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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 4/2010

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Editor's foreword

As we experienced in the last 3-4 weeks the weather gods seem to be now more in favour of cyclists ... they probably got fed up with the couch-potatoes watching football ☺.

This edition brings you again a variety of stories of what members were up to during the past two months. We have as report by Brian Penny about the DA 80 km, where 18 cyclists got trenched, on p. 32. Martin has also composed a very good write-up on the Exmouth Exodus on p. 33, which sounds really inviting to hear from other events throughout the country.

There is a continuation of the Pennine Cycleway on p. 26, and our usual ride reports from the member groups sporting some interesting encounters.

I found my self pondering, when I read the obituaries of Les Hurrell and Frank Walker (on p. 36), that even for a youngster like me – compared with the average age of my cycling colleagues – there is a greater sense of loss when one knows the people and some of the stories that aren't accessible anymore.

What else can I say? – With June and July having been the months with the most events this year there are surely some reports outstanding for the next issue.

Other than that I would like to announce my DA 100-100 event, starting from Lake Meadows, Billericay, on 18th July at 8:30 am with a 100km and a 100miles ride.

Your editor,

Stefan Eichenseher



The President's piece

Here are some thoughts of how we might attract new members to our member groups, as we are loosing more than we are gaining.

It has been suggested that we start a Beginners' Member Group with shorter, slower rides suited to newcomers or those who prefer an easy pace.

Nevertheless there is a constant need for leaders to volunteer to lead the rides. This need be as little as making advance contact with the venue for morning coffee to notify them of likely numbers requiring refreshment, selecting or thinking ahead of a route and being mindful of pace for those riding at the back.

I have now been cycling for twenty years and the amount of friendships and the peculiarity that binds cyclists together in our non-conforming passion for simple travel and pleasures, plus also the health and fitness obtained is a wonderful hobby.

I realise that time is very valuable and there is always something else that needs attention but striking a balance is also important.

Take care on the road!

Brian Taylor

Member Groups' Reports

Chelmsford Member Group

May 9th (Mount Bures) - Eric, Heather, Martin, and I set out from Chelmsford, against the now customary chilly headwind, taking the usual route to Greenstead Green via Ranks Green and Black Notley. Against the forecast, rain began almost from the start and persisted for the first hour or so, after which, there was just a hint of sunshine. At elevenses we were joined by Dave, Beryl (on her first Sunday ride since her unfortunate crash in the winter), John, Maggie and Dave from Braintree. Seven went on to Lunch at the "Thatcher's Inn", which was quite busy and charged us £4.50 for a bowl of home-made soup and a round of ("Farmer Brown's") bread. Martin saw a bird of prey sitting on a post and pointed to it, but when I looked up what I saw was a glider. Confusing! We had threeses at Perrywoods before a wind assisted speedy ride home. 58 miles all tolled. **Adrian Leeds**

May 23rd (Kedington) - At the start, Diana, Brian P, Martin and I were joined by visiting riders, Carol and Steve from the Saint Albans section. We were treated to glorious sunshine and the warmest day of the year so far in these parts. We took the Rayne route to Finchingfield, where we met Dolores, Beryl Dave, Margaret and John. Thus eleven went on to lunch at "The Barnardiston Arms", Kedington, by way of the scenic Spain's Hall road and Steeple Bumpstead, (where the leader erroneously took the main road). We were joined at "The Barney" by "our man in Cambridge", Mr. Tibbets.

After lunch, Dave suggested a quick excursion to inspect the local Church of St Peter and St Paul. This is a charmingly ramshackle rustic church, over 1000 years old, with ancient "box" pews, and a triple-decker pulpit dated from 1610. The interior, it has to be said is completely dominated by a very large number of effigies, memorials and family pews of the (Baronial) Barnardiston family dating back to the sixteenth century. Well worth a look! (See, Dave, I was paying attention).

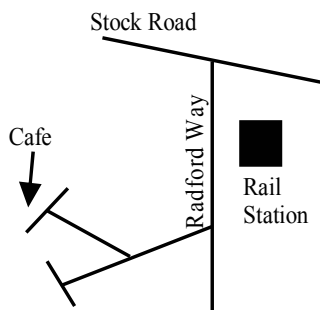
Threeses was reached at ten past four at Blake End – a particularly welcome tea break in the baking heat of the afternoon. I feel I must add a *Special Mention* to Beryl who is battling back to recovery after her winter accident and did remarkably well to stay the course. **Adrian Leeds**

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Haverling Member Group

Apr 4th – Our Easter Egg ride had a good turn out despite the wet and miserable morning that greeted us at the start with Alex, Barrie, Brian, Dave Gordon, Jeff, Kelvin, Ken and eventually late again Stuart! Nothing exciting happened as they sped out of Haverling except the rain stopped and Barrie's chain came off! Through South Wealds to Swallow Cross they rode and just before Blackmore they met a cycle race coming towards them, then just after Blackmore they met a herd of Deer coming towards them. At Writtle they met the Easterly RC coming out of the "Garden Tea Rooms", while inside they met Tony King of the SEG, and as they were leaving who should come along, but Graham & Peter of the now sadly gone but never forgotten the Brentwood Section. As promised, our leader handed out the Easter eggs. OK, they were a bit small, but it's the thought that counts. Their route took them through Roxwell, Willingale and Doddingtonhurst with a few stops in between as their leader began to suffer having not ridden this distance in nearly five months! In South Wealds they again met some deer, though this time the motorists were getting all the grief. Around 55 miles were clocked up for this easy for some and not easy for one. **E.C. Ryder**

