



**March / April 2012**



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**Spotlight** – Magazine of the CTC Essex DA, a local member group of  
CTC, the national cyclists’ organisation  
President: John Steer Volume 2/2012se20

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

Chelmsford	Adrian Leeds	☎ 01245 260272	Secretary
	Peter Moore		Delegate
Colchester	Alan Palmer	☎ 01206 792929	Secretary
	Pam Nelson	☎ 07812 209862	Delegate
Havering	Dave Rowlands	☎ 07948 593979	Secretary
	John Copas	johncopas06@yahoo.co.uk	Delegate
South East Group	John Steer	☎ 01702 309958	Secretary
	John Hand	☎ 07747 773209	Delegate

### Other Committee members

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	Peter Hubbard	(South East member group)
	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867 (Delegate)

### Certificate of Merit Committee

Charles Comport, John Davis, Peter Moore

### Essex DA Trustees

Stefan Eichenseher, John Steer, Brian Penny

Closing date for the May / June 2012 edition is on **15 April 2012**

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

Since John's way of campaigning (see picture on next page) demonstrates how to recruit new members ... try anywhere, any time (!), perhaps you want to tell your fellow readers how you would encourage new members to join the club.

Unfortunately, I haven't received any runs reports either from Havering or from Colchester. This resulted in a cut in pages. However, It provided me with an opportunity to start the essay of a cycle tour to the Welsh Marches made by Ken Rickwood and Dave Russell in May 2011, see page 19.

As some of you know, and others perhaps could imagine, the SEG's 75 wasn't quite as much a hit as in some of the previous years.

The forum discussion on the yACF regarding the Essex CTC jerseys is still going and there are some interesting proposals. Since our promotions officer would like to narrow down the versions on which to vote, there is a last chance now to have your say beforehand. Please follow this link [www.yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php?topic=54697.0](http://www.yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php?topic=54697.0) now, or after the choices are promoted to vent your opinion.

I hope that now the weather is better you all take the opportunity and enjoy the sunshine!

Have fun cycling.

Your editor,  
***Stefan Eichenseher***



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

Snow has arrived and gone - and I'm sure, like me, you can't wait for the cold weather to go on its way, bringing in warmer weather and lighter mornings and evenings along with more sunshine.

With the New Year resolutions made by many members of the public over the New Years Eve, we need to keep our eyes open for new members interested in getting fit by cycling. My group so far this year has had seven new riders out.

I said at the Parent Member Group AGM (DA) in November that I hope to meet most, if not all of you during the year ahead by maybe joining you on a Sunday ride or meeting you on an event. But that won't be until the weather improves. (I won't be wearing my Chain of Office, as it isn't comfortable banging against one's legs whilst cycling.)

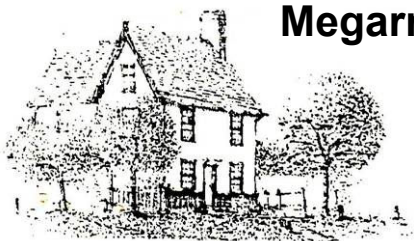
The first event of the year (SEG's 75) is over. The weather was freezing at the start (-2/-3 but warmed later to +3). The turnout for the event was very poor due to the conditions, we hope for better weather next year.

Enjoy your cycling, wherever you ride.

*John Steer*



Desperate campaigning in the middle of nowhere...  
(Checkpoint 2, 2012 SEG's 75, Water Tower near High Easter)



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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

**1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2012** - New Years Day! - We had arranged a 10 a.m. start riding direct to lunch at Andrewsfield. Unfortunately, I'd had the sort of late night, which caused my early-morning brain to malfunction, interpreting this as 10:15 start.

I arrived at about 5 past and seeing that there were no others, I realised my mistake immediately. After a few seconds of swearing at myself, I waited a further 5 minutes more before setting off. At Andrewsfield, I found the airstrip road gated shut but expected Dave and Beryl, so I waited, facing the road. Then, quite eerily, I heard my name being called and eventually realised that the sound was coming from behind me and getting louder. It turned out that Beryl and Dave had arrived at the same time as the people who run the clubhouse - who had just turned up to feed the resident cats. They very kindly made tea for us, adding that they needed to leave soon after. Then lo and behold Dave Southin arrived and he too received a tea.

