80% of its 380 miles it follows quiet roads and country lanes, the remaining 20% is on traffic free paths, forest tracks, canal paths and disused railway lines of varying surface quality.

In 2009 four Essex cyclists; Mel Hutley, Ken Rickwood, Dave Russell and Derek Snowling decided to ride the Pennine Cycleway, designated as Sustrans Route 68. From the comfort of our homes we planned what we thought was going to be a leisurely tour of eight days riding. Accommodation and train tickets were booked ready for a summertime departure on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June.

### **Day 1**

We all met at Colchester Railway station at 10.15 am and the two of us caught the 10.30 while the other two waited for the 11.00. This unusual start to the holiday came about due to the vagaries of the booking system of cycle spaces on trains, which would allow us only two spaces per train. In fact the booking of the tickets was more stressful than the journeys which turned out fine enabling us to all meet up at Derby station at 2.30pm.

From the station we followed the signed cycle path to the city centre, this uses both on road and traffic free sections to the centre of Derby. From here we followed the Route 68 signs to Mickelover from



Map from Sustrans website N68, amended by /se

where the route takes a well maintained railway path for the 6 miles to Etwell. Here we took to the lanes and headed towards Ashbourne. By now it was 5.30pm and all of the cafes were closed, so we bought a large pot of tea from "The Horns". Before leaving the town we bought provisions for breakfast and then headed for the Tissington Trail. This is a very popular trail for both cyclists and walkers, but during the early evening there were few other people about as we sped along to Alsop. Here we left the trail to divert to our first nights accommodation at Alstonfield Hostel. This is less than two miles from the trail but on the other side of the Dove valley. From the trail we sped down to the River and finished our first day walking up several hundred feet to the hostel. At 7.30pm we were the first to arrive and had to phone for the warden who lived in the nearby farm. Having signed in and ascertained that the local pub was serving food we made our beds, showered and changed before heading for "The George". This was more of a restaurant than a pub and was obviously well known for its excellent food at reasonable prices as it was fully booked and we were lucky to fill a last minute cancellation. We all ate well, the most popular dish being Richard's sausages produced by the local butcher. I had cod and chips: the chips were hand cut and arranged in a pyramid with the cod carefully balanced on top. After this good meal and 35 miles none of us had any trouble getting to sleep on our first night away.

## Day 2

Having had our breakfast and returned the key to the warden at the nearby farm we were on the road by 8.40 heading back to the Tissington Trail. During the 1960s several Derbyshire railways were closed. Fortunately the County Council had the foresight to see the amenity value of these routes and bought them so creating the Tissington Trail and High Peak Trail. Our journey took us to the end of the Tissington Trail at Parsley Hay where we joined a section of the High Peak Trail



Ken and Mel on the Tissington trail

leading towards Buxton. A few miles of bridleway and lanes took us into this famous Derbyshire town where we arrived in the rain. Here we had our 11th of tea and baked beans in the "Fiveways Café" ready for the appropriately named Long Hill out of the town. Route 68 took us up a lane that soon degenerated into a track, which ran as a gated road

across the moors. The going was rough and wet, but despite this the views were impressive and it was still raining as we made the long descent into Whaley Bridge where we dried out in "Bella's Café". Bella's enthusiasm for her café was remarkable, with four bedraggled cyclists dripping water all over her floor, she merely produced some slippery floor signs and then insisted that we had matching cutlery with which to eat our mushroom and Brie oatcakes. Refreshed we continued to Bugsworth Canal Basin. Here we were walled in by hills so it seemed only sensible to leave by the only flat way out, along the canal towpath towards New Mills. Having left Route 68 and run off the edge of our OS map, our enthusiasm for towpath riding took us to Higham and the Middleway Cycle Track, which follows the disused railway to Marple and eventually to Charlesworth and back onto Route 68. We skirted round Glossop to Hadfield railway station, where we had tea. This is the end of the line but the start of the Longdendale Trail, a six-mile section of traffic free cycling alongside a chain of reservoirs and moorland. Four miles along this trail we stopped at "The Old House" - it stands in splendid isolation overlooking one of the reservoirs. This was our B+B for the night. There was nowhere to eat in the evening, so the proprietor gave us a lift to "The Peel Arms", where we had a good meal and a few pints of Camerons before getting a taxi back. A good way to end what was a fairly hard 37 mile day, mostly in the rain.

### Day 3



Ken on Pikenaze Moor

We all had a full English breakfast to start the day. It was here that Mel established his reputation for a healthy appetite by consuming five sausages. Yesterday's rain and the sandy nature of the Longdendale Trail surface meant that we started the day with a little bike maintenance before setting off along the remaining

section of the trail to the Woodhead tunnel. From here there was a choice of taking the main road or continuing off-road. We chose the latter, and after a ten minute walk up onto Pikenaze Moor we rode a mile or so on good moorland track before enjoying the long gradual descent into Dunford bridge and onto Holmfirth, where we had tea in "Sid's Café"

of 'Last of the Summer Wine' fame. There is a steep climb away from Holmfirth and the next 20 or so miles were the hardest section of the whole route. After the steep climb out of 'Last of the Summer Wine' country there is a fast descent into Meltham and several more steep rises and descents until we crossed the M62 by way of a pedestrian tunnel at Scammonden Water and on to Sowerby Bridge. Here we stopped for an excellent late lunch at the "No 5 Café". It had taken us over four hours to do just 28 miles. Our next night's accommodation was a way off Route 68, so we left the busy town of Sowerby Bridge and headed north towards Ovenden Moor. My OS map, dating from 1988 showed an unmade gated road across the moor, so I was surprised to find a well-made wide road leading up to the moor. Since my map was made a 9.2Mw wind farm consisting of 23 turbines generating enough power for 5600 homes had been built. There was certainly plenty of wind up there. Coming off the moor we had a few quiet lanes into Haworth and ended the day with a walk up to the top of the cobbled main street to the "Haworth Tea Rooms", our B+B for the night. It had been a long and exhausting day and we were surprised to find that we had covered a mere 39 miles.