Apr 11th – Today's turnout consisted of me (Stuart), Gordon, Barrie, Jeffery, John, Brian and Mike, who just turned up to say hello and inform us on how his hip was faring, but he never rode with us. But later we did have a surprise guest rider, Steve Gregson, who rode with us for a short distance before rushing off home to help his wife Ann, who was at home nursing a broken leg. Throughout the ride there were leader clashes, as Brian insisted that I (Stuart) was the leader, but I preferred to lead from the back, so the group never knew which way we were turning. But after a while the chaos was solved and a route planned. We travelled via Horndon-on-the-Hill and Orsett to reach Langdon Hills in the pleasant sunshine with the usual trivial banter being thrown between members of the group throughout the trip. At Langdon Hills Brian left us to return home, but the group continued onto Herongate and past a huge traffic jam with smug faces. We then went into Thorndon Country Park, where due to unfortunate timing everyone sitting on the bench stood up all at once except Gordon making the bench tip over and leaving Gordon on the floor. This called for some more banter being thrown about, before a speedy return home clocking up 30 miles. **Stuart Layzell**

Apr 18th – A lovely sunny morning saw Alex, Barrie, Brian, Dave, Gordon, Jeff, Ken and Stuart on route to Pleshey. While some were already in

shorts, there was a bit of a strip-tease show after that climb up South Wealds, though not everyone was willing to show their legs to Essex just yet. Their 11ses destination was to Writtle, but this was change to Blackmore, which turned out to be rather lucky for us, as they met Chris Mills. Who told us that the "Leather Bottle" was a bit of a hit and miss with food these days. So a change of destination was found in the form of Stock. At Buttsbury ford three rode through it and four took the footbridge, as Alex had already turned his wheels for home. At "The Hoops" it was either a roast lunch or a rather expensive soup. Gordon just had the soup while the rest had crisps, though on their returned route a Supermarket stop was called for in Ingatestone. After feeding themselves with "healthy" foods like meat pies, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks, their route home through Fryering and Doddinghurst was uneventful, except for a few sunburned arms, legs and faces. And with a nice 50 miles clocked up it had been another enjoyable day in the saddle. **E.C. Ryder**

Apr 25th – New rider Steve Ingall joined Barrie, Brian, Dave, Jeff, Kelvin and Stuart as the April showers stopped. The magnificent seven headed down Fen Lane bound for Langdon Hills, as the sky cleared and it warmed up nicely. After 11ses Kelvin headed back while the rest made a leisurely return, stopping at Pike Lane to inspect the recently reopened Visitor's Centre. Then back home with a nice easy 30 miles on the clock. **David Rowlands**

May 2nd – Dave, Jeff and young Stuart left Roomes at 8am on route to Mountnessing and the DA 80k, in lovely Bank Holiday weekend weather, yes it was wet & windy! The threesome managed to finish the event, but were unfortunately out of time by some 20 minutes. Must have been that 30 minutes pub lunch they took at Littley Green! Anyway, it's the taking part that counts innit? By the time the lads reached home again some 80 miles were clocked up, and for one this was his longest ride with us, so well done Jeff.

Meanwhile a 9.30 start on the 'Easy with Brian' ride saw Anna, Kelvin and of course the leader swimming out to Langdon Hills for a much needed cuppa. Our leader who had been out since 7.30 that morning decided he was too wet & cold to continue and returned home, leaving Anna & Kelvin to also head for home the long way via Herongate. **E.C. Ryder**

May 3rd – SEG. rider Paul was nicely warmed up having ridden from Southend to join Mike & Dave at Upminster. The threesome then headed off into a headwind toward Blackmore, where they stopped for 11ses in

Jericho's. Leaving the village they were then joined by a couple from Billericay who were doing a warm up ride in preparation for a coming tour. At Willingale the couple left us and as we headed towards our lunch stop destination of Newney Green and the Duck Inn. But before we reached our lunch stop we had to dive for cover under a tree, as a short but painful shower of hailstone hit us! The service in "The Duck Inn" wasn't up to normal service. After a long wait for our food, it was either lukewarm or minus its bake beans! Afterwards Paul bade us farewell and headed for home via Chelmsford, while we headed back through Blackmore and Pilgrims Hatch, where we split for Upminster and Dagenham. With mileage approaching the 50 mark to make it Mike's longest ride since his New Years day fall. **David Rowlands**

May 9th – A rather overcast morning with a few spots of rain saw the Softees riders gathering: Colin, Gordon, Brian, John, Steve and new rider Les Roworth from Romford. They took the normal route out to Bulphan with a quick hello to the Gateway Cycling Club, who were discussing their morning ride outside the church. We continue on through Orsett to Horndon-on-the-Hill where our Gordon decided to have a front wheel puncture! So in went a new tube and down it went again and that was before the wheel had been put back in. This was followed by tube and tyre checks and different pumps used. By this time those in shorts were getting colder, so it was a great relief when it was all sorted out and we were back in the saddle heading for the Visitors Centre for a much needed cuppa. Our return trip was wind assisted. We crossed the busy A128 by the cycle crossing and while waiting for some to get across our leader fell off his bike for some unknown reason, with no damage done just his pride hurt. The rest of our ride back to Upminster was uneventful, with our leader leaving us at Pike Lane to get home for the football. **E.C. Ryder**

