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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 4/2011

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Closing date for the September / October 2011 edition is on 16 August 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 ...

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

Essex DA Trustees

Martin Cockersole, Adrian Leeds, Peter Moore

Editor's foreword

"I've seen better feet than this on 'Silent Witness'" said Adrian, when I walked into the "Blackmore Tea Rooms" for the Essex DA Summer Meet. Trying to tease out the sun by wearing sandals didn't quite work as well as I intended. But then, the rain was good for all those who were worried about their gardens.

Sad news for all came at the end of May with the passing of the "Great Dame of the CTC Essex DA", Dot Sharp. You can find an obituary recounting her life on page 30.

Since the advertisers' reviews were not quite as easily forthcoming as I thought, I managed to create an "Advertisers' Review Guide" on page 26. I hope that this will provide you with some ideas what to consider when writing a review.

There is also a reminder of the "Dave Doo Photographic Competition" with some technical specification on page 26.

This kind of weather tells me that I should be more active and out on the bike. Events like the one described by Charles on page 27 are also intriguingly asking to be recreated to put some more fun into the current cycle experiences. With so many options for social cycling and a myriad of charity rides to choose from, it might be adventurous to engage in a "new" (old) form of event, but worth a try, I think. On this note: has anyone map-reading / treasure hunt instruction sheet available that could be recycled?

Just one last pointer: there's the Essex DA Rough Stuff event advertised on page 34.

Have fun cycling.

Your editor,
Stefan Eichenseher



The President's piece

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the sad passing of Dot Sharp, who was an inspiration to young and old CTC members. Being a lady of the "Old School" and "Common Sense", you knew what you could and couldn't do.

When I joined the CTC Dot and Jack ran the Brentwood Section and many reliability rides started and finished at the "Hare Hall" clubroom. Dot, being an ex-caterer, supplied good food and refreshment to keep us going and good numbers of cyclists turned up to most events. The clubroom was also used for social evenings, like the Gregson's slideshows of their around the world tours. Dot was awarded the Essex DA Certificate of Merit in 1991 for her many years' work as association secretary, organiser of the Triennial Veterans' Rides and DA president.

At the monthly committee meetings Dot sat at the opposite end of the table to the chairman with her diary and rule book, which helped the meetings run like a clockwork.

In 2009 the Brentwood Section was wound up and Dot moved up to Kings Lynn in Norfolk to live with her family. On two occasions, when the Chelmsford Section were on their Easter tours, they took Dot out to lunch and talked about old times and happy memories.

Take care on the road!

Brian Taylor

Correction !!



A major correction occurred with the **Start Venue of the 100 / 100 event**: This now starts from

"The Three Compasses" in West Hanningfield
(CM2 8UQ, OS map 167, Grid Ref: TQ726997).

Please park your car on *Middle Mead* (the road along the reservoir dam).



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Member Groups' Reports

Chelmsford Member Group

6 March 2011 – Aspenden - It was a fine spring morning with life bursting forth from all directions. As if in tune with this, nine riders sprang forward to the start of our first long ride of the year. On the way out of town we were joined by Brian and later on, John, whose timing was spot-on when he rolled up to the group on his recumbent trike, as we emerged onto the "Old A120" at Hope End. Thus eleven of us took elevenses at Stansted Mountfitchet.

The beautiful spring sunshine gently tempered by an easterly (following) breeze made for perfect cycling, as nine of us went on to Aspenden via Fernaux Pelham and Hare Street. The route was admittedly hilly, but of course, scenic as well and there were several long, fast, sweeping descents. At "The Fox" we found "our man in Cambridge" – Peter, already enjoying lunch. This is a genuine village pub and it caters well for Sunday cyclists, offering a number of lighter options, i.e. baguettes, jacket potatoes etc. The return journey was inevitably harder, against the breeze but (with grateful thanks to Dianna for helping with the navigation) - we arrived at Sawbridgeworth in good time for a tea stop before continuing homewards via Matching Green, Willingale and Roxwell with 77 miles covered in my own case. **Adrian Leeds**

April 24th– It's Easter Sunday and I am busy locking my bike up outside "Poppy's Tea Room" in Thaxted. As I straighten up and turn I am confronted by a face from our past: It belongs to Felix Omerod and he is putting his "Major Nicholls" against the wall before joining us for elevenses.

