

**May / June 2015**



Third Prize at the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2014  
**Tim Dodd, Havering MG**  
"Last bike standing"

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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 3/2015se37

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## Impressum:

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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 ...

<b><u>Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>(preferred) Contact</u></b>
President	John Steer	president@essexcycling.co.uk
Secretary	Lynda Collins	secretary@essexcycling.co.uk
Chairman	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867
Vice Chairman	Adrian Leeds	vicechairperson@essexcycling.co.uk
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Promotions officer	Brian Penny	☎ 01268 777941
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Webmaster	Malcolm Mitchell	webofficer@essexcycling.co.uk
CTC Councillor	Martin Cockersole	martin.cockersole@ctc.org.uk

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

Chelmsford	Adrian Leeds	☎ 01245 260272	Secretary
	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867	Delegate
Colchester	Alan Palmer	☎ 01206 792929	Secretary
	Pam Nelson	☎ 07812 209862	Delegate
Havering	<i>Position Vacant</i>	☎	Secretary
	Dave Rowlands	☎ 07948 583979	Delegate
South East Essex	John Steer	☎ 01702 529638	Secretary
	Lynda Collins	☎ 01245 320733	Delegate

### **Other Committee members**

EDARF	John Davis	edarf@essexcycling.co.uk
	Melvin Martin	☎ 01268 572081

### **Certificate of Merit Committee**

Brian Penny, John Steer, Martin Cockersole

### **Essex CTC MG Trustees**

Stefan Eichenseher, John Steer, Brian Penny

Closing date for the July / August 2015 edition is on **15 June 2015**.

## **Editor's Foreword**

Hear and be impressed: I've been out on a bike. Riding down Thorpe Hall Avenue - a dual carriageway in a residential area: calm but cars parked on the left in irregular distances – I checked my mirror, as I would do when driving myself, to swerve past a parked car ... Blast! No mirror. I actually have to move my head. More exercise...

EDARF has (had) their Spring Meet on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Since this is too late for readers of this issue, there is a very early announcement of their Autumn Meet on page 11.

In the last issue I published the new runs secretary of the CCMG, this time there are changes in the Havering MG committee to be announced. The group has got a new Promotions Officer, Alan Pine, who has taken on the interim role of providing runs lists and reports. More details in their runs list on page 16.

### **The South East Group is 40 this year! – Happy Birthday!!**

Heralding the celebrations is the president on the next page, so I will leave this with their invite on page 13. On the same page there is also an appeal for all to reminisce on their experiences and nostalgia, so that this historic knowledge of the origins of the SEGs can be recorded for future generations.

If you have a few hours spare time on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, you could support another good event by marshalling in the outposts of Essex on the Windmill Rides. Take your bike with you and go to a different pub before or after your stint of counting cyclists.

Otherwise, those who are fit go forth and cycle. I hope that *you* are all out and about and have fun cycling!

Your editor,  
**Stefan Eichenseher**



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

At last winter is behind us and summer is something that we all look forward to: long days in the saddle, long distances written in our records, new places to visit and of course, taking part in the Essex Groups' events, as they take place through the summer months.

There is a new system in place this year for you to record the events that you take part in. This is a card that you take to each event and you have it filled in by the organiser, when you have completed the event. You save this card until the end of the events season.

You then pass the card to your group secretary, who will pass them onto the secretary of the Essex CTC Parent Member Group (Lynda Collins)

The South-East group are organising a get together to celebrate their South East Essex Member Group's 40 years as a group. This hopefully will include past and present members. If you wish to bring along any family, friends, old or new members to the venue at the "Fox & Hounds", Cocks Clarks, on the 14<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate with them, please do come along and support them.

Brian Penny is still taking orders for Essex group jackets and short sleeved shirts, his number is in the Spotlight under officers of the EMG for more details.

Stay safe and enjoy your cycling, wherever you ride and may the puncture fairy be kind to you. Don't forget to talk to cyclists that you see along the way and give them an Essex CTC business card. They might be interested in joining your local cycling group that they didn't know existed.

***John Steer***

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## **Member Groups' Reports**

### **Chelmsford Member Group**

**22 March 2015** - We had 9 starters despite the very chilly conditions. I took the slightly longer Waltham route only to learn that Belsteads Farm Lane is now once again open to traffic. After Stisted, it was through the lanes to Bocking and across to the busy A131 to the "Roundwood Garden Centre Café". I think it's worth a mention that we received an enthusiastic welcome there and the tea-and-cake deal was amazingly cheap - £2.20.