May 16th – Ten riders Alex, Barrie, Gordon, Jeff, Ken, Les, Mike, Stuart, new rider Tim from Hornchurch and the leader Dave were waved off by Brian, who unfortunately couldn't cycle with them today. A brief stop was made in Nags Head Lane, where Mike put his cobbling skills into practice, as one of Tim's cleats had fallen off. Shoes repaired we continued onto delightful Doddington and onto the caffeine desert of Chipping Ongar. Here we had a chat and said bye to Alex and Ken who had to return early. Moreton and the Lavers led us to Hatfield Heath where two more, Mike and

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Les turned back. We bounced over three cattle grids to reach the lake in Hatfield Forest where we dined at the refreshment hut. Some were disappointed, as they had been expecting a pub. After lunch Tim pumped his back tyre up only for the valve to fly out. One inner tube later we were on our way home via Abbess Roding and Willingale. At Blackmore the shop was raided and then on to the last part of our journey with a spit of rain for company. We picked up our outward route at Doddinghurst and on the outskirts of Upminster we split for home just as the sky fell down on us for a last minute drenching. Mileage for the day: 76. **David Rowlands**

May 23rd – A lovely warm and sunny morning for this Softees ride which saw Barrie, Brian, Gordon, Les, Tim, Stuart and last but not least Phyllis, who had not been out for sometime due to ill health. The group didn't get far when a cry of puncture was heard. This came from Stuart and one of his so called tractor tyres! Fen & Dunning lanes to West Horndon then over the Halfway House roundabout to reach a rather crowded Thorndon Country Park South for a cuppa. Afterwards Les and Tim turned their wheels toward home, while the rest rode through to a much peaceful North side of the Country Park for another cuppa. Then homeward bound through Little Warley they sped and down Bird Lane, where Gordon's front brake fell to bits! Once repaired, they were on their way again down a bumpy Warley Street - some potholes filled in but not all. No problem for those tractor's tyres though! At Pike Lane Barrie and Gordon headed home for their Sunday lunches, while Phyllis, Stuart and Brian went onto the Visitor's Centre for cold drinks. Mileage for the day was around the 30 mark, with sunburned arms, legs and noses! **E.C. Ryder**

May 30th – The 9am start saw 12 riders leaving Upminster. 5 of these riders were new to us and thought they could join us for a training ride, as they were preparing for the London to Paris ride. But of course our pace was much too slow for this carbon-frame-carrying-no-luggage-brigade. So they left us within a few miles. A little later Colin Hill also turn his wheels for home, leaving Brian, Barrie, Dave, Gordon, Jeff and Stuart to battle against the strong wind. A number of stops on route were called for: the first in Navestock, when Stuart had to remove mud from his wheel only to find it wasn't mud after all! The next was at Toot Hill when our leader Brian had to walk up. Then at Sheering it was an iron ration stop before we crossed into Hertfordshire, where another stop was needed for Jeff to give his gears some TLC. At last we reached our destination of Green Tye and the "Prince of Wales" for a very enjoyable meal, plus for some bits of the England match, before we set sail for home with that lovely tailwind. Spellbrook led us back into Essex, then to Hatfield Broad Oak for

a cuppa at the Flower Festival, and then through Matching Green to Ongar where the group split with Gordon and Jeff taking the A128 and the rest taking the lanes through Stondon Massey to South Wealds, and Upminster. Despite the tough ride going out it had been another enjoyable ride with plenty of laughs along the way. Mileage? - Well, our leader recorded his longest ride for over a year of 75 miles! **E.C. Ryder**

South East Essex Member Group

April 16th - Charlotte, Ian M & John left Shoebury to cycle to Wickford and joined the rest of the SEG's for the start of another eventful Sunday ride. Kevin, ever the gentleman certainly knows how to win a lady's heart and Charlotte was bowled over by his generosity, when he gave her a bag of Haribo's.

Sixteen left Wickford to head up Brock Hill. Unfortunately Shaun got a puncture and Colin and Ian M stayed behind to help out. Peter led the rest of the group onwards, while John stayed with Karen and Paul, who were on a tandem at the top of Brock Hill until we were able to join them. He then led us onto Bunsay Downs, where we found Charlotte, Chris and Linda waiting for us, as they had gone a different way avoiding hills. Peter and his group arrived about 20 minutes later and we were all soon enjoying our elevenses. Ian C also joined us having cycled all the way from Shoebury in 1 hour 30 minutes. It normally takes us an hour just to cycle to Wickford.

Eleven of us set off in glorious weather and we were soon stripping down to our t-shirts and shorts as we headed for the "Green Man" pub. It was a wonder we got there at all, as John was too busy gabbing and missed one or two crucial turns along the route. But eventually we arrived and joined Colin & Peter, who had the sense to take another route.

We left the pub about 2.30pm and headed for Maldon and then we made our way home via various routes having enjoyed another pleasant day's cycling in the Essex countryside. **Ian Mather**

April 18th - Two groups left Wickford as usual. Sean in my group had a puncture halfway up Brock Hill and took ages to fix it, so half the group went off with Peter H. When Sean appeared we set off at a fairly fast pace to try and get to 11ses before the other two groups. (We didn't want them to eat and be ready to leave before we arrived.) After 11ses the group split 50/50. I then led my group through Beeleigh Abbey to Langford Pumping Station and on to Wickham Bishop. Then I took a detour to

extend the route before bringing the group to the "Green Man" pub. We were told to sit in the garden, as our normal table was booked for another party. Peter H lead the way out through Maldon, and then onto the Goat Farm, where some had scones and cream. Some had ice-creams, while some looked over the old church next door. After leaving the Goat Farm Peter led onto Mundon so that he could get his Honey from a house in Mundon. I turned off and led the rest of the group back via Roundbush, Purleigh. At Cocks Clarks I stopped and engaged a couple on bikes from Southend in a salesman talk about the CTC and gave them contact details. Watch this space!

