

**January / February 2011**



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**Price per annum: £5.00 inc. p&p**

Closing date for the March / April 2011 edition is on **16 February** 2011.

The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions for reasons of space, clarity or libel.

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

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

|                  |               |                |           |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Chelmsford       | Adrian Leeds  | ☎ 01245 260272 | Secretary |
|                  | Peter Moore   |                | Delegate  |
| Colchester       | Alan Palmer   | ☎ 01206 792929 | Secretary |
| Havering         | Dave Rowlands | ☎ 02084 913209 | Secretary |
|                  | John Copas    |                | Delegate  |
|                  | Alex Kornfeld |                | Delegate  |
| South East Group | John Steer    | ☎ 01702 309958 | Secretary |
|                  | Lynda Collins |                | Delegate  |
|                  | Martin Pipe   |                | Delegate  |

### Other Committee members

|       |               |                          |
|-------|---------------|--------------------------|
| EDARF | John Davis    | jldavis_123@talktalk.net |
|       | Peter Hubbard | (South East group)       |

### Certificate of Merit Committee

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| John Davis, John Greet, Charles Comport | Contact through DA committee |
|---|------------------------------|

### Essex DA Trustees

Martin Cockersole, Adrian Leeds, Peter Moore

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

So, another year has started with little changes in the head of local operations of the different member groups. At least the roads are free (for the moment), so that we can catch up the time on the road that was lost before Christmas. Although, ... it might be more important now than before to get back into shape.

We've got two new advertisers in this issue, which brings space available for this to a close for the time being.

The closure of the Lake Meadows Café, a very important landmark for cyclists, has been averted by being given a reprieve until May. I should think that the parks' department would not get a new keeper so quickly doing any refurbishment, without losing out on the spring customers.

The calendar events proposed for this year 2010/11 got a small change after the first DA Committee meeting in December. There we decided that in the light of an aging community and to encourage new riders, we would reduce the number of events needed to receive awards (see page 17).

Some have already heard that we lost the "Strawberry Tea" as a dedicated summer event, as the strawberry-picking part of the "Tea" has long gone. In the DA AGM we felt that a summer gathering should however take place, so all readers and riders are encouraged to make suggestions.

With delight I read that the Chelmsford member group finally took my hints and came forward with a few more write-ups.

You can read all about a French Riding Event and other contributions from page 26.

Your editor,  
***Stefan Eichenseher***



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

We are now in the depth of winter with 4 inches of snow [at the time of writing, Ed.] on the ground thinking about our cycling in 2011 and maybe some of you might be wondering whether to have a go at some Audax events. Audax is the club for long distance tourist rides.

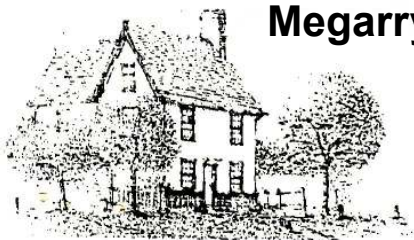
Some knowledge I have gained over the years may be helpful: firstly, I would say, get yourself fit for the event by being able to ride 15 km per hour [just under 10 mph, Ed.] including stoppages and 105 km in 7 hours. Secondly, sort out the best way of following the route, i.e. route sheet, map or satnav. And thirdly, the bicycle – I use a lightweight touring bike with a good gear ratio and a good lighting system, plus a nice pair of mudguards with flaps.

It is also important to have tools for when you break down and water proofs for bad weather, but not to carry more than you have to. Riding at your own pace with stops for food and drink is essential for long distance cycling.

Most of the routes are planned by local cyclists, so you ride in the best parts of the countryside; so make the most of them. The longer rides are a matter of striking a balance between sleeping, eating and drinking and cycling the miles.

Take care on the road!

*Brian Taylor*



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Hope to see you soon!!!! Judi

When using SatNav, ignore the instructions close to your destination: In the village turn down by the war memorial on the duck pond green and we're facing you!!

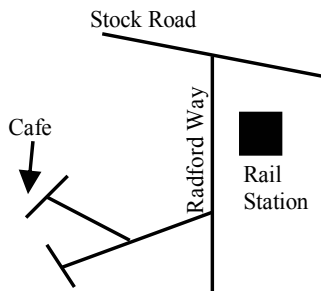
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## **Member Groups' Reports**

### **Chelmsford Member Group**

**24<sup>th</sup> October - Little Horkesley** - Just Martin and I left Chelmsford taking the main road initially, beginning a day peppered with annoying motorists. We hadn't left Chelmsford before a driver pulled alongside Martin to enquire why he wasn't using on the cycle-path. Martin retorted that this was strewn with glass, which was true, not mentioning that it went only a few yards further. Later, 2 more irritating motorists followed suit, with different antics reminding us that some drivers believe cyclist do not belong on the roads or even lanes.

