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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 6/2011

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

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Certificate of Merit Committee

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

Essex DA Trustees

Martin Cockersole, Adrian Leeds, Peter Moore

Closing date for the January / February 2012 edition is on **16 December 2011**

Editor's foreword

Now, there is something new!! – Not... The editor has mislaid a date again. Please note that the **CTC Essex DA AGM is on November 20th**.

So, there was a rebellious enquiry from a South East stronghold of the Essex DA in the last issue. No sooner the magazine was distributed, I received a letter from my predecessor. On page 30 you can read the embracing of change based on the wisdom of experience... and you don't have to have fancy communication gadgets – a second class letter will do!

To recapitulate the year: there have actually been new subjects introduced for readers to contribute: "The Advertisers' review" and, more recently, the "Photographic Competition" - both had very little response. It seems in the light of the government's Big Society there's an issue, whereby unless we perceive to get something back, we won't give a lot. I still get the ride reports, etc., and I am particularly fascinated by the contributions through snail mail with their distinct writing styles (having put their mind in place to write coherently).

But there are 180 issues of the magazine with every edition for 1,700 CTC members in Essex – I don't know how many are reading the magazine, but here's another one: Assuming 150 of those are on the Internet, I'd like to encourage everyone to send me an email, which edition they have read and what they find most interesting (perhaps include that your partner and a friend/children are reading the mag). **Anyone – any issue!!** I'd expect about 220 emails and a few letters, if folk can be bothered* to respond (* I deliberately use this slang term, as it best conveys the point re contributing to (a small section of) the Big Society. I'll sort the stats, no problem ...

Will you respond?

The sad passing of Peggy Thorndike is described in memories on page 36.

Have fun cycling.



Your editor,
Stefan Eicher



The President's piece

There is little left to say for this year. All the Member Group AGMs are now over waiting for final ratification in the CTC Essex DA AGM.

This year there will be an interesting discussion with regards to one strong section going it alone or, whether there is still a need to stick together to brave the changes introduced by CTC HO that are now slowly getting into place.

How we fare this year considerably depends on the members, i.e. You, to come to the AGM and discuss the options.

I hope to see you there.

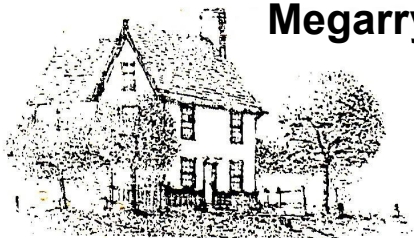
Otherwise, take care on the road!

Brian Taylor

CTC Essex DA AGM – change of date!

The **Essex CTC Annual General Meeting** will be held
at the **Chelmer CC Clubhouse**
in Meteor Way, Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford,
(OS167, TL698067)
on the **20th November**
commencing **at 10.30am**.

Nominations for office are accepted on the day. Propositions must be received by Brian Taylor by **10th November**. The Prize-giving will take place after the meeting with some food to stop you getting hungry, so please support Essex Cyclist's Touring Club.



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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

11th September 2011 - We made a fairly leisurely start on a fine breezy morning. The four of us had not gone far when, braking for a red traffic light, I heard a crash a few yards behind and turning around saw Eric, on the ground. Having confirmed that no serious damage had been done to either bike or rider it was suggested that he and Heather might prefer to nip home for a cuppa before considering their next move. Martin and I then set off apace, intent on regaining our scheduled arrival time. There was a stiff following breeze, which helped our efforts to the extent that we caught Dave and Beryl in Felsted and eased back to a more sensible speed. A little while later another pair of following riders was spied, none other than Heather and Eric, so that six arrived for elevenses at the Blue Egg, meeting John and Margaret, as we did.

Quite apart from being the "9-11" 10-year anniversary, it was to be a day busy with events. Distance runners will be well aware of the quite famous, Great Bardfield 10K road race, whose "Runners on Road" warnings and kilometre markers we had passed on the approach to the café. As we ate and drank, the runners began to stream past the

window and on leaving we accompanied the rear-guard into Great Bardfield. Several hilly miles further on we found to our dismay that Bottle Hall was closed (for renovation, by the look of it) and so we continued to Sible Hedingham. There we stumbled across the 512-year-old “White Horse”, which proved to be a very good place for weary cyclists to take lunch. Apparently, this charming old pub is threatened with closure in the next few months and so a swift return was promised.

On the run to threeses, the true strength of the breeze was realised, as we struggled back to Stisted for afternoon tea. There we found that the village was hosting a “Witch-Trials” event in aid of charity and was heavily invaded by people dressed as witches and warlocks, as well as a good number of stuffed dummies of a similar type. It seemed that a very spooky cloud had engulfed the entire village. On the forecourt of “Specialiteas” stood a sinister old trade-bike, propped on its front-stand, upon which was mounted a terrible tall-hatted hag sporting an “Audax UK” jersey.