April 25th - North Fambridge - The SEG ride from Wickford attracted 10 riders who divided into two groups led by Chris Woodhouse and Peter Hubbert. There was excitement just as we left the start when Martin Pipe found an ancient DVD player by the road side and proudly put it in his pannier for the remainder of the day's journey. Peter's slow group lived up to its name by arriving at Morrison's at Maldon long after the fast group, having stopped to witness Alan Smart repair a puncture at East Hanningfield. This cheered us all up no end having just got wet from a very heavy shower. Worse than that, so long were we at 11ses that the author of this note wondered, if we were ever going to leave. Eventually after much frustration, most of the group continued the short journey to North Fambridge arriving just in time to order food. Other than being overtaken by a large convoy of Motorcyclists on approaching South Woodham Ferrers, the route home was straightforward with a brief stop at Battlesbridge for tea. **B Penny**

April 25th - 15 SEGs and one guest rider arrived at the café in Bichington for their early 11ses before departing for Minnis Bay and the Viking Trail. Comments were made by Karen H that the ride would be ideal for her family and friends to ride, as we rode along the promenade towards Margate. Steve our guest rider had our first puncture of the day. Puncture fixed we, set of to Broadstairs riding passed Bleak House (Charles Dickens's fancy home) and the Old Curiosity Shop on the corner. Once through Broadstairs, we headed for Ramsgate where we turn inland as we head for Manston World War II RAF Museum with its Spitfire and Hurricane planes on display and lots of other memorabilia. Our lunch stop was taken out in the open air at the patio tables and chairs provided, which we all agreed made for a pleasant change as the weather is warming up at last.

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After lunch we headed back towards Ramsgate again. Then turned off to follow the Viking trail stopping for photos at the Hugin (Viking long boat), we crossed the A256 and made our way through sleepy little Cliffsend and onto Minster. Just as we were leaving Minster there was another cry of puncture coming from the back of the group. Some of us returned back to the village to find John C (with the help of others) stripping down his back wheel. With the 2nd puncture for the day fixed, we set off. Just as we left the village Ian C mentioned that Charlotte had some very good tyres on her bike. We arrived back at the waiting group only to find that Charlotte had a puncture in her back wheel. (All three punctures were in back wheels.) Puncture fixed we set off again with Ian C now saying that he can now understand why the dreaded “P” word is never spoken until it happens. Once through Monkton we crossed the A253 (very quiet A-road). We continued on to St Nicholas-At-Wade with a stop at a local watering hole for our afternoon refreshments (and the loo). From St Nick’s we headed straight back across the fields (mainly concrete path) to the sea wall and back to Minnis Bay having had near perfect weather all-day and a very good day’s riding.

May 2nd - 80k Event or nearly a non-starter as the ford at Buttsbury was flooded and also in Small Gains Lane meaning we had to take a detour to Ingatestone then onto Stock before coming back onto the event route. During the ride we had a lot of heavy rain with a lot of surface water to start with. By the time the group I was with reached Boreham, there were just two of us and we had become entangled with riders riding the Fair Havens event. Having taken a wrong turn we made our way back on to the route by a couple of very quiet country lanes only to meet Charlotte, Ian and Ross who also had their problems. We arrived at “The Compass” in Littley Green feeling rather cold and wet. Ian and I asked for soup only to be told that the soup they had was a cold soup. So we promptly ordered a Huffer or two along with our pints. On setting off back to Mountnessing we still kept coming across event riders from two other events that were taking place on the day in what can only be described as atrocious weather: cold wet and windy. Brian said how he was amazed at the turnout on such a lousy day with 18 riders.

May 9th - Only twelve rode out today from Wickford on what was a much better day than the previous Sunday. As the destination was Margaretting I took a route that went south first, because I wanted to ride up Church Rd for a change, then onto Stock. On our arrival at the Saddlery we were joined by two more riders and we were told by a staff member that four tables had been reserved for us which was much better than a previous

Continued on page 24

Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
18 Jul	[DA] 100/100 Event Start from Lake Meadows Café, Billericay, Essex CM12 0AQ	Stefan Eichenseher 01268 655619
8 Aug	[DA] 40/40 Event from Copford Green	B. Penny 01268 777941
12 Sep	[DA] Roughstuff	Brian Taylor

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

Easy Rider Meets



Dates	Pub	Destination
11 July	Ingatestone Community centre	Ingatestone High St.
8 August	Prince of Wales	Mountnessing
12 September	Three Compasses	West Hanningfield

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

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
04-Jul	[DA] Strawberry Tea	Contact John Davis, see p. 4	
Alternative	Heybridge Basin	Perrywoods, Lunch	A Leeds
11-Jul	Elmdon	Elsenham Golf	L Hurrell
18-Jul	[DA] 100/100 Event	Contact: Stefan Eichenseher, see p. 4	
Alternative	Horsemanside	Hastingwood	D Russell
25-Jul	Castle Hedingham	Andrewsfield	A Leeds
01-Aug	Clare	Halstead	J Davis
08-Aug	Copford ("The Alma")	Perrywoods	A Leeds
15-Aug	Saffron Walden	Thaxted	D Russell
22-Aug	Long Merlford	Greensted Green	A Leeds
29-Aug	Maldon ("The Queens Head")	Tiptree (Jam factory)	J&B Taylor
05-Sep	Aspenden	Stansted Mountfichet	A Leeds
12-Sep	[DA] Roughstuff	Contact: Brian Taylor	
Alternative	Mill Green	Stondon Massey	TBA on Day
19-Sep	Cornish Hall End	Raine	D Russell

