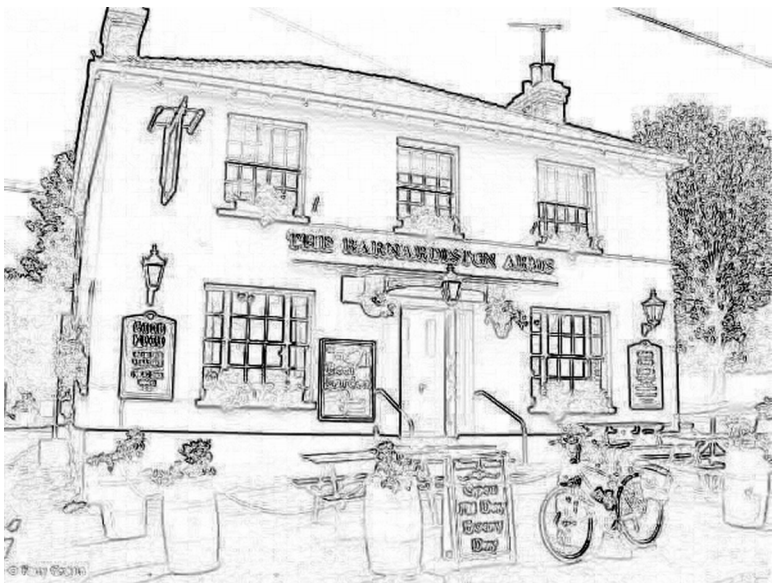


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Impressum:

EMG Secretary: Lynda Collins, 142 Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, CM3 5LL, Tel: 01245 320 733, collins.lynda@btopenworld.com

Editor: Stefan Eichenseher, 42A Whitegate Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2LQ, s.eichenseher@googlemail.com

Advertising Officer: Stefan Eichenseher, as above, Tel.: 01702 621810

Postal subscriptions: Jonathan Collins, 142 Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, CM3 5LL, Tel: 01245 320 733, collins.jon@btinternet.com

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

## Officers of the Essex CTC MG - we are serving you ...

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(preferred) Contact</u>
President	John Steer	segssec@btinternet.com
Secretary	Lynda Collins	collins.lynda@btopenworld.com
Chairman	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867
Vice Chairman	Peter Moore	☎ 01245 263165
Treasurer	Stefan Eichenseher	s.eichenseher@googlemail.com
Members' secretary	Phil Notley	notley324@googlemail.com
Welfare officer	Brian Penny	b.penny522@btinternet.com
Promotions officer	Brian Penny	☎ 01268 777941
Editor	Stefan Eichenseher	s.eichenseher@googlemail.com
Advertising officer	Stefan Eichenseher	☎ 01702 621810
Distribution Officer	Jonathan Collins	collins.jon@btinternet.com
Webmaster	Malcolm Mitchell	malcolm.mitchell1@gmail.com
CTC Councillor	Martin Cockersole	martin@cockersole.co.uk

### Member Group Representatives (for more information see member group details)

Chelmsford	Adrian Leeds	leeds.adrian@gmail.com	Secretary
	Peter Moore	petebermmoore@tiscali.co.uk	Delegate
Colchester	Alan Palmer	☎ 01206 792929	Secretary
	Pam Nelson	☎ 07812 209862	Delegate
Havering	Stephen Ingall	☎ 07890 386984	Secretary
	Dave Rowlands	☎ 07948 583979	Delegate
South East Essex	John Steer	☎ 01702 529638	Secretary
	Phil Notley	☎ 01375 403967	Delegate

### Other Committee members

EDARF	John Davis	jldavis_123@talktalk.net
	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867

### Certificate of Merit Committee

Peter Moore, Brian Penny, John Steer

### Essex CTC MG Trustees

Stefan Eichenseher, John Steer, Brian Penny

Closing date for the January / February 2014 edition is on **15 January 2014**

## ***Editor's Foreword***

The AGM brought about only little changes in volunteers committing their time for the next year.

Following the appeal in the penultimate issue, we got a confirmation in the first committee meeting of the new year of two new faces taking up posts:

There is Malcolm Mitchell from the Colchester CTC informal Member Group, who is taking away my fourth hat within the committee, the position of the webmaster. In due course, all website related enquiries will be answered by him.

I will poke him to write a few lines himself about what he intends to do, and how the readership can get involved.

And then, there is Jon Collins from the South East Group, taking over the Distribution Officer's job from Peter Moore, organising the postal subscription and distribution of the Spotlight magazine.

In my function as the treasurer, I would like to offer a further option of subscription payment method. For details, see p 25.

And another benefit of holding this edition of the Spotlight: There is a free give-away bike; read more on this story on page 28.

