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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 2/2011

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Impressum:

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

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

Advertising Officer: Stefan Eichenseher, as above, Tel.: 01268 655619

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

Price per annum: £5.00 inc. p&p

Closing date for the May / June 2011 edition is on 16 April 2011.
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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 ...

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(preferred) Contact</u>
President	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867
Chairman	Peter Moore	☎ 01245 263165
Vice Chairman	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867
Treasurer	Martin Cockersole	martin@cockersole.co.uk
Members' secretary	John Smith	johnsmith4635@talktalk.net
Welfare officer	Brian Penny	b.penny522@btinternet.com
Promotions officer	Brian Penny	☎ 01268 777941
Editor	Stefan Eichenseher	s.eichenseher@googlemail.com
Advertising officer	Stefan Eichenseher	☎ 07503 163469
Web master	Ian Cable	webmaster@essexcycling.co.uk

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

I received a series of private ads for this issue: It looks like the recession's biting and everyone is trying to flog their stuff – ok, you are not one of them, but the offers look quite tempting.

And another bite of the recession took 4 pages out of this edition. Now, what happened here? Have I missed someone's contribution? – Please advise, if your article is not there. However, thanks to the Ancient Mariner for keeping the stories flowing.

Last month has seen an excellent turn out for the SEG's 75. A report with stats is on page 25 and a ride report by Dave in the Chelmsford MG.

Two DA-supported events are promoted in this issue: the Witham 150 / 200, coming up next on 17th April, which can be your gateway to the Premier Award. Also please support the DA 80 on 1st May.

Since this issue is only a little read, why don't you have a look at some of the advertisements? Remember that these are the supporters of the magazine to keep its price at this level: There are several cafés and cycling shops, and even a company offering cycle touring holidays.

This brings me to a nice idea: Is anyone prepared to write a review of their experience on any of these companies? I would like to include the write-ups of two advertisers in each of the coming issues. But please submit not only your experiences on waiting time, service, quality and prices (etc.) of cafés. I'd like to hear also from your impressions in the shops. Make it 300 words, not too many paragraphs – include your name and group affiliation – and I'll arrange two articles over 1½ pages.

Let's see, whether at least one report comes back from each member group...

Thanks very much in anticipation.

Your editor,
Stefan Eichenseher



The President's piece

Firstly, I would like to thank Dave Russell for the obituary he wrote for Dave Doo in January. I also rode many miles with Dave Doo and he was a very nice guy. Also in January was the Navestock Cycle Jumble, where I not only managed to purchase three bags full of good quality bits and pieces but was so pleased to meet many friends and associates all sharing the joys of cycling and memorabilia.

One other observation in January was the CTC charity vote of which 75.4% were cast in favour and 24.6% against so we are now a single unified membership organisation with charitable status.

Now we are in February and the weather seems to be getting milder and the days lighter for longer, we can start thinking about events of which the first on our calendar was the South East Group's 75 on 20th. Also this year, the Birthday Rides are in Suffolk at Framlingham from 14th-20th August and volunteers are required for stewarding. If you would like to help, please contact Paul at fentonrides@hotmail.co.uk to discuss your contribution.

And a bit of "Poetry" ... [Ed.]

February can also bring its own delights with sharp bright mornings and the smell of wood smoke hanging in small hamlets at dusk, the depth of a starry sky out in the countryside on a crisp clear night, the first warmth from the sun in March when spring is just round the corner. One of the pleasures of winter cycling is the arrival of a cosy pub with a roaring log fire and the faint whiff of cooking entices us whilst we wait for the pint to be pulled. There is no closed season for cycle touring, because the pleasures never stop coming.

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!!

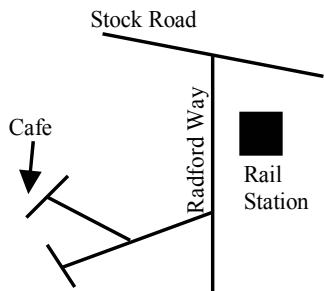
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Member Groups' Reports

Chelmsford Member Group

After all the bad weather we were promised sunshine for the **2nd January**, but it didn't really happen, so we were glad to be nearing Hanningfield Waterside Café. This was closest, but disappointment was dispelled, as leader Brian said that Rettendon Garden Centre was only 3 miles away and all downhill. On arrival the door was open, but the café was closed.