John and Margaret had already arrived, so 11 had elevenses and out of those, 7 went to lunch. Going to Finchingfield I avoided the traffic by keeping to the small lanes via the aptly named Rotten End (if you are talking about the condition of the road surface), and Walthams Cross, arriving at the "Red Lion" in good time for a hearty lunch of



baguettes so generously built that some shared one between two and those who didn't were usually unable to polish them off. After lunch we paused briefly to admire Mr. Davis' new recumbent – a very classy machine. Having fought off a headwind on the way out I was dismayed to find that it had turned around and was still against us on the return. Threeses was a matter of individual choice: some went to Andrewsfield and some straight home. But three of us rode the 16-mile leg to High Easter for teas and thence home, stopping a few times along the way to pump up Mel's slow puncture. An enjoyable run of dead on 60 miles for me – plenty enough in the cold breeze. **Adrian Leeds**

**29 March 2015 – Heybridge (and Roundbush supposedly!) -** The clocks went forward in the night, it was a wet morning, the forecast was dire and I had a cold. Who in their right mind would even think about getting up an hour earlier and going out today? However, when you are down to lead you have to make the effort. So I toggged up with all my wet weather gear and ventured to the town hall expecting no-one to be there. I hadn't counted on Dave R though, so the two of us set off for Heybridge in the steady rain. We took the cycle track to Chelmer Village and made for Little Baddow via Hammonds Lane, then Ulting and Doe's Corner. Close to the former Wickham Bishops station Dave suggested I

might like to see the old timber railway viaduct. So we parked our bikes and walked to the site of this very interesting and preserved listed structure.

For safety's sake I had taken with me from my cycle bag a small plastic bag containing my wallet. In order to take a few photos I temporarily placed this



Last  
wooden  
viaduct in  
the UK

bag on a bridge beam, the significance of which will become apparent. Having got into sightseeing mode we then went off-piste again to visit the disused ancient church, just off Langford Road. Dave's local knowledge makes rides like this interesting and rewarding. I had not been aware of either of these historic buildings let alone having seen them.

The same applied to Langford Park, which provides an excellent off-road alternative to the B1019 to reach Heybridge. We continued the off-road theme taking the canal towpath to reach the scheduled elevenses stop at Heybridge Basin. We were ready for our elevenses after 22 miles in the rain, but as I went to get my wallet from my bag I realised it was still on the railway viaduct (assuming nobody else had found it in the meantime). I felt I had to turn back to retrieve it asap. Dave was very understanding and rode straight back with me in the wind and rain. It was a great relief to find it still there and the bag was not full of water either. From there we decided to have lunch at "Oliver's Nursery" in Witham and then headed back via Terling and Channels to Chelmsford. The rain had stopped but the wind was very strong and gusty – mostly in our faces. My cold and this wind were taking their toll on me and I was exhausted when I got home even after a relatively modest 41 miles. **Martin Cockersole**

**5th April 2015** - Easter Sunday showed us what was hopefully the beginnings of spring, with clusters of primroses and daffs lining the kerbsides of the lanes. Seven riders shunned the domestic Easter-Egg hunt in favour of a bracing ride to Thaxted taking the very pretty route through Butchers Pasture. We got there for eleven, but the only café open was "busy with bookings" (which had yet to arrive) - and a little stressed if you ask me. The Commandant didn't care too much for cyclists, suggesting that we remove our shoes to visit the toilet, even though there was no logical reason for doing so and ushered us off a table that was booked for lunch at least an hour later. I was therefore quite amused when, just as we were leaving, the combined ranks of 2

large groups of about 15 riders apiece from Cambridge and Hertford respectively converged on the place, stomping about in their cleated shoes and causing absolute mayhem behind the counter.

I must confess that I was thinking about aborting the run to lunch, fearing the “bookings only” syndrome common to Essex pubs at Easter/Christmas/fathers/mother’s day etc. In fact I couldn’t have been more wrong. “The Cock” at Henham welcomed us, fitted us in and even supplied sandwiches, which were of both excellent quality and price. Ex-Chelmsford Secretary Felix Ormerod joined us, riding an ancient and rare “lightweight” fixie and stayed with the group for the longish run back to High Easter for tea. Well, Easter at Easter, - it had to be done! **Adrian Leeds**

## **EDARF**

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### ***Autumn Meet***

**SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

*at*

***Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club***

***Essex RM14 3TY***

***12:00 noon for 12:30 pm***

#### **Contact**

**Peter Smith**

**01992 573591**

**smithepping@hotmail.com**

Close ties with the senior sections of the Essex CTC leads to the recollection of many a forgotten name. Although, unfortunately, quite often this takes place, when it is too late: Such occasions can then be recognised in the obituaries (see page 28).



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## Colchester Member Group

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

## Havering Member Group

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

## 40 years of SEG - a film

*By Martin Pipe*

As part of my contributions to the fortieth birthday of the South East Essex member group, I'll be making a film that explores its history.