Already another year, and my bike is still waiting to be taken out for a ride. It's just me getting rustier by the week.

However, this should not stop you to have fun cycling.

Your editor,

***Stefan Eichenseher***



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

I wish you all a Happy New Year

I have to say that the Essex MG AGM went as predicted with no members putting up their hand to take on any of the jobs. As I said in my previous President's Piece that new committee members are required, as there are too few doing too many jobs.

### **It's to your advantage to help on the committee.**

I hope that you all got what you wished for at Christmas (new clothing and bike bits?), which you will be showing off in the New Year, if you were so lucky to get your wish come true.

We should soon be seeing the new Essex groups' shirts out on the roads, as the members wear them and advertise our cycling groups, especially on any CTC events or away rides that they might do. Contact Brian Penny, his number is in the Spotlight under officers of the EMG on page 4 for more details.

On a sad note Ron Snape of the South East MG came off of his bike at the beginning of the ride out from Wickford on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and broke his left femur, we wish him well and hope to see him back in the New Year.

Stay safe and enjoy your cycling, wherever you ride, and may the puncture fairy be kind to you. And don't forget to talk to any cyclists that you see along the way, as there might be the chance that they are willing to join a cycling group they didn't know existed (like the local CTC).

*John Steer*

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## ***Member Groups' Reports***

### **Chelmsford Member Group**

**27 October 2013 - Allens Green** - Horror stories in the media of an impending hurricane and torrential rain must have weighed heavily on our regular riders, as there were only four of us at the start for today's ride to Allens Green. Of course, another explanation may be that they turned up at 9am BST rather than GMT! The early morning rain had stopped and we set off in bright sunshine, led by Dave on an excellent route of about 20 miles using the lanes to Hatfield Heath for elevenses. Some sections into the strong squally SW wind were quite tough.

Peter had a puncture in Hatfield Broad Oak, which he and Dave fixed in next-to-no time. At Hatfield Heath the teashop was overflowing with cyclists and there was no chance of finding a table, so we headed on to the excellent "Shed" café Sawbridgeworth.

Only Dave and I were able to continue to lunch at Allens Green, following which we headed back to Chelmsford. Rain squalls for the first 7 miles or so were not too pleasant, but with the wind behind us after Birds Green we had an enjoyable fast run back into Roxwell.

We arrived back at about 3.45pm having covered 56 miles. **Martin Cockersole**

**17<sup>th</sup> November** – Dave Southin was leading today and it was nice to see Mel with us again, and Delia, who was getting some cycling in before going to Costa Rica for Xmas, - cycling of course. We took the track to Norton Mandeville Church, which was OK. But on leaving the track, Delia's rear tyre exploded with a loud whoosh of escaping air.

This was mended, but soon punctured again needing some of Tom's duct tape to effect a repair to the tyre.

Elevenses was at "Langford Bridge Garden Centre" and then "The Moletrap" at Tourney Common for lunch.

The homeward journey was down the delightful lane to Passingford Bridge, and then Shonks Mill, Kelvedon Hatch and Blackmore for tea,

where we sampled various brews on offer. Not a great mileage, but a pleasant day out, and getting back to Chelmsford, as the rain started.

## **Dave Russell**

**24<sup>th</sup> November - Ride to Layer-de-la-Haye** - We set off from the Town Hall heading for elevenses at "Perrywoods" in Tiptree. With the annoying building work at Channels disrupting the route I would have chosen we instead went via Little Waltham to get to Terling. In Witham we took NCR 16 alongside the railway to cut through to the road to Rivenhall, thereby avoiding traffic on Braintree road. A useful cut though, but it does involve dismounting to cross the Braintree branch line.

At Tiptree our group morphed into a much larger one with a total of 13 Chelmsford riders plus half a dozen from our sister CTC group in Colchester, who joined us for the next stage. We decided that Rowhedge was a bit too far given the short daylight hours and instead headed for the "Donkey and Buskins" at Layer de la Haye, where we were very well served.

For tea we stopped on our return trip at the new "Woodlands Café" South of Tiptree, where sadly I couldn't resist the delicious lemon meringue pie despite my best intentions.

We arrived back in Chelmsford in the gathering gloom after an enjoyable 53 miles.

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 - Ride to Great Bardfield** - Brian and Jeanette on the tandem led us through Great Waltham and Little Green towards the "Station Café" at Rayne. We made Rayne in good time. After elevenses on the cold platform outside the café at Rayne station we set off for Great Bardfield. Three riders had returned to Chelmsford but John D and Beryl had joined us so we were now a group of 11. Brian led us via Shalford on a very enjoyable route to "The Bell" for lunch where our numbers were further boosted by the arrival of Eric and Heather, meaning we had 15 members out today, including a very welcome visitor Mel from the SE Essex MG.