Having decided which type of tea to drink from their varied selection, we enjoyed our tea-cakes and toast surrounded by much loud chatter. Owing to the holiday most riders returned to Chelmsford, leaving Dave Southin, Felix, Pete T. and myself to ride on to Little Walden.

We rode through Gt Sampford, Radwinter, Saffron Walden and then on to Little Walden, with me trying to keep up with the youngsters! The pub was busy. So we sat outside in the sun, where David S. and Felix reminisced of rides and tours of 20 years ago, altogether an entertaining hour.

On leaving Pete set off for Cambridge, Felix left at Cutlers Green to get to the train at Cheshunt for North London. Dave and Dave rode on to Dunmow, where unusually the "Tea Tree" was shut. A drink of water and a chocolate bar was enough to get us back to Chelmsford. **Dave Russell**

15th May 2011 - Five of us began the proposed long ride on a cloudy morning with a nagging North-westerly breeze. The route took us through Coggeshall, where (at 11am) one rider turned back. The light, but noticeable breezy, 27-mile first-leg and a few short stops all contrived to make us "late" for elevenses at Aldham. There we met Beryl, John and Margaret. Over tea and cakes it was agreed to abandon the Lavenham ride in favour of a shorter option.

Thus it was that seven of us went on to Little Horkesley (of the £4.50 roast dinner fame). This always interesting pub was partly occupied by what future archaeologists will probably refer to as "The Van People" – a tribe of home made motor-home dwellers, whose spokesman told us that they lived in a "Commune". They were accompanied by a brood of boisterous, irreverent children. They engaged with us in a sociable chat and one showed particular interest in John's trike, asking various technical questions. There had been a "demo" nearby that morning protesting about the creation of a proposed new local park. That information was given to us by the waitress, as the reason for the slow food service. Under interrogation from John, however, the man from the Van People denied they had been on the "March". It was all very reminiscent of 1967 ignoring the fact that none of the "Van People" had actually been born at that time.

The ride home reached Perrywood's at 3:30 and after tea the group dispersed along the remainder of the 67-mile ride. **Adrian Leeds**

Wanted

Pair of Williams, cottered, steel, 5 pin, 7 1/8" (178 mm ?) cranks
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Havering Member Group

April 10th - New rider Haran Sivapalan from Brentwood joined Barrie, Dave, Glenn, Ken and Les on a pleasant spring morning. We made our way to Chipping Ongar via Stondon Massey. At "Delimore's Café" we stopped for 11ses. The day warmed up as we continued on a rollercoaster ride to Toot Hill and Epping, then on to Epping Green and our destination, Roydon. We chose to dine at "The White Hart" where the service and food were good and we sat outside in the sun.

On the return Ken had a puncture at Epping Green, our first this year. Then a bit further on, Les's chain snapped, after some roadside repairs we were on our way. Fiddlers Hamlet and Hobbs Cross led us to Abridge where Dave said farewell and the rest carried on to Upminster.

April 17th - Newham rider Bernard McDonnell boosted our numbers along with Haran, Kelvin and usual suspects, Barrie, Dave, Glenn, Gordon and Les. A lovely sunny ride led us to 11ses at Harlow Garden Centre via some map reading exercises.

After our refreshments Glenn and Kelvin said their goodbyes while the rest continued to Sheering and then across the border into Hertfordshire at Sawbridgeworth. A few miles later we arrived at "The Prince of Wales" Green Tye. On arrival Bernard discovered a broken spoke had thrown his back wheel badly out of true. We sat in the garden where an excellent lunch was served while we discussed Bernard's options. After lunch we escorted Bernard to Bishop's Stortford where he took a train home and we made our way to Hatfield Heath and Matching Tye. Somewhere around here we got split up, Glenn and Haran made their own way back while the remaining trio sped on to Ongar and home amassing 79 miles in the process.

April 24th - Barrie, Dave, Gordon, Haran, Les and Stuart set off on a sunny Easter Sunday to 11ses at Hanningfield reservoir via Dunton and Little Burstead. After 11ses a quick blast around the reservoir led us to West Hanningfield for lunch at "The Three Compasses". Return trip was via Stock, Ingatestone and Wyatt's Green getting back to Upminster with 50 Miles on the clock. **David Rowlands**