We met Beryl, Dave, John and Derrick at "Barnplants" (Garden Centre, Ed.) and six went forward to lunch taking a very scenic country route. The pub at Little Horkesley has genuine charm. We had followed closely behind about a dozen ramblers (I mean the walking, rather than the talking type) – who had left their muddy boots neatly lined up outside, presenting a sight reminiscent of a scene from Snow White and the 7 Dwarves. Service was slow, but I suppose this was because we were in the catering queue. Interested in the rather "60's-mock-tudor" look of the buildings interior, Dave enquired about its history and was informed by a local rustic (sporting a huge set of "pork chop" side-burns) that the original pub had been bombed during the war and what we were looking at was the re-built version (complete with false beams, spiders and staff, even older than us). Worth another visit.

Threeses was taken at the Coggeshall Clock Tower and the group dispersed along the way home. **Adrian Leeds**

**7<sup>th</sup> November – Andrewsfield** - The weather was sunshine-and-cloud to begin with, but the onset of winter became apparent in the cold north-westerly breeze. Four of us made our way to Andrewsfield via the Chignall Smealy / Waltham / Leez route, where we were met by Dave, Beryl and shortly later, John and Margaret. The flying club's sausage rolls were hot, home-made and most welcomed. There being no takers for the onward journey to lunch, a more or less re-trace was then followed, covering just 40 miles in my own case. **Adrian Leeds**

I once knew an old chap, who when he was apprehensive about something, used to say that he was "afeared". I am now much

"afeced" of another slap on the wrist from our esteemed editor, after all he IS a big lad. So now I MUST write our report of cycling Chelmsford.

On the **31<sup>st</sup> October** it was a dull and drizzly morning, and I waited at the start, but no-one came out to play, so I cycled quite happily back home. Tricycle John Davies went to Stisted for aliveness.

There were thirteen of us at the DA AGM, where nothing earth shattering happened. The "Strawberry Tea" was put to death, maybe to be resurrected in another form later. Also, somewhere we lifted the B.A.R. trophy, and we carefully noted Peter taking it home, because we "lost" it last year - the Trophy finally coming to the light of day from the bottom of a wardrobe! The AGM buffet was a tasty event this year thanks to Margaret Mills.

A recovery in numbers on the **21<sup>st</sup> November**, as seven set off through 'channels' Golf Course, Little and Gt Leighs, Willows Green and hence to Rayne Station for coffees. There we were joined by John, Margaret, Beryl and John Wynstanly. Heather and Eric had carried on to the "Blue Egg" no doubt for their favourite large scones.

Margaret was still suffering knee problems and wished to return to Halstead (Trikie Towers), the remainder of us wished for a destination nearer Chelmsford, so we headed for the "Leather Bottle" at Pleshey via "The Flitch Way", and Felsted, Onslow Green, and Stagden Cross - a nice lane route.

Over pints of 'Wherry' the topics were many, notably a discussion on dishwashers, both human and mechanical, domestic and commercial. Adrian has a luxury all singing model in his Cafe. My hands were sore and chapped after this episode.

It was good to see Diana out again after her knee op. Tough cookies these cyclists - soon getting back on their bikes after accidents and 'set backs'. On the way home we had to dissuade Tom from riding through Waltham Ford. Well, it was 1ft deep or 300mm nowadays.

No one ventured out on a frosty **28<sup>th</sup> November**, and the last of the 'Great Snow' was still on the roads on the **5<sup>th</sup> December** so that I thought no one had cycled again. Wrong! Our two Tandem Trikes went to "Barnplants" in Copford for elevenses and then turned for home and a light lunch at Stisted tea room. **D Russell**

## **Havering Member Group**

**Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Chris rode from Whitechapel to join Alex, Barrie, Dave and Gordon for a quick blast to Thurrock, where we cooled our heels at the traffic control point awaiting our transport across the QE2 Bridge. Once deposited on the Kent side, we set off on busy roads for Gravesend. On the way we came across a large group who were off on a little ride, to Paris no less!