Suitably refreshed/shocked, we battled on homewards. **Adrian Leeds**

25th September – Although overcast at the ‘start’, it was warm and perhaps a sign of the hot weather to follow in the week. Eleveses was at the “Dutch Nursery” in Coggeshall reached via Channels, Hatfield Peveral and Kelvedon.

After refreshment we went through Great Tey, Earls Colne and into tiny lanes around Alphamstone and Twinstead, finally meeting the Colchester CTC at “Henny Swan”.

The pub was very busy and we paid high prices for mediocre baguettes, etc. Maybe we should keep to the “Lamarsh Lion”. On leaving the “Swan” it was into the narrow lanes again and these gave problems for Margaret and John on their tandem trike, owing to one of the three wheels having to run on the gravel in the centre of the lane.

Hornes Green, Wakes Colne Green, Jankes Green, Hemps Green and Rose Green were on the route home – well, Cycling is a green hobby!

Tea was at the “Clocktower Café”, where we enjoyed Madame’s sickly sweet cakes. Adrian was disappointed, when he couldn’t get one of her famed crème brûlées, as she no longer sold them owing to the little demand – shame! It was then a trek home into a fresh breeze. **Dave Russell**

16th October – The first frosty morning of the Autumn and the temperature was 3°C, as we left the start. We numbered five and rode through High Easter, Takely and Elsenham to the café at Stansted

Mountfitchet. Here we enjoyed the warm sunshine in the courtyard at the back, a contrast to two hours earlier.

Martin had to return home, leaving four to travel through Manuden and Furneux Pelham to Broughing, where we enjoyed views over the North Herts rolling countryside.

I had been told the "Brown Bear" might be closed, but after a short lapse, it has been refurbished and was very welcoming, complete with log fire.

On the way home we entered a tiny lane at Wellpond Green; the lane being flanked by large mansions in acres of gardens, and finally the bridleway exit circuited a footballer's large "retreat" - certainly a wealthy spot!

Tea was enjoyed at the "Shed" in Sawbridgeworth, where we relaxed on the sofas; pity about the TV, which no-one watched.

Then it was time to get weary legs moving for a steady ride home.

Dave Russell

30th October 2011 - The Chelmsford Section and the "embryo" Colchester section made their respective ways to Barn Plants at Copford to meet up for elevenses. On the way from Chelmsford we were delighted to be joined near Tiptree by Les and Gill King on their Thorn tandem. A few turned back for Chelmsford after elevenses but a good-sized group of 17 riders cycled together to Tollesbury for lunch, taking in the NCR route from Stanway to Birch Green, much of which is off-road. Sadly, the pub at Tollesbury was not serving food, so we moved on to Tolleshunt D'Arcy, where we were well served despite the pub being very busy.

After lunch we went our separate ways with Alan Palmer leading his group back to Colchester, whilst we went to Bunsey Downs for tea before heading home in the fading light of the first Sunday back on GMT.

A successful day, covering about 60 miles. It was good to meet our friends from Colchester and our new riders from Tiptree. Many thanks are due to Alan Palmer on his good work reviving the Colchester group.

Martin Cockersole

Haverling Member Group

June 5th - On a cloudy Sunday Gordon, Haran, Les and Dave set off for 11ses at Blackmore. Then it was a ride through The Lavers and Sheering to reach Sawbridgeworth. At "The Three Horseshoes" we were served promptly, as we sat outside hoping it wouldn't rain. We were treated to a few spots of rain, as we made our way back via The Lavers and Chipping Ongar.

June 12th - Alex, Barrie, Gordon, Haran, Les and Dave headed for Hastingwood Garden Centre for 11ses, where we found the Chelmsford group already installed. After an extended 11ses we headed east into the drizzle to Blackmore, stopping at Moreton, as Gordon had a puncture. We arrived at the DA Summer gathering quite late, but there were still a few SEGs there. After a late lunch/early 3ses we set course for home via Pilgrims Hatch. **David Rowlands**