The kind couple wanted to get away so we took our teas outside, enjoying the unseasonably mild, fine morning. To put matters straight, it



was decided to take a light lunch at the "Compasses", Little Green, heading for home after that. **Adrian Leeds**

**8<sup>th</sup> Jan** – It was our first ride of the year and we left Chelmsford by way of the cycle track to Sandford Mill, where we crossed the footbridge and continued to Little Baddow ford, having paused at the end of "Graces Walk", where Adrian couldn't find any enthusiastic members to ride up with him. Nounsley ford was next, and then we puffed our way up to Wickham Bishops and on to meet our leader John at "Perrywoods" for elevenses.

John and Margaret ion the tandem trike lead us down to Salcott, then to "Goldhanger Chequers" for lunch in this ever popular pub.

We didn't stop for tea, so I think we all got home without lights.

**15<sup>th</sup> Jan** - The weather forecast foretold of frost, but overnight cloud had eliminated the threat, so five of us left the start to go to Sawbridgeworth. I had not gone far before the rear wheel was bumping on the rim.

Puncture repaired we carried on to "The Shed" for elevenses, where we were joined by John Wynstanly.

Against a strong cold wind we went through "Threshers Bush" or "Thrushes Bush" according to your age or your map!

In Morton my rear valve decided to part company with the tube and while I changed the tube, Diana took the opportunity to fix her slowly deflating front tyre.

Fyfield, Willingale and then to Blackmore "Leather Bottle", where we met Sarah's group for, in our case, a very late lunch. The wood burner was hot and the fayre on offer good, so we finally felt human again.

Leaving the pub about 3 pm we made our own ways home.

**D. Russell**

## **Colchester Member Group**

*[Unfortunately, there were no reports available from the Colchester Informal Member Group. Ed.]*

## **Haverling Member Group**

*[Unfortunately, there were no reports available from the Haverling Member Group. Ed.]*

## **South East Essex Member Group**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2012** – New Year's Day - Six left Wickford at 10am and a quick pace had us soon at 'The Viper' at 11am which was too early, so we decided to take in a loop of Blackmore and arrived back just before opening time. This meant we could get a seat inside and were joined by Ken W & Peter H, who arrived by car. On leaving, we met Peter & Janet W with two friends who would soon be travelling to Argentina for the start of a two year cycle tour, see [www.woollypigs.com](http://www.woollypigs.com) for details of their journey

**8<sup>th</sup> January** – Record Breakers - A total of 31 riders passed through the Beehive café in Rochford and the staff were particularly glad they didn't all arrive at once. This record breaking feat started at 10.30am and arrivals continued throughout the morning, with the main group from Wickford not arriving until 11.45am having been delayed by punctures. Four new riders were also in attendance and three of them came onto lunch at Paglesham with 12 others. Afternoon tea was enjoyed by 6 at Southchurch Park after a short ride through Rochford and down Rebels Lane (dirt track/bridleway).

**15<sup>th</sup> January** – Shiver me timbers and Ahoy there! - Twenty riders left in three groups from Wickford and headed out to the "Roundbush" via Bicknacre and Flambards Farm. At the café we were joined by Tony King and his son Daniel, an accomplished cyclo-cross rider.

Eleven went onto "The Old Ship" at Heybridge Basin via Mundon and along a cycle path in Maldon which involved negotiating some swans and ducking under a low bridge. We were ushered upstairs into a rather chilly room caused by the wind howling through the wooden framed windows. The runs secretary led the group back through Maldon and up a steep road, which led to a cry from Charlotte, saying "you're going the wrong way." This was all part of pirate Manchurian's plan, as he was following ye olde worlde treasure map which clearly stated that this course of action would avoid us being boarded down by the quay. Afternoon tea was taken

*Continued on page 13*

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9.00am to 4.30pm

Sunday  
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at the BHN garden centre where lots of gifts and trinkets (Christmas treasure) could be purchased for pieces of silver.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January** – Feeling crafty and a bit of history - A group of 12 riders led by Peter W went via Hanningfield reservoir and the remaining 4 went via Noak Bridge to Barleyland's Farm, as we had a newish rider with us. If you want to try out a new hobby this is the place to go, as there are lots of small businesses selling crafty items and you can even go for a ride on a miniature train.