11ses were taken in the "Promenade Café" in Gravesend. We then hit NCN 1 to the accompaniment of drizzle, which became steadily heavier. At Lower Higham we encountered the first of several pubs, which had closed down since our last Kent ride. The lanes led us to Cooling and a stiff climb up to High Halstow, then a bit more gentle terrain led us to Lower Stoke, where of two pubs only one remains and with no food. So we headed for "The British Pilot" at Allhallows-on-Sea where good value roasts were speedily served, while the sky fell down outside.

We eventually dragged ourselves out for the return into the rain lashed headwind, retracing our outward route, while Chris took a direct route back to London. The rain soon stopped and blue skies cheered us on our way back to Dartford for our return crossing. Once back in Essex Dave hit the old A13, while the rest went on to Upminster covering 70 miles in the process.

**Oct 10<sup>th</sup>** - AGM time again and four Havering members rode from Upminster to Belhus Woods Country Park while another four made their own way there to be joined by CTC councillor Martin Cockersole, who had ridden all the way from Chelmsford to be with us.

Once we were installed in the visitors centre, it was down to business followed by presentation of awards, the attendance shield going to Gordon and the puncture trophy to Barrie.

Business concluded we set off for home amassing a staggering 15 miles!

**Oct 17<sup>th</sup>** - Dave led Alex, Barrie, Gordon, Jeff, Ken & Les to Lake Meadows via Dunton. After a chilly 11ses Ken set course for home and the rest carried on to the Hanningfields and on to "The White Swan" at Bicknacre for lunch in the lovely autumn sunshine.

Return was via Stock and Hutton and after a plunge down Warley Hill we split for home clocking up 60 Miles.

**Oct 24<sup>th</sup>** - Alex, Barrie, Gordon, Jeff, John Costello and Steve joined Dave and daughter Louise for a leisurely ride to Thorndon Country Park for 11ses at the South Pavilion. After an extended break Dave led Louise and John through the park for more refreshments at the visitors' centre and a swooping ride home via Warley Hill, while the rest, led by Alex, cycled out in search of lunch. Unfortunately the timing coincided with everyone else wanting a piece of the sunshine with lunch out descending on the two public houses visited in Stock and Fryerning. A wonderful cycle down the lanes to the recently opened "Blackmore Tea Rooms" provided the refreshments needed. The filled jacket potatoes were a hit. The round trip for the day came to 35 miles for the A group.

**Oct 31<sup>st</sup>** - Alex, Barrie, Dave, Gordon, Ken, Les & Stuart (on his new machine) set off into the drizzle to Blackmore where, after some debate, we carried on to Norton Heath for 11ses. We then carried on to Willingale & Fyfield, where Ken turned his wheels towards home. The rest pushed on to Moreton and on to Matching Tye and lunch at "The Fox". Four were promptly served while Barrie & Gordon waited for the trawler to land their Halibut. Eventually we were all fed and watered whilst outside the clouds did their worst.

Thankfully it settled back down to a light drizzle by the time we set about our return via Ongar and Doddinghurst, and we reached home with about 50 miles on the clock.

**Nov 7<sup>th</sup>** - Four out for our last Softees ride, Dave, Jeff, Ken & Steve. We set off through Gidea Park and Harold Hill, where Steve turned back. Lambourne End led us to Stapleford Aerodrome, where we stopped for 11ses and enjoyed a bit of plane spotting.

The return took us past Passingford Bridge and, after a very close shave with a motorcycle, we turned towards Navestock Heath, South Weald and home covering 35 miles in the process.

*Continued on page 15*

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**Nov 14<sup>th</sup>** - Ken joined Dave for a chilly ride to Chelmsford. Ken was just out for the ride and set off home, while yours truly was joined by train assisted Peter Jolly to make up the Havering's presence at the DA AGM.

AGM business complete, the prize giving took place with two certificates for our John Wynstanly (Windmill ride & Witham Audax) a yummy buffet followed, after which Peter hit the rails and I made my lonely way back home in the rain. Another 50 miles on the clock.

**Nov 21<sup>st</sup>** - Kelvin Dane joined Alex, Barrie, Dave, Gordon, Jeff and Les for the first ride at our new start time of 9 o'clock. On the way out we saw Brian Stevens on his way to Upminster. After Dunton, we ground our ways up to Little Burstead, the leader suffering, as he was stuck with the middle ring.

At Billericay we stopped for 11ses outside the café at Lake Meadows. We then pushed on and just after Downham a quick stop was made to let the group reform. Our Jeff stopped a bit too quickly and airmailed himself over the bars!

Thankfully no damage was done to man or machine, so we carried on pausing briefly to torment the poor turkeys at Laylands Farm.

