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**Spotlight** – Magazine of the **Essex CTC MG**, a local **Member Group**  
of the **Cyclists’ Touring Club**, the national cyclists’ organisation  
President: John Steer Volume 3/2012se21

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***Index***

Index .....	3
Impressum:.....	3
Editor’s foreword.....	5
The President’s piece .....	6
Member Groups’ Reports .....	8
Forthcoming Events .....	14
Easy Rider Meets .....	14
Chelmsford Member Group – Runs List .....	15
Havering Member Group – Runs List .....	16
South East Essex Member Group – Runs List .....	17
Colchester Informal Member Group – Runs List .....	18
Just into Wales - continued.....	23
Thoughts on Cycle Maintenance .....	27
Obituary – Charles Comport (April 1925 - March 2012) .....	28
Useful Website Links .....	30

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

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Chelmsford	Adrian Leeds	☎ 01245 260272	Secretary
	Peter Moore		Delegate
Colchester	Alan Palmer	☎ 01206 792929	Secretary
	Pam Nelson	☎ 07812 209862	Delegate
Havering	Dave Rowlands	☎ 07948 583979	Secretary
	John Copas	johncopas06@yahoo.co.uk	Delegate
South East Group	John Steer	☎ 01702 309958	Secretary
	John Hand	☎ 07747 773209	Delegate

### Other Committee members

EDARF	John Davis	jldavis_123@talktalk.net
	Peter Hubbard	(South East member group)
	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867 (Delegate)

### Certificate of Merit Committee

John Davis, Peter Moore, *one position vacant*

### Essex CTC MG Trustees

Stefan Eichenseher, John Steer, Brian Penny

Closing date for the July / August 2012 edition is on **15 June 2012**

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

One of the feedbacks that I received was that I didn't explain some abbreviations used. You may have seen that in the first page I have emboldened an "E", an "M" and a "G". Since the last Essex Member Group committee meeting, we decided to go with the times and change the terminology according to the descriptors of Head Office. So, for some unfortunately, the *DA* of the **D**istrict **A**ssociation with its *Sections* should be mentioned here for the last time. The reference given to the Essex parent group events will now be *EMG* - not really a "parent", but more the interlinking of the different MGs and provider of officials for informal groups.

With sadness we recorded the passing of Charles Comport, the man with the greatest knowledge of cycling history in Essex. After all his contributions, I did not get a chance to talk to the man himself about some events and activities that happened in the past and of which we youngsters, or the ones who only recently joined cycling know little about. Please find a shortened version of his obituary, which his son Neil read at his funeral on page 28.

In the light of the current weather, there is a picture on page 29, where 12 eager cyclists were weathering the murky looking breeze at an outing and still had a laugh.

Have fun cycling.

Your editor,  
***Stefan Eichenseher***



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

The cold weather has been and gone and the warmer weather and lighter mornings and evenings along with the sunshine are starting to appear at last.

As most of you know by now, the sad news in March is the death of Charles Comport. He will be greatly missed in the cycling circles of Essex. I hope you will all join me in adding your condolences to Joan and her family.

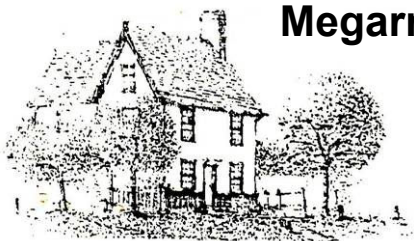
My wife and I spent 3 weeks in Fuerteventura during March and we saw many cyclist going up and down the volcanic hills (I didn't try it myself). If you rode off-road, it was very dusty (they had had a big dust storm from North Africa just before we arrived). There is also volcanic dust everywhere blown up by dust storms over the barren landscape - not ideal, if you ride into one.