Seven went onto "The Duck" at Newney Green, which were originally 2 cottages that were built in the 1740's. They were converted into a pub in the 1840's and the bar consisted of a hatch that was opened and closed for serving ale. The half-timbered extension was added in 1975 to create a restaurant area. We were joined by Lynda C who had driven from SWF and hoped to be back on her bike in the near future.

**29<sup>th</sup> January** – Frostbite - It was a foggy, cold and damp morning in Shoeburyness, as I set off on my own to cycle to Wickford and I wondered how many other brave cyclists would be joining me today. When I arrived at the café I found Jon C, Melissa D & Jason R drinking coffee and as I partook of a warming brew myself we were soon joined by Peter W, Dave H, Karen & Paul H, Charles T, Peter H, Kevin J (can't remember the last time I saw him, but then he does sometimes ride with Essex Roads) and Melvin M, a new rider from Wickford. Peter W led 8 via Galleywood and Peter H led 4 via Great Baddow to Wyevale Garden Centre in Chelmsford. The circulation soon started to come back to our frozen fingers and toes, as a result of our refreshments and warm heaters.

We all took the same route back via Boreham, but eventually 3 went on to the "Hurdlemaker's Arms" at Woodham Mortimer and the rest went home. At the pub we met Dave B (SEG), John & Margaret D (Chelmsford section), Lynda C and John & Sue S (car-assisted). We enjoyed our Cumberland sausage baguettes and home-made thick vegetable soup, which together with good conversation and laughter led to a convivial atmosphere. Four went onto the "Haybarn Café" at Battlesbridge for afternoon tea and then we all made are respective ways home, glad that we had made the effort to come out riding. **Manchurian**

**5<sup>th</sup> February** - No report.

**12<sup>th</sup> February** – SEG 75 - Stefan to report, see page 24.

## Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
29th Apr	<b>[DA] Witham 150km or 200km</b> , Starting from: Woodham Mortimer	Ed Nevard 07752 305 476
6th May	<b>[DA] 80km - Dot Sharp Memorial Ride</b> , Starting from: Mountnessing, Church Hall	Brian Penny 01268 777941

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

## Easy Rider Meets



Date	Pub	Destination
11 <sup>th</sup> March	"The Running Mare"	Galleywood Common
8 <sup>th</sup> April	"Brambles Cafe" (the Co-Op)	Chelmsford
13th May	"The Black Bull"	Margaretting

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

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From the ☆: ([http://www.allgreatquotes.com/cycling\\_quotes.shtml](http://www.allgreatquotes.com/cycling_quotes.shtml))

Perhaps the single most important element in mastering the techniques and tactics of racing is experience. But once you have the fundamentals, acquiring the experience is a matter of time.

**Greg LeMond**

## 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	11ses	Destination	Leader
11 Mar	Perrywoods	Bures	M Cockersole
18 Mar	Hatfield Heath	Broxbourne	D Southin
25 Mar	Sawbridgeworth	Fernaux Pelham	Di Emery
01 Apr	Thaxted	Widdington	A Leeds
08 Apr	Blue Egg	Kedington (Barnadiston Arms)	D Russell
15 Apr	Heybridge Basin	North Fambridge	J&B Taylor
19 Apr	<b>[MG]</b> SPRING TOUR, Hunstanton		D Russell
22 Apr	<b>Alt:</b> Informal Ride		
29 Apr	<b>[DA]</b> Witham 150	Contact: Ed Nevard	
<b>Alt</b>		Finchingfield	TBA on Day
06 May	Perrywoods	East Mersey (Vinyards)	A Leeds
13 May	Thaxted	Ugley (Chequers)	D Russell
15 May	<b>[MG]</b> Social Supper	Roxwell Rd (Horse & Groom)	A Leeds
20 May	Coggeshall (Dutch Nursery)	Lamarsh (Lion)	M Cockersole

# Havering Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** David Rowlands

43 Limbourne Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 1HU

☎ 07948 593979 or [david\\_rowlands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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
Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	Hatfield Broad Oak
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup>	[DA] Witham 150km or 200km, Starting from: Woodham Mortimer; contact Ed Nevard, 07752 305 476

***Unfortunately, a runs list was not available  
at the time of printing.***


**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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month  
8.00pm @ St Laurence & All Saints Church Hall,  
Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood, SS2 6RH