June 19th - This week's Haverling riders were Alex, Ken, Les, Stuart, Gordon and Chris on his tandem with his new partner George. Although the route to Southend-on-Sea appeared difficult, we all decided to give it go. We set off using our usual route down Fen Lane to Lower Dunton Road then we had the long slow climb up Old Church Road. Finally reaching the top and being fairly exhausted at this point, we made the mistake of turning right, which only took us down the hill and back onto Lower Dunton Road, so we had to climb back up to the top again to turn into Dry street and back to our route. At Pitsea, Ken and Les headed home with the rest of the group going though Saddlers Hall roundabouts then turning left at Church Road, which kept us off the A13. Now we went through Thunderley, then Hadleigh and down to Leigh-on-Sea. Here we stopped to watch the Dance festival, and on display was Salsa, Cero and even some Belly dancing. Not too exciting, when none of the belly-dancing ladies looked under 50. We continued on to Southend along the Esplanade. At the café overlooking the sea (well seaweed & mud) we had our lunch, before making the return journey using the same route. It was at this point that Stuart headed for the train station. Now down to 4 riders on 3 bikes (Tandem still going great guns) the journey home seemed a lot easier and down hill all the way reaching home with surprisingly only 53 miles on the clock - it did feel like a lot more (must check my milometer). **Gordon Peel**

June 26th - Alex, Gordon, Kelvin, Ken, Steve and tandem twosome, Dave and Chris sped to Blackmore for 11ses. Sitting out in the glorious

sunshine we were joined by two ladies, Barbara and Carol of the Forty plus CC. After coffee Kelvin, Ken and Steve left us and the ladies led us on to The Easters and Fyfield to reach Andrewsfield aerodrome.

A group from Cambridge arrived at the same time, so it was quite busy; however, we were still served quickly. We dined outside in the sun, as we watched the comings and goings of the light aircraft that use the field.

We retraced our steps for the return, the ladies leaving us at Birds Green. We carried on to Upminster via Blackmore and Pilgrims Hatch.

July 3rd - Barrie, Gordon, Les, Steve, Stuart and Dave set off for Blackmore (again!) for 11ses where we were joined by Barbara. Steve left for home while the rest carried on. Shortly after Writtle, Les and Stuart split for home and the rest got to Little Waltham, where Barbara said goodbye. After a tour of the abandoned pubs of Essex, we reached Hatfield Peverel. All the pubs were busy, so we raided the fridge at the Co-op and dined alfresco next to the bin in the Co-Op car park, not one of our better lunchtime destinations!

The return was via Paper Mill lock and a stiff climb up North Hill and a walk for our leader thanks to a broken gear cable. On to Sandon and Stock and an ice cream stop at Hutton before the ups and downs of Warley took us home.

July 10th - Alex, Barrie, Gordon, Ken plus Chris and Dave on the tandem made it to Hanningfield Reservoir for 11ses at the waters edge, where it was warm for once. After our caffeine hit Ken turned for home and the rest headed off to Purleigh via Bicknacre. At "The Bell" food and service was good and we dined outside, treated to the attentions of a furry friend, the pub cat. We admired the views, looking down of Maldon. The return was almost a rerun of our outward journey.

July 17th - London-Southend and Dunwich Dynamo rides kept everyone away from Upminster this Sunday. **David Rowlands**

July 24th - Six riders set off to Heybridge Basin Alex, Barrie, Gordon, Bernard, Norish and Andrew. Taking our normal route though to Dunton / Billericay / The Hanningfields / Bicknacre then heading north to Runsell Green, where we crossed the A414 following the country roads into Maldon. At Heybridge Basin we chose to lunch at the café run by the Tiptree Jam Company, which we can highly recommend.

Continued on page 15

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Returning back up Maldon hill continuing the same route until East Hanningfield then changing our route to go through Stock / Buttsbury / Hutton reaching home with 67 miles clocked. **Gordon Peel**

July 31st - Just two, Steve and Dave rode to Langdon Hills for 11ses. Steve then turned back leaving our leader to lead himself to "The Bricklayers Arms" Stondon Massey, where he was joined by the SEGs for lunch.

Aug 7th - Just one, Dave rode to 11ses at Norton Heath and lunch at Hastingwood, avoiding a soaking, as the sky fell down outside. **David Rowlands**

Aug 14th - Four riders, Barrie, Les, Haran and Gordon headed out on today's destination to High Roding. Setting off at 9.15, we used our usual route going along Nags Head Lane to South Weald, where we met up with a very slim Brian Stevens. After a chat, we continued through Blackmore, Norton Heath, Willingale passing by Good Easter and were heading close to High Easter at this point Les and Haran headed back for an early finish. Now two riders continued to our destination reaching "The Black Lion", High Roding, at 11.30am, which was a little early to lunch. So we decided to head off towards Moreton. Although when we reached the "Black Bull", Fyfield, we stopped off there. This turned out to be a good choice, as their starter menu was extremely generous.