The next try was Hyde Hall and "Eureka", it was open. Tea and coffee was now very welcome and entertainment was provided by the automatic doors. Now it's open, and then it's closed, and not a soul in sight?

Cold Norton, the lunch venue was reached via Radar Hill and "Flambards" farm, where we stopped to read the information boards on the 1st World War airfield. The "Norton" pub is now run by the village and had four real ales on tap. The barman was chatty, but confessed to being tired, as he had to expel his last New Year's Eve customers at 6am on New Year's Day.

9th January – Owing to frost the main road was the chosen option to get to Sawbridgeworth. Even this was icy enough for Mark to fall off at White Roding. No serious damage, but a bruised hip next day was expected.

"The Shed" at Sawbridgeworth was shut and it was back to old faithful "The Room with a View". Riding carefully in the lanes via Little Laver we arrived at "The Nag's Head" in Moreton for a pint and a bowl of soup for Martin. This was a short lunch stop, as the pub was heaving with potential diners.

Blackmore was reached by the track to King Street and tea and cake was enjoyed in "Blackmore Tea Rooms". It was my first visit here and I enjoyed my scone, jam and cream together with 'lead tea' (and don't forget to use the strainer). **Dave Russell**

16th January (Greenstead Green) - Originally scheduled as an "11ses-only" run to Castle Hedingham, this ride was rearranged because of the closure of the intended destination café and we went instead to Greenstead Green.

Four of us duly assembled, but our start was delayed by the sudden appearance of a strange, bedraggled fellow (who was sadly not a new member)! This man's face was a rich puce colour and his grey whiskers sprang forth from an array of pustules at their base. His clothes were dirty and tatty and he clung covetously to an old rucksack. (No, he was neither a Rambler!). His speech was slurred and confused and he desperately waived two pieces of paper at us in the hope of being directed to some sort of hostel. Martin very efficiently found this place on his sat-nav but despite delivering the directions several different ways the message just wouldn't sink in. Anyhow, we eventually got away taking my specially selected "longer, but quieter" route taking account of this being an elevenses run. 26 miles later, we arrived at Greenstead Green at around 11:30. There we found Dave, Beryl, John, Margaret, Ken, Maureen and our-man-in-Cambridge, Peter Tibbets. It was shortly agreed that the group would take a spot of lunch on the way back towards Chelmsford at "The Compasses", Little Green. The advance party then left ahead of those still taking elevenses and so it was getting on for 2pm by the time the latter got there. I think that made eleven, altogether. But my count was confused by the arrival of several familiar cycling faces, who had been out walking and also pitched up at the same pub for their lunch. Service, despite the late hour and the busyness of the pub, was brisk and the food and beer both of good quality. Diana's bacon, cheese and mushroom "Huffer" was easily large enough to share at least two ways. So I sampled some before returning home the usual way with 51 miles eventually covered. **Adrian Leeds**

23rd January - We headed for Hastingwood Garden Centre via Abbess Roding, High Laver and 'Threshers Bush' (or 'Thrushes Bush', as shown on the old 'Barts ½" ' maps). Most of this ride was spent dodging the huge potholes that now abound and even threaten the suspension of motor vehicles.

After tea and hot sausage rolls we decided on the "Prince Albert" at Blackmore for a lunch venue. Here we said our good-byes to Adrian and Martin and went in to enjoy a pint of "Ringwood Forty Niners" and a sandwich before pressing on to Chelmsford against a cold north wind. Diana left us at Freyerning and we went through Writtle Deer Park on the way home. **Dave Russell**

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**CITYGATE HOUSE
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CHELMSFORD
ESSEX CM2 7PZ**

6th February - Just Mr Russell and I set off on this bright, mild, windy morning. Diana had been in touch to say that she was delayed by a visit from the cavity wall insulation man and would join us later. We headed for Thaxted via Barnston, Dunmow and Little Easton. The 20mph south-westerly was clearly in evidence, pushing us along past the Chignalls, at a fair pace but occasionally coming side-on and making the going far from plain sailing. The mildness contrasted strongly with the ice of the week before. Snowdrops became noticeable, firstly a few here and there and further along the road, in larger numbers, they formed a bright display against the brown, muddy verges. To our left, through the thin fence of a hedge a curious moon-shaped pinkish mushroom was also briefly seen.