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 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

Memberships Secretary: Phyllis Gregory ☎ 01708558221

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

	Destination	Leader
Jul 18 th or Jul 25 th	[DA] 100/100 Event Contact S. Eichenseher, see p. 4 Softees Ride St. Peter's Chapel, Bradwell (8am start)	Brian Stevens
Aug 1 st	Softees Ride	
Aug 8 th	Paper Mill Lock (9am start)	Brian Stevens
Aug 15 th	Softees Ride	
Aug 22 nd	Littley Green (9am start)	David Rowlands
Aug 29 th	Softees Ride	
Sep 5 th	Heybridge Basin (9am start)	Brian Stevens
Sep 12 th or Sept 19 th	[DA] Roughstuff Softees Ride Easy with Brian ride	

The leader will either be decided 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

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	Eleveneses	Destination for Lunch
July		
18 th	[DA] 100/100 Event	Organiser: Stefan Eichenseher, see p. 4
25 th	Roundbush (Café)	Nounsley (Sportsman Pub)
August		
1 st	Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)	Kelvendon (Railway Tavern)
8 th	[DA] 40/40 Event from Copeford Green	Organiser B. Penny 01268 777941
15 th	Writtle (Garden Tea Rooms)	Grt Sailing (White Hart)
22 nd	Norton Heath (Café)	Littley Green (The Compass)
29 th	Lake Meadows (Billericay)	Nuclear Bunker (Kelvendon Hatch)
September		
5 th	Rochford (Beehive Café)	Paglesham (Plough and Sail)
OR	[MG] The Leukaemia Event from Shoeburyness	
12 th	[DA] Rough Stuff (Mill Green)	Brian Taylor 01277 657867
OR	Writtle (Garden Tea Rooms)	
19 th	Lake Meadows (Café in the Park)	Ongar (Cock Tavern)
26 th	Norton Heath (Café)	Pleshey (Leather Bottle)

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

time when they said we must sit outside in the cold, as they had not tables for us. After 11ses, I made those that were going on work off their food by going up the hill to Gallywood. Then we took a longer route to Sandon before turning towards Danbury and lunch. When we came out from the pub Clare and Brian were heard to say “hello your lovely”. We all had to investigate who they were talking to: a cockerel. He is massive with lots of feathers down his legs to his feet. “Spats” Brian called them. His name is Hercules and he is a Silver Blue (or something like that). The landlord had only had him for three days and the hen was on the nest round the back. (How big is she?) The ride back home was uneventful with two riders leaving us at Creephedge Lane, then three more at Battlesbridge. Charlotte and I arrived back home by 16.30 with just 51 miles on the clock. - a short one for us. **John Steer**

May 23rd - Ten Little Indians - This time I was on my own, as John was in South Africa and Charlotte was taking part in the ‘Race for Life’ and was being cheered on by Ian C. So, I had an enjoyable ride to Wickford in the beautiful weather and arrived at the café just after 9am, where some other SEGs were enjoying the sunshine.

Chris (GPS) led 3 out, and Linda led 12 out taking a scenic route via Ramsden Heath, Billericay and Padham Green to Ingatestone Garden Centre. We were joined by Tony and were soon enjoying our scones, toasts, teacakes and cuppas in the garden.

Ten went on through Ingatestone to Stock, but Bob decided to head for home and then there were nine. As we headed out along the quiet country lanes we did encounter a few horse riders and did so even more outside the “Three Compasses” at West Hanningfield. As we approached Bickenacre, Linda decided to take us off-road for a short distance before we emerged onto the main road and it was here that Tony left us and then there were eight.

At the “Brewer’s Arms” we were soon enjoying our drinks and food. We were joined by ‘Lofty’ the dog who managed to get some morsels from our plates before he was shooed away by the landlady.

We set off in the heat of the afternoon and went via Hyde Hall to The Bell at Rettendon, where we said goodbye to the girls who went back to Wickford. Then there were six. We stopped at the “Haybarn Café” in Battlesbridge and then five went one way and I was left on my own to cycle back to Shoebury.

June 6th - Charlotte, Ian M and Ian C left Shoebury to cycle to the "Beehive Café" in Rochford, where we would meet the other SEGs, who were coming from Wickford. When we arrived we met Alan, Dennis, Peggy and Andy who were already tucking into tea and toast. Ian C was feeling a little fragile after consuming a few pints the night before in the "Parson's Barn" pub, hence the gallon of coffee he ordered. As we were tucking into our meals, a steady stream of SEGs began to arrive including Dave on his recumbent. This was now enclosed by an impressive red canopy complete with zipped windows. Two riders arrived on folding bikes, Brian on a Mezzo and Martin on a Bickerton. He had bought on ebay.