At "The Compasses" we were quickly served and after refuelling we set off on the return leg via Stock and Buttsbury, where I tried out my new overshoes in the Ford - they work! After the ups and downs of Hutton we trundled up The Avenue before splitting up for our homes covering 60 miles in the process. **David Rowlands**

**Nov 28<sup>th</sup>** - On a cold crisp sunny morning Gordon, Les and Barrie set off to Ingatestone; then a turn into Trueloves Lane led to High Wood and Blackmore, where the trio enjoyed coffee at the new teashop.

Thawed out, we took a more direct route home getting back to Upminster around 12:30 clocking up 40 Miles in the process. **Gordon Peel**

## **South East Essex Member Group**

**17<sup>th</sup> October** - Twenty-one cyclists assembled at the start in Wickford and, as it was such a large number, it was decided to split us into three groups. Chris W led the longer ride, with Peter H and John S leading the other two via various routes to Ingatestone Garden Centre. A new rider called Bill, a mate of Paul's joined us and considering he hadn't ridden long distances before and was riding a heavy mountain bike, he did exceptionally well. After elevenses, Peter H led eleven onto the

“Brewer’s Arms” at Bicknacre via Hylands Park, but unfortunately we became split up and ended up in three groups. Peter H sped on with one other, Alan S with three and John S with six. After consulting the map John’s gang went through the park to Writtle and then along Route 1 through Chelmsford to Sandon, where Ian M touched wheels with Paul and nearly came off. Paul said he would get his own back later and Ian M will just have to be more careful in future. We went up the hill to Danbury and arrived in Bicknacre at the pub at 1.45pm, a few minutes after everybody else. After a good meal we headed off via Rettendon and some stopped for a coffee at the garden centre, while the rest carried on home.

**24<sup>th</sup> October** - Seventeen left Wickford for Bunsay Down Golf Club and the three groups were led by Ian M, John S and Chris W. Unfortunately, the day started off badly with three punctures among the various groups (Chris W, Chris G & John S). At Bunsay Downs, we were soon tucking into our refreshments, and this included John C, who managed to devour two teacakes (we call him ‘Two Cakes Jon’).

Ten went onto lunch led by Ian M through Maldon and along a rather busy B-road to Tolleshunt D’Arcy and arrived at the “Queen’s Head” pub about 1pm. One of the locals suggested we put our bikes in the beer garden and this meant that Martin P and Brian P, who were slightly behind us didn’t realise that this was the pub and carried on to Tollesbury before realising their mistake. This was the first time we had been to this pub and we will definitely be going there again. The service and food was very good. Whilst there John S got talking to a couple of cyclists, who had come up from London on Saturday and stayed at West Mersea overnight before heading back to Chelmsford to catch the train back to London. He suggested that it would be beneficial to join the CTC, principally for the 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance, but also for rides with local groups. Ian M then led back along quieter country lanes via Tollshunt Major to Maldon, through the Promenade Park and then onto Purleigh, Stow Maries and South Woodham Ferrers. Here we stopped for coffee and cake at “Tropical Wings”. On leaving, we went up the old Woodham Road and again Ian M touched wheels, but this time with Charlotte V. This is getting to be a habit and I must stay further back otherwise there maybe be trouble ahead and moonlight and romance, especially when I’m lying in a ditch and seeing stars. We parted company at Battlesbridge with Peter H and Clare, and four went onto Shoeburyness, completing a ride of 75 miles.

*Continued on page 25*



## **Essex Cyclists' Touring Club - Proposed Calendar for 2011**

### **DATC Events for 2010**



Complete 3 DA events out of 6 for Standard Award

Complete 4 DA events out of 6 for Premier Award

(needs to include at least one 100 miles or longer event)

| <b>Date</b>           | <b>Event</b>          | <b>Organiser</b>   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr  | Witham 150km or 200km | Ed Nevard          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> May   | 80km                  | Brian Penny        |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> June | Windmill Rides        | Brian Taylor       |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> July | 100M / 100km          | Stefan Eichenseher |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | Colchester 40/40      | Brian Penny        |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Rough Stuff (29M)     | Brian Taylor       |

### **Other events**



|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | SEG's 75                                | Stefan Eichenseher                            |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> June | George Welch<br>Memorial Rides (10/30M) | John Steer                                    |
| ? July                | <i>Summer Gathering</i>                 | <i>[ proposed /suggestions<br/>required ]</i> |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | Christmas Meet                          | Brian Taylor                                  |

From the ☆:



Unused bicycle, due  
to obvious reason ...