Don't forget the Dot Sharp Memorial Ride, formerly DA80k event, on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. It's also the same day that 80 young cyclists are coming over with their 30 adult helpers to ride from Dover to Rochester before taking a bus to Stratford to view the Olympic site. *[just a minor additional information, - it doesn't increase our rider numbers, Ed.]*

We still need to keep our eyes open for new members interested in getting fit by cycling. Take every opportunity to talk to the cyclists that you meet on your travels. You never know they might just be the new runs leader or secretary that you have been looking for to take charge of your group (fresh young blood is needed in all groups).

Enjoy your cycling, wherever you ride.

*John Steer*



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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> April 2012** (Widdington) - The weather played a sort of *April Fools* prank on us. From indoors you could see that the sun was out and the sky clear but once outside the overnight frost could still be felt in the air and the gentle north-easterly breeze had a cold bite to it. Suitably fooled, the group braced its under-dressed self and wet-nosed and dewy-eyed, soldiered on. On the positive side, the air was exceptionally clear, giving superb hilltop views.

Seven riders took the Lindsell route to Thaxted taking in Felsted, Stebbing and Monk Street as we went. As usual, "Poppys" tea rooms supplied the goods and their new loyalty card was also gratefully received.

Four hardy souls then climbed the hilliest section of the ride to lunch at the "Fleur De Lys", Widdington. We discovered that they "don't do sandwiches" on Sundays so I had the home-made pea soup, which was a good satisfying portion and most enjoyable. On the way down, the terrain continued to provide excellent vistas with misty purple horizons.



We used the cinder track, passing a banger-racing meeting on the way to Sucksted Green. Investigating a loud banging noise, we discovered a man energetically panel-beating an old car-bonnet with a sledge-hammer. Crude, but no doubt effective! From there it was back down to Dunmow for tea and cakes at the "Tea Tree", before returning to Chelmsford via the usual route. **Adrian Leeds**

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2012** - The 8<sup>th</sup> April was Easter Sunday and the forecast was for rain. The result was that only Martin, Adrian and myself rode out to Finchingfield for 11ses. Strangely, there were no motorbikes at the café and the village was a haven of peace and quiet.

Refreshed we rode to Steeple Bumpstead and on the way to lunch, we caught up with the Cambridge CTC, who were on their way to Clare for a picnic. Safely installed in the "Barnadiston Arms" we enjoyed our lunch hour before heading to Baythorne End, Stambourne, Shelford and eventually through the drizzle to Blake End for tea.

Emerging from "Timbers" restaurant, we saw a clearing sky and had a dry ride home. **D. Russell**

## **Colchester Member Group**

**March 18, 2012** - Kersey Ride - Four of us (Malcolm, Alan, Gillian and Pam) set off from Colchester Leisure World, fairly optimistic about the weather despite the early mist. Les and Gill rode their tandem from Tiptree and joined us for elevenses at the "Dedham Art & Craft Centre" - full marks as always for the delicious cake.

We rode on via Raydon, Hintlesham and Bildeston to Chelsworth where we stopped briefly to admire a pretty, double-arched bridge opposite "The Peacock Inn" (a possible lunch venue for another ride?). And the sun actually shone once or twice! We were also encouraged when Gillian noticed a sign 'Needham Market 7 miles', which made us feel we had travelled quite a way from home.

Soon after the village of Lindsey, we arrived for lunch at "The Kersey Bell". Malcolm had checked in advance about lunch arrangements, but was told they were fully booked, as it was Mother's Day. So we had brought our own sandwiches, which we had to eat outside. It started to get a bit chilly - and just as we set off again the rain began. Not to worry, Alan cheered us up by commenting that he was impressed by Malcolm's

route, which included some sections that he wasn't familiar with - a real accolade!



The route home was fairly short, via Polstead Heath, Thorington Street - and then Gillian had a puncture. But it couldn't have happened at a better spot: although we were in a very narrow lane, there was a large grassy area at the entrance to a field, and we were soon on our way again. But not long after, Gillian noticed her tyre was flat again and as she was now just a mile or so from home, she decided to push her bike the rest of the way.