“Poppy’s Tearooms” were open once more after being closed for January. There we met Pat, a well travelled veteran cyclist from Stansted and chatted over tea and toast. The route then took in a lunch stop at Andrewsfield, where Diana, who reported that she had made the ride from Billericay in very good time, (driven on by the following wind), joined us. After Andrewsfield, the ride homewards was taken with backs arched against a very persistent and strong head wind. Between Onslow Green and Pleshey a herd of a dozen or so deer were running parallel to us, a field’s width to our right. They easily out-paced us and dived away into woods only to emerge a half mile further on, on a collision course. We were forced to a halt, as they crossed the road perhaps 20 feet in front of us, leaping the ditches both sides. It was a real visual treat. A false spring, perhaps, but many hopeful signs were seen and fifty-one miles travelled, in my case. **Adrian Leeds**

20th February – SEG’s 75 – I drove to Lake Meadows; it was a misty damp morning with the car thermometer reading 3.5°C. Our Brian Taylor was already there and I asked him if he was going to do his 5-hour ride. He shuddered at the thought, said he had a cold and would be on a steady 7-hour ride. Thus a Chelmsford group of Martin, Adrian, Brian, myself and a Brompton-mounted John Wynstanly set off at 8:30.

Reaching the Edney Common check and then the Pleshey check we pressed on into the cold wind, and seemed to be going slow, as we were passed by a large Chelmer contingent. Great Bardfield Town Hall was a welcome stop with tea and snacks to aid us on our way.

The return to Billericay was a bit easier and we were well within time at the finish.

We would like to thank Stefan for his excellent organising, and all his helpers. The marshals were heroes standing about in the cold, some even doing two check points, one in the morning and then in the afternoon.

On the way home it was still 3.5°C, but not the arctic conditions of 2010.
Dave Russell

Havering Member Group

December: Mother Nature made a severe dent in our activities this month. On the 5th ten members, past and present, motored to "The Rabbits" in Stapleford Abbots for the Havering Christmas lunch kindly organised by John Copas.

The only ride this month was on the 12th, when John Wynstanly led four brave souls on an icy ride to Margaretting Tye for the DA Christmas meet. After lunch they made their separate ways home. **David Rowlands**

Jan 1st - This New Year's Day was kinder than the previous year's. It was very cold and hovered just above freezing, but not troublesome enough to prevent Barrie, Gordon, Jeff, Stuart and Alex from venturing out to Mill Green. The ride out saw few cars on the road and there seemed to be a more relaxed acceptance to sharing the road with us.

Lunch at "The Viper" proved underwhelming. The group gave it 2.5 out of 5. The ride home was swift and we covered 30 Miles in all. A great start to 2011. **Alex Kornfeld**

Jan 2nd - Six left Upminster, Jeff turned back after two miles, Steve left us at South Weald leaving Barrie, Gordon, Les and Dave to carry on to 11ses at Blackmore.

We then pressed on through Willingale and Fyfield to reach Moreton. In "The Nags Head" we enjoyed the usual good service. For our return we headed off towards Ongar and Doddinghurst.

Jan 9th - Six again, but just a few miles out Alex and Les took a tumble on black ice in Bird Lane. Thankfully no damage was done to riders or machines. Alex returned home with Gordon and Jeff. Les along with Barrie and Dave carried on. Over coffee at King George's Playing Fields we decided to carry on to Highlands Park.

In Wantz Lane a bit of roughstuff got us past the road works. Then another patch of ice nearly caught us out, but we reached the park safely.