As we left for the return to Chelmsford, the sun burst out and we had perfect conditions for our ride home. Brian chose another excellent route via Lubberhouses Lane, Shalford, Felsted, North End and the Chignals and we reached Chelmsford at about 3.15 having covered about 50 miles. **Martin Cockersole**

**8<sup>th</sup> December** - I'll start with an apology – elevenes was at "The Shed", Sawbridgeworth, and not as I posted in the rides list: "The Hut" – a case of getting my wooden outhouses mixed up with my shacks...

Six of us set out on as good a day as you get this time of the year, facing a decidedly cool westerly breeze for the first leg, which was thankfully a mere shadow of the storm winds of the preceding week. Taking a pretty route, we arrived at "The Shed" with 23 miles clocked, running a little late. I must put in a word here for the "Santa Sandwich," a *speciality du maison* of "The Shed". This consists of hot turkey, stuffing, sausage, bacon and cranberry sauce in a "Toastie". You get a small salad too, but it would really only take a few sprouts and some gravy to make it into a full lunch. A snip at £4! John and Margaret joined us, so that made eight to go forward to lunch, taking in the very scenic and colourful track through Hatfield Forest during the best of the day's sunlight.

Its strange to reflect sometimes how life throws up little ironies: "The Cock" at HBO was "fully booked", so we had to try the "Dukes Head", where once again there was "no room at the inn". Very appropriate so near to Christmas, and ironically caused by that event itself. We backtracked to Hatfield Heath, safe in the knowledge that failing all else we could eat at the Post Office. As it turned out, we got good service, sandwiches, chips and soup at the "White Horse" ("The Stag" being closed down).

The golden afternoon faded to dusk as the group approached Writtle and lights were deployed with just a few miles left complete the day. **Adrian Leeds**

## **Colchester Member Group**

**November 17, 2013 -Hadleigh Ride** - I arrived at Colchester Leisure World to find a healthy number of riders turned out, and to see us off, our faithful Treasurer, Emily. Twelve set off along Sportsway to dice it with the Sunday morning traffic at Essex Hall Roundabout and up Bergholt Road. Sadly, by the double mini-roundabouts Robert decided that was enough of a ride for him and turned back.

Undeterred and regrouped after the short climb, the rest carried on through West Bergholt, turning right to Welshwood Park, where at the crossroads we turned into Coach Road, which is still in bad shape. On to Langham we went, crossing the A12 and heading toward Dedham along

Birchwood Road. We had a little time to spare so rather than turn left at the end, we turned right, away from Dedham toward Ardleigh.

We then turned into Hunters Chase past the resting Alpacas (on left opposite footpath), to connect with Coggeshall Road, where at the end we turned right along Long Road East, then hanging a left down Jupes Hill/Manningtree Road. Approaching Brook St and several heaps of sugar beet by the side of the road drew Steve's attention, prompting Chris to note there isn't actually a lot of sugar in sugar beet!

We cycled through Dedham playing field, via Southfields/The Drift, which I would regret, as since my last visit to Dedham, the compacted path through the park is now loose shingle. I believe a flint from this punctured my rear tyre, as it was flat by the time I rode over the kerb at the "Art & Craft Centre" ... so my elevenses was taken up by the task of replacing the pierced inner tube, but without getting filthy hands, thanks to Alison kindly giving me her latex gloves.

My only venture inside was to go to the toilet, but I was not alone outside as Duan and Steve kept me company. Clive, John, and Alison would leave us here, fearing a return home from Hadleigh in darkness. But our numbers were unchanged, as awaiting our arrival in Dedham were Sarah, Les and Gill from Tiptree.

We left Dedham along the resurfaced Mill Road, over the river Stour, out of Essex and into Suffolk. In Stratford we took the first right toward Higham, where Les and Gill on their tandem trike sadly suffered a rear puncture.



It seems to be more straight forward on a trike (the rear at least), as there is no need for any adjustment to the axle in order to remove the tyre and inner tube.

After a short interlude, in which time an old dog limped over from the adjacent garden to see what all the excitement was about, we were off again! -

*Continued on page 20*

### Fun from the :



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## **Essex Cyclists' Touring Club - Proposed Calendar for 2014**

### **CTC Touring Competition (formerly DATC) Events for 2014**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organiser</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Wormingford Dragon (200km) or Wyrms (110km)	Viv Marsh, (via Ed Nevard)
11 <sup>th</sup> May	80km	Adrian Leeds
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Windmill Rides	Stefan Eichenseher
13 <sup>th</sup> July	100M / 100km	Stefan Eichenseher
7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Rough Stuff (29M)	Brian Taylor
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Colchester	Malcolm Mitchell

### **Other events**



23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	SEG's 75	John Steer
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Meet	Brian Penny
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Colchester 40/40	Brian Penny
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Photographic Competition	Chris Woodhouse
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Essex CTC AGM	Lynda Collins
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Meet	Brian Penny

Event and contact details will be published in the Spotlight in time before.