Apart from this last mishap, we had had an excellent day out and look forward to Malcolm's next ride. **Pam Nelson**

**April 15, 2012 - Bures Ride** - Eight of us set off from Leisure World (Alan, Stuart, Clive, Gillian, Chris, Pam, plus Les and Gill from Tiptree on their tandem).

Alan led us through the University and on to Elmstead Market, where Keith joined us on his new tandem. We had early elevenses at "Beth Chatto's" (excellent coffee and cakes). We rode on through Great Bromley, and then made our way cross country, skirting Ardleigh, Dedham and into Langham.

Then came the two hills! The pace slowed a bit as we made our way up Parsonage Hill in Boxted, and later another climb to "The Beehive" in Little Horkesley. Gillian left us here, and Alan's route took the rest of us on through Wormingford. The rain clouds had been threatening all morning and here we felt the first few drops, so with just a few miles to go we stopped to don wet weather gear. Then we were off again, heading towards Arger Fen, and left into Bures, passing the moated Smallbridge Hall on the way.

*Continued on page 13*

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**07704 227050**

At "The Eight Bells" in Bures we were rewarded with the usual warm welcome and excellent lunch (favourite choices were roast beef, lasagne, and jacket potatoes with copious amounts of prawns).

After a leisurely break, Alan took us on a new route past Mount Bures, and shortly afterwards, Les and Gill said farewell as they headed back to Tiptree. We were soon in Fordham, then West Bergholt, where Alan and Chris took the Bakers Lane turning, and the rest of us rode back home into Colchester, with Keith continuing on to Great Bentley.

Despite the frequent clouds and squally head winds, we had enjoyed another great day on some lovely quiet lanes and Alan had managed to find some new routes through familiar territory. **Pam Nelson**

## **Haverling Member Group**

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

## **South East Essex Member Group**

**19th February – Great Totham** - Twelve left Wickford and headed for "The Crystal Café" in Maldon, a new elevenses venue for us, but popular already with the Forty Plus Cycling Club. Jon C lived up to his reputation by consuming two tea cakes in the café. Seven went onto Great Totham via an uphill route which had John S cursing the Manchurian, as he hadn't been on his bike for 4 weeks and had also given blood on Friday (I didn't know he was a vampire). We were joined in "The Compasses" by Lynda C who had driven from SWF and after hearing about Peter's struggle with the wind (windy weather), we were soon tucking into our refreshments. **Manchurian**

**11th March - Ramsden Heath** - The day lived up to the forecast with lots of sunshine on a mild and pleasant ride. It was nice to see the old guard out again of Ian, Charlotte, Kevin, Mary and Brian amongst the 20 to start from Wickford. We reached 11ses at "King George Playing Field", Brentwood in two groups - with one group so comfortable with the temperature that they stayed outside at the picnic tables. Ian led the ride from Brentwood to Ramsden Heath arriving at "The Nags Head" PH at 12.45. Initially, advice that lunch was a Sunday roast only was later changed to a bar snack menu, more to our liking. In the end the 10 of us

*Continued on page 19*

## Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
6th May	<b>[DA] 80km - Dot Sharp Memorial Ride,</b> Starting from: Mountnessing, Church Hall	Brian Penny 01268 777941
24th June	<b>[EMG] Windmill Rides</b> (110km & 210km), from Chelmer Club Hut, CM1 2RL, Grid Ref TL698067 - see Audax website for entry form	Brian Taylor 01277 657867
15th July	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndike 100 / 100,</b> from 8:30am at the Market Café in Woodlands Road, Wickford, Essex SS12 0AL, OS map 178, TQ745933 (The rides runs throughout OS maps 167/168) – see website for entry form	Stefan Eichenseher 01702 621810