Brian Penny has kindly offered to interview members with stories to share - might one of them be you?

I also hope to include archive photos and film/video. So if you have anything relevant to include, then please get in touch. I will transfer, free of charge, unedited versions of any video or cine-film used onto DVD.

Please contact me via email [m.pipe@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:m.pipe@blueyonder.co.uk) or mobile phone 07802 200660. 

---

### SEGs 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BBQ

14<sup>th</sup> June 2015

*at the "Fox & Hounds",  
Cock Clarks,*

*(Lunch destination)*

Contact John Steer on 01702 529638 or  
[segsec@btinternet.com](mailto:segsec@btinternet.com)

**Riders of all Member Groups are welcome!**

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## Forthcoming Events

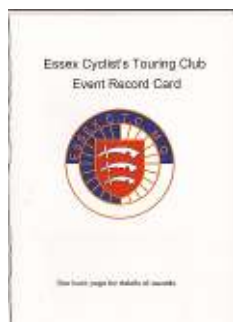


Organisers: please advise me of anything you wish to be included

Date	Event	Organiser
14 June	<b>[MG] SEGs 40th Anniversary</b> BBQ, at the Fox & Hounds, Cock Clarks, see above for more info	John Steer
28 June	<b>[EMG] Windmill Rides</b> , start from Galleywood Heritage Centre, 8.30am for 210km; 10am for 120km, see p. 24 for more info	Stefan Eichenseher, Brian Penny
12 July	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndike Memorial 100m/100km</b> , start from Wickford Café Restaurant, SS11 7AD, OS Sheet 178, TQ747936, open from 7:30	Stefan Eichenseher
26 July	<b>[EMG] Summer Gathering</b> , Woodham Mortimer, "Hurdlemaker's Arms", from 12:30	Brian Penny
9 Aug	<b>[EMG] Colchester 40/40</b> , start from Copford, "The Alma" PH, at 9:30	Brian Penny

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

## Don't forget your Events Card!



Members of the Essex CTC need to evidence the events completed throughout the year in order to claim their Standard or Premier Award.

The **Events Cards** are provided by the events organisers, who will after the event confirm on your events card the successful completion of the necessary criteria (e.g. in time, all questions correctly answered, etc.). You should take good care of your EC and bring it to all events to get it authorised.

Your completed **Events Card** needs to be submitted to the Essex CTC MG Secretary, Lynda Collins, **by the 18th October 2015** to claim your Standard or Premier Award.

BTW, individual certificates for a completed event are available on the day.

# Chelmsford Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** Adrian Leeds

4 Oaklands Crescent, Chelmsford CM2 9PR, ☎ 01245 260272

**Runs Secretary:** John Beaumont:

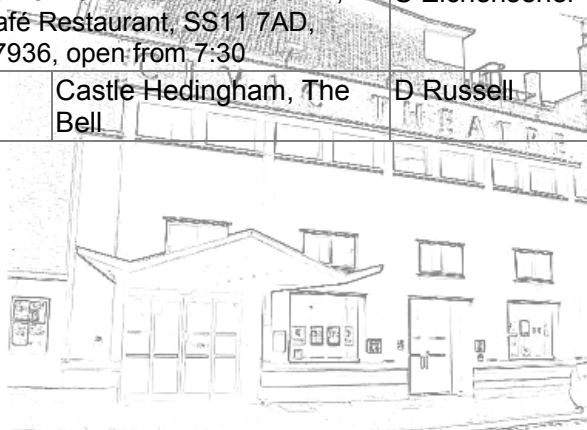
5 Riddiford Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2GB, ☎ 01245 630864

**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 Dave Russell ☎ 01245 381055

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
17-May	Maldon, Saffron Tea Rooms	N Fambridge, Ferryboat Inn	M Cockersole
24 May	Aldham Mill Race	Nayland, The Anchor	D Russell
31 May	Sawbridgeworth Shed	Hadham Ford, Nags Head	D Emery
07 Jun	Greenstead Green	Long Melford George & Dragon	A Leeds
14 Jun	Purleigh Roundbush	Burnham On Crouch Queens Head	J Beaumont
21 Jun	Hatfield Heath P.O.	Widdington Fleur De Lys	M Cockersole
28 Jun	<b>[EMG] Windmill Rides</b> , start from Galleywood Heritage Centre, 8.30am for 210km; 10am for 120km, see p. 24 for more info		
<b>ALT:</b>	Perrywoods Woodland Tea-rooms	Layer DLH Donkey & Buskins	M. Martin
05 Jul	Marks Tey Diner	Rowhedge, The Anchor	A Leeds
12 Jul	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndike Memorial 100m/100km</b> , start from Wickford Café Restaurant, SS11 7AD, OS Sheet 178, TQ747936, open from 7:30		
19 Jul	Bardfield Blue Egg	Castle Hedingham, The Bell	D Russell