Complete 4 EMG events out of 10 for Standard Award

Complete 5 EMG events out of 10 for Premier Award

(needs to include at least one 100 miles or longer event)

The "Photographic Competition" and the "Essex CTC AGM" are excluded from counting toward Awards.

For further details on the events, please see our website at <http://www.essexcycling.co.uk/events.htm>.

## Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
23 Feb	<b>[MG] SEG 75 miles</b> - from 8:30am at the Market Café in Woodlands Road, Wickford, Essex SS12 0AL, OS map 178, TQ745933 (The ride runs throughout OS map 167)	John Steer

If not stated, please see the *Impressum* (p. 4) for organisers' contacts or see our website at <http://www.essexcycling.co.uk/events.htm>.

## Easy Rider Meets



Please contact **Peter Moore** on **01245 263165** for the specific venues. Sara & Peter Moore would welcome anyone who would like to join them for lunch, on any other Sunday. However, due to not knowing, who will be out, there will be no pre-booking of the venues.

Other meeting dates and venues follow the runs list of the *Forty Plus Cycling Club*, available at <http://www.fortypluscc.co.uk>.

## 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

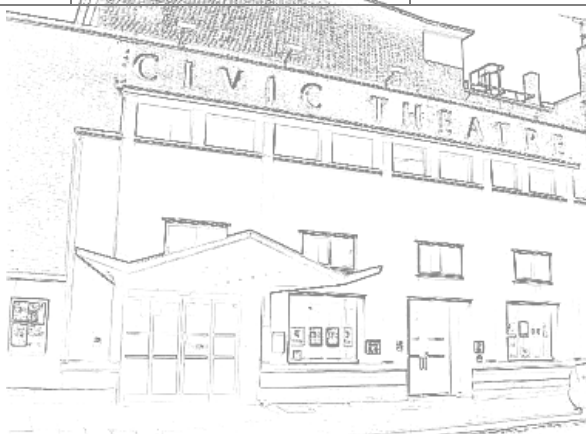
**Rides Start:** Sundays: Bus Station at the end of Fairfield Road  
(near the Civic Theatre) 9am for 9.15am

All day rides start **9.15am**

For Tuesday evening destinations

call Peter Moore ☎ 01245 263165 or Dave Russell ☎ 01245 381055

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
12 Jan	Coggeshall Vineyards	Copford Alma	M Cockersole
19 Jan	Hastingwood	Moreton	D Southin
26 Jan	Coggeshall Dutch Nurseries	Ford Street	M Cockersole
02 Feb	Blackmore Tearooms	Matching green	D Emery
09 Feb	Hastingwood	Edney Common	D Southin
16 Feb	Elsenham Golf	Rickling Green	M Cockersole
23 Feb	<b>[MG] SEG 75 miles</b> - from 8:30am at the Market Café in Woodlands Road, Wickford, contact John Steer (01702 529 638)		
<b>Alt:</b>	Greenstead Green	Mount Bures	A Leeds
02 Mar	Gt. Saling	Finchingfield	J&B Taylor
09 Mar	Dunmow Drs. Pond	Spellbrook	D Russell
16 Mar	Perrywood Nurseries	Layer de la Haye	A Leeds





## Haverling Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** Stephen Ingall

[ctchaverling@gmail.com](mailto:ctchaverling@gmail.com) or ☎ 07890 386984

[www.ctchaverling.btck.co.uk](http://www.ctchaverling.btck.co.uk) & [www.essexcycling.co.uk](http://www.essexcycling.co.uk)

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

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

Date	Destination	Leader
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Ramsden Heath, The Nags Head	David Rowlands 07948 583979
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Chignall St. James, The Three Elms	Stephen Ingall 07890 386 984
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	<b>Short Half Day Ride</b>	Gordon Peel 07711 609230
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Coopersale, The Theydon Oak	David Rowlands
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Chelmsford, Hylands Park Café	Stephen Ingall
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	<b>[MG] SEG 75 miles</b> - from 8:30am at the Market Café in Woodlands Road, Wickford, contact John Steer (01702 529 638)	
<b>Alt:</b>	Rettendon Garden Centre	Gordon Peel
	<b>*** 9am Start from March***</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	<b>Short Half Day Ride</b>	Stephen Ingall
9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Gilston, The Moor Hen	Stephen Ingall
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Purleigh, Roundhouse Café / Pub	Kelvin Dane 07922 111790
23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Sheering, The Cock Inn	David Rowlands