May 1st - Eight souls made their way to Blackmore for 11ses at "The Tea Rooms". From Blackmore Dave and Steve headed back home while Les, Haran, Stuart, Ken, Glenn and Barrie made their way at a brisk pace and against a troublesome wind to Willingale. From there the sextet turned for High Easter via Four Wantz. After crossing the A1060, Ken and Glenn

turned back for home. The rest proceeded to High Easter and a short stop to investigate the church. They then turned east for Pleshey adding an expedition to locate the remains of the castle before taking a lunch stop at "The Leather Bottle". After refuelling at the pub the four continued east eventually turning south for Chignall St James. At Writtle they crossed the A414, then on to Blackmore for tea and yummy cakes at Blackmore church. Les then took a fast track home while the rest had a more leisurely return via Doddingtonhurst, reaching home with 56 miles on the clock. **Barrie Blazeby**

May 8th - Bernard, Dave, Gordon and Haran shot out of Upminster with the aid of a tailwind and on to a chilly 11ses at Hanningfield reservoir. We were glad to get going and soon warmed up, as we passed Bicknacre and Hazeleigh. A blast along the A414 took us to Maldon and we were soon at Promenade Park for a wander and a bite to eat. The tide was coming in but we were more worried about that wind.

The return was a bit slower, as we retraced our steps as far as East Hanningfield, where we headed for Stock and Mountnessing. At Hutton Haran said goodbye and the rest set off for Warley and Upminster gathering up 73 miles along the way.

May 15th - Bernard, Dave and Les set off for 11ses. Bypassing Blackmore we headed for Writtle. At Highwood we spotted a large group in front and we should have guessed they were headed for the "Garden Tea Rooms" as, when we arrived, the Gateway CC was already installed. After coffee and cakes we set off and, as nobody wanted a long ride, we decided to skip lunch and we made our way into the wind bound for Roxwell and Willingale, where we turned south and made our way home via Blackmore. Another 50 miles covered.

May 22nd - Nine riders set off bound for 11ses at Chipping Ongar. Les recommended "Tilly's Tea Rooms" situated behind "Mr Grumpy's Old Fashioned Sweet Shop". After coffee and a huge slab of cake, Ken, Steve and Stuart turned for home while Barrie, Dave, Haran and Les headed north through The Lavers and on to Hatfield Broad Oak. At "The Stag" we decided to eat outside in spite of the wind. Then we took a brief tour of the church before we set off for home via Moreton and Doddingtonhurst.

David Rowlands

May 29th - A blustery sunny morning saw Glenn, Gordon, Ken, Les and Barrie heading for Danbury. We set off at a rather zippy pace via Bulphan

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and Dunton, helped by a tailwind to Lake Meadows for our coffee stop. Refreshed by coffee and convivial chatter we left Billericay for West Hanningfield taking in the delights of Goatsmoor Lane and Lower Stock Road en route. We then pushed on to Bicknacre, where the map was consulted, then on to Danbury. On the way Gordon had a problem with his chain. This was soon fixed and then we lost Ken, Les went to bring the straggler back to the flock and we made our way to Danbury. Following local advice we lunched at "The Baker's Arms", where we indulged in jacket spuds with tuna. After lunch we headed for Sandon and on to Margaretting. At Fryerning we divided our forces with Glenn, Ken and Les taking a direct route home, while Gordon and Barrie took a more leisurely ride home via Hay Green reaching Upminster with 67 Miles on the clock. **Barrie Blazeby**

South East Essex Member Group

17th April - Nineteen riders, including 2 new ones assembled at Wickford "Market Café" in anticipation of another South East Essex Member Group foray into the Essex countryside. At 9.30am, eight set out on a slightly longer ride to Brentwood, ably led by Peter W & Chris W. The remainder ventured forth via Noak Bridge and Herongate, arriving at "King George's Playing Field Café" about 11am. Eight went on to "The Duck" at Newney Green. **Manchurian**

24th April - Ian M initially led seven riders out of Wickford, but it soon became clear that a number of riders had had 3 shredded wheats for breakfast and were soon sprinting off into the distance. As a result, Ian decided to wait at Creephedge Lane for John S, who was bringing up the rear with the remaining 5 riders. Outside Cold Norton, Chris W had the misfortune to be struck in the face by a deliberately thrown banana skin from a passing car. Luckily, he escaped a bruising and was able to continue on with us.

On arrival at the "Roundbush Café" we were soon joined by a succession of SEGs, who had made their own way there – Lynda C, Raoul M, Ray M, Ken W, Chris S & Peter Hill.