For our return ride we decided to head towards Writtle using the National Cycle route. When nearing Writtle we turned towards Edney Common, then headed to Blackmore, where we stopped again for a drink at the "Tea Rooms". Fully refreshed we finally rode back to Upminster recording 60 miles total. **Gordon Peel**

Aug 21st - New riders Alison from Dagenham and Dave from Barking joined Alex and Barrie on a sunny morning to take their 11ses at Hanningfield Reservoir. Just before reaching the reservoir, Dave had a puncture but decided to fix it after 11ses. Refuelling over with, Alex said goodbye, then Haran rode in with two friends and after a brief chat Dave put a new tube in and we were on our way to North Fambridge, or so we thought, because it was not long before a loud bang was heard emanating from Dave's front tyre. Another tube was installed but Dave felt a new tyre was needed, so we aborted our intended destination and turned home. Dave decided to play safe and made his way to Wickford Station. This left Alison and Barrie to return at a leisurely pace, stopping

for refreshments at Langdon Hills and reaching Upminster with 50 Miles on the clock. **Barrie Blazeby**

Aug 28th - New rider Steve from Rainham joined Gordon for a ride to Blackmore for 11ses.

Sept 4th - Just two rides today, Danny and I set off to Blackmore Tearooms at a brisk pace, reaching the tearooms in less than an hour. As we sat outside in the blazing sun, we were joined by Ken, Stuart and the rest of the Gateway crew. I had planned to simply ride back but Danny is a strong rider, so I suggest a longer loop back. So we headed further north to Norton Heath, Willingale, Fyfield and then Moreton. From here we headed home though Chipping Ongar, Stondon Massey finally getting back in Upminster with almost 40 miles clocked, just in time to miss the heavy downpour. **Gordon Peel**

Sept 11th - Gordon, Les, Steve Ingall and Dave left Upminster on a windy day. Shortly after South Weald we managed to lose Les. Eventually we carried on via some ups and downs to reach Abridge, where we took 11ses at "The Bridge". With nobody wanting a long ride today, we set off for home via Lambourne End, where Dave said goodbye and headed home with just 27 miles on the clock, our shortest ride for quite a while.

Sept 18th - Alison, Steve, Gordon and Dave rode to Blackmore for 11ses. Then, not wishing to reach Mill Green too early we looped around Willingale and Cooksmill Green. At "The Viper" we were treated to the usual good service. For the return we rode through Ingatestone and on to Buttsbury, then Hutton and Warley led us back to Upminster.

Sept 28th - Alison, Barrie, Gordon and Dave rode to (guess where?) for 11ses. Then we rolled our wheels over Willingale, Fyfield, Moreton and The Lavers to Matching Tye and lunch at "The Fox". Fed and watered we then headed for 3ses at Upshire. After North Weald we skirted Epping then a stiff climb to Bell Common left us limp, so I gave Alison a morale booster and said that there were no more hills (ok, so I lied!) At St Thomas' church, Upshire, a large group from Tower Hamlet's Wheelers were already installed. The church provided tea and cakes for one Havering riders while the rest indulged in more hill climbing. The return was a rollercoaster ride via Theydon Bois, Abridge and Lambourne End. 60 miles were amassed in the process. **David Rowlands**

Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
20 Nov	[DA] CTC Essex DA AGM, 10:30 am at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067 (refreshments are provided)	Brian Taylor
11 Dec	[DA] Christmas Meet, from 12pm "White Hart", Margaretting Tye	Brian Taylor

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

Easy Rider Meets



Date	Pub	Destination
13 th November	"The Old Kings Head"	Stock
11 th December	"The White Hart"	Margaretting
8 th January	"The Horse and Groom"	Galleywood Common
12 th February	Ingatestone and Fryening Community Centre	

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
13 Nov	Abridge	Hastingwood	D Russell
20 Nov	DA AGM	Chelmer Hut	Brian Penny
27 Nov	Sible Hedingham (White Horse)	Blue Egg, Bardfield	M Cockersole
04 Dec	Little Horkesley	Greenstead Green	A Leeds
09 Dec	Section Xmas Meal	Horse & Groom	A Leeds
11 Dec	DA Christmas Meet, Margaretting tye	Lake Meadows	D Russell
18 Dec	Fiddlers Hamlet	King George Playing Fields, Brentwood	J & B Taylor
01 Jan	New Years Day 10am start	Andrewsfield	A Leeds
08 Jan	Goldhanger Chequers	Perrywoods	J Davis
15 Jan	Blackmore	The Shed Sawbridgeworth	D Russell