### Note:

First Sunday of the month:

Short Half day ride for those wanting a shorter or easier ride

The group out on a bright sunny winter's day



## South East Essex Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** John Steer

☎ 01702 529 638– e-mail [segssec@btinternet.com](mailto:segssec@btinternet.com)

**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	Elevenses	Destination for Lunch
<b>January 2014</b>		
19 <sup>th</sup>	Margaretting (Saddlery)	Bicknacre (Brewers Arms)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Maldon (Crystal Café)	Heybridge Basin (Old Ship)
<b>February 2014</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Blackmore (Blackmore Tearooms)	Mill Green (The Viper)
9 <sup>th</sup>	South Woodham Ferrers (Meadow Croft Garden Centre)	Mundon (Roundbush)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Woodham Walter (Bunsay Down Golf Club)	Woodham Walter (Queen Victoria)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>[MG] SEG 75 miles</b> - from 8:30am at the Market Café in Woodlands Road, Wickford, contact John Steer, (01702 529 638)	
<b>Alt:</b>	Mundon (Roundbush)	*see note
<b>March 2014</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Galleywood (Bee Shed Café at Lathcoats Farm)	West Hanningfield (The Ship)
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sandon (Sandon Garden Centre)	Cold Norton (The Norton)

**Note:** \* When **EMG** or **MG** events take place, the local ride will include a booked Elevenses venue, but not a specific pub for lunch, unless otherwise stated. This will enable members to make their own choice.

Check out [www.velocipede.org.uk](http://www.velocipede.org.uk) for GPX and TrackLogs TCX files of our rides.

## 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
Jan 19	Tiptree	Stisted	
Jan 26	Aldham Millrace	West Mersea The Victory	
Feb 2	Stanway Barnplants	Wickham St Pauls	Malcolm Mitchell
Feb 9	Tbc	Tattingstone, White Horse	Steve Hardy
Feb 16	Sudbury	Earls Colne	Paul & Caroline Avison
Feb 23	<b>[MG] SEG 75 miles</b> - from 8:30am at the Market Café in Woodlands Road, Wickford, contact John Steer (01702 529 638)		
<b>Alt:</b>	Boxted Fillpots	Nayland, The Anchor	Des McCarron
Mar 2	Coggeshall, Dutch Nursery	Fingringhoe, The Whalebone	Malcolm Mitchell
Mar 9	Aldham, Millrace	Wormingford the Crown	Pam Nelson Meet with Suffolk CTC
Mar 16	Tbc	Pebmarch, Kings Head	Steve Hardy
Mar 23	Coggeshall, Dutch Nursery	Purleigh, The Bell	Alan Palmer
Mar 30	Aldham, Millrace	Edwardstone, White Horse	Alan Palmer
Apr 6	Tbc	Castle Hedingham	Malcolm Mitchell Meet With Suffolk CTC
Apr 13	Tbc	Tbc	Des McCarron

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 8pm at “The New Inn”, Chappel St South (CO2 7AX).

Check our website  
 for further information:  
[www.colchesterctc.co.uk](http://www.colchesterctc.co.uk)



The New Inn, Colchester

Into Higham and the climb up to Sandpits Lane, and left onto the B1070 briefly, before turning off through Great Wenham. This was an uneventful, but fast section, as Steve and I upped the pace considerably to the next junction, with Mike and the other Steve chasing us down! This was as far east we would go, before heading briefly north along Saxon Lane and west toward Hadleigh through sleepy Chattisham.

We had the option of the Hadleigh Railway Walk (a section of Sustrans National Cycle Network), but we instead chose Clay Lane, which skirts Raydon Great Wood, arriving at “The George” at about half past one. Des, the two Steves and I lunched outside on food-from-home, while the others went inside for traditional Sunday roast. The front bar was deceptively quiet, as the restaurant at the rear was packed! As such, there was a little wait for the food, which was apparently very nice, although Pam was a little disappointed with the ale!

Over lunch, the weather changed from being dry and mild to drizzly and chilly. Hats and extra layers came out, particularly in Chris’ case, with Les commenting that he had seen Arctic explorers wear less! We did a little loop from the car park of “The George” back to the High Street to take Duke Street out of Hadleigh to Lower Layham and onto Lower Raydon, where Les, Gill, and Sarah headed their own way home. “The rest of us climbed up through Brett Vale golf course, to retrace a short section from the morning.

