

September / October 2015



A follow-up in the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2014 **Mike Curtis, member of SEG** "Tour of Britain, London 2013"





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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 ...

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Colchester	Alan Palmer	🖀 01206 792929	Secretary	
	Pam Nelson	07812 209862	Delegate	
Havering	Alex Kornfeld	alexkornfeld@me.com	Secretary	
	Dave Rowlands	🕿 07948 583979	Delegate	
South East Essex	John Steer	🖀 01702 529638	Secretary	
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	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 September / October 2015 edition is on 15 October 2015.

Editor's Foreword

There are quite a few private ads in this issue on p.26. Whilst I understand that giving away a bicycle is sometimes a difficult act, I see the "end of an era" with Ken's purple Mercian for sale. However, there is also a "Wanted" ad (!)

The events season is coming to a close, with a last promotion on the Photographic Competition (p. 20). Even though in mid-year, the committee has introduced another couple of awards, which should make the awards ceremony more interesting (p.14).

Also, it's AGM season! Please attend and support your member group, as much as you can keeping the established group going and contribute with new ideas for the Good of Cycling.

Now, there's another special issue that requires your contribution. And that's volunteers for marshalling on cycling events. This subject will be discussed in the next two EMG committee meetings, but will influence considerably, how we can put on events on our calendar to serve our active riders and encourage more participation. 95% of your contribution to an event is ... *time!* We (organisers) just need you for one Sunday morning or afternoon, for between 2 and 5 hours (depending on event and location) hanging around, reading a good book or playing on any electronical gadgets, and every-so-often sign a check card and put a time on it... – No doubt, I will be writing about this again.

Since I have acquired a four-legged animal, my cycling had been drastically curtailed. However, I am hoping to get a reign for it to give it some exercise and my feet on the bike a rest, whilst getting some fresh air. - OK, perhaps I just need a trailer...

Anyway, those who are fit go forth and cycle. I hope that you are all out and about and have fun on your bikes!

Your editor,

Stefan Eichenseher

P.S.: **Note:** change of start venue for the "Colchester 100" on p.12!





The President's piece

How is your cycling going this summer? Are you getting enough miles in - between the rain and the winds? Or are you wishing that you had a fully enclosed recumbent with a folding roof. We have had some really good weather, as well as some rough with flooding in places and some melting roads from the heat.

In my last President's Piece I talked about the numbers of gas cylinders that I was spotting on the roads and verges. I think one Sunday took the prize for the number in one area: 21 I spotted as I came out from under the tunnel at Wickford.

There was a large broken bottle close by.... If I needed 21 attempts to pump up a tyre, I would have changed the tube and hoped that my tyre had no bad cuts in it, rather than mess about using all that amount of gas. The question then goes: will we cyclists be blamed for the gas cylinders used by some known as "laughing gas" scattered along the roadside?

The SEG's found out that "The Anchor" at Rowhedge has stopped doing snacks, but they are still selling soup or chips (and not many for $\pounds 3.00$). That's another one off the list for Sunday rides.

Now is the time to order your Essex CTC winter jacket. They are windproof and shower-proof

Brian Penny is taking new orders for jackets and short sleeved shirts. He just needs a few more then he can put in a new order. His number is in the Spotlight under Officers of the EMG (p.4) 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

21 June 2015, Widdington - Was it the overcast sky or the fact that it was Father's Day which depleted our turnout today to eight riders? A shame really, as we had an excellent day's ride and the sun progressively worked its way through.

We took the usual route via Roxwell, Bird's Green and Matching Green to our elevenses stop at Hatfield Heath "Post Office café". Coming into the village we found the 'festival' in full swing and had visions of the café being over-run with hungry and thirsty festival-goers. However, the opposite was the case and we were served quite quickly; although, had we arrived 10 minutes later our experience might have been different.

Only three of us went on to lunch at "Fleur-de-Lys" in Widdington, where we chose from an excellent menu of light bites/starters. Dave and I both had the camembert with garlic, redcurrant 'jam' and delicious granary bread:

From there we took the off-road track past the Henham mast and then to Broxted, Molehill Green and High Roding to our tea stop at the excellent "Snug" café at Lodges in High Easter, where we met a number of other cyclists including a group from Maldon Cycling Club.