## **Forthcoming Events**



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

| <b>Date</b>          | <b>Event</b>   | <b>Organiser</b>   |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb | <b>[MG] SEG 75 miles</b> - from 8:30 am at Lake Meadows Café, Billericay, CM12 0AQ | Stefan Eichenseher |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr | Witham 150km or 200km,   | Ed Nevard          |

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

## **Easy Rider Meets**



| <b>Dates</b> | <b>Pub</b>            | <b>Destination</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 9 January    | "The Three Compasses" | West Hanningfield  |
| 13 February  | "Fox and Hounds"      | Cocks Clarks       |
| 13 March     | "Bakers Arms"         | Stock              |
| 10 April     | "Old King's Head"     | Stock              |

**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

### **Run to "11ses" only (Winter)**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Destination</b> | <b>11ses</b>                             | <b>Leader</b> |
|-------------|--------------------|--|---------------|
| 09-Jan      | Moreton            | "The Shed",<br>Sawbridgeworth            | D Russell     |
| 16-Jan      | Run to "11ses"     | Castle Hedingham                         | A Leeds       |
| 23-Jan      |                    | Hastingwood                              | D Russell     |
| 30-Jan      |                    | Aldham                                   | A Leeds       |
| 06-Feb      |                    | Thaxted                                  | A Leeds       |
| 13-Feb      |                    | Greenstead Green                         | D Russell     |
| 20-Feb      |                    | Sawbridgeworth                           | A Leeds       |
| 27-Feb      |                    | Langford Bridge (Ongar<br>Garden centre) | J & B Taylor  |
| 06-Mar      |                    | Heybridge Basin                          | A Leeds       |
| 13-Mar      |                    | Blue Egg, Bardfield                      | A Leeds       |

## Colchester Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: Alan Palmer

☎ 01206 792929, mob 07939 395067 or

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

### Cycling Back to Health

**Wednesday's**, 11am, by Skatepark at Leisure World, Colchester

A gentle, mostly traffic-free ride led by Richard Monk.

Around 5 miles distance, taking somewhere between an hour and two. We stop for refreshments somewhere half-way.

### The Pete Finch Night Ride

**Thursday's**, 7.15pm by Tenpin, Colchester.

This is a faster-paced ride for more experienced cyclists. 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). It must be mentioned this is run by the SUFFOLK DA.

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 Arms, Colchester

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



**Secretary:** David Rowlands

43 Limbourne Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 1HU

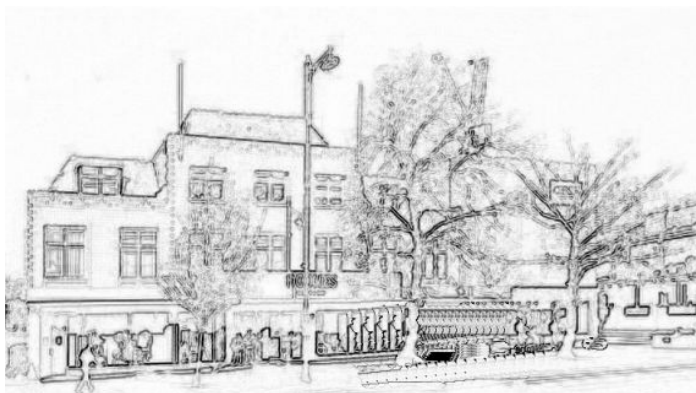
☎ 020 8491 3209 or [david.rowlands673@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.rowlands673@ntlworld.com)

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

All rides meet 08:45 for 09:00 start unless otherwise stated

| <b>Date</b>          | <b>Destination</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> | Highams Park       |
| Jan 17 <sup>th</sup> | Waltham Abbey      |
| Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Woolwich           |
| Jan 30 <sup>th</sup> | Sheering           |
| Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Chignall St James  |
| Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> | Pleshey            |
| Feb 20 <sup>th</sup> | SEG 75             |
| Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> | Hatfield Heath     |
| Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Danbury            |
| Mar 13 <sup>th</sup> | High Roding        |
| Mar 20 <sup>th</sup> | North End          |