Date	Eleveneses	Destination for Lunch
<b>March 2012</b>		
18 <sup>th</sup>	Great Baddow (Bringey Pine)	Nounsley (The Sportsman)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Upminster (Thames Chase Visitor Centre & Cafe)	Orsett (The Foxhound)
<b>April 2012</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sutton (Shopland Hall Equestrian Centre & Cafe)	Western Approaches (Loyal Toast)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Blackmore (Blackmore Tearooms)	Ongar (Cock Tavern)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Chelmsford (Secret Garden Tearooms)	Great Leighs (St. Anne's Castle)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>[MG]</b> Viking Trail CT7 9RA	Car-assisted: John Steer
or	Brentwood (King George Playing Field)	* see note
29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA]</b> Witham 150/200km	Contact: Ed Nevard
or	Mundon (Roundbush Café)	Tolleshunt D'arcy (Queen's Head)
<b>May 2012</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA]</b> 80km	Contact: Brian Penny
or	Battlesbridge (Meadow Croft Garden Centre Café)	Danbury (The Cricketers)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Norton Heath (Transport Café)	Little Green (The Compasses)

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

\* When **DA** or **MG** events take place, the local ride will include a booked Eleveneses venue, but not a specific pub for Lunch, unless otherwise stated. This will enable members to make their own choice of venue.

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

## Colchester Informal Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: Alan Palmer

☎ 01206 792929, mob 07939 395067 or

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

All rides meet Leisure World Container  
by Skatepark at 9-30am

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Goldhanger (Chequers)	Barnplants	Alan Palmer
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Assington (Shoulder of Mutton)	Dedham Craft Centre	Alan Palmer
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Maldon (Queen's Head)	Tiptree (Perrywoods)	Alan Palmer
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Colne Engaine (Five Bells)	Fillpots Boxted	Alan Palmer
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lamarsh (Lion)	Coggeshall (Dutch Nursery)	Alan Palmer
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Kersey (Bell)	Millrace Aldham	Alan Palmer
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Harwich (New bell Inn)	Mistley Environment Centre	Alan Palmer
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tolleshunt D'arcy	Millrace Aldham	Alan Palmer
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Castle Hedingham	Barnplants	Alan Palmer
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bures (Eight Bells)	Beth Chatto Elmstead	Alan Palmer
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Gt Yeldham (Waggon&Horses)	Coggeshall (Dutch Nursery)	Alan Palmer
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Purleigh (Bell)	Tiptree (Perrywoods)	Alan Palmer

### Note:

Since the Colchester CTC Informal Member Group has its roots in the "Cycle Champions", bikes, helmets, etc. can be provided free of charge.

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,

## **Just into Wales**

*by Ken Rickwood*

An account of a cycle tour to the Welsh Marches  
made by Ken Rickwood and Dave Russell in May  
2011.

A look at the list of Youth Hostels still open in England reveals some interesting places to stay. One of these that excited our imagination this year was Wilderhope Manor. This Grade 1 listed Elizabethan Manor became the destination of this year's ten-day cycle tour. We planned a route that took us to some other places we wanted to visit on the way. The holiday started on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, but good luck was with us as we witnessed a glorious sunrise as we cycled to Colchester Station for the 5.40 train bound for Peterborough.

We arrived in Peterborough Station at 8.00, but we were soon out of the early morning rush and into the lanes. Through the pleasant stone built villages of Marholm and Ufford and onto Barnack where we stopped at the old limestone quarries. Many of these were first operated by the Romans and were used extensively in the medieval period to build many of the castles, abbeys, cathedrals and colleges in East Anglia. By the year 1500, all the useful stone had been removed, and the remaining heaps of limestone rubble gradually became covered by the rich carpet of wild flowers. Today this humperty-bumpy area is a National Nature Reserve. From here it was an easy ride into the small but busy town of Stamford, and then onto Rutland Water Visitor Centre where we refreshed ourselves with tea and bacon rolls. From here there is a cycle path that follows the perimeter of the reservoir, this provided us with excellent views across the water in the morning sunshine.

The sun stayed with us as we crossed Leicestershire. By midday we had reached Twyford, where 'The Saddle' seemed an appropriate place for lunch. After lunch the going became a little harder as we wound our way along the lanes between the conurbations of Loughborough and Leicester to arrive at Beacon Hill. This peak is a short walk from the road and car park. But the well-surfaced footpath enabled us to twiddle up to the top to see the panoramic views from the second highest peak in Leicestershire. The sky was darkening in the west and before long we were in wet weather gear as we pedalled through Ibstock and onto Moira.