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
Nov 20 th	CTC Essex DA AGM, Chelmer Club hut, 10.30am
Nov 27 th	Matching Tye
Dec 4 th	Havering Christmas Lunch
Dec 11 th	DA Christmas meet
Dec 18 th	Informal ride*
Dec 26 th	Herongate Tye (10am start)
Jan 1 st	Mill Green (10am start)
Jan 8 th	Ramsden Heath
Jan 15 th	Newney 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 9.15am for 9.30am, unless otherwise stated.
Club Nights are the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month
8.00pm @ St Laurence & All Saints Church Hall,
Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood, SS2 6RH

Date	Elevenises	Destination for Lunch
November 2011		
20 th	CTC Essex DA AGM, Chelmer Club hut, 10.30am	
27 th	Chelmsford (Secret Garden Tearooms)	Bicknaces (Brewers Arms)
December 2011		
4 th	Rettendon (BHN Garden Centre)	Ramsden Heath (Nags Head)
11 th	Greaty Badow (Bringey Pine)	Margaretting Tye (White Hart)
18 th	Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)	North Famgbridge (Ferryboat Inn)
25 th	NO RIDE Happy Xmas	
January 2012		
8 th	Rochford (Beehive Cafe)	Paglesham Punch Bowl
15 th	Mundon (Roundbush)	Heybridge Basin (The Old Ship)
22 nd	Billericay (Barleylands Farm)	Newney Green (The Duck)
29 th	Springfield (Wyevale Garden Centre)	Woodham Mortimer (Hurdlemakers Arms)

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 elevenises.

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



Cycle Champions

Bikes, helmets, etc. can be provided free of charge. All rides start from the container by skate ramps at Colchester Leisure World *except where indicated*.

Alan Palmer's Monday - Weekly at **10am** from Colchester Leisure World. 30-40 miles out to the countryside with lunch stop.

Monday - Weekly at **12.15pm**: Short ride for those 50+ with a coffee stop

Tuesday - 1st and 3rd of the month at **7pm**: Evening ride to a village pub, typically around 15 miles

2nd of the month at **12pm**: Short taster Riverside ride

The Garrison ride - every **Tuesday** at **10am** - starts from the Musket Club - Homefield, Fallowfield Rd. A gentle paced family ride in association with the Garrison NHS Health Trainer Service. Bikes, child seats, and trailers are available for free hire.

Wednesday - Weekly at **11am**: Back to Health ride in association with LEAP (Life Enhancing Activity Programme). Local ride to one of several cafes around town; neither far nor fast, this is the best-attended ride.

2nd and 4th of the month at **9.30am**: Cycling Sisters (women only) ride around the countryside, something like 20 miles; faster and further than the others. They start from Highwood's Tesco

Thursday - 4th Thursday of the month at **12pm**: Short Lunchtime ride

NEWTs (North Essex Wednesday Tipplers) - Thursday - Weekly at **7.15pm** from Colchester Tenpin. Distance somewhere between 15 and 20 miles, to get to a village pub for **9pm**. This is by Pete Finch who runs it under the Suffolk DA umbrella. (The name has stuck despite the change of day...)

Saturday - 1st and 3rd of the month at **11am**: A gentle Family ride usually to a nearby village pub.

South East Essex Member Group

21st August - Nine of us drove to Wanstead, East London where we unloaded our bikes for a ride along the canals, greenways and towpaths of Central London. 11ses was taken at the café in Victoria park followed by a trip along various tow paths and under the Thames via the Greenwich foot tunnel (where annoyingly neither of the lifts were working). A brief stop was made at Decathlon Surrey Quays, followed by a trip back over the Thames via Tower Bridge, then on to St Katherine's dock, where lunch was consumed.

After lunch we followed more combinations of the Thames path and various back streets heading though Limehouse then back on to another canal path. As it was such a hot day, it was deemed necessary for an unprecedented refreshment stop in a conveniently located pub. We then headed back along the canals and back to the East-end, where I became lost looking for Martin after he had stopped to pick up yet another DVD player. Recent rider Mike Skinner is obviously gunning for the puncture award this year, as he managed to obtain one just as we returned back to the cars, with a total of 35.8 miles on the GPS. **Ian Cable**

28th August - 8 riders met at Wickford for the ride out to Blackmore Tea Rooms. It was good to see that the girls were not outnumbered; there were 4 men and 4 women out. Peter W led 4 riders out on the longer route to 11ses and Peter H the other group of 4. Peter H felt he was being followed by his harem, as he led an all female group. As it was, both groups arrived at the Tea Rooms together at 11 am on the dot. Blackmore Tea Rooms provided us with tasty food and drinks, our mouths drawling over the delicious array of pastries on offer, of course we avoided these. Peter H led 4 on to lunch at Littley Green. Peter H took us through an interesting and scenic route of quite roads for the most part to the lunch stop and then our route home. By then end of the day most of us had covered around 60 miles and managed to avoid the rain until the last 4 miles home. **Lynda C**