Continued on page 20

Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
17 th Apr	[DA] Witham 150km or 200km (Audax event)	Ed Nevard 07752 305476
1 st May	[DA] 80km	Brian Penny

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

Easy Rider Meets



Dates	Pub	Destination
13 March	"Bakers Arms"	Stock
10 April	"Old King's Head"	Stock
8 May	Brewers Arms	Bicknacre
5 June	White Hart	Margaretting Tye (followed by afternoon refreshments at Blackmore Church)

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

Easy Rider Meets are generally on the second Sunday of the month and are run in conjunction with the 40plus Southend Easy Rider Meets, who meet every Sunday as listed in the SIGNPOST (dedicated to the 40plus riders CC, Ed.) runs list.

All our meets have been attended albeit by members who are affiliated to both the CTC and the 40plus. You will see our meet for June is on the first Sunday. This is so as not to clash with the proposed Essex DA meet on June 12 (see DA Event listings).

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
13-Mar	"Blue Egg", Bardfield	Run to "11'ses" only (Winter)	A Leeds
20-Mar	Wickham Bonhunt	Thaxted	D Russell
27-Mar	Little Horkesley	"Barn Plants", Copford	A Leeds
03-Apr	Hadstock	Finchingfield	D Russell
10-Apr	Aspenden	Stansted Mt.Fichet	A Leeds
14 to 18 April	Spring Tour, Norfolk	Based at Swaffham	D Russell
17-Apr	[DA] Witham 150 – contact Ed Nevard		
Alt	Informal		
24-Apr	Little Walden	Thaxted	D Russell
01-May	"Eight Bells", Bures	"Dutch Nursery", Coggeshall	A Leeds
08-May	"The Chequers", Goldhanger	Tiptree Jam Factory	J & B Taylor
10-May	Social Supper,	"Horse & Groom", Roxwell Rd. 7.00 for 7.30pm	A Leeds
15-May	Lavenham	"Mill Race", Aldham	A Leeds

For Sale

Ridgeback Voyage 2010, 56" frame, excellent condition.

Cost £700 new, therefore accept £500 ono.

Can be seen on most Sunday runs from Wickford (SEEMG) or
contact Clare on 01268 478327 or clarebear74@hotmail.com.

Colchester Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: Alan Palmer

☎ 01206 792929, mob 07939 395067 or
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

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

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

Date	Destination
Mar 20 th	North End
Mar 27 th	Matching Tye
Apr 3 rd	Bicknacre
Apr 10 th	Roydon
Apr 17 th	[DA] Witham 150 / 200Km, contact Ed Nevard
Or	Green Tye
Apr 24 th	Informal Ride*
May 1 st	[DA] 80Km, contact Brian Penny
Or	Newney Green
May 8 th	Maldon
May 15 th	Littley Green

The leader will be decided on the morning.

* = Destination to be decided on the day



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

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 Eleveses

Destination for Lunch

March 2011

6 th Leigh-on-Sea (Sara's Tea Garden)	Great Wakering (Red Lion)
13 th Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)	North Fambridge (Ferry Boat Inn)
20 th Great Baddow (Bringey Pine)	Purleigh (The Bell)
27 th Blackmore (Blackmore Tea Room)	High Ongar (Forrester's Arms)

April 2011

3 rd Rochford (Beehive Cafe) – Easy Ride	Paglesham (Punch Bowl)
10 th Rettendon (BHN Garden Centre)	Woodham Mortimer (Hurdlemaker's Arms)
17 th [DA] Witham 150km or 200km	Contact: Ed Nevard
OR Brentwood (King George's Field)	Navestock (Alma Arms)
24 th Round Bush (Café)	Nounsley (Sportsman)

May 2011

1 st [DA] 80km	Contact: Brian Penny
OR Wickford (Market Café) – Easy Ride	Ramsden Heath (Nags Head)
OR Maldon (Morrison's) – Long Ride	Tolleshunt D'Arcy (Queen's Head)
8 th Springfield (Wyevale Garden Centre)	Little Braxted (Green Man)
OR [MG] Viking Trail Ride	Contact: John Steer
15 th Writtle (Secret Garden Tearooms)	Littley Green (The Compasses)

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

At Hutton's Court Café the queue was long but Les and Dave decided to stick it out while Barrie sampled the delights of the bakery stall. We dined alfresco and were soon itching to get going, as it was getting cold. So after filling our panniers with goodies we set off home through Loves Green and Blackmore, then on to Hutton and a plunge down Warley Hill to reach home with 40 miles on the clock.