Here we spent our first night in the new, well appointed National Forest Youth Hostel.

The idea of creating a National Forest was first mooted in 1987. The aim was to create a commercial forest with ecological, landscape and public benefit and at the same time provide economic regeneration in the ex-mining areas of central England. The forest covers an area of 200 square miles in parts of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire. Since the first trees were planted in 1990 nearly 8 million more have been planted, increasing woodland cover from 6% to 18% and many recreational facilities have been introduced into the area, the Youth Hostel being of one of them.

We woke to sunshine and had soon left the south Derbyshire ex-mining villages behind us as we crossed the Trent into Staffordshire, where we stopped at the 'Skinny Kitten' in Barton-under-Needwood for elevenses. Onto Rugely and from here it was definitely up and up into Cannock Chase where we lunched in the visitor center. The next few hours of our tour took on a military flavour as we first met a group of World War I Staffordshire Regiment enthusiasts dressed in period uniform. We then visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery followed by the nearby German War Cemetery where the remains of many of the Germans who died in this country during the two World Wars are interred, including those from Zeppelin accident at Wigborough back home in Essex. And finally, a visit to the memorial to the victims of the Katyn Massacre, where 22,000 Poles were executed by the Soviet secret police.

We were now on our way to Brocton, one of the sites of Cannock Chase rock houses. For centuries people have dug into the soft sandstone outcrops in the Chase to create their homes, the last cave dwellers only moved out in the 1950s. One of these rock houses has been restored by the NT at Kinver Edge, but the site here at



Brocton was inhabited until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and since the last family left, nature has slowly reclaimed the site. Now, its remoteness and lack of any commercialisation makes this an intriguing place where one is left to imagine what it would have been like to live in a 20<sup>th</sup> century cave.

*Continued in the next issue*



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## **Book review - A Victorian Cyclist-**

*by Anni Gregson, SS16 5SG*

Stephen and Shirley Channing have produced a superb pairing of a book and a website. The book is a compilation of nine illuminating articles, quaintly called cycle rambles, reported regularly by an anonymous cyclist in the *Kent's Gazette* of 1886. The rider tells of his exploits around Margate, Kent on the recent invention. He not only enthuses about this new form of transport but is observant and knowledgeable on much he encounters during his well detailed and often off road routes. [Up to date directions are considerably included at the end of each report by the compilers]. Flora, fauna, history, architecture and pubs are all commented on by the Victorian gentleman, as are pre-emancipation female cyclists, and pieces and prices of the new fangled devices. The easy flowing prose, which has a cadence like cycling itself, carries the reader along as if freewheeling with a hind wind.

So as not to distract from the Victorian style and continuity of the book, a website has been created to complement the hard copy. Twenty first century references, route maps etc. can be downloaded for your own two wheel enjoyment. Don't be deterred, if Kent is too far for a day out. I'm a Lancastrian cyclist yet found this book so full of variety and interest, with over two hundred illustrations and photographs, that I thoroughly enjoyed rambling through Victorian Kent from my armchair.

A VICTORIAN CYCLIST, by Stephen and Shirley Channing, Published by OZARU Books; an imprint of BJ Translations Ltd.; First ed. published 01 Dec 2011; printed by Lightening Source; PRICE £19.99; ISBN:978-0-9559219-7-1 

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From the : (<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0771580.html>)

The five Olympic rings represent the five major regions of the world – Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania, and every national flag in the world includes one of the five colours, which are (from left to right): ?

blue, yellow, black, green, and red.

## **Editor's Reward**

*ascribed to "Poet Unknown"*

(dedicated to Review\* Ed.s past, present and future. Amen)

The Editor knocked at the Pearly Gate  
His face looked worn and old;  
He meekly asked the Man of Fate  
For admission to the fold.  
"What have you done," asked the Keeper,  
"To seek admission here?"  
"Oh, I ran a two monthly booklet  
For many and many a year."  
The gate swung open sharply  
As the Keeper touched the bell.  
"Come in, " he said, "and take your harp,  
"You've had enough of Hell."