**The leader will either be decided on the morning.**



Roomes (Home & Fashion) Store, Station Road, Upminster

## 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                 | Elevenises                                     | Destination for Lunch                        |
|----------------------|--|--|
| <b>January 2011</b>  |  |  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>      | Rochford (Beehive Café)                        | Paglesham ("Plough & Sail")                  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>      | Blackmore<br>(Blackmore Tea Rooms)             | West Hanningfield<br>("The Three Compasses") |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>     | Maldon (Morrison's)                            | Woodham Mortimer<br>(Hurdlemakers Arms)      |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>     | Barleyland's Farm (Hive Café)                  | Mill Green (Cricketer's)                     |
| 30 <sup>th</sup>     | Springfield (Wyevale Grdn Cntr)                | Heybridge Basin (Old Ship Inn)               |
| <b>February 2011</b> |  |  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>      | Priory Park (Bandstand Café)                   | Great Wakering (Red Lion)                    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>     | Writtle (Garden Tea Rooms)                     | Pleshy (Leather Bottle)                      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>     |  |  |
| or                   | Brentwood (King George Playing<br>Fields Cafe) | Billericay (King's Head)                     |
| 27 <sup>th</sup>     | Ingatestone (Garden Centre)                    | Newney Green (The Duck)                      |
| <b>March 2011</b>    |  |  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>      | Leigh-on-Sea (Sara's Tea<br>Garden)            | Great Wakering (Red Lion)                    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>     | Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)                       | North Fambridge (Ferry Boat Inn)             |

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

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**31<sup>st</sup> October – the Witching Ride or Curses** - As 23 riders were assembled at Wickford, we split into 3 groups led by John S, Ian M and Peter W. Unfortunately, Melissa was cursed from the start, as she nearly crashed into Charlotte and then her chain came off going up Brock Hill and wedged in-between the bottom bracket and inner chain ring; and, this was also the first day of her riding clipless. No amount of cursing would shift it initially, so it was decided that Ian M would push on with 7 riders and John S and Peter H would stay and try and free the awkward chain.

When we reached “Bringley Pine”, it was already full with Essex Roads cyclists. Luckily we were able to squeeze in and were soon tucking into tea and toast or other equally delicious combinations. John S eventually turned up complete with Melissa and they managed to find seats, as the Essex Roads lot had gone by now. The last group showed up at 11.30am and were late, because Mike C had left his coat at Wickford and Dave W and Colin B had punctures.

Six went onto lunch at the “Old Ship Inn” at Heybridge Basin and these were John S, Ian M, Lynda & Jon C, Martin F and Peter H, arriving at 1pm. On leaving Lynda discovered she had a puncture in her front wheel. And after this was fixed we set off via Maldon, Woodham Mortimer and just as we got to “The Swan” at Bicknacre, Lynda had another puncture - this time in the rear wheel. After this was fixed, we carried on to “Tropical Wings” for afternoon tea and then made our respective ways home.

**7<sup>th</sup> November** - John S and Ian M left Shoeburyness at 10am and met a new rider (Wendy) outside McDonald's. We didn't go through the drive-thru and order an egg McMuffin, as we were heading to “Woody's Café” in Eastwood. As the roads were busy at this time in the morning, we turned down Manners Way and went through the side streets to the airport and then onto Progress Road. As we arrived, Margaret & Andy Q appeared and we went in and sat with John H (in civvies) and Dave B. Fourteen cyclists arrived at 11.10am, and as it was a tight squeeze some decided to leave early or wait around outside.

Six set out for lunch via Belfairs, but Peter H and one other decided to head for home and the rest went along the seafront to Great Wakering, although we did lose Martin P, as he stopped to take a photo. When we got to the “Red Lion”, we found Charlotte V and Ian C there and Martin

P soon appeared. After lunch we went back to Charlotte's for tea and cake.

**21<sup>st</sup> November** - We split up into our usual groups at Wickford and headed out towards Margaretting and "The Saddlery" for elevenses. The slower group went via Hanningfield Reservoir, Stock and Margaretting Tye. As "The Saddlery Café" is very popular, we had to queue until tables became available.

Nine went onto "The Cricketer's" at Danbury and, as we would have got there early, we went on a detour, which seemed to be uphill a lot. But when we got to the pub we found Peter H already tucking into his soup, as he had gone directly through Chelmsford.

We stopped off at the "Haybarn Café" in Battlesbridge for afternoon tea and it was nice to get home before it went dark. **Ian Mather**

## **Semaine Federale?**

*by John Hand*

Stefan asked me to explain the Semaine Federate and how it works and how well it is organised. The S.F., for short, is probably one of the largest organised cycle meets in Europe, and takes place in France at different locations each year. Somewhat like the Tour de France the host town will bid to put on the event.

The timing is always the first week in August as this is French holiday time. It also means that college and university accommodation and places of that will become available to the S.F. organisers for use as cyclist dormitories.