Five went onto "The Sportsman" at Nounsley and these were Ian M, Lynda & Jon C, John S & David W. **Manchurian**

1st May - The first ride of the month is usually an easy ride and the runs secretary had decided to experiment with the destinations on this particular day. There would be a short easy ride from Wickford looping

back to Wickford for elevenses at the “Market Café” and a long ride to Maldon (8 riders). Unfortunately, due to a lack of official runs leaders the long ride terminated at Maldon and did not proceed to pass Go and collect £200 by going onto Tolleshunt D’Arcy.

The easy ride did attract a new rider (Leah and she did very well) and six others who went via Borwick Lane, Ramsden Bellhouse, Ramsden Heath, Dowsett Lane, Whitelillies Farm, Crowsheath Farm, Hanningfield Reservoir and down Brock Hill back to Wickford. Whilst we were eating, a very brave robin came right into the café obviously looking for a tasty morsel (but John S was too big a mouthful).

Five went onto “The Nags Head” at Ramsden Heath via Hanningfield Reservoir, where Peter H joined us on his motorbike (is that not cheating?).

Manchurian

8th May – Viking Trail, Kent - We arrived at Birchington, just after 9am having left Shoeburyness by car with the bikes at 7am. The café opened at 9.15am and John S, Ian M & Charlotte V were soon tucking into scrambled egg on toast, when the others started to arrive. These were Jon & Lynda C, Brian P, Julie P & Martin P. We drove the short distance to the seafront and were soon unloading our bikes and then headed towards Reculver along the seawall. We encountered a particularly strong headwind and lots of flies before stopping to take pictures of the ruined church and Roman garrison at Reculver before back tracking and heading for St. Nicholas at Wade. We then headed towards Manston, passed the Viking longship (Hugin) and had some lunch at the lido in Pegwell Bay. From here we went around the coast through Ramsgate and Broadstairs, stopping for ice-creams on the promenade just outside Margate. We arrived back at the cars about 3pm and went to the café at Minnis Bay for refreshments, before heading home after another enjoyable away-day.

Manchurian

15th May - A record number of riders (13) went on the long, fat, wide ride out to the “Secret Garden Tea Rooms” on the Writtle Road near Chelmsford. The remaining 6 riders went on the short, thin, skinny ride via Stock, Margaretting Tye and Writtle. This was a new elevenses venue and we had a room reserved for us, with tables laid and jugs of coffee waiting for us. Drinks were included in the price of the food and we weren’t charged extra for a coffee refill on our table. We will definitely be including this stop on future rides.

Continued on page 22

Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
17 th July	[DA] 100M / 100km (Start from "The Three Compasses", West Hanningfield – OS map 167, Grid Ref: TQ726997)	Stefan Eichenseher
7 th August	[DA] Colchester 40/40 (Start from Copford Green – Grid Ref: TL927226)	Brian Penny
11 th September	Essex CTC Rough-Stuff Reliability Ride (start from Mill Green, see page 34 for details, OS map 167, Grid Ref: TL638012)	Brian Taylor

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

Easy Rider Meets



Date	Pub	Destination
10 July	"The Viper"	Mill Green
14 August	"Prince of Wales"	Mountnessing
11 September	"The Star"	Ingatstone

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
10-Jul	Colliers End	Sawbridgeworth	M Cockersole
17-Jul	[DA] 100/100		Contact Stefan Eichenseher
Alt.	Informal		
24-Jul	Fernaux Pelham	Stansted Mountfitchet	D Russell
31 Jul	Castle Hedingham	Greenstead Green	A Leeds
07 Aug	[DA] Colchester 40/40		Contact Brian Penny
Alt.	Copford Alma	Coggeshall, Dutch Nurseries	J Davis
14 Aug	Birthday Rides	- Suffolk	
Alt.	Finchingfield	Bay Tree Garden Centre, Pattiswick	A Leeds
21 Aug	Fiddlers Hamlet	King George Playing Fields	J & B Taylor
28 Aug	Mildenhall Rally		
Alt.	Informal		TBA
04 Sep	Rickling Green	Thaxted	D Russell
11 Sep	[DA] Rough Stuff	contact Steve Gregson: 01268-542835	
Alt.	Bottle Hall	Blue Egg, Bardfield	A Leeds
18 Sep	Manuden	Stansted Mountfitchet	M Cockersole

Havering Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: David Rowlands

43 Limbourne Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 1HU

☎ 020 8491 3209 or david_rowlands@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