Jan 16th - Just two out this time: John Wynstanly rode to Waltham Abbey, while Dave rode to Mountnessing on Spotlight collection duties. **David Rowlands**

Jan 23rd - The advertised ride to Woolwich was changed to a leisurely romp along the all too familiar route to our favourite coffee stop in Blackmore. Only Ken and Alex came out. In keeping with previous weeks, it was bitterly cold, but clear and we enjoyed a 30 mile round trip after which we were back home by midday.

Jan 30th - Les, Barrie Gordon and Alex on a dry, but very cold day made our way to "The Fox" at Sheering. Ken was unable to come any further than the coffee break at Blackmore with us. The roads were in a bad state with pot holes big enough to swallow up anything on two wheels and shards of ice hung at the roadside from low lying bushes. The wind was not troublesome and it was a delightful day out. Distance covered was about 50 miles with no mishaps. **Alex Kornfeld**

South East Essex Member Group

9th January - Ian M having overslept (sometimes known as Doormouse or Manchurian) got to Wickford late and was proceeding up Brock Hill when he encountered the aftermath of a car bump on an icy stretch of the road. At the top of the hill he caught up with 15 SEG cyclists and was told about two accidents that had happened due to the conditions. As a result, we were being led by Peter H carefully along main roads rather than country lanes. Unfortunately, Martin P due to a lapse of concentration hit some ice and brought down Ian C in the process.

We arrived at Blackmore Tea Rooms (a new and excellent venue) about 11.20am and were soon tucking into breakfast baps, toast, teacakes and hot drinks all efficiently served by charming waitresses. There was some amusement on my table when Charlotte, who obviously hadn't used a tea strainer before ended up with it in her tea cup.

Ten went gingerly onto "The Three Compasses" at West Hanningfield, where we met Dave W, Dave B and John & Sue S (car-assisted) tucking into a hot sausage sandwich. I was also tempted by this and also relished my pint of Doom Bar.

16th January - Eleven riders met at Wickford and split into 3 groups, led respectively by Ian M, Peter H and Peter W. We arrived at Maldon (Morrison's) at 11.30am and met Dave B, Jon & Lynda C and Tony K.

Eight went onto "The Hurdlemaker's Arms" at Woodham Mortimer and were joined by John & Sue S who arrived by car (when will John be back on his bike?).

23rd January - Eighteen left Wickford in 2 groups, Peter W, Chris W, Paul H, Ross & Dave H took a longer route via Sandon, while Ian M led the remainder via Billericay to Barleyland's Farm. This was another new venue and I was impressed by the efficient service and reasonable prices.

Nine went onto "The Cricketer's" at Mill Green, where we met John & Sue S together with Charlotte V (car-assisted, John still not on his bike). The food here was very expensive for what you got and will be taken off our run's list in future.

30th January - Eight riders left Wickford promptly at 9.30am led by Ian M and four riders went on a longer route to Wyevale Garden Centre at Springfield, Chelmsford. On arrival we met Jon & Lynda C, Dave B & Peter H (he'd arrived late at Wickford, but using his considerable knowledge of Essex cycling routes had made his own way). The café has had a re-vamp and I can thoroughly recommend the home-made shortbread.

Nine went onto "The Old Ship Inn" at Heybridge Basin and our route took us via Boreham and Ulting, where we encountered a very flooded road. Most of us were brave enough to cycle through it and whilst I waited for Charlotte, I noticed a canoeist getting ready to paddle down the Chelmer. Funnily enough, I knew him through Scouting in the Southend Estuary District and was soon in conversation with him. Once we were all assembled on the other side of the great flood, we took a circuitous route around Maldon, as we had been asked to arrive at the pub at 1.30pm, as another cycling club were due at 1pm. In the event they arrived after us (They were from London doing a 100 mile cycle ride).

At the pub we were joined by Ian C, Frank C and John and Sue S (car-assisted again, when will John be back on his bike?).

After lunch, we were led by Peter H via Purleigh and East Hanningfield to our afternoon tea stop at the cafe in the BHN Garden Centre near Rettendon. By the time I got home to Shoeburyness, I'd done 79 miles.