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

## Easy Rider Meets



Date	Pub	Destination
13 <sup>th</sup> May	"The Black Bull"	Margaretting
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Ingatestone and Fryerning Community Centre	Ingatestone
8 <sup>th</sup> July	The Duck	Newney Green

**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	11ses	Destination	Leader
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
27 May	(Blue Egg) Bardfield	Claire	D Russell
3 Jun	Stansted Mt. Fitchet	Aspenden	A Leeds
10 Jun	Abberton (Visitor Centre)	Ford Street	J Davis
17 Jun	Purleigh (Roundbush)	Burnhan-On-Crouch	M Cockersole
24 Jun	<b>[EMG] Charles Comport - Windmill Rides</b> , contact Brian Taylor		
1 Jul	Greenstead Green	Long Melford	A Leeds
8 Jul	King George Playing Fields, Brentwood	Moletrap, Stapleford Tawny	J & B Taylor
15 Jul	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndyke 100/100</b> , contact Stefan Eichenseher		
<b>Alt</b>	Heybridge Basin	Tolleshunt D'Arcy	TBA
22 Jul	Elsenham Golf	Elmdon Dial	A Leeds

## Haverling Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** David Rowlands

43 Limbourne Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 1HU

☎ 07948 583979 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

Find up-to-date and local information at: [www.ctchaverling.btck.co.uk](http://www.ctchaverling.btck.co.uk)

Date	Destination
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	River Lea to Waltham Abbey via Canal
Jun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	All-comer Ride
Jun 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[EMG] Charles Comport - Windmill Rides,</b> contact Brian Taylor, see p 14
Jul 1 <sup>st</sup>	All-comer Ride
Jul 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndyke 100/100,</b> contact Stefan Eichenseher, see p 14

**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>May 2012</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup>	Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)	Kelvedon (Railway Tavern)
27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[IMG]</b> London Ride, E11 2LF	Contact John Steer 01702 309958
or	Great Baddow (Bringy Pine)	*see note
<b>June 2012</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rochford (Beehive Café)	Great Wakering (Red Lion)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Chigborough Barns, Heybridge (Terajola Tearooms)	Little Braxted (Green Man)
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[IMG]</b> Hythe - Dungeness CT21 6LD	Car-assisted: John Steer
or	Blackmore (Blackmore Tearooms)	*see note
20 <sup>th</sup>	Evening ride via the sea wall to the Barge Gladys at Benfleet, meet at 7pm outside Leigh-on-Sea railway station for this Bike Week event. Contact: J. Steer 01702 309958	
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[EMG]</b> Windmill Rides	Contact Brian Taylor 01277 657867
or	Mundon (Roundbush Café)	Burnham-on-Sea (The Anchor)
<b>July 2012</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ingatestone (Garden Centre)	Bicknacre (Brewer's Arms)
8 <sup>th</sup>	9am start Chelmsford (Secret Garden Tearooms)	Stebbing (Andrewsfield)

**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 **EMG** 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
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Flatford Tea room	Harkstead (Bakers Arms)	Malcolm Mitchell
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Coggeshall (Dutch Nursery)	Rayne Station (Flitch Way Tea Room)	Alan Palmer
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	T B A	T B A	Grace & Andrew
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Copford (Barnplants)	Wickham St Paul (Farm Shop)	Alan Palmer
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Elmstead (Beth Chatto)	Walton (Queens Head)	Malcolm Mitchell
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tiptree (The Exchange)	Papermill Lock (Tea Room)	Paul & Caroline Avison
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[EMG] Windmill Rides</b>	contact Brian Taylor 01277 657867, see p 14	
<b>Alt</b>	Aldham Millrace	Stisted (Tea Room)	Alan Palmer
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tiptree (Perrywoods)	Littley Green (Compasses)	Alan Palmer
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Coggeshall (Dutch Nursery)	Woodham Walter	Alan Palmer
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndike 100 / 100</b> , contact Stefan, see p 14		
<b>Alt</b>	Mistley Place Park	Pin Mill (Butt & Oyster)	T B A