Date	Destination
July 10 th	Purleigh
July 17 th	[DA] 100/100 ; contact Stefan Eichenseher
or	Informal ride*
July 24 th	Heybridge Basin
July 31 st	Pleshey
Aug 7 th	[DA] Colchester 40/40 , contact Brian Penny
or	Stansted Mountfitchet
Aug 14 th	High Roding
Aug 21 st	North Fambridge
Aug 28 th	Informal Ride
Sept 4 th	DA Roughstuff or Informal ride
Sept 11 th	[DA] Rough Stuff , contact Brian Taylor
or	Waltham Abbey

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 Elevenses

Destination for Lunch

July 2011

17th **[DA] 100/100**, contact Stefan Eichenseher

OR Blackmore ("Jericho Tea Rooms") Little Green ("Three Compasses")

24th Maldon (Morrison's) Tolleshunt D'arcy ("Queen's Head")

31st Billericay (Barleyland's Farm) Kelvedon Hatch (Nuclear Bunker)

August 2011

7th **[MG] 40/40 Colchester** **Organiser – Brian Penny**

OR Bunsay Down (Golf Club) see Note

14th Chelmsford ("Secret Garden Tearooms"), **09.00 start** Stebbing (Andrewsfield Aerodrome)

21st **[MG] London Ride** **Car-assisted – John Steer**

OR Maldon (Morrison's) see Note

28th Blackmore (Tea Rooms) Little Green ("The Compasses")

September 2011

4th **[MG] Leukaemia Ride** **Organiser – John Steer**

OR Billericay (Barleyland's Farm) see Note

11th **[DA] Roughstuff** **Organiser - Brain Taylor**

OR Ingatestone (Garden Centre) Bicknacre ("Brewer's Arms")

18th Great Baddow (Bringley Pine) Nounsley ("Sportsman")

Note: The leader will be decided on the morning. If no official runs leader is available, then people can choose their own lunch destination after elevenses.

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

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

For Sale

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- **BIKE CARRIER** – Halfords fits onto 4x4 spare wheel, carries 2 bikes, never used, £50.00

Contact Lynda Collins on: 01245 320733

Nine went onto "The Compasses" at Littley Green, which had an old-fashioned steam traction engine parked up outside. John S & Ian M, obviously watching their waistlines shared a huffer between them, but Jon C had no compunction and was soon scoffing a whole one down.

Some of us called in at the "BHN Garden Centre Café" at Rettendon for afternoon tea (we can recommend the warm scones). **Manchurian**

22nd May - In a reversal of fortunes from the previous week, 12 riders took the short ride and 6 the long ride out to Bunsay Downs Golf Club for a round of golf (toast). We were joined by a new rider (Sue W) and Brain S (former Havering secretary) bumped into us and joined up with us at Hanningfield Reservoir. See his blog for details

<http://sundaycycling.blogspot.com/>

Seven went onto "The Railway Tavern" at Kelvedon via Wickham Bishops and Great Braxted. On arrival, we were greeted by 11 ducklings and we were soon cooing and aahing them. **Manchurian**

29th May – Sudbury, Suffolk - Twelve SEGs arrived at the Kingfisher Leisure Centre car park in Sudbury at 9.30am and were soon unloading their bikes in anticipation of a pleasant ride through the Suffolk and Essex countryside. We set off along an old railway line to Borley (part of route 13 and just over 3 miles long) and then headed towards Belchamp Walter and Wickham St. Paul. We stopped here for elevenses at "Spencer's Café" and were soon enjoying refreshments on the verandah in the warm sunshine.

On leaving the café, the route began to get a little hilly and some members of the group (they shall remain nameless) began to curse the run's leader for choosing such varied terrain. The last straw came on the steep hill leading to "The Cock Inn" at Polstead, when J S only just managed to unclip when a rider stopped abruptly and he narrowly avoided meeting his maker in the adjacent church graveyard. Luckily, everybody made it to the pub safely and the run's secretary was reduced to tears (not because of a punch-up over the route, but because he put too much English mustard on his baguette).