In Higham I questioned whether we should go directly home and the overwhelming response was yes! The most direct route being through Stratford, up Gun Hill and through Boxted. We split along Boxted straight, some turning off toward Severalls Lane, while the others (myself included) continued into town past Colchester United’s Community Stadium.

I hadn’t been out with Colchester CTC for sometime and it was encouraging to see the group is still growing in numbers — there were a few new faces to me. **Malcolm Mitchell**

## **Haverling Member Group**

**27<sup>th</sup> Oct - Rainham RSPB** - Four brave souls (Bernard, Chan, Dave & Gordon) ventured out in the wind today. No one wanted to be out for long, so just a short ride along The Ingrebourne Way to Rainham and a breezy ride along Old Father Thames to “RSPB Rainham” for some

warming soup. Bernard led us back to Upminster via Belhus Woods.

**10<sup>th</sup> Nov – Mill Green** - Four Imps joined four Havering riders (Dave, Stephen, Alex and Chan) on a glorious sunny autumn morning. A direct route to Writtle for 11ses at Tiptree's "Tea Rooms" followed by a loopy ride to Mill Green and lunch at "The Viper", half going inside and half toughing it out in the cold! On the return, we got split up, but we found each other at Hutton. A blast downhill from Warley to Upminster and home. **David Rowlands**

**8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Morton** - Kelvin led us a hilly way to Moreton via Navestock and Toot Hill. The winter menu at "The White Hart" was not to our liking, so we settled for soup. An exhausted Stephen joined us fresh from his camping adventures. Alex & Gordon took a direct route home, Stephen made his own way home, Chan & Dave joined Kelvin for a roller coaster ride to Abridge for a cuppa in the "Log Cabin" and a shortcut through Hainault Forest. **D Rowlands**

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec - Essex CTC Christmas Meet** - Four riders took advantage of Greater Anglia's Group Save Offer and train'ed it from Harold Wood to Billericay. Alex led us on a short ride on this grey, but mild day to "The Fox & Hounds". Inside we found John Wynstanly, who had made his own way there. Riders from the other Essex groups arrived and filled the place up. After we filled out faces, Chan was presented with his trophy for winning the Dave Doo Photographic Competition. We retraced our route back to Billericay for the train back reaching home just as it was getting dark.

## **South East Essex Member Group**

**27<sup>th</sup> October – Little Baddow** - Peter W brought along Dave H from Stoke Newington, whose claim to fame is that he rode the overnight 120 mile Dunwich Dynamo this year. Despite his origins being in Cambridgeshire he still managed to correctly recognise yours truly as being from Lancashire (aka Manchurian), unlike some people who think I'm Australian (G'day Pommies) or need Google translator when I speak. Peter W led a group of six and I led four out to the "Secret Garden Tearooms" in ... (sorry the location's a secret). Seven went onto the "Generals Arms" at Little Baddow via a particularly hilly route that had some members threatening mutiny or reaching for the oxygen cylinder. Luckily, for the leader the pub was within sight and order was quickly restored much to my relief.

**3<sup>rd</sup> November – Bicknacre** - We were joined at the start by David K, a new rider, who enjoyed himself despite the strong winds, but said he'd be buying winter gear for his next ride. I led a group out from Wickford, which went via Rawreth Shot, Battlesbridge, Rettendon, West Hanningfield and along Middlemead (the only sheltered part of the ride and with the wind behind us). Outside "The Windmill" pub, Ron S unfortunately punctured (he'd already suffered one at home on wheeling his bike out of the garage). Claude A volunteered (or was he coerced) to stay behind and assist, whilst the others proceeded to the "Alpha Garden Centre" in Wickford for elevenses. Peter W and his group were already here, although they had been caught up with 100s of other cyclists around Billericay, and Peter H and Alan S were also present. Eight went onto lunch and, as we were proceeding past "The Bell" pub at Rettendon, guess who punctured again? - Ron S. We all stopped to assist (how many does it take to fix a puncture?) and just when we thought it was fixed it went BANG! Alas, he had no more inner tubes and nobody else had the correct size either, except the runs leader, who had decided to ride out on his Dawes Cross instead of his usual Orbea and had also purchased the correct sized tube the day before. That was fortuitous! We finally arrived at the "Brewers Arms" about 1.30pm and met up with John & Sue S and Lynda C, who had arrived by car.

**10<sup>th</sup> November – North Fambridge** - Seventeen went via two routes to "Bunsay Down Golf Club" for elevenses and it was nice to see Karen & Paul H out again on their tandem. Seven went onto lunch at the "Ferryboat Inn" at North Fambridge and we were joined by John S who came by car (hopefully he'll be back on his bike in the New Year). So in the mean-time all the regulars can enjoy peace and quiet, as they bike about the Essex countryside (only joking, Mr. President).