## Havering Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** *Position Vacant*

**Promotions Officer:** Alan Pine

apine@sky.com or ☎ 07716 096303

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

**Rides Start:** Roomes (Home & Fashion) Store, Station Road, Upminster  
Dec – Feb rides meet Sunday 9:45 for 10:00 start. March – see below

Date	Destination	Leader
May 17	Little Baddow, Paper Mill Lock	David Rowlands 07948 583979
May 24	Hatfield Broadoak	David Rowlands
May 31	Chelmsford, Highlands Park	Alex Kornfeld
Jun 07	<b>Short Half Day Ride</b>	Alan Pine 07716 096303
Jun 14	North Fambridge, meeting South Herts CTC	--
Jun 21	(undecided)	Kelvin Dane
Jun 28	<b>[EMG] Windmill Rides</b> , start from Galleywood Heritage Centre, 8.30am for 210km; 10am for 120km, see p. 24 for more info	
<b>Alt</b>	(short ride) undecided	Alan Pine
Jul 05	<b>Short Half Day Ride</b>	Alex Kornfeld
Jul 12	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndike Memorial 100m/100km</b> , start from Wickford Café Restaurant, SS11 7AD, OS Sheet 178, TQ747936, open from 7:30	
<b>Alt</b>	Great Sailing, Felstead	Dave Rowlands
Jul 19	Pleshey, Leather Bottle	Dave 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 Wickford Café Restaurant,  
3-5 The Broadway, Wickford SS11 7AD

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	Lunch Destination
<b>May 2015</b>		
17th	<b>[MG] London Ride</b>	Contact: John Steer
<b>ALT:</b>	Great Baddow (Bringy Pine)	*see note
24th	Ingatestone (Garden Centre)	Stondon Massey (Bricklayers Arms)
31st	Maldon (Crystal Café)	Great Leighs (St Ann's Castle)
<b>June 2015</b>		
7th	9am: High Easter (Snug Café) 9.30am: Chelmsford (Secret Garden Tearooms)	Littley Green (Compasses)
<b>14th</b>	Butts Green (Garden Centre)	Cock Clarks (Fox & Hounds) <b>[MG] SEG 40th Anniversary BBQ</b>
21st	[MG] Hythe – Dungeness	Contact: John Steer
<b>ALT:</b>	Margaretting (Saddlery)	*see note
28th	<b>[EMG] Windmill Rides</b> , start from Galleywood Heritage Centre, 8.30am for 210km; 10am for 120km, see p. 24 for more info	
<b>ALT:</b>	Woodham Walter (Bunsay Down Golf Club)	Ramsden Heath (Nags Head)
<b>July 2015</b>		
5th	Chelmsford (Secret Garden Tearooms)	Andrewsfield (Stebbing)
12th	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndike Memorial 100m/100km</b> , start from Wickford Café Restaurant, SS11 7AD, OS Sheet 178, TQ747936, open from 7:30, contact Stefan Eichenseher	
<b>ALT:</b>	Blackmore (Blackmore Tearooms)	Stondon Massey (Bricklayers Arms)

**Note:** \* 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.

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
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Tiptree Perrywoods, Garden Centre	Pebmarsh, Red Lion	Derek Snowling
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Earls Colne, Black Horse Cafe	Bures, Eight Bells	Paul & Caroline Avison
31 <sup>st</sup> May	TBA	GT Yeldham, Waggon & Horses	TBA
7 <sup>th</sup> June	TBA	TBA	Des McCarron
14 <sup>th</sup> June	TBA	Pin Mill, Butt & Oyster	David Harrison & John Forrest
21 <sup>st</sup> June	TBA	Finchingfield, Red Lion	Des McCarron
28 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>[EMG] Windmill Rides</b> , start from Galleywood Heritage Centre, 8.30am for 210km; 10am for 120km, see p. 24 for more info		
<b>ALT:</b>	TBA	North Fambridge, Ferryboat Inn	TBA
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Assington the Barn	Castle Hedingham, The Bell Inn	Paul & Caroline Avison
12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>[EMG] Peggy Thorndike Memorial 100m/100km</b> , start from Wickford Café Restaurant, SS11 7AD, OS Sheet 178, TQ747936, open from 7:30		Stefan Eichenseher 07503 163469
<b>ALT:</b>	TBA	TBA	Macolm Mitchell
19 <sup>th</sup> July	TBA	BBQ David's House	David Harrison & John Forrest

### Note:

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

## Cover picture:



Third Prize at the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2014

**Tim Dodd, Havering MG**

"Last bike standing"

The verdict of the judge was:

"This picture is commended for its atmosphere and because the photographer saw a good picture in a mundane commonplace scene that most people would have missed. The difficulties of night time photography had been brilliantly handled."