### 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)

See their website for further information:

[www.colchesterctc.co.uk](http://www.colchesterctc.co.uk)



The Bricklayer's Arms,

at lunch enjoyed soups or sandwiches. With Ramsden Heath not far from Wickford we returned home by 3.00. **Brian Penny**

**18th March – Nounsley** - On a blue sky without a cloud to be seen 18 riders were at Wickford on Mother's Day. Two groups led from the start by Peter Hubbert and Brian Penny heading for "Bringley Pine", although Peter didn't make it because one of his jockey wheels fell off. Bringley was packed and the hard pressed staff coped well and managed to get us all served. Lunch would be a challenge. Everywhere was fully booked with Mothers including "The Sportsman" at Nounsley. Just six of us headed in the direction of Hatfield Peveral, but numbers began to deplete as Tony King turned off, then we lost Martin Fuller when he fell behind after getting a lace caught in the chain. Anyhow, the four that remained found a table to accommodate us and we enjoyed a fine pint of Farmers Ale. Martin joined us later having untangled his lace. The blue sky turned a murky grey during the afternoon, but the drizzle did not spoil a very pleasant day. **Brian Penny**

**25th March – Orsett** - The ride today was an experiment to see if it was feasible to include venues around Upminster & South Ockendon. Unfortunately, it proved not to be the case. The roads were often narrow, busy and full of pot holes. We even had a road closure and a detour along a stretch of the A127 cycle path - not to be recommended. We reached the "Thames Chase Visitor Centre" just after 11am and settled down to enjoy our tea, toast and whatever else took our fancy. We headed back as one group until we got to Bulphan, when 5 headed for Orsett, soon to be 4 when Kevin J went home to Standford-le-Hope. The remainder had a pleasant pint and sausage & onion baguette in "The Fox Hound", before heading home. **Manchurian**

**1st April – Western Approaches** - Eleven riders set off from Wickford in the direction of Rayleigh, where we would split into two groups to make our way to the "Shopland Equestrian Centre" at Sutton. Unfortunately, Dave H picked up a puncture at Rawreth and whilst Peter W and his group offered assistance, it was decided that Ian M would carry on with his group. The route was interesting with some off-road sections, a footpath and cycle paths in Southend and we arrived at the café about 11am to find some of the local riders already there. Peter's group arrived about 10 minutes later having come down Daws Heath Road to the A127 cycle path and then along the seafront to Southchurch before heading for Sutton. Eight went onto lunch at "The Loyal Toast" on Western

Approaches and Brian & Martin particularly enjoyed a few pints of Hobgoblin. **Manchurian**

**8th April – Blackmore** - With it being Easter Sunday, the seven riders decided to only go to the “Blackmore Tearooms” for elevenses and not to proceed to the lunch destination. As we were preparing to leave, Peter W discovered he had a puncture. Earlier in the morning, Mike S had also picked up a puncture (but as his was on the way to the start, doesn’t count for the puncture award *[really? Ed.]*). An early afternoon tea was taken at the “Haybarn Café” in Battlesbridge. John S also picked up a puncture in Hullbridge on the way home *[does this one count? Ed.]* and both Ian & Mike were treated to some words of wisdom from the great man himself (aka EMG President). He said, “when putting your tyre back on make sure the wording regarding how much to inflate it, is in line with the valve”. We both look forward to more words of wisdom on future rides. **Manchurian**

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From the 🗸: <ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/library/pubs/kids/bicycle.pdf>



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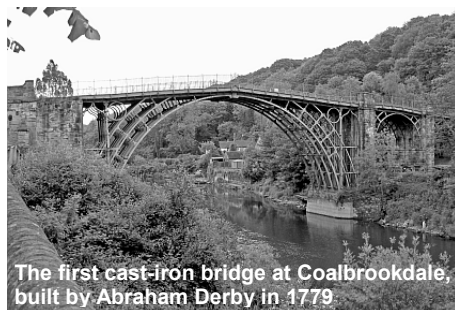
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## **Just into Wales - continued**

*by Ken Rickwood*

We left the Chase and rode beside the Staffordshire and Warickshire Canal for a while before reaching Penkridge Codsall where we had threeses in the "Village Coffee". From here, we found some lanes that took us to the Ironbridge Youth Hostel. This comfortable accommodation was housed in the former Coalport China Manufactory.