**17<sup>th</sup> November – Danbury** - The "Sandon Garden Centre Café" near Butts Green was a welcome sight. Particularly the wood burning stove for the nine cyclists, who ventured out in the cold and rain. Although they only have seating for 20 inside they have a generous deck area outside for use in warmer weather. Luckily, we were only a small group this time due to the weather and initially had the place to ourselves. Five went onto the "Cricketers" at Danbury, which has a new management and a limited snacks menu now.

*Continued on page 25*

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Chelmsford City Member Group

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

Chelmsford City MG blog

[chelmsfordcityctc.wordpress.com](http://chelmsfordcityctc.wordpress.com)

Colchester informal Member Group

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

Havering Member Group

[www.ctchavering.btck.co.uk](http://www.ctchavering.btck.co.uk)

South East Member Group

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**1<sup>st</sup> December – Woodham Mortimer** - Two groups set off from Wickford led by Peter W and followed a short distance behind by Ian M. Unfortunately, as my group approached Alderney Gardens at the bottom of Brock Hill, Ron S lost control of his bike and crashed heavily to the ground (luckily no other vehicles or cyclists were involved). Ron was in considerable pain and, from the angle of his foot, it was obvious that something was broken. But he remained conscious and, like all cyclists, was more concerned about his bike, Garmin and what his wife would say. An ambulance was called, which took some time to arrive, but eventually he was stabilised and transferred to a larger one for transport to hospital. John S collected his bike and took it home for him. We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him in the New Year.

The first group went onto Maldon, as planned, and met Lynda C, who had ridden directly from home. But they had to endure a long wait for food in the café at Morrisons supermarket. My group decided to take elevenses at “BHN Garden Centre” just up the road at Rettendon and eventually eight went onto lunch at the “Hurdlemaker’s Arms” at Woodham Mortimer.



**8<sup>th</sup> December – Writtle** - Nine squeezed into the “Transport Café” at Norton Heath and we briefly met Andy & Margaret Q, who had had a successful tour crossing the Southern USA in September and endured temperatures over 100 degrees in stark contrast to the 7 degrees today. Six went onto the “Rose & Crown” at Writtle, which was very good value and even had some Rocking Rudolph ale to get us in the festive spirit. Colin B decided he should have two rounds of sandwiches, as he thought the cheap price would mean dainty portions, but he struggled to eat the doorstops that arrived on his plate. Mel M had burger and chips and even he struggled. But Jon C can always be relied upon to Hoover up any remains, especially chips! On the way home, we stopped to investigate the “Bee Shed Café” at Lathcoats Farm in Widford and hope to visit in the New Year, as it looks promising. **Manchurian**

## **Black Beast - Homeless**

*By Barry Brazier*

### ***A plea for help from a Bicycle Shaped Object***



Readers will recall from an earlier edition of the 2013 August publication how I (a BSO) was saved from a skip by a kind hearted Good Faery (GF) and her bicycle mad house partner (GFHP).

Well, it turns out that GFHP is a fickle, cold hearted, unfaithful and callous adulterer.

While he was taking me out for adventures on the lovely muddy, bumpy bridleways and tracks, he was secretly seeing another bicycle! Just when I thought he was lavishing care and attention on me, he was dreaming of a new love.

And now ... she has moved in ... and taken over MY place in the bicycle palace. I can understand it to a certain extent, after all, she is younger than me, slimmer and lighter and wears more colourful (gaudy) make-up. But you would have thought that loyalty counted for something. I have stood by him through rain and snow, wet slimy mud and hot dusty winds. But now he has told me to leave.

I am homeless.

He has told me that, if I do not find a new home soon, he will take me to the “re-cycling” place. I don’t know what that is, but it sounds ominous.

Please – can you help? I don’t ask much. Just a dry room, a corner in a garden shed would be nice, occasional attention with an oil can and an opportunity for a wash after an outing. In return, I promise to accompany you on adventures that a “proper” bicycle with skinny wheels and curly handlebars would flinch at.

Please, if you can help, call Barry on 01702 556731 and offer to take me to your home. He has said that I am FREE to leave, but perhaps a small donation to charity might not go amiss.

Please help – I am seriously worried about this “re-cycling” thing; it should not be allowed to happen to any bicycle, not even a BSO like me.  
Please .....  
Thank you

## *Black Beast*

### ***Kisby Rides Again - continued***

*By Gordon (Kip) Kisby*

It transpired that a car had started overtaking us and then had decided to turn into a filling station, forgetting we were there. (Didn't Sir Bradley have a similar experience? And he got a Knighthood!) I was removed from the tarmac by Geoff and some kind passers-by.