---



## Peggy Thorndyke 100/100 Memorial Ride



(CTC Tourist Competition Event)

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

Start from Wick Café Restaurant,  
Wickford, SS11 7AD,  
OS Map 178, TQ747936

Café open from 7:30

Contact: Stefan Eichenseher, 07503 163469,  
[s.eichenseher@googlemail.com](mailto:s.eichenseher@googlemail.com)

You find the entry form on our website  
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**ANNUAL TRAINING CAMPS**

February, March, April and September  
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## South East Essex Member Group

**1<sup>st</sup> March – Paglesham** - As this was a local ride for me I decided to have an extended lie-in and went to meet John S at Aviation Way at 10am and then we made our way to the “Riverside Garden Centre”. Upon arrival we found the coffee shop bursting at the seams including 13 SEG’s and we ended up sitting in a gazebo where we had our coffee and teacakes. Alan S had come by car and he ended up sitting in an arbour too.

Ten went onto lunch at the “Punch Bowl” in Paglesham, Churchend, and as the wind was particularly strong it was a real battle heading home afterwards.

**8<sup>th</sup> March - Cock Clarks** - Sixteen left Wickford in two groups led by Peter W, who went in a big loop via Radar Hill and Ian M who went via Middlemead and Rettendon to elevenses at “Meadowcroft Garden Centre” near South Woodham Ferrers.

Eleven rode out to the “Fox & Hounds” (Cock Clarks) via East Hanningfield, Gay Bowers, Runsell Green and Woodham Mortimer. Frequent stops had to be made en-route to remove layers in the increasingly warm conditions and we all sat outside in the sunshine eating our grub (Northern for lunch).

Seven went onto lunch at “The Swan” and we arrived at 12.45pm with Martin P and Brian P arriving at 1.10pm with Sue from Latchingdon. Surprisingly, all seven of us stopped at “Meadowcroft Garden Centre” for afternoon tea. I can recommend the cream tea @ £3.99 for warm scone with Tiptree jam and clotted cream and choice of pot of tea or large filter coffee. Yummy! And it saw me home to Shoeburyness and a whopping 71.3 miles. **Manchurian**

**15<sup>th</sup> March - Blackmore/Ramsden Heath** - Two groups set off this morning each with six riders. I had managed to persuade Lynda to lead the slower group and Lynda had persuaded Jim C to lead the other. The slower group’s route had been discussed between Lynda and myself. Our group arrived a few minutes behind Jim’s group having taken a different route. As it was Mothering Sunday, the café wanted us out quickly, which meant that their service was quick. Six went on to lunch at the “Nag’s Head” having ridden the country lanes to Hutton, then along the A129 to Billericay before turning off for Ramsden Heath. There was rain in the air as we arrived at the pub followed by a big shower outside while we ate our lunch.

We left the pub and all went our separate ways without any more to dampen our day. **J Steer**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March – Little Totham** - This was to be a repeat of our ride on 25<sup>th</sup> January and fifteen left Wickford for Maldon and the “Barge Tearooms”. Alas, this will be our last visit here until October as the barge is used for charters from April. When my group arrived, which was after Peter W’s,



I mistakenly thought the entrance was on another barge and also got entangled on the gangplank with a load of twitchers (bird enthusiasts). I was never a good sailor! There she blows! Land ahoy! Shiver me timbers! Pieces of Eight! **Manchurian**

**29<sup>th</sup> March - Margaretting/West Hanningfield** - Eight set off in the rain from the café only for Derrick to go his own way to 11ses. On our arrival at “The Saddlery” we had to wait about twenty minutes for a table - it's a very busy café on Sunday mornings. While we waited Derrick went off rather than wait any longer. On leaving the café Ian M (aka Dormouse) left for his trip going straight to Dunmow for the night while four of us headed home and two went on to the pub (still raining). About a mile from the café we met Brian P on his way to the café. After that he would be going to the pub to meet the other two (Brian had been riding in Wickford with Lia before coming out on the normal ride.). I arrived home about 13:45 to be greeted by my wife Sue with the words: “A bacon & mushroom butty?”, as she peeped around the kitchen door (still raining).

**5<sup>th</sup> April - Butts Green Garden Centre/Cocks Clarks** - Two groups of six set off this morning. The venue had been changed as the BHN Garden Centre was shut for the day being a bank holiday Sunday. I led my group by a devious route out to Ramsden Heath and then onto the outskirts of Stock before turning for West Hanningfield; then onto Pan Lane and with a left turn into Back Lane and onto “Butts Green Garden Centre” hoping that they were true to their word that they would be open on a bank holiday Sunday. Paul, Karen & Mary left us at the gates and headed for home without stopping, Peter's group was sitting outside in the sun while Lynda, Claude & I sat inside in the warm out of the cool breeze. After 11ses we set off for Danbury & Eves Corner and down Hopping Jacks Lane to Runsell Green followed by a left turn for Woodham Walter

before turning for Woodham Mortimer & then onto Cock Clarks to the "Fox & Hounds".