11th September - 13 riders met at Wickford for the ride out to 11ses at Ingatestone Garden Centre. The day started a little dull with rain looking possible however as it tuned out we were lucky enough to enjoy beautiful countryside in bright, warm sunshine. Out route from 11ses to lunch took as past the meeting place for the CTC Rough Stuff event at Mill Green as we took a route from there through

Continued on page 25



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ANNUAL TRAINING CAMPS

February, March, April and September

· - - - - -

Gallywood and then Great Baddow on to the lunch stop at the Brewers Arms Bicknacre were excellent food, and as I understand, beer was enjoyed by our party before we made our way to South Woodham Ferrers and began to part company for our different ways home. Thanks to everyone for making this an enjoyable day. **Lynda C**

18th September - I led a direct route to the Bringley Pine café, where we were joined by the riders, who had taken a slightly longer route with Peter W taking our total to 15. Nine of us continued on to the "Sportsman" at Nounsley, where the conversation was centred around Gill's 'Wobbly bit' (her back wheel, which had been making a clunking noise)

On leaving the pub, we somehow managed to lose Martin within 100 yards of the pub. After waiting for a few minutes without any sign of him, we rode back, making it to Bicknacre before the rain started. Charlotte and I decided to wait out in the rain at BHN Garden Centre, when suddenly Martin appeared. By this time, the rain had stopped and we rode home to Shoeburyness with 69 miles on the GPS.

9th October - Nine SEG's met at the usual Café in Birchington, Kent, to ride the Viking trail. Fortunately the rain that had been with us on the journey down the M2 had stopped, whilst we ate breakfast, giving way to a warm and Sunny day. We passed a number of BHF Charity riders riding in the other direction, stopping for lunch at the "Ramsgate Lido Café", rather than taking a detour to Manston airport. We stopped again for liquid refreshment in a pub at St-Nicholas-at-Wade before heading back to the coast, where some of us rode to the ruins of the Reculver fort 'to get the miles in' before a coffee stop at Minnis Bay. We then returned to our cars, when I discovered that I had a puncture (on the car!), which spoilt an otherwise enjoyable day. **Ian Cable**

16th October - Stowmarket to Stowmarket - Brian Penny had arraigned a ride just before I went away on holiday for the group to ride in Suffolk, which meant coming back from holiday I had two softies' rides to do before I got back to the real Sunday riding of cycling from Shoeburyness to Wickford. 14 SEEG's drove to the meeting place at Stowmarket Station, where we met 3 from the Colchester section. Looking at the weather the gods were being nice to us, as we headed for Debenham and 11ses the morning warmed up so much, so that we removed a top layer or two. From 11ses we headed out towards Lexfield and the very oldie world pub, where we all enjoyed our various chosen lunches, mine

was Poachers Fair well recommended by me, Dormouse had Beetroot soup I'm not sure what it reminded me of. As we left the pub, the Veteran Cycle Club was arriving and some interest was shown by some of the group of the old Pedersen's that had been ridden to the pub. Then, just as we were leaving a 1935 Alvis was spotted for us to ask questions and drool over (it was a straight 6 cylinder Coup), which had been painstakingly restored by its owner. We once again set off again without Martin P, as he kept being left behind because he would be too busy looking at everything but the group disappearing in the distance. Threeses was taken at a pub in Eye, just a tea or coffee ("No food?" asked Charlotte with a long face). We arrived back at Stowmarket with 50 miles on the clock after a very enjoyable day in the autumn sunshine. Thank you Brian for a great ride, I have asked for this ride to be brought forward to the warmer times of the year and maybe a bit longer (with food at 3ses, cakes and bread pudding?). **J Steer**

Cycle-Touring Rallies

by Steve Gregson

All over Europe, including the UK with its Birthday Rides, there are excellent weeks of well-organised cycle touring organised by experienced club members in many countries. Anni and I took part this summer in two rallies and have enjoyed others in the past.

The 67th AIT international rally (held in the Ardennes) began on 16th July for 7 days opening with a ride around the host town, followed by snacks and wine, plus a parade of old bicycles. Daily rides at 4 distances between 43km and 125km were held in parallel with off-road rides. One day there was a hog roast picnic for everyone. On our return each day, there was a large TV showing the Tour de France, beer and tasty 3-course dinner with wine followed by music, dancing and more beer, including the special beers for which Belgium is justly famous. The full programme can be viewed on www.cyclo.marche.be. In other words a very sociable week enjoyed by over 1300 cyclists from 14 countries.