Thankfully, the remainder of the journey was fairly flat and we arrived back at the car park about 4pm, immediately heading for the "Leisure Centre Café" for a cake and drink before setting off home. **Manchurian**



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ANNUAL TRAINING CAMPS

February, March, April and September

5th June - 19 riders set off from Wickford in three groups being lead by Ian C and John S bringing up the last group. We had three new riders join us this morning (one had been recruited at a pub on the way home from a day's ride while the other two have been members of the CTC for years, but never have been out with us and thought that it was about time they tried us). Chris W left us at Hoe Lane as his knee is still troubling him, while the rest of us carried on to the garden centre. As we were leaving, I noticed that Martin P had joined us bringing our numbers up to 20 for the morning. I returned home (unusually for me, but I had a family mission that afternoon). **J Steer**

12th June – France - Six riders (JS, IM, JP, BP, MC & MP) met at Dover at 7am. Having set off at the ungodly hour of 5am from South East Essex we were all looking forward to a day's ride across the channel and would also be meeting up with Jean-Paul (Président Fondateur de l'UECT Union Européenne de CycloTourisme) and Colette in Calais. J-P would be joining us on the ride from Calais to Watten via the canals and Collette would drive to meet us for lunch. We got there about 1.15pm and were soon seated at our reserved table looking forward to a French food, beer, wine and good conversation. JS showed J-P copies of his DA & CTC certificates of merit, and J-P was suitably impressed and took some photographs of them, as well as some of all of us. Watten was very busy with many motorcyclists using the nearby "Motor Club Café" throughout the afternoon, as it was a bank holiday weekend.

We left just after 3.30pm and having said goodbye to J-P and Collette, heading towards Gravelines and St. Phillippe de Fort before taking the coast road back to Calais. Along the route we passed many German blockhouses and gun emplacements that had survived the ravages of time and demolition attempts by sappers. Apart from a minor shower the weather on the continent was very kind to us, unlike the torrential downpour that greeted us when we docked at Dover just after 9pm. Thanks to JS for organising a great day out in the French countryside - we did 60 miles. **Manchurian**

Review of Advertisers – Guidance

By the Editor

After discussion at the DA committee meeting I have prepared here are some aspects to consider when writing a review of an advertiser:

- What time of day / season did you go there? What was your impression of the business? Did you have to wait long for your service? Amount of staff? What was the size of the premises?
- If a caterer, could it take large groups? What were the prices? Was it at the upper end of the market or an everyday opportunity? What was the quality of the food / variety of the menu / amount on plate? How clean did you find the premises / toilets?
- For shops, how knowledgeable did you find the sales person? Did they cater for your specific needs? Has additional advice been provided not necessarily related to the purchase?
- Were there any specialities not provided anywhere else? Would you go there again? Would you recommend the business?

Make it 300 words (half to $\frac{3}{4}$ of A5, $\frac{1}{3}$ of A4 in Arial 11), not too many paragraphs – include your name and group affiliation.

Advertisers, who do not have regular CTC members as customers, are encouraged to ask regular customers to write a review.

Please keep it “neutral” (a personal view), not another version of an advert!

David Doo Photographic Competition – a Guide

If you haven't yet entered this competition, then why not give it a shot? Summer's here and all that extra riding should yield plenty of opportunity for cycling-related photography. Here's a recap:

- Digital or film-originated, but your photos must celebrate the joys of cycling in Essex.
- Your composition should come ‘naturally’ from your eyes through your camera – only!! → No Photo-shopped creations!
- The bigger the image the better, so that our judges can best appreciate your work. *[For those, who like me, just see something looking interesting and take a shot with a digital camera: a 1-2Mb jpg-file is a nice size for even detailed content, Ed.]*
- Please accompany your entry with background information (i.e. place, date/time, inspiration, people, and technical details).
- Submissions to m.pipe@blueyonder.co.uk or per post to the Editor
- Closing date for entries: **September 1st 2011.** ■

Forget the SatNav

by Charles Comport

Cyclists are generally fascinated by maps, not only for planning runs and tours but also to browse over during quiet periods. At one time Map-reading Contests were a popular part of the annual programme for clubs and associations, some no doubt continue, although they seemed to have disappeared from the local cycling scene apart from that at the Eastern Counties May Meet. As many present-day riders will not have experience of them, I will describe some.

In the 1930s a very popular M.R.C. was that organised by the Polytechnic C.C. held in the lanes near London. It was on a time-trial basis, i.e. a list of locations to visit based on the popular Bart's half-inch to the mile maps was issued, usually hard to find spots in a network of lanes with riders being despatched at say one minute intervals with riders choosing their own route, the winner being the rider with the fastest time to return after finding all locations. So speed counted to some extent. After the war this was taken over by the North Met. DA and attracted a very large entry. Essex DA also began such events just before the war and continued afterwards on the same basis, the map used still being the Bart's half-inch series. In the late 1960s there was some dissatisfaction with the speed element and organisers switched to using Ordnance maps which enabled more intricate clues to be used involving the various symbols, grid lines and latitude and longitude, with point values according to the difficulty of the clue which reduced, though not entirely eliminating, the speed element.