**6<sup>th</sup> April - Bicknacre to Writtle** - Our runs secretary Dormouse was away today, which meant instead of me being tail/end Charlie, I was promoted to runs leader. Phil N led one group, while I led the second. We both followed the same route as far as East Hanningfield, where I made an additional detour to extend the route allowing the first group time to order their food. We had a new rider in our group, who prefers to go at twice the speed, but unfortunately our faster group was nonexistent on the day. But he said that he would be back. Our route to Writtle was redirected by one rider, who said that he had a good route ... We ended up on the A414. Not my chosen route of going through Sandon before turning off for Springfield. Six of us made it to the "Rose & Crown". First time I've ever been there. It's full of old world charm some might say. Lynda joined us for lunch bringing our number to seven. "But she was without a bike", I hear you say. "Does she count as being out?" On our way home we met Peter H at the Nature reserve at Hanningfield reservoir. He was just leaving, as we arrived. We all gave him a greeting and he set off on his way home. After some nourishment we set off for home. I had only 54 miles on the clock when I arrived home. **J. Steer**

**12<sup>th</sup> April - Secret Garden/Mill Green** - Once again two groups set off for 11ses, Peter W leading the quicker group, while I led the slower group. At the top of Middlemead I stopped to chat with two young ladies and asked, if they would like to join our Sunday rides, as they said how they are in training to ride the London to Southend.

Who knows we might see them again (!). I was also waiting for Peter H, who had stopped to admire some hedges in a car-park, where he found a toilet (remember for future convenience). Peter and I then rushed off to catch the rest of the group, who had waited about half a mile away. Claude A left us at the end of Dead Man's Lane, as he had some business to deal with that afternoon. The rest of the ride to 11ses went without any further delays. At the garden centre the young lady behind the till told us we might have to wait about half an hour for our food. The ride out to lunch was a struggle for some, as the wind had got up and was head on at times. Peter H said that he thought I was going in the wrong direction a few times, but we arrived at "The Viper" at about 13:15 to be served straight away at the bar. Drinks came across the bar and by the time I was seated Ron S was on his second pint.

Frank G met us at the pub. He was early this week; unlike last week when he arrived with Sue of the 40+ just as we were leaving. **J Steer**

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- 120km - Audax -**  
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OS Sheet 167, TL702024

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Essex SS1 2LQ  
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s.eichenseher@googlemail.com





## ***The Georgian Military Highway and around***

*By Steve Gregson*

The map showed a way over the Lesser Caucasus mountains to Manglisi in the next valley, but as we pushed our bicycles in constant rain up the steep and stony track, there had been no signs of civilisation for 5 hours when suddenly we came across the Kvatakshevi Monastery. But there was 'no way onwards' and 'no room at the inn' so it was back down into the valley for a sleep and re-think.

Georgia, in the Caucasus was a natural destination after previous tours in Armenia and Azerbaijan. There were three distinct parts to this tour:

**Part 1:** Cycling east from Tbilisi Airport, Iveria was flat and scorchingly sunny through Sagarejo with the attractive renovated Signaghi walled town and then on to the wine centre Telovi. Traffic all the time becoming lighter, thank goodness. There, our landlady said that the roads westwards were unmade and impassable for bicycles, but we found them perfect for us who travel at 12kph. Maybe car drivers, who want to drive at 80kph or faster find them frustrating. The hilly countryside was beautiful and the snow covered 5000mt Caucasus mountains often visible to the north. In Tianeti, the homestay owner, a lecturer, looked after us really well with home grown food, wine and we danced.

**Part 2:** At Zhinvaly, we turned north on the Georgian Military Highway, the road to the high mountains and Russia. The rain started and as we climbed it turned colder, so that at Pasanauri, we were ready for a nice warm bed, but the only hotel there was shut. A helpful young lady appeared and soon we were following two young men to their small guesthouse 3km out of town. There, a party was in full swing. What a spread and wine flowing! A 3 piece band soon got everyone dancing. After showering, changing and getting the stove going with 2 pieces of wood which smoked the room out (our panniers smelt for 2 days) we joined in. The stove stayed warm all night and dried our clothes. Continuing to pass many parked lorries the Highway headed upwards to Gudauri in cold rain and almost at the ski resort, we took shelter in a honey maker's wooden caravan with 2 Berlin long distance cycle campers. They explained about the huge landslide that blocked the valley and would need 60 earth movers 3 weeks to clear, hence the waiting lorries.