I have taken part in two consecutive years' events: the first in St. Omer, 50 kilometres from Calais and last year (2010) in Verdun about 350 kilometres from Calais. These were both big events with around 15,000 participants, and in general the organisation is well honed after some seventy years of experience in putting on the S.F.

You can apply for Entry online with a translation of the entry form done by Google. You have to use a bit of imagination, but it can be understood in the main. Most types of cards are accepted for payment online.

*Continued on page 29*

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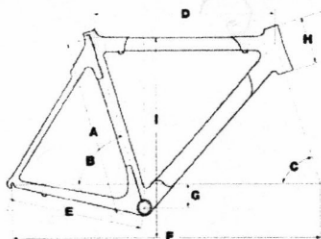
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The accommodation options are cycle camping, caravanning including motor homes, and dormitory accommodation. These are all allocated and organised by the S.F. You can make your own arrangements, but do so very early.

The organisers do an excellent job in keeping all group applicants together in their respective homes. On arrival at the town you follow the signs to the signing on centre, all well organised with English speaking assistants. You receive directions to your accommodation and your route pack.

The routes are all well planned and almost traffic free with good scenery and planned stops and lunch breaks en-route. The distances are well worked out, as the route for each day is always on a loop. This enables a cut across the loop to shorten the distance to suit all abilities. The distance can be as short as 30 kilometres up to nearly 200 kilometres. All turns are either marshalled or have coloured arrows on the road.

There is a wide variety of food a drink available en-route. The fair supplied by the S.F. is generally good and paid for with tokens bought as you enter the site or back at the headquarters, this stops too many helpers having to handle the money and 'losing' it. You can, of course, buy your food in the local shops - it is all very easy going.

It would be very easy to think of this event in the same light as the London to Brighton with thousands of riders crowding the roads and poor standards of bike handling. This does not happen and the riders are well spread out on the road, as everyone starts at their own time and rides at their own pace, they are generally aware of those around them and act accordingly.

There are various highlights to the week. The last night is usually very good and on the closing day a ride through the town in fancy dress (optional) brings out the crowds, who show their appreciation for bringing the event to their town, believe it or not.

This year's (2011) event is in Flers in Normandy, I look forward to seeing you there.

[The entry form is available from <http://www.sf2011-flers.org/Inscription-a-la-Semaine-Federale>; the closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> May, Ed.]

## **Crossing the Water**

*by Charles Comport*

In the 1950/60s our section used to have Kent rides about every 5 or 6 weeks but in those days before the Dartford Crossings and with few cars about we had to rely on the ferries across the Thames, either Tilbury/Gravesend or Woolwich Free Ferry - guess which we used most. We would meet for the Woolwich crossing at the north side of the ferry - quite a ride for those coming from Romford or Hornchurch. There were three paddleboat ferries as I remember: two of which provided a regular service, about every 15/20 minutes, and one undergoing maintenance. I recall they were named after veteran Labour Party members, John Benn and Will Crook(e)s were two, either from the local council or early members of Herbert Morrison's L.C.C. (London County Council). One vessel would swing out from the north shore with the other coming from the south, travelling in an arc. The skippers needed to keep a sharp lookout as there was much traffic on the river, including red-sailed Thames barges on occasion.

We quite enjoyed the short trip over with its nautical overtones - it would have suited the Ancient Mariner - and would wander down below to look through the windows at the gleaming great pistons of the engine driving the paddlewheels. One snag to the Woolwich trip was on arrival on the southern side we had several miles of town riding alongside tramlines of which we had to be careful, although I don't recall any accidents. We would head for Orpington or Chiselhurst for elevenses before diving into the Kent countryside, much easier to get to in those days. We would often have tea at the "Big Tea Pot", Biggin Hill, on the return. If for some reason the ferry was out of action we would have to trudge under the Woolwich Foot Tunnel.

For the Tilbury ferry we would have to buy tickets at Tilbury (Riverside) Station, the vessels being owned by British Rail. I don't think they were paddle steamers, but driven by screw. As the Thames was wider here the trip took a little longer and being nearer the sea the air had a briny tang. There were two ferries here, a foot passenger and one for motor vehicles, cyclists could use either. One advantage of this route was that you were soon in the Kent countryside outside Gravesend, The passenger ferry is still operating, I believe, but the car ferry, Tilbury (Riverside) station and British Rail have long since departed.

## **Double Merits for John**

*by Brian Penny / Lynda Collins*

Popular Member Group secretary John Steer recently received a proper tribute for this loyalty to the CTC South East Essex Member Group.



John with Sue receiving awards at the SEEMG's Christmas do.