Twelve went onto the "Red Lion" in Great Wakering and we were briefly joined by Stefan who had popped out for a short ride and a chat with us. After lunch we went via Shoebury (Charlotte and Ian M left to go home) and along the seafront to Southchurch Park and then home. **Ian Mather**



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ANNUAL TRAINING CAMPS

February, March, April and September

The Pennine Cycleway - day 4 to day 6

by Ken Rickwood

Day 4



Ken, Derek and Mel walking the long ford near Foulridge

We set out west along the Worth valley and over the moors to rejoin Route 68 just north of Colne at Foulridge. This ride would have been more pleasant without the headwind. A minor road took us into a long ford and then as Pendle Hill came into sight Mel tried his luck at spell casting, by wishing away hills and wind. His wish was granted as we soon had several miles of easy riding

along the Leeds and Liverpool canal, complete with tea and Eccles cake at Greenberfield's lock. We left the canal at Southfield and continued through pleasant countryside to Gargrave and into the Yorkshire Dales. Leaving Airton we faced a long climb up onto the moors above Settle. The spell had finished and we were now battling into a head wind that almost brought us to a stop. This with occasional showers and decreasing visibility made it a hard ride before dropping down steeply into the historic market town of Settle. Refreshed with a soup and a sandwich in the 'Settle-down' cafe, and the purchase of spare brake blocks from the bike shop we set out along Ribblesdale. We now had the wind on our side and the patches of blue sky were growing as we approached Ribblehead. Here we stopped for tea in the pub before going up and over to Hawes. By the time we reached the Youth Hostel we were all too tired to consider exploring the town so we settled for a hostel evening meal. My fish was OK but the sausages were not up to standard. At 58 miles this had been our longest day so far, and in this terrain more than enough.



Dave, Derek and Mel riding the Leeds & Liverpool canal

Day 5

After our disappointing evening meal we decided against a hostel breakfast. Instead we bought provisions in the town and prepared our own in the members' kitchen. And then after minor repairs and the replacement of brake blocks we set out at 9.30 on the undulating road to Kirkby Stephen. We stopped on the way at Pendragon Castle, a 12th century Norman keep in a beautiful setting. In Kirkby Stephen we had lunch of potato rosti and beans in the 'Pink Geranium', before setting out on the road to Appleby in Westmoreland, where we rejoined Route 68. We arrived at 2.30, and with only 4 miles to go had our first leisurely break; looking around this historic town and having tea in 'The Tastes of Eden' café. The night was to be spent at Dufton YH, where we arrived in time to tighten and true Derek's increasingly wobbly rear wheel and to observe the amazing variety of wildlife in the hostel garden. Within a few minutes we had seen a red squirrel, two greater spotted woodpeckers and nuthatch amongst the pigeons, finches and rabbits. Opposite the hostel is the 'Stag Inn' where we had our evening meal after our far less strenuous day of 39 miles.



Dave truing Derek's wheel at Dufton Hostel

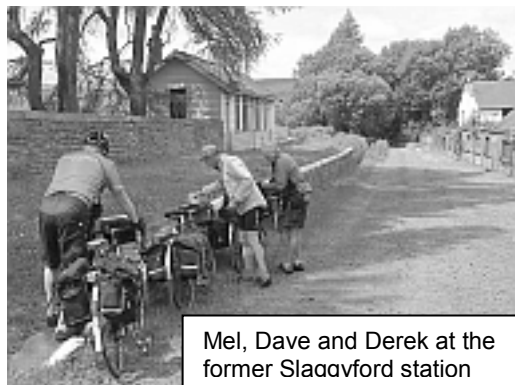
Day 6

From now on the weather improved as we meandered along quiet country lanes through the glorious scenery of the Eden Valley, with the bulk of the Pennines on the right. And then, after Melmerby, we started the four mile ascent up to Hartside stopping several times to take photos of the ever-improving views over the Solway Firth and into Scotland. At the top we stopped for tea and baked beans at the café that is very popular with motorcyclists. At 1903ft Hartside is where the road begins its descend and we enjoyed a long downhill freewheel to Leadgate and then on to Alston, which is England's highest market town. From here



Mel crossing a cattle grid in South Tynedale

the route followed the River South Tyne valley along undulating lanes affording occasional views of the South Tynedale railway, England's highest narrow-gauge railway. Past Kirkhaugh church the line ends at Slaggyford. It is here that the disused former South Tyne railway



becomes a cycle-trail that runs all the way to Haltwistle past the former station of Lambley. The present owners of this station refuse to allow cyclists to use the old track bed through the few hundred yards that they own which meant a hilly detour and the loss of the pleasure of cycling over the famous Lambley viaduct. However, back on the trail we soon arrived in

Haltwistle. Here we bought provisions for breakfast and had tea in the square. By the selection of the extremities of Britain, Haltwistle claims to be the centre of Britain and indicates this on an unusual signpost erected in the square. From here we headed towards the Roman Fort at Housesteads and then enjoyed Hadrian's Wall in the evening sunshine before arriving at Once Brewed YH. Today we had completed 50 miles and were all feeling quite energetic as we walked the few hundred yards to the 'Twice Brewed' pub for our evening meal. Maybe after six days our Essex legs were coming to terms with the Pennine Way.

To be continued in the next issue with day 7 to day 9.

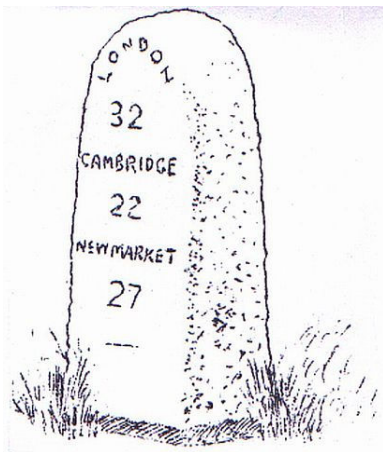
Milestones

by Charles Comport

The name of our bungalow is 'Milestone'. I don't know why the previous occupant called it so, but maybe he was aware of the old milestone on the main Margaretting road nearby. Milestones were once considered of great importance to the traveller as the only means of telling how far they were from a main town or city. The milestone on the Margaretting road bears on its weather surface the legend "London 27" and is one of three in the Galleywood district, the 26 mile one being at the border with Great Baddow and the 28 at White's Bridge. They were on the old main Maldon – London road and are replaced by iron mileposts on the stretch between Margaretting and Ingatestone. Mile stones were considered to be important enough to feature on the Ordnance Survey maps when issued

in the 19th Century and the symbol MS is still used on them today and have been used as reference point in map-reading contests. With road changes and improvements over the years I doubt whether they still indicate the shortest routes to the places named.