6th February - As this was a shorter ride and heading in the direction of Southend, Peter W, Chris W, Karen & Paul H decided to take a longer route to another destination. Ian M led seven cyclists via the outskirts of Basildon to Burnt Mill Road, Pound Lane, Sadler's Farm and Thundersley. Here we had to get off and push our bikes up a steep muddy path to St. Peter's Church, but at least it by-passed the very steep, narrow and twisty Church Road. Dave W, who was on his recumbent took Jason R via Bread and Cheese Hill and made his own way to the café in Priory Park. The rest of us carried on along Daws Heath Road to Poors Lane that led to a path through Belfairs Wood and then onto Prittlewell Chase, where we reached the café just after 11am. We met John S (on his bike - hurrah), Ken W, Martin F, Dave B, Dennis F & Peggy T (car-assisted).

Ten went onto "The Red Lion" in Great Wakering along the seafront cycle path and Peggy & Dennis joined us there.

After lunch, we headed back into a very strong head wind along the back road to Rochford where John S and Ian M went to investigate a possible café at Shopland Equestrian Centre. **Ian Mather**

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ANNUAL TRAINING CAMPS

February, March, April and September

SEG's 75 – Event's Report

by Stefan Eichenseher

With 33 entrants, there were 20 less than last year at pre-entry. As expected after last year's disaster, a lot seemed to be cautious with regards to the weather. The calculation for refreshments at the half way point at Great Bardfield is at 3x pre-entry figures, according to Dot Sharp's experience. The weather on Saturday was raining and the forecast a fresh 5°C for Sunday. This didn't stop over 100 riders from queuing and entering on the line. A frosty dull day on wet roads didn't look inviting, but moving the legs keeps you warm. So as long as it didn't rain in the odd places further afield from the start, it should have been a pleasant day for a warm-up ride before the season begins.

At 10:15 I had duly a message from Brian from Checkpoint 1 that the last couple was just through. And the first ones were back at 11:55 – DNF ... because the roads were damper than expected and the cold creeping up gave an even chillier feeling that couldn't be ignored. As for the café, Tony couldn't hope for better weather – this was just the temperature that he needed to advertise his service to the people in need of warm refreshments.

The last message from check point 2 came at 10:59, with 126 riders through. Great Bardfield saw the last one at 13:15 and John wrapped up check point 4 at 14:30 with 94 riders through. Lynda called in after closing check point 5 at 15:18 with 87 riders through. This left 50 riders missing – DNF or out of time, if they made it back to the finish, after I left. I am aware that some have to, since their car ids parked at the Start/Finish, whilst quite a lot come by bike in the morning and don't necessarily come back, if they realise that they are out of time.

Here are the stats for entries and finishers:

entries at		Results		Gender (entries)	
5 hours	26	DN Return (included in DNF)	34	F	13
6 hours	63	Total DNF	48	M	124
7 hours	48	Out of time	22		
	137	Completed with all signatures	46		

The results list can be found on the website at
<http://www.essexcycling.co.uk/events/seg75results2011.pdf>

The fastest rider was back after 4:09 hours, with the fastest having collected all signatures took 4:43 hours.
 Thanks to all who helped and took part.

In the bleak Mid-winter

by Charles Comport

In recent years some of us old greybeards have been saying that winters 'ain't what they used to be' and boring the pants of everyone by recounting tales of '47 and '62/3, when winters were really cold and we all went skating on the frozen Thames or something. However, the last couple of years have seen a throwback to those days and I'm now going to bore you stiff by telling of one or two examples of 'the old days'.

In January 1952, I was one of 77 starters, out of an entry of 100, gazing at a white wintry landscape near Hatfield waiting for the 'off' in a map-reading contest run on a time-trial basis, organised by the North Met DA. It was after a cold spell and had been snowing for some days before and in the contest the icy lanes (untreated) were full of ruts of frozen snow and I remember slithering and sliding all over the place. I finished 22nd; Dennis Brunwin (2nd), Bill Thorncroft (14th) and Doug Brunwin (16th) riding for the Brentwood R.C. were second team. Later they joined the 40+ ... they were tough riders. Another ride that sticks in my mind was a club run in Kent during a snowy period, with snowball battles and recklessly sliding down those hills. Of course we were all young then and probably barmy.