For his efforts in raising the profile and promoting the CTC at local and national levels, John was awarded with the much converted **CTC Essex DA Certificate of Merit**.

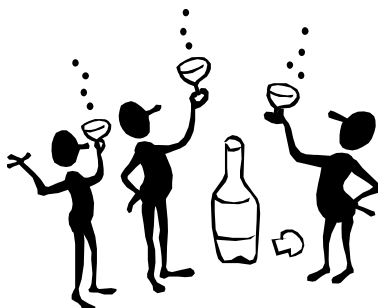
After ten years of organising, writing ride reports and retaining the South Essex Group's position as the strongest CTC group in Essex, John gets his just rewards.

His continuing work in promoting the good cause of cycling is supported by John's highly visible presence and never ending sense of humour.

In addition to this and in complete surprise, John also received a very impressive **Certificate of Merit** from **CTC National Head Office**, which is awarded to members for outstanding service to the CTC and to cycling.

Congratulations John from all of the South East Member Group to a job well done.

Here's to the next ten years!



## Honours List 2010



### Inter-Section Trophy

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Havering   | 29 points  |
| Colchester | 40 points  |
| South East | 181 points |
| Chelmsford | 236 points |

### DATC Salver

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

- John Rootkin  
[plus replica to keep]

### Measor Trophy

(best Spotlight Member Group report)

- John Steer, SEEMG  
(May/Jun issue:  
"The Manchurian")

### Special Awards

- *None this year*

### Spotlight Trophy

(best article)

- Ken Rickwood  
"The Pennine Cycleway"  
(May/June, Jul/Aug and  
September/October issue)

The person to select the best Spotlight article and the best Member Group report is chosen by the editor and was for the previous year: John Greet.

The person to select the best contributions in the year 2010/2011 will be Dot Sharp.

### For Sale

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## ***Thinking of...***

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

### ***101 Not Out -***

Congratulations to the DA's oldest member, Roy Davidson, who reached his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on November 7th last. Well done, Roy.

**Charles Comport**

## ***Obituary***

### ***David Doo (1957 - 2010)***

Many in the DA will have ridden with or known Dave, who died on 17 Dec, after a short illness, aged 53.

He joined the Chelmsford Section in January 1989 becoming a regular rider and soon to be of great benefit to the club. He was runs secretary for 13 years and also treasurer for many of them.



Road events and Rough-Stuff rides were organised by him for the DA and Windmill Rides for Audax UK and the DA. He organised a memorable section trip to Ireland in Sept '96, even arranging the week of fine weather - not easy in S.W. Ireland!

An avid bird watcher and lover of wild life, he was always first to spot the deer, owl or buzzard and to point it out to us. Opportunities for this were plenty on our Easter tours, Birthday rides and Mildenhall and York Rallies. As he was a keen photographer, these events would be recorded on film to be seen at a later slide show.

Bitten by the "Audax bug", he rode many events up to 400k both locally and nationwide, often with good friend Mark <De-Ville. Many of us will remember Dave's cheery smile and sense of humour, also determination to "press on", for example, when riding the last 12 miles of a rough-stuff with a broken collar bone and still managing a smile.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Jane and the Family, and we would like to think he is riding the lanes with Frank and Les in some fabled "sunny uplands", where punctures are unknown. **Dave Russell**

## Links

|  |   |
|--|---|
| CTC Essex DA                               | <a href="http://www.essexcycling.co.uk">www.essexcycling.co.uk</a>                |
| Cyclists' Touring Club                     | <a href="http://www.ctc.co.uk">www.ctc.co.uk</a>                                  |
| Chris' site: route planning resources      | <a href="http://www.velocipede.org.uk">www.velocipede.org.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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| Dolores Rice (Notary)                  | <a href="http://www.notaryoffice.co.uk">www.notaryoffice.co.uk</a>           |
| French Pedals (cycle touring holidays) | <a href="http://www.frenchpedals.co.uk">www.frenchpedals.co.uk</a>           |
| Herongate Cycles (Cycle Shop)          | <a href="http://www.herongatecycles.com">www.herongatecycles.com</a>         |
| 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.thecyclecompany.co.uk">www.thecyclecompany.co.uk</a>     |
| The Prince of Wales (Pub)              | <a href="http://www.thepow.co.uk">www.thepow.co.uk</a>                       |
| Megarry's Antiques and Teashop (Café)  | <a href="http://www.megarrysteashop.co.uk">www.megarrysteashop.co.uk</a>     |



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[s.eichenseher@googlemail.com](mailto:s.eichenseher@googlemail.com)

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