[\**Rapier Review*, May/June 1954] – Thank you to Barry Brazier for sending this in.

## **SEG's 75 – Event's Report**

*by Stefan Eichenseher*

Despite the bleak weather forecast there were still pre-entries coming 4 days before the event, making it 27 altogether. There was a frantic email correspondence and I was route checking by car the night before to give the go ahead – the roads were clear and dry ... then.

At least the forecast wasn't wrong. The early morning was still ok, but by 8am there was sleet and one marshal couldn't get to his post, because he was stuck in Rayleigh in snow. 9 riders appeared to enter on the line, of which one declined the offer to ride in the cold rain.

One brave lady came limping back before the first checkpoint with a blow-out on the back tyre. Two of the 6-hour racers came back after a crash on black ice. One packed at Gt Bardfield, another shortly after. Of the 15 that went out, 10 came back and 3 made it within their time.

Result: John Collins (SEEMG) - 6:57hrs, Nicola Curling and Ian Gummery (Team Viper) - 6:42hrs

Interesting, but cold ... and two weeks later next year - I promise! 



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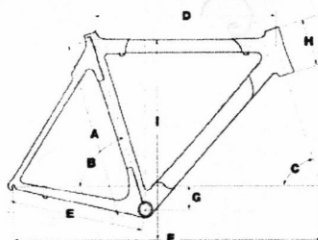
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## **Windmills on my Mind**

*By Charles Comport*

When in 1984 I agreed to organise the DA's first ever Audax 200k ride, I cast around for a motif on which to base it. Remembering that Essex was part of the corn-growing area of Easter England, which contained the bulk of the country's windmills, I decided on a route that would pass a number of those remaining and thus the *Windmill Ride* was born.

I have been interested in windmills since seeing pictures of them in my books as a child. Those remaining in Essex, about 20, are of course only a fraction of the 200 or so that were in our county once. However, we still have examples of all three types of mill - post mill, tower and smock. Post mills in which the whole structure swings into the wind around a central kingpost can be found at Mountnessing, Fryerning, Bocking Church St, Aythorp Roding - where our Triennial Veterans eat - the largest in Essex, and the smallest, that at Finchingfield. Tower mills, where only the sails swing, built of brick, are numerous: Stock, Stansted Mountfitchet, Rayleigh, Thaxted - built by John Webb in Napoleonic times - and the Maypole Messing Mill at Tiptree. The tower mill at White Roding had sails when I first saw it in the 1950s and at Clavering there are interesting examples of twin mills some 500 yards apart, the sails of one once turned clockwise, the other anticlockwise or 'widdershins', although neither still exist. Wooden smock mills, similar to tower mills, often octagonal are also well represented with examples at Upminster, Terling, which was used in the 1937 Will Hay film 'Oh, Mr Porter', and there is an interesting smock at Baker St Orsett, which has been well restored from the derelict that I first saw years ago. Several mills remain that have been turned into private residences such as Gt. Dunmow, Debden, Tiptree and 'Gibraltar' mill at Gt. Bardfield.

When I cycled around Essex from the 1950s I saw and photographed some mills that have now disappeared: a post mill at Moreton, a smock mill at South Ockendon, which was blown down in the 1960s and an interesting 'composite' mill at Little Laver comprising a post mill hoisted on to a high brick base, presumably to catch more wind. I also recall seeing mills at Birch and Bardfield Saling, of which I regretfully failed to take photos. Where I live in Galleywood, there were once two smock mills, one in The Street and one dominating the common.

Millers were skilled craftsmen - mills often passing from father to son, the grinding stones needing care and they were leading and prosperous members of their local community although their job was not without risks. A working mill would be noisy and shaking as the sails revolved and they would have to be alert to any alteration in wind direction as a change could

damage both sails and mill. Flour would always be in a miller's nostrils and probably led to breathing problems later in life. Mills could be blown over in gale force winds, as happened at the earlier post mill at White Roding and the miller, one Benjamin Roast, was killed. The miller at Terling mill, Herbert Bonnet, was killed just after the war by getting caught up in the machinery.

I am not aware that any really unusual mills existed in Essex, apart from Little Laver. Although just over our northern border in Haverhill there was a mill with a continuous circular sail, demolished in 1938. In Lincolnshire are a number of multi-sail mills. The Maud Foster mill at Boston, which I remember visiting in 1951 on a club Whitsun tour, has five sails, as has Alford. At Heckington is a unique eight-sail mill, unique in Europe and probably the world. I have photographed these.