A variant type of MRC was the 'point to point': here one clue was given at the start, riders still sent off at intervals to find the location where there would be a marshal to give out the second clue and so on. The rider with the fastest time being the winner. These are rare now, few clubs having the necessary numbers to provide say half a dozen marshals.

In other parts of the country MRCs are often run on a different basis, riders being given a route to follow and are observed to see how correctly they follow instructions. As I wrote earlier Map Reading Contests were a regular and popular form of competitive cycling, requiring the use of one's 'grey matter' to solve the clues, observation and a modicum of speed and it is a great pity that they have disappeared from the local scene. ■

Chelmsford Group 2011 Spring Tour

by Dave Russell, 1 May 2011

This year we went to Swaffham, the small market town on the edge of the Breckland, once famous for the Swaffham Pedlar and now for the two giant wind turbines that provide all the electricity for the town.

On Thursday 14th April eight of us met in the “20 Church Wardens”, a friendly pub in Cockley Cley, where we sampled the local speciality, ‘Church Warden Pie’. In the early afternoon we arrived at “Purbeck House”, the B&B for most of us for up to five nights. Having put our bags in the rooms we were soon out on our first ride to Castle Acre, which we approached via the village ford, a very picturesque spot with views across the meadows to the priory. We could not pass by the “Church Gate Tearoom”, where some could not resist the scrumptious ‘Norfolk Scones’.



Oxborough Hall

On Friday we were joined by Betty and Clive, who were staying in their caravan on a nearby site; we now numbered thirteen, as we set off for

Oxborough Hall. Here we had elevenses in the “NT Café” but did not have enough time to justify the admission charge, but a few of us sneaked views of the lake and grounds on the way to the toilets. We left Peter to look around the Hall, while most of us cycled onto Foulden, Northwold and Weeting to Brandon Country Park. The avenue of Copper Beech trees was absolutely beautiful in its spring coat of new leaves. Many mountain bikers were in evidence using the park as a base for the extensive network of forest trails. We took a route along minor roads through the forest to Grimes Graves, where Adrian and myself refreshed old memories by visiting the Neolithic flint mine. Years ago visitors just descended the ladder at will with no custodian. Now you have to wear a hard-hat and an official stands at the top of the ladder, now enclosed in a small building! Returning through Cockley Cley we spotted a colourful display of tulips in a field, and unfortunately Adrian couldn’t resist singing ‘Tulips from Amsterdam’. In the evening we dined in the “El Nico” Italian restaurant.

The proprietor, Tony, on learning that we were hungry cyclists said “my brudder is in the kitchen and he feed you good.” He did!

On Saturday we rode to Dereham for lunch via Watton. The highlight of the day was on the return journey when we paid a visit to the deserted village of Houghton-on-the-Hill, where only the church remains. We had arranged to meet Bob Davey, who was instrumental in saving the church from demolition. During the guided tour, Bob explained the meanings of the unique early wall paintings, with later medieval ones on a second layer of plaster with a third layer on top of those. The church also includes



some Saxon features and reused Roman bricks. Back at the bikes, the source of earlier ‘pings’ was found to be two broken spokes in Brian and Jeanette’s tandem. A temporary repair was enough to get them back to Swaffham. It was, unfortunately, to be the last cycling of their holiday.

Appropriately on a Sunday we had arranged to meet Edgar Oliver in the “Shrine Café” at Little Walsingham for lunch. Peter with tandemless Brian and Jeanette in his car, collected Dot Sharp and we all met for lunch and ended up in “The Bull” just round the corner, a fine old pub with real ales, a fitting end to a good reunion. On the way back to Swaffham we stopped at “The Bull” in Litcham, an old village inn now run by an oriental lady, who soon provided us with copious amounts of tea and coffee. She also informed us that she could do B&B for up to 18 people, offered group discounts and also provided evening meals.