The Swedish rally was held in the Central Southern area and followed a similar format. It was not quite as sociable, but the very quiet routes certainly made up for the lack of lively evenings. Organised walks around Borås's town sculptures, visits to old textile mills and free tickets to a first division team's European match filled our evenings. See more on www.ctv2011.se. A highlight was the first day when 2 hours passed without meeting a vehicle on Sweden's quiet ways. *Continued on page 29*

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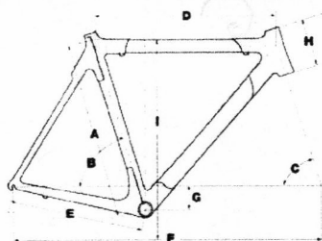
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If anyone fancies a rally in 2012, here are some ideas:

The 68th AIT International Cycle-Rally in 2012; 1-8 July, Gijon, Northern Spain, details www.gijonci cloturismo2012.es; accessible by LD Lines, Portsmouth - Le Havre or Newhaven – Dieppe, then St Nazaire - Gijon. In 2013 it will be at Yverdon-les-Bains, on Lake Neuchatel, Switzerland.

The Swedish Rally in 2012; 29 July - 4 August, is in Varberg, South of Gothenburg on the coast and quite accessible from UK. www.cykel framjandet.se/varberg and www.varberg.se. The Swedish rallies are on very quiet roads / bridleways, but as a rally less sociable than the AIT. You make your own entertainment in general.

There are 3 and 4 day mid-week rallies also in Holland from May to September; can be found on www.fietsengeniet.nl distances 30, 40, 60 and 100km daily; inexpensive; camping and other accommodation possibilities info in Dutch, but should not be hard to work out. We did a few evening rides, when working there. All well organised, informal and jolly, nice and flat.

Anyone needing more info can contact Steve and Anni Gregson on 01254-812458 or 01268-542835. 🚲



From the  : #43
Do it together!

AGMs (Reshuffles) – a prompt response

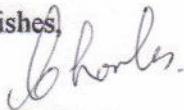
by Charles Comport

Dear Stefan,

John Steer does well to give us a modern cyclists' opinion of the CTC in Essex, to query our events programme and remind us of the need for new blood regularly on our committees. He asks "Are DA Committees finished?". Well, perhaps, but a good DA Committee can add interest to a MG by organising events and functions, which may be beyond the scope of a local group. It can add weight to any protest against infringement of cyclists' rights by representing a countywide organisation and can bring together like-minded cyclists from our various areas with shared interests. Our local groups' riding patterns may need reviewing and our event programme may be getting a bit 'old hat' and not attracting the numbers of old. - Right, let's do some thinking about it. Do we need another Audax or two, such as a 300k? How about trying to organise a 'Sportive' or two? They seem very popular. Although it would need money spent on advertising it widely to attract outsiders, who may be enticed into the CTC. Whether we have the expertise to do this remains to be seen.

I agree that it is pointless to look back at the past. In the 1980/90 period the DA Committee organised events on a national scale for HO, such as the Triennial Vet. Rides (we still do, of course), a BCTC National Final, a CTC National Dinner and Prize-giving and a National CTC 400k Audax, as well as many Essex events such as DA Weekends, Hill Climbs and Gymkhanas. But time has moved on, and such events no longer seem to appeal. Even the once popular 'Strawberry Tea' has been abandoned and its replacement the 'Meet at Blackmore' this year was something of a fiasco. Brian's 40/40 Colchester Ride is a good example of a modern event bringing the DA together. It is a pity in my view that CTC Head Office uses modern technology to by-pass the DA, but the Club has changed so much during my membership and it is no longer the same organisation. For good or ill, that's the way it goes. At least Mr Editor you are doing a good job in keeping Spotlight going to provide a link between our MGs.


Best wishes,



Charles Comport

David Doo Photographic Competition

by Martin Pipe


I've reluctantly taken the decision to cancel the David Doo Photographic Competition, owing to the fact that we had a grand total of ten photos from five people. Disappointing, considering the availability and convenience of digital cameras. My thanks (and apologies!) to those who DID go to the trouble of entering their work. I'll try and revive the DDPC next year - and this year's crop will be automatically entered. So, all may not be lost. But the success of this venture depends on YOU rising above the apathy that seems to permeate through contemporary society!" 

CTC Rough-Stuff Event Report - Sept 11

by Steve Gregson (Organiser's assistant)

One of the tasks of the assistant organiser is to ride the route beforehand, as sometimes there are signposts missing, altered or tracks made unrideable by 4-wheel-drive vehicles. So it was, that on a fine early September Friday, 4 deer passed across the path in the Writtle Woods just after "The Cricketer's" pub. The 29 miles were full of wildlife including pheasant and grouse. Luckily no shooting going on! In the end, no alterations needed to be made to the 2010 route sheet. All that remained was to remember to print route instructions, buy some biscuits and take some chairs on the day. The main organiser Brian Taylor was taking the table, pens and water.