We planned to spend two nights here so that we could spend a whole day visiting the museums. Within an area of about six square miles, there are ten museums, all relating to the area and its importance as the birthplace of the industrial revolution. Ironbridge has been awarded the status of a world heritage site as the home of the industrial revolution. It was here that the new process of smelting iron using coke was developed; this made the construction of the world's first cast-iron bridge possible and led to steam power becoming a reality. The unique geology of the area provided coal, iron ore, limestone and clay of a quality suitable for the manufacture of not only iron, but also porcelain, clay pipes and decorative tiles. This made the area a centre of manufacturing from which these goods were exported all over the world.



The first cast-iron bridge at Coalbrookdale, built by Abraham Derby in 1779



The winding gear above the mine in Blists Hill

Blists Hill museum recreates a Victorian town with its streets, shops and factories. There is a working forge and ironworks located near to the original blast furnaces on the site. The winding gear stands above a mineshaft. This single mine provided five minerals; iron ore, clay, bitumen and two types of coal.

We left Ironbridge by crossing the world famous bridge and were soon walking up the steep hill out of the gorge. Once at the top it was but a short way to Much Wenlock. Here we stopped at the “Copper Kettle” for tea with date and walnut cake topped with marmalade. Refreshed we made our way up and along Wenlock Edge. Some way along here we left the road and continued along a bridleway for several miles before the

**The Elizabethan Wilderhope Manor,  
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tall Elizabethan chimneys of Wilderhope Manor rose above the hedgerows. We were now in one of the most remote and unspoiled of the Shropshire valleys. Here, barely twenty miles from Ironbridge, it was as if the industrial revolution never happened. The house was built for Francis Smallman in 1583 and remained in the family for over 200 years. It has since been sold several times before becoming derelict in the

early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Then in 1937 the building was gifted by the Cadbury Trust to the National Trust to be used as a Youth Hostel. Visitors and guests can tread the original wooden spiral staircase - and imaginations can run wild with the many stories of supernatural sightings claimed to have happened since the civil war when a Major Smallman, a Royalist, escaped Cromwell's troops. Or one can look out through Elizabethan mullioned windows at the National Trust managed woodland and pastures of Hope Dale.

**View over England from part way up Long Mynd**



We left the Manor and had wonderful views of the hills around Church Stretton before dropping off the Edge and riding for an hour to reach what we had just seen. Eventually we arrived in Church Stratton, where we stopped for elevenses at the “Holybush Café”. This town is at the foot of Long Mynd, or translated from the Welsh, Long Mountain.

*Continued in the next issue*



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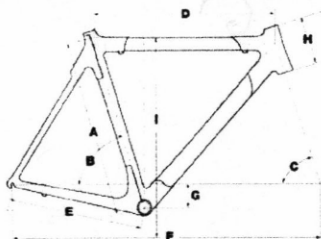
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## **Thoughts on Cycle Maintenance**

*By the greasy cyclist (sitcycle)*


As most people name their machines as a “she” and not a “he”, here are some thoughts on cycle maintenance:

1. Give her a good going over at regular intervals.
2. Grease her Nipples well.
3. When running her in, break her in gently.
4. Wax her body all over.
5. If you should strike her rear end, say sorry.
6. Her gear should not be too hairy.
7. Check her load bearing capacity, as too much weight can impede her performance.
8. If she loses her sparkle, she may be suffering from the need for a good rub down.
9. Never take her too fast up the straight - warm her up gently first.
10. Keep fingertip control at all times.
11. Her bottom bracket should be kept well oiled at all times.
12. Don't leave your tools hanging about.
13. If she sags when hill climbing, give her a boost and see if she has any more speed left.
14. Check her body for blemishes and touch her up where necessary.