Dagenham Section on ice, in Surrey

In 1950 we had a winter weekend riding to Milford Youth Hostel in Surrey. Again, it had been very cold and coming across a frozen pond we all went skating, one even taking his bike on.

However, the coldest I ever remember being was not during snow or ice but on a club run to "The Malteser's Arms", Willingale, when we rode into freezing fog, gosh it was cold. I had on thick plusses and long socks, a leatherjacket, woollen sweater, scarf and unlined gauntlets, no use at all. I remember I was absolutely FROZEN. These days I have learned to avoid going out on the ice after becoming a cropper once or twice, maybe I've learnt a bit of sense after all these years.

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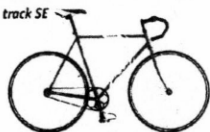
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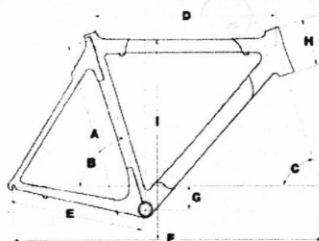
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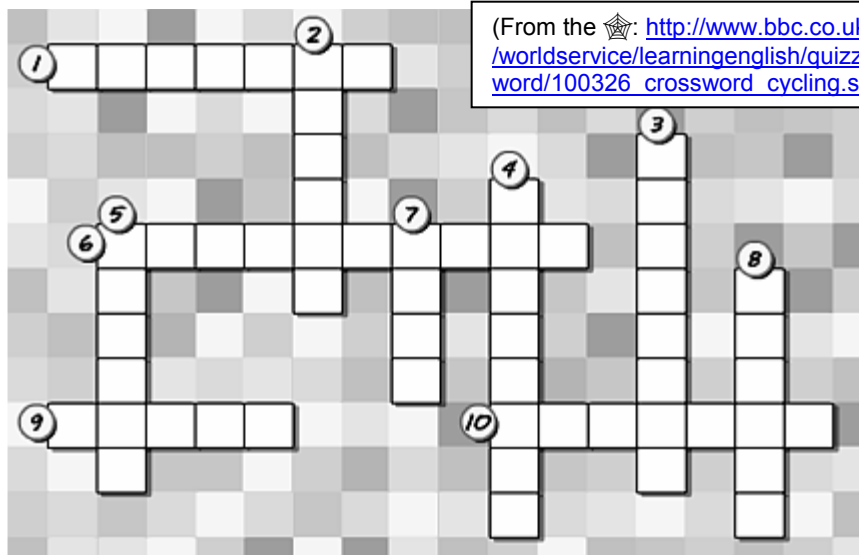
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A numerical Pyramid

by the Ancient Manner

$$\begin{aligned}1 \times 9 + 2 &= 11 \\12 \times 9 + 3 &= 111 \\123 \times 9 + 4 &= 1111 \\1234 \times 9 + 5 &= 11111 \\12345 \times 9 + 6 &= 111111 \\123456 \times 9 + 7 &= 1111111 \\1234567 \times 9 + 8 &= 11111111 \\12345678 \times 9 + 9 &= 111111111\end{aligned}$$

Cycling X-word



(From the  http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/quizzes/crossword/100326_crossword_cycling.shtml)

1. someone who rides a bicycle
2. bike seat
3. small hole in a bicycle tyre
4. vehicle with three wheels
5. hard hat
6. bar to turn the front wheel
7. part of an informal colloquial expression to tell someone to get lost
8. the two round metal rings surrounded by inflated rubber tyres
9. sets of cog wheels
10. more than curry

Links

CTC Essex DA	www.essexcycling.co.uk
Cyclists' Touring Club	www.ctc.co.uk
Chris' site: route planning resources	www.velocipede.org.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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Hopleys Garden Long Barn (Café)	www.hopleys.co.uk
Richardson Cycles (Cycle Shop)	www.richardsonscycles.co.uk
The Cycle & Toy Centre (Cycle Shop)	www.thecyclecompany.co.uk
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