A rest day in Gudauri was out of the question with mist and heavy rain. But suddenly the hotel receptionist asked, if we wanted a lift back towards

Tbilisi 'in 10 minutes'. A quick pack, (they had already put our 2 bikes on the minibus) and we were off to stay the night in lovely historic Mtskheta. Still, a bit of a rest day (only 5 miles); weather down in the valley warm enough.

**Part 3:** The Lesser Caucasus. Our map showed 2 routes (with road numbers!) over the mountains to Manglisi, but our first attempt had been unsuccessful, and a second night in Mtskheta was needed to check the route with the Tourist Office and the police, also to buy a pair of plimsoles to cycle / walk in to replace my cycling shoes that had lost their soles. Again, in rain and mud the consistency of clay, it was mostly pushing through steep woodland, past historical statues (Battle of Didgori) and with numerous false summits in more open country. Clouds were below us by then. At one time it looked like a lone church was to be our sleepover but suddenly the stream, in which we were struggling upwards, was noted as flowing in our direction. Hurray, we were past the top (1700mt). Wet and victorious, at 6pm the asphalt was reached. There had been no signs of civilisation, apart from one empty church, for 7 hours. It was an hour downhill to the welcoming Manglisi hotel, where the receptionist re-opened the kitchen to cook us a meal. Two young mothers with their babies, holidaying in the good woodland air, spoke good English and we managed to partly clean off the football sized lumps of mud! At Tsalke, BP had taken every room for the new pipeline construction, but a friendly young lady had already offered her home to us. The family had come down from Svaneti, where 6 months of snow annually made farming hard (They spoke an unwritten Svaneri language.). It was all we could do to leave, partly hidden, a donation. At the top of the Paravani Pass, 2100mt, thunder and lightning, then heavy large hailstones, but we could shelter behind a parked car. Anni was bruised for a few days from the hailstones. The road was white and slippery, as we descended; but after a few minutes, warmth and steamed local trout, in a café run by Armenians. On then via Armenian-inhabited Ninotsminda and Akhalkalakil travelling by day to avoid the perils of cognac and wolves; all the while open Steppe landscape with snow covered mountains in the distance, but the road nicely graded. A steady climb, but with aggressive dogs to outrun, to Vardzia where there would be plenty to keep you busy for a week, especially if you like history and to walk in the mountains. The cave town was especially interesting. On then, descending leisurely to Akhaltsikhe, then Borjomi with its spa gardens for another 'rest day'. There, a near 3 hour train ride (at 30p!) takes you up to the 1600mt ski resort and then a wonderful 18 miles

descent back to town. Never mind downhill skiing. This was the summer equivalent.

Just two long days on quiet, rolling minor roads to within a short ride from the airport. Gori, is Stalin's birthplace and an overnight in a renovated Soviet style hotel, overlooking the rail carriage that took him to the Potsdam Conference. Then a wonderful day with beautiful views north to the South Ossetia Caucasus range. Small shops open on the Sunday sold fresh bread, water and snacks. A final day, a short ride through Tbilisi to collect our cardboard box was also no problem. There was a wide embankment by the river, rather like by the Thames but no-one using it, so we could make good progress and enjoy good views of the capital.

So, Georgia was a fantastic experience: the plusses the high mountain scenery, quiet roads bordered with colourful flowers and the most welcoming folk. Perhaps friendly horn blowing and the dogs in the mountains the only minuses. We will be back, next time to Racha, Svanetia and perhaps the Black Sea coast. Anyone fancy a trip? 🚲

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

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

Hi Stefan

No cycling for me yet! I'm still having Physio every fortnight in Thurrock Hospital on my shoulder which as a 3-part fracture and I've been told this could lead to having only 80% mobility back in my arm again. But if I can hold onto my handlebars okay I don't think it will affect me.

I still need an elbow crutch to get about on because of my fracture heel, I've cut down on my painkillers was taking 8 a day now only on 6 a day. Really missing my cycling, I've never been away from it for so long since I started some 35 years ago.

I had a phone call this afternoon (28/04) from the court, the motorist that knocked me off pleaded guilty and the case was adjourned to June 2nd.

Safe and happy cycling

Brian 🚲

## **Obituaries**

### **Mike Dyason (1938 – 2015)**

*By Brian Hayward (in SAGA) edited*

Mike was born on July 15 1936 in Woodford Green, Essex the eldest of Bob and Dorothy Dyason's three children. His mother Dorothy is still alive and got to 107 in April.



Mike started riding a bike to school and when about 12 years old and every Saturday would ride to Charlton Athletics football ground (the Valley) in South London to watch home matches. It cost 1 shilling (5 new pence) for entry and 6 pence to park his bike. That ride of 13 miles each way formed the basis for his lifelong love of cycling.