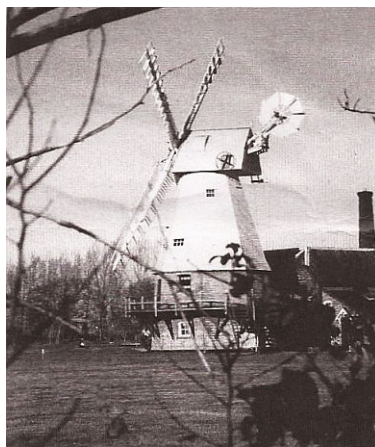
It is unlikely that any of our remaining mills will be allowed to deteriorate and disappear as the ECC and local communities are now conscious of our environmental history and maintain these relics of our former pre-industrial age. ☸

### **Gone**



Composite mill once at Little Laver

### **Brought Back**



Restored smock mill at Baker St. Orsett

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

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

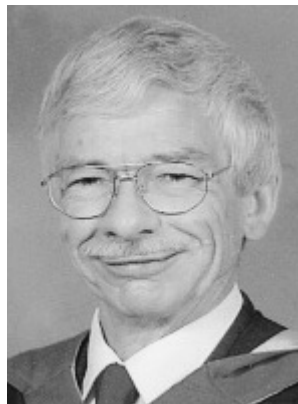
Joan and Charles Comport are pleased to announce the arrival of their first great-grandchild, Poppy Louise, who was born to Louise and Mark Everard in December. Louise is the daughter of Heather and Steve Goodfellow and rode on club runs, DA events and several Birthday Rides in the 1990s.

## ***Obituary – Jeff Wade (- 2012)***

*by Richard Monk*

Essex's "Mr Bikeability"

Many will have heard the sad news of the sudden death of Jeff Wade, one of the most committed advocates for cycling in Essex. I counted Jeff as a good friend and stalwart defender and supporter of people who genuinely wanted to help get more people cycling.



Jeff was one of the key drivers at Chelmer Cycling Club over many years, as one of the committee says, 'dragging the club kicking and screaming into the modern world' and he always took a particular interest in encouraging new people into competitive cycling, or for that matter any cycling, and particularly developing young people and young talent.

He is probably most well known for his incredible effort, commitment and achievement in making Bikeability the gold standard for cycle training in Essex.

Jeff died of a heart attack at home. I'm not sure how old he was. He was very fit so looked in his 50's but was probably nearer his 70's! He and Lin lived in Braintree. He was the driving force behind Chelmer Cycle Club and spent a lot of time in Chelmsford.

Our deepest sympathies go to his family. 🚲

## Useful Website Links

CTC Essex DA	<a href="http://www.essexcycling.co.uk">www.essexcycling.co.uk</a>
Cyclists' Touring Club	<a href="http://www.ctc.co.uk">www.ctc.co.uk</a>
Chris' site: route planning resources	<a href="http://www.velocipede.org.uk">www.velocipede.org.uk</a>
Yet Another Cycling Forum	<a href="http://yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php">http://yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php</a>
Nutty cyclist's insane world	<a href="http://www.nuttycyclist.co.uk/">http://www.nuttycyclist.co.uk/</a>

### ***Our Advertisers' websites***

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French Pedals (Cycle Touring Holidays)	<a href="http://www.frenchpedals.co.uk">www.frenchpedals.co.uk</a>
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The Prince of Wales (Pub)	<a href="http://www.thepow.co.uk">www.thepow.co.uk</a>

And finally...

... a series of links to try / stuff that landed in my inbox:

some rides...

- Fighting Male Cancer- Sunday 10th June 2012, from Lake Meadows, Billericay: <http://www.orchid-cancer.org.uk/365/OrchidCycle-Essex>
- Essex Countryside Bike Ride, 24 June 2012, [http://www.havenshospices.org.uk/fund\\_raising/events/Cycling/EssexCountryside](http://www.havenshospices.org.uk/fund_raising/events/Cycling/EssexCountryside) from Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford

and someone to ride with...

- Find someone to cycle with on [www.cyclingbuddy.com](http://www.cyclingbuddy.com)

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