On the day, the dozen or so that signed on were a mixture of Essex CTC riders, Rough-Stuff Fellowship riders and the rest CTC riders from afar. Perhaps the showers in the previous few days had put a few off, but actually, conditions were ideal: not at all hard, nor was any mud found after the first couple of hundred metres. Once again, there was a horse-riding event, which coincided with the first section and indeed 3 entrants from west London initially followed their pink ribbons that hung from trees. All got back successfully with clean bicycles, and some even had time for a pub lunch, while others had enjoyed a few words with an ex-Brentwood Section member, who was even reliable and willing to man the mid-ride control point. Thank you, Steve Bearpark.

Could I suggest that in 2012, we call it – 'Off-Road Day Tour'? This may attract a few of the MTB fraternity. 

Thinking of...

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

Charles Comport had an operation, where a pin was put in a fractured hip. He fell while getting off his bike, but getting around is now back at home again and recovering

Obituary – Peggy Thorndike (1937 - 2011)

- a personal recollection

by Brian Penny

Hearing of Peggy's death on 19th September was a big shock. I'll always remember Peggy as being young at heart, fun to be with and a real motivator.



Her motivational spirit helped create the South East Group in 1975. There had been CTC sections in the Southend area before, but a steep rise in car ownership coinciding with a decline in cycling in the 1960/70's meant there was a time when the CTC was not represented in this area. Peggy reversed this trend. Early albums of the group include black and white photos of Peggy with husband Ken and the first generation of the group like Malcolm Stapley, George Welch, Dave Seaton and Chris Regan.

Peggy's influence quickly built a core group of SEG riders. Her long experience of cycling helped encourage newcomers to the group many whom knew nothing of the country lanes and were uncertain about whether they could do the distance. A combination of nurturing the newcomers and making everybody feel part of a big adventure were social skills for which many of us feel truly grateful. At one stage the whole Thorndike family including children Dave and Alison on tandem were regulars on SEG club runs.

Not only did Peggy build the SEG during its early years, but she took part in many tours in the UK and throughout France, Spain and Portugal - and probably many others. Easter tours were a speciality and she was a regular participant at Birthday Rides and the York Rally. My overriding memory was Peggy's strength in climbing the slopes of the Provence. Although steady during the first week, Peggy found overdrive in week two and would be up front waiting for others to catch up. Another memory was her organisation (with son David) of the SEG/Havering

attempt at the Lands End to John O'Groats in 1986. We all got to the finish successfully and were well fed thanks to Peggy's insistence to go shopping at every opportunity. Her delightful personality and strong cycling ability meant she was frequently invited to cycling events all over the country.

Although Peggy became less visible on her bike in recent years she continued to make a huge contribution as Treasurer of the DA and in supporting the SEG club night at the St Lawrence at All Saints Church Hall. The decision by the DA to award Peggy a Certificate of Merit in 2008 was thoroughly deserved. 🚲

Tribute

by John Steer

My first memories of Peggy (1997) was of her cycling past my house on a Sunday morning and me saying to my wife I'm going to follow her one day and see where she cycles to or what group she belongs to. I first got to meet her on the George Welch event in 1999 and we were soon riding into Wickford together on a Sunday morning and home again after a good day's ride. Peggy taught me the etiquette of group riding and how to wait for those less fortunate at climbing up Brock Hill. Peggy and I rode many events together and I often took her and her bike in my car to away-rides or events. One memorable day's ride was from our Southchurch homes up the A127 then the A128 to Dot's house for the Millennium event. We were shattered by the time we arrived at the Halfway House, but we still rode the event then cycled back home. Her sense of humour on the rides kept many a newcomer going when she thought they might give up and never be seen again. The first time I rode the Tri-Veterans 100 mile event I was Peggy's tail-end Charlie and a couple of events later she was my tail-end Charlie.

Peggy was also to be seen at club nights on Fridays as she felt that it made it easy for members to talk and plan routes, trips and holidays away, while drinking tea and consuming biscuits plus the odd game of darts or table tennis, when available.

For those who knew Peggy, she was the Doctor, the Nurse, the Mediator, the Advisor, and everything a mum should be. I think that she either nursed or nurtured most of the members at some time while on the rides. She was always happy on her bike, even when it was pouring with rain or freezing cold with her unfailing sense of humour. 🚲

Useful Website 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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