*To be continued in the next issue with day 4 to day 6.*



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## **Other Members' Contributions**

### **Song of a Conker**

*by Edna Comport*

Here I lie among the grass  
Revealed, alas, to all who pass  
Smooth and shiny, brown and bright  
Giving back the autumn light.  
One day some lads may pass this way  
Thinking only of their play,  
Pick me up with cries of pleasure  
But do not treat me as a treasure  
Pierced and threaded, swung and battered  
To there upon the grass lie shattered.  
Think upon what might have been  
If only I had laid unseen  
Remember me as I could be  
A spreading, verdant, noble tree.

### **Reporting from 'foreign parts'**

*By Dot Sharp*

I have not yet seconded to warden controlled accommodation, but it is still on the cards. Neither have I explored places of interest due to adverse weather conditions. Although the Queen is in residence at Sandringham for about 3 months during the winter and she has attended various churches and visited places on her itinerary, I haven't seen her either. But whilst at work Tom witnessed Prince Phillip driving a carriage pulled by SIX black horses clattering around the country lanes. My highlight so far is visiting the new and highly organised local Council tip on the edge of town - twice!

I have seen hundreds of geese flying in formation and ducks land in the garden.

It is always commented that Essex is flat but I can assure you that Norfolk is flatter, except for the grass verges which are covered in molehills.

P.S. There is a craft fair in Sandringham grounds next week when the Queen is not in residence.

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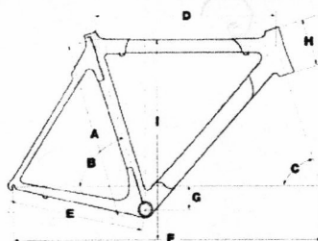
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## **Gun and Fames**

*by Charles Comport*

Studying the Runs List I admire the way traditional rides are carefully planned by our runs secretaries to provide a variety of destinations week after week. However, I have also noticed that there are none of the old 'fun' rides and events that used to be included in our programmes to provide a bit of change. I am thinking of Paper-Chases, Treasure Hunts, Pace-Judging competitions, Map reading contests etc.



Preparing to be a "hare" in 1949 with bag of paper slung over my shoulder. At "Bakers Arms", Stock.

Paper-Chases, or Hare and Hounds, were held a couple of times a year when I first joined in those less environmental conscious times. I was sometimes one of the two 'hares' who, after lunch, were given 15 minutes head start, scattered torn up bits of paper (prepared the night before) from bags slung over our shoulders at intervals of about a couple of hundred yards; at Junctions we would throw some down the first few yards of roads we weren't going down to cause confusion. The rest of the club 'hounds' were given sealed envelopes containing

the club tea place in case we weren't caught before reaching tea at a regular cyclists' tea place. They were later replaced by Chalk Chases.

Treasure Hunts, or more correctly Scavenger Hunts, were when each rider or pair were given a list of about 12-15 items to collect, e.g. a dock leaf, a smooth round pebble, a used postage stamp (surprisingly difficult out in the sticks), a bus ticket, an acorn, etc. The first back with a full collection or the most collected were given a free tea.

Point to Point contests were map reading clues given out one at a time, at minute intervals riders were given the first clue such as a grid reference or 'on road by the third F of Giffords Farm'. On arrival at the marshal you'd be given the next clue and so on for 4 or 5 clues. Entrants were given sealed envelopes containing the tea place for those lacking in

map reading skills which had to be returned, preferably unopened, at the end.

Pace or speed judgments were when you had to ride at a given speed over an undulating course of say 15 miles and you were timed so that the nearest to the set time was the winner. A variety of this was you had to ride a short course before lunch which was timed and you had to maintain this speed over the afternoon course. I last remember riding one of these in the Chelmsford Section's 'George Scragg' contests in the 1980's.

As for games: in former days we often stopped after a club tea at a pub about six or seven miles from home for a glass or two and a game of darts. Then there were the inter-section darts and table tennis matches between the four sections in the 1980's – also the pool contest evenings Joan and I ran when we lived in The Old Vicarage.

All these seem to have vanished these days as we worship the great god Mileage, although I know that it is nice to get away from familiar lanes to find new ones. And I also accept that groups might find it hard to persuade members to act as marshals these days with fewer out. However, it would be good to have the occasional friendly competition.

## **The SEG's 75**

*by Stefan Eichenseher*

There is not a lot positive to be said about this event this year. I had comments that the weather would have been predictable and therefore I should have cancelled the event. With a cancellation comes the issue of refunds. Since a cancellation did not take place before the start of the event, I still feel somehow a moral obligation to provide relieve for the pre-entry registered participants.

After much discussion in the DA committee and the South East Essex Member Group, we concluded that riders who entered this year will receive a ½ fee price reduction, if they pre-enter next year.

I would like to say many thanks to all those who have put themselves out to try and make the event possible.



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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>

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Hopleys Garden Long Barn (Café)	<a href="http://www.hopleys.co.uk">www.hopleys.co.uk</a>
Richardson Cycles (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.richardsonscycles.co.uk">www.richardsonscycles.co.uk</a>
The Cycle & Toy Centre (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.thecycleandtoycentre.co.uk">www.thecycleandtoycentre.co.uk</a>

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For more information go online to **<http://www.mildenhallrally.org.uk>** or write to Mildenhall C.C., 7 Jellicoe Place, Thetford, Norfolk. IP24 2JU. Please enclose an C5 stamped envelope.

[On 19.04.2010 I couldn't find a phone number on their website, Ed. ]

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