On Monday just four of us set out for Sandringham, stopping at the “Old Bell” in Grimston for elevenses. Although officially closed on Mondays the landlord saw us looking in and opened up for us to enjoy tea and biscuits in the large gazebo in the spring sunshine. The ‘Sandringham Visitor Centre’ was busy, it being during the school holidays, but there was plenty of room for us. The route back was through Harpley, the Massinghams then along the Peddars Way to Castle Acre and onto Swaffham. The ‘last

supper' was enjoyed by the remaining six of us back at the "El Nico", a fitting end to a successful fixed centre holiday. I should congratulate Betty on being able to ride nearly 40 miles in one day only three months after having a replacement knee joint. Marvellous! ■

Obituary - Dot Sharp (1931 - 2011) - a personal recollection

by Steve Bearpark

Dot and Jack met up with the section in 1976 at a leisure exhibition in Bishops Hill and soon became actively involved. Committee meetings, which had been held at various venues, were subsequently held at *Hare Hall*, aka 5 Hanging Hill Lane, in the living room. Dot took over as secretary at various times and Jack was the membership secretary and treasurer.

To keep members informed, she started a section magazine called *Hubbub* which came out bi-monthly, alternating with *Spotlight*. I made an entry in issue 3 of Hubbub, fairly spectacularly after my first trip with the club.

To give a corporate look to the riding members, they sourced sweat-shirts, T-shirts and even yellow dusters with a logo which spawned other colour combinations from the sections and later the district association.

In the early 80s, Jack poured a lot of concrete into a stable and created the new section clubroom. D.A. meetings were held there from then on until late 2009.

Many cycling events were started at the clubroom with the organisation and refreshments handled by the Dot. The most poignant one, was the Brentwood 75 mile one in 2000, which took place a few days after Jack's death. Social events were also housed, especially the Gregsons' double-act slide-shows of tours around the world and were amply refreshed with Dot's cooking, notably the bread pudding with apple pie as runner up and gallons of tea. She also catered for many away events at village halls around the county.

Dot was awarded the *Essex DA Certificate of Merit in 1991* for her many years work as the association secretary, organiser of the Triennial Veterans Rides, including much of the food preparation. After 19 years as secretary, she decided on a rest and became the figurehead as president.

Continued on page 33

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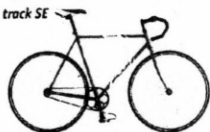
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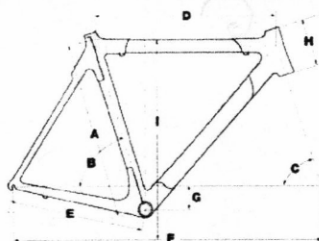
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She sat at the opposite end of the table to the chairman of the meetings who was careful to note her reaction whenever a decision was made as she would have her finger on the appropriate section of the rule-book. I know this, as I sat on her right hand side, as that was a convenient place to get up and pour out the tea and coffee she'd prepared and put in flasks.

The decision to wind up the local section was made in September 2009 at the AGM, as it was looking likely that Dot had a buyer for Hare Hall and a commemorative brick was purchased for the group at the local theatre who were after sponsorship for new facilities. Dot moved closer to her family and it was fortunate that some members were able to visit her there and take her out to lunch for a final reunion with some of the association's members.

The wording on the certificate 20 years ago sums up her contribution the DA:

"Awarded to DOROTHY SHARP in recognition of 14 years to the D.A. and the Brentwood Section. Dot edited the "Hubbub" section magazine for 5 years from 1979 and was Section Secretary from 1981 to '87. Also from 1981 (to date - 1991) she has served continuously as D.A. Secretary and has been caterer, organiser, helper and general factotum in many D.A. and D.A. National Events.

Together with husband Jack, she has held open house, providing section club room and D.A. committee room since 1985.

With profound gratitude from the CTC in Essex."

Tribute

by Charles Comport

Dear Editor,

You have doubtless received an Obituary for Dot Sharp but I would like to add my tribute to this hardworking and efficient member of the DA. During most of my years as DA Chairman, from 1977 to the early 1990s, I worked in close co-operation with Dot in her role as DA Secretary; and it was very reassuring to know that whatever she was asked to do she would attend to it briskly and competently without any fuss, whether secretarial duties, marshalling, catering or organising. Essex DA owed a lot to Dot and those that knew her will always remember her.

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	http://www.nuttycyclist.co.uk/

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French Pedals (Cycle Touring Holidays)	www.frenchpedals.co.uk
Herongate Cycles (Cycle Shop)	www.herongatecycles.com
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
The Prince of Wales (Pub)	www.thepow.co.uk
Megarry's Antiques and Teashop (Café)	www.megarrysteashop.co.uk
Cycle Cellar (Cycle Shop)	www.cyclecellar.co.uk

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