Pictures of Dick Whittington (and his cat) usually depict a milestone in the background, as do many featuring old stage coaches. I do not think there was ever an over-riding authority for their maintenance, it being left to the local parish or turnpike trust for their upkeep. They were (are) often used as starting points and turns by the time-travelling world, for example the famous 32nd milestone near Ugley around which the '32nd Association' of racing clubs was formed.



The 32nd milestone on
B1383 (old A11), Ugley

A poem written in 1930 has the lines:

“They say that life is a highway and milestones are the years and now and then there’s a tollgate where you buy your way with tears”.

One often hears references to the milestones of one’s life, important dates such as a wedding, birth of a child, retirement and so on, which denote the radical changes in one’s circumstances and mark another stage of our journey through life. Milestones are part of the backdrop of Olde England.


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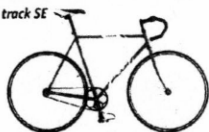
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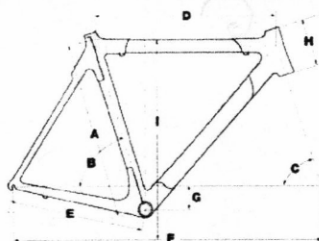
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The DA 80km -2nd May 2010

by Brrian Penny

The saying goes that worse things happen at sea. But that does not take account of this year's DA 80km.

The Saturday evening's weather forecast for Sunday morning had given due warning of what was to come and on this occasion the forecast was accurate. As organiser of this event, I had no choice but to get to the event start at Mountnessing by car to transport the paperwork, Mars bars, sign board etc. My route via Billericay was full of puddles that suggested a hard ride ahead for the cyclists taking part. Soon after opening up the start / finish venue at St John's Hall, a concerned Peter Wotherspoon arrived having cycled from home in Rayleigh recounting tales of having to swim across Buttsbury ford with a water height nearly up to his neck. My route which was directed through the ford would have to be revised.

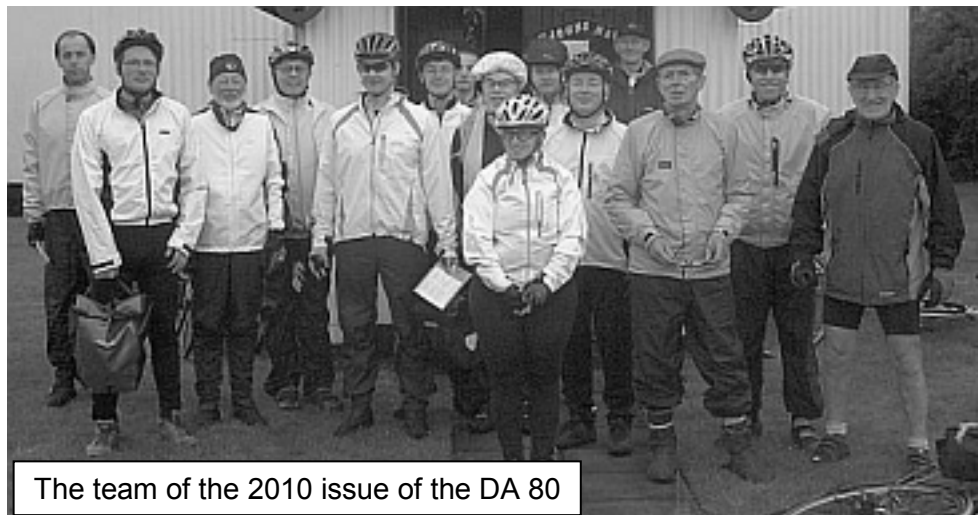
For a few minutes Peter and myself were wondering if anybody else would turn up. Doing an 80 km ride on a wet and windy day is not everybody's cup of tea. But to our surprise a steady number of entrants arrived willing to battle the elements for Queen and country. Or perhaps they were all one sandwich short of a picnic basket. Yes, I think there must have been an element of madness about all 18 entrants for even thinking about riding in such atrocious conditions. Surely it was a day to stay in bed? To avoid Buttsbury ford, Chris Mills kindly agreed to lead the group to Ingatestone as a detour until picking up the route sheet again at Stock.

At this point with the 18 brave souls trying to avoid drowning on a DA event, I had nearly 3 hours to kill until they were due to return. So I got in the car and drove to Brentwood to shop at Sainsbury's for lunch for when my brave club mates returned. It has been a few months since I last called into this Sainsbury's and I was shocked at what it had become. In the old days it was just another supermarket, nothing more nothing less. It has now become a concrete block with no redeeming features whatsoever. After buying cake and tea bags I popped upstairs for a breakfast in the nearly empty café looking out of the window as the rain fell.

Time soon past and it would soon be 12:10, by which time the fast riders might finish the event. I duly returned to Mountnessing, switched the kettle on, set up chairs and tables and sliced the cake and waited... and

waited... and waited. It's times like these, when you could do with a good book or a radio - perhaps to listen to the shipping forecast. I popped out of the front door now and again hoping it would inspire somebody to finish, but it never happened at least not until Peter Wotherspoon turned up. Fortunately, he looked liked every other cyclist who has just done 80 km on a wet and soggy day.