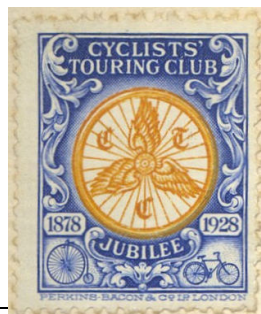
*... and, if you are thinking of anything else , but your beloved two-wheeled partner on the road – slap your naughty wrist. [Ed.] *

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From the : <http://www.roadswerenotbuiltforcars.com/category/american-roads/>

Here is a little gem that I have found on my foraging travels on the net:  
A CTC Jubilee stamp from 1928 !



## **Obituary – Charles Comport** **(April 1925 - March 2012)**

*By Neil Comport*

Charles' 80+ years of cycling began when he was aged 3 on what he has described as "a tiny tricycle". After leaving the Royal Navy, the 21 year old Charles joined the Cyclists' Touring Club in 1946, initially riding with the Essex District Association's Loiterers Section.

In 1949 he formed the Dagenham Section and met Joan, a fellow club-mate who he married in 1953. A further notable event in that same year was Charles winning the Final of the national British Cycle Touring Contest. The happy cycling couple began their married life in Hornchurch, where Charles helped to establish the Hornchurch Section. The Section still exists today, but is known as the Havering Member Group.



With the birth of Heather and then Neil, family commitments took priority as did a further house move to Hutton. In the mid 1960s Charles helped John Davis form the Western Section, which later became the Brentwood Section. In 1976 Charles became District Association Chairman and a move to Galleywood in 1977 brought him into the fold of the Chelmsford Section. The following year Charles became Editor of the Essex District Association magazine 'Spotlight', a position he was to hold for an initial run of 10 years and then again, from 1999, for a further 9 years.

In 1982, the now retired Charles organised the first of many popular annual DA Caravan weekends and in the following year he organised the BCTC Final in Essex; this being the national competition he won thirty years earlier. In 1984, he organised the DA's first Audax Ride, titling the event 'The Windmill Ride' in recognition of his own interest in windmills. Naturally, windmills featured heavily on the chosen route. Charles became DA President in 1986 and, in the same year, led the team that organised the national Cyclists' Touring Club 400k Audax Ride. In 1999, Charles established the Easy Riders Section catering for those members with a preference for a slightly gentler pace and an opportunity to catch up socially with each other over a leisurely lunch.

Charles' love of cycling extended to the history of the sport and he was an enthusiastic member of 'The Veteran-Cycle Club'. He organised the Club's annual Essex Run for several years resulting in the sight of penny-

farthings and other historic cycles taking to the lanes recreating a flavour of cycling from a bygone era.

In concluding this tribute to Charles, it would be remiss not to acknowledge and recognise the loyal support he received from Joan. Charles and Joan were very much a double-act in DA activities and where Charles might have been the organiser of any event or occasion, Joan would invariably be on hand at his side with the catering team wielding a giant industrial sized brown teapot and copious slices of sponge and fruit cakes for the benefit of thirsty and hungry participants.

Charles' presence around the lanes of his beloved Essex will be sorely missed by members of the DA as will his wisdom and experience that he willingly gave. But in concluding, perhaps it is only fitting that we give thanks to that "tiny tricycle" that the 3 year old Charles rode, as without it, the life of Charles Comport and that of the Essex DA could have been so very different.

Our deepest sympathies go to Joan, Heather, Neil and family. 🚲

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## Do you recognise any of these?



**Crossing the Thames by Tilbury Ferry, July 1950**

(with kind permission from Charles Comport)

## 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>
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