On leaving school at 16 Mike and a friend did a three week cycling tour to Land's End and back on a budget of just £15. With a new bike replacing his old sit-up-and-beg he joined the Epping Forest Section of the CTC. Soon after that he started cycle racing with the Viking Road Club, which had over 100 racing members at the time and he remained a member for over 60 years.

Mikes last race was in 2006 in the Viking RC 10 at the age of 70. He won second handicap on age and, remember, this was 6 years after he had been diagnosed with cancer and 4 years after his predicted demise. Mike would never give up.

During his National Service his position gave him plenty of time for training and as his performances improved he was selected for the Army Cycling Club team. Afterwards, he joined the Richmond Cycling Club for its club runs and social life! He rode all types of events Time Trials, Massed Start, Grass Track and Cyclo-Cross which with his lean build he was really suited to and he won many races during his Army service.

Mike had a long and successful cycling career as a rider, but also put a lot back into the sport by way of organisation and team sponsorship. He organised many cyclo-cross events including the world's first one for ladies.

Mike was made a life Vice President of the Viking Road Club for his services to the sport. He was a cycling all-rounder, winning several road races, as well as being a regular at Herne Hill track league in the 1960s.

He was best known to cyclists for his OZZO branded cycling accessories that he sold by mail order and ran this business for nearly 30 years after starting it mostly as a hobby.

Having been diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2000, Mike had various treatments over the years but knew some months ago that the end was close. He then took delight in arranging his own funeral 'Farewell' at his golf club near Grantham, which he attended in his wicker casket before leaving alone for the crematorium - a lovable eccentric to the end.

Our deepest sympathies go to his friends and family. 🚲

## **Roy Lancelot Davidson (1909-2015 - aged 105)**

*By Hugh Davidson (in SAGA) edited*

Roy was born in Woodford, Essex, second son of John an architect of Scottish ancestry and Mary.

He joined the CTC in 1921 and cycled to work every day keeping a suit and shoes there to change into. With his wife he toured in the UK and on the continent and he time-trialled with the Viking Road Club. He was an active worker for the Essex DA and in 1936 became DA Secretary until 1940 when he joined the RAF.



After the war he became a member of the Epping Forest Section of the CTC when it was founded in 1949. He became a Vice-President of both the Essex DA and the Viking Road Club and was a qualified timekeeper for decades with Eddie Engel. The Davidson's were great friends with Eddie and Eve Engel and often toured with them. He cycled until his late '80s frequently partaking in annual 100 mile outings and thinking nothing of it! He was a Vice President of the ECCA (Eastern Counties Cycling Association) a member of VTTA (Veteran Time Trial Association) RRA (Road Records Association) and Forty Plus CC.

He was a devoted cyclist, friend to hundreds and one of the timekeepers who rode out to events on their bikes. Something not often seen these days. In later years he was often given a lift to Viking Lunches.

He was a proud and supportive family man with son Hugh daughter-in-law Val, two grandchildren and five great grandchildren and was greatly loved by all.

Our deepest sympathies go to his friends and family. 🚲

## 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>
Chelmsford City Member Group	<a href="http://www.chelmsfordctc.co.uk">www.chelmsfordctc.co.uk</a>
Colchester informal Member Group	<a href="http://www.colchesterctc.co.uk">www.colchesterctc.co.uk</a>
Havering Member Group	<a href="http://www.ctchavering.btck.co.uk">www.ctchavering.btck.co.uk</a>
Chris' route planning resources	<a href="http://www.velocipede.org.uk">www.velocipede.org.uk</a>
Cafés for Cyclists	<a href="http://www.lebidon.co.uk">www.lebidon.co.uk</a>
Yet Another Cycling Forum	<a href="http://yacf.co.uk">http://yacf.co.uk</a>

## Advertisers' websites – past & present

(a to z)

API Resprays (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.apibikes.com">www.apibikes.com</a>
Basildon Timber (Decking & Timber)	<a href="http://www.basildontimber.com">www.basildontimber.com</a>
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Cycle Cellar (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.cyclecellar.co.uk">www.cyclecellar.co.uk</a>
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>
The Prince of Wales (Pub)	<a href="http://www.thepow.co.uk">www.thepow.co.uk</a>

## Back on the bike...

The events season has started, so it's good to get my bike serviced, especially after my handlebar broke. Well, I call it "material fatigue" (after 25 years); and luckily at the time I was pulling rather than supporting myself leaning on the handle bar. So I got a new one. Oh, what a difference one inch narrower makes. I was rather surprised about the impact on the steering. Well, it's one of the things I need to get used to – obviously. **Stefan, the Ed.**



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