Others began to finish just as I was thinking of sending out the Southend lifeboat. The tea and cakes were welcomed and the heaters in St John's Hall helped everyone recover from the cold. There were 18 entrants of which 10 were successful and 8 out of time having succumbed to the wonderful pub at Littlely Green... and I don't blame them. All 18 deserve medals. Well done!



The team of the 2010 issue of the DA 80

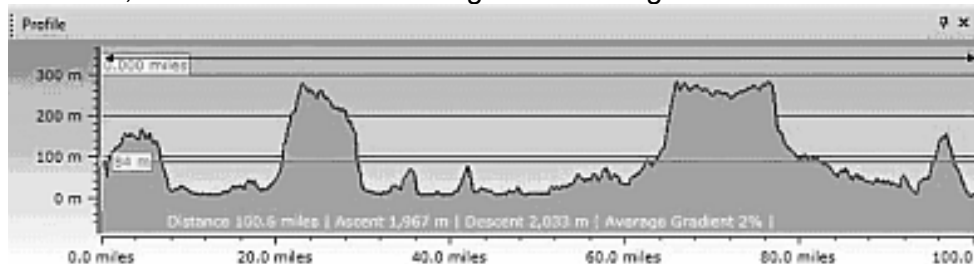
The Exmouth Exodus

by Martin Cockersole

Not many cyclists here in Essex seem to have heard of this event. I've just got back from my third one and just love it. It's a kind of Dunwich Dynamo with hills; slightly shorter at 101 miles. The start is in Bristol, just before dusk and the finish in Exmouth by the beautiful Exe estuary.

It's now been run for five years with numbers steadily increasing until last year when a deluge of rain was forecast and did happen! This year, in beautiful weather, I would guess about 140 riders took part.

This profile from my GPS after this year's ride gives you an impression of the route, with three substantial ranges of hills to get over.



The first significant climb, at 22 miles, is over the Mendip Hills, ascending via Burrington Coombe and down the famous Cheddar Gorge as fast as you dare. Then comes the steepest climb at 61 miles, up Blagdon Hill south of Taunton to get up the Blackdown Hills and lastly after about 93 miles, a long climb from Otterton to Woodbury Common.

I have great memories of friendly cyclists, mist in the Somerset levels lit by a silvery moon, sunrise over the Blackdowns and a turquoise blue sea glistening in the early morning sun at Exmouth. A less great one is riding almost blind down Cheddar Gorge in torrential rain in 2009.

Three people known as Wavy-Davy, Baggy and Chuffy (don't ask me why!) do so much to make it happen every year, and to feed and water the participants, with two tea stops and one feeding station... top people in my book.

If you like overnight rides and a bit of a challenge, do give it a go next year. Check out <http://www.exmouthexodus.co.uk/> for more information.

The forum on this site is a good place to read about the last two years' rides. Don't be put off by 2009! I did a rather long write-up of my experiences that year here:

http://www.cockersole.co.uk/index_files/Page317.htm

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Obituary

Les Hurrell (1919 - 2010)

Cyclists in Chelmsford were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Les in a tragic accident at his home. He was a member of Chelmsford section for 30-40 years.

He worked at Hoffmann's and Marconi factories until, much later in life, he trained as a chiropodist.



Besides attending to the feet of the inmates of Chelmsford Jail, he would give us a free consultation over a pint of the local brew at our lunchtime destination. He liked his tea strong and would give the tea bags a good mashing to produce his "builder's brew". He was a keen photographer and computer user being expert at both hobbies.

Les was at one time DA Treasurer and also assisted the Secretary in various ways. On Retirement he joined the 40+ Cycling Club and rode regularly.

On the day of the funeral 40 to 50 cyclists rode behind the hearse from the undertakers to the crematorium, making quite a spectacle and a testimony to the numbers of his friend.

He will be greatly missed on Sundays and Thursdays.

Dave Russell

Frank N Walker (25/12/1919-14/5/2010)

The death in hospital has occurred of Frank Walker at the age of 90. Frank was until his retirement a very well respected and accomplished cycle dealer in Chelmsford.

Frank's introduction to the cycle business was at the early age of 8 when he helped at the cycle shop of his disabled uncle and pushing him home in a wheelchair after closing time. On the death of his uncle in 1937 Frank took over the business until he was called up for National Service with the R.E.M.E.

He served his time in the Western Desert and Italy returning to his shop in 1946. Those of us who ventured in his shop marvelled at how could instantly find anything in what appeared to us a total muddle. There he remained until the premises were required for road improvement causing him to move a few blocks until his retirement in 1964

In 1948 Frank joined the CTC, eventually becoming a Life Member, and the Chelmsford Section where, over the years, he took on several posts including President, Treasurer, Runs Secretary and DA delegate.

Although a very keen cyclist it was never in the competitive field; however he did ride CTC Reliability Rides and Mapreading events. He greatly enjoyed the social side, particularly Easter Tours, The Birthday Rides, York and Mildenhall Rallies and Touring by bike, with his wife Nancy, in England and Wales.

Frank's other passions were photography, walking sea walls with his family, the Rover Club and his LWB Landrover.



Although beset with bad health after retirement mainly of the heart, he did not let it come in the way of his cycling and other interests. Frank leaves behind his wife Nancy and two sons Ian and Anthony. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Peter Moore

Links

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/

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