As the ambulance left, Geoff was offering the young lady concerned some advice about careful driving when the 'Plod' (Carabiniere) arrived. 'Had we cycling insurance?' 'No.' 'Tough luck, mate.' 'We won't prosecute you, if you don't take the matter further.'

I was stitched up for the second time that day, at the hospital this time. In fact I was given a thorough MOT, tetanus jab, put on a drip and had a blood test, a lengthy eye exam and kept in overnight, as I had hit my head. My glasses were smashed and I suppose I was lucky not to have damaged my eyes. I could not have been treated better, and all for free.

Next day I emerged from the ward feeling a bit woozy, but able to consume Sunday lunch at the Hotel Roma. (All you can manage to eat and drink for €15.) The nice people at Decathlon gave me a new front wheel for next to nothing and the signoras in the village made a little fuss of me!

### *Post Script*

It's a year later and I'm back on the bike. It's only laziness that has stopped me doing it earlier. I've been up at 6.30 most mornings and have been out on my own for an hour or so, gradually increasing the mileage each time. I've even conquered the climb from Valmir to Petritoli, albeit in probably the World's slowest time! Today I again climbed the 5 km from Rubianello to the 'top road', this time without stopping! At the bar it was whispered that I'd been seen (out)! I've even rejoined the CTC!

## **Direct Payment for Subscription**

*by Stefan Eichenseher (Editor/Treasurer)*

Since the beginning of *Spotlight*, payment for the magazine has taken place by cheque or cash. However, as the Essex Member Group has got a bank account with online access, it would make sense to offer this option to the readers as well. Therefore, in my function as the treasurer, I would like to offer payment through the bank to ease some of the monetary organisation, for those, who like bank transfers, instead of paying annually by cheque. Certainly, it is only one cheque per year. But rather than receiving a reminder letter, you can set up a standing order, and need not to worry about your annual subscription.

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I would be grateful, if you did let Jon (the distribution officer) know, whether you made payment by bank, or whether you have set up a standing order... If Jon receives a cheque, he knows that you prefer the traditional ways. 🚲





## Honours List 2013



### Inter-Member Group Trophy

Havering	147 points
Colchester	216 points
South East	484 points
Chelmsford City	547 points

### George Welch Trophy

(highest placed Essex rider in **CTC Touring Competition**, see CTC website)

- **results not yet compiled**  
[plus replica to keep]

### Measor Trophy

(best Spotlight Member Group report; for quality and quantity of reports)

- Melvyn Martin  
"Brentwood to Ramsden Heath"  
(March/April 2013 issue)

### Spotlight Trophy

(best article)

- Barry Brazier  
"The Black Beast"  
(Jan/Feb 2013 issue)

### Premier Award

- Adrian Leeds  
(Chelmsford City MG)
- Melvyn Martin  
(Southeast Essex MG)
- John Rootkin  
(Essex CTC)

### Standard Award

- Derek Burrill  
(Chelmsford City MG)
- Jon Collins  
(Southeast Essex MG)
- Dave Russell  
(Chelmsford City MG)
- Dave Southin  
(Chelmsford City MG)
- Peter Tibbitts  
(Chelmsford City MG)

### Dave Doo Photographic Competition

- 1st Prize: Chan Kwan-  
*London Triathlon*
- 2nd Prize: Barry Brazier  
*What's the rush?*
- 3rd Prize: Peter Walker  
*Downhill Speed Record to Skipton*

The person to select the best Spotlight article and the best Member Group report is chosen by the editor and was for the previous year: Ken Rickwood.

The person to select the best contributions in the year 2013/2014 will be Ken Rickwood.

## Thinking of...

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

Ron Snape, of the South East MG, who in unfortunate circumstances fell off the bike and broke his left femur. The “rapid response team” of fellow cyclists in the group saw him quickly off to hospital, where he spent two weeks at the beginning of December.

We wish Ron all the best for a swift recovery and hope to see him out on his bike again soon. 🚲

## Useful Website Links

Essex CTC Member Group	<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' 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">http://yacf.co.uk</a>

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Herongate Cycles (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.herongatecycles.com">www.herongatecycles.com</a>
Hopleys Garden Long Barn (Café)	<a href="http://www.hopleys.co.uk">www.hopleys.co.uk</a>
Kings Road Cycles (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.shedbornbikes.com">www.shedbornbikes.com</a>
Megarry's Antiques and Teashop (Café)	<a href="http://www.megarrysteashop.co.uk">www.megarrysteashop.co.uk</a>
Richardson Cycles (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.richardsonscycles.co.uk">www.richardsonscycles.co.uk</a>
The Cycle & Toy Centre (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.thecyclecompany.co.uk">www.thecyclecompany.co.uk</a>
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