Thence back to Chelmsford via the Chignals having completed 100Km or 63 miles. **Martin Cockersole**

4/5 July 2015, Dunwich Dynamo overnight ride - Having already done 4 'Dun Runs' I really didn't intend to do a fifth. But then I thought I missed last year for family reasons and hadn't therefore done it since passing my 70th 'milestone'. The weather forecast was good, so it seemed like a challenge I couldn't ignore. My wife was happy (I use the word loosely) to get up at the crack of dawn to collect me on Sunday, so I made a late decision to go for it.

I had a good ride and arrived at Dunwich at 5.40am feeling not too much the worse for wear. I guess being a natural insomniac has some advantages, but 115 miles is by far my longest ride since the Exmouth Exodus last year. I have mixed feelings about this event. It really has outgrown itself and has become too much the province of the speed merchants. As a touring type I feel rather intimidated, as one of these groups comes pounding up behind in the dark and races past like a swarm of wasps, often leaving me little wriggle-room to avoid road defects. And, whereas on my first Dynamo in 2007 I had some spells of peace and solitude to enjoy the still of the night, this simply doesn't happen much now. Interestingly most of these fast groups seem to pass you numerous times as they keep stopping whether for punctures or to feed.

Also, I really didn't appreciate the half a dozen riders I saw and heard, who were playing music from portable players on their racks or in their rucksacks. It brought out the worst of the 'Victor Meldrew' in me!

One rider came alongside and asked me, if I ride with SEG's. I told him no Chelmsford, but I do know quite a few riders in SEG's. Turned out he was Peter Wotherspoon's son-in-law and it was good to have a chat with him.

I had a few stops on the way, first to consume my own food at Dunmow by the doctor's pond, then at Sudbury in a pub which I'd better not name, as it was 1am! My last stop was at a wayside property near Helmingham, which offered a very welcome bacon butty. **Martin Cockersole**

Colchester Member Group

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

Havering Member Group

21st June 2015 : Rodney Inn, Little Baddow

- slow service at the "Rodney" on Sunday !
- but good lunch stop nonetheless !
- taking a long route to coffee at Blackmore for 11 o'clock
- then heading for Little Baddow cycling "off-road" through the centre of Chelmsford
- a long lunch at the Rodney ... 46 miles before lunch (so I heard)
- after lunch we returned via Terling stopping again at Blackmore for tea (we were all a bit exhausted !)
- about 70 miles for the longest day of the year !

Kelvin Dane



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EMG Event & "Old-timers' Meet"

The Colchester CTC 100 km Tourist Competition Sunday, 27th September 2015 at 9.00am

Start / Finish venue: Playgolf Colchester on Bakers Lane

The route is largely unchanged from last year: https://goo.gl/mGyvpo

Entry form, route sheet, and GPX files are ready to download: <u>http://www.colchesterctc.co.uk/events.html</u>

Advanced entry is £4 - Entry on the line is £5

Contact the organiser Malcolm Mitchell on 07531 511112

EDARF & VRC - Autumn Meet

SATURDAY 24th October 2015

Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club Essex RM14 3TY 12:00 noon for 12:30 pm

Price for the meal is £19.00

Peter Smith 01992 573591 28th June 2015 : "Travellers' Friend", Epping Green - 4 intrepids set off for a new route to Epping Green: Alan Gordon Chan and new CTC rider lan Tarrant. It was a bright humid morning as we set off from Upminster down Nags Head Lane towards Brentwood. Up Wigley Bush Lane and past Old MacDonald's Farm through Noak Hill on the way to our first stop at Stapleford's Airfield for coffee tea and general banter. The 2nd part of our journey took is into pastures new and proved to be quite hilly. Down Epping Lane and up toward Theydon Mount and Fiddlers Lane and then onto Epping via Stoppards Hill through some beautiful country lanes. Once past Epping it was pretty much straight road down Lindsay Street and again past some wonderful country side with a beautiful view of the lavender fields in the distance. On reaching up lands and just riding past the lavender fields we had the first hint of rain (strange though, because the good old reliable weather on BBC1 had predicted no rain for the rest of the day, so it must have been our imagination). But alas, just as we arrived (15 mins before it opened, may I add) at our destination the "Travellers' Friend" at Epping Green the heavens decided to open. Here Gordon took great delight in trying to sell Alan his rain jacket because Alan had been a gullibly believed the BBC and not taken a rain jacket (boy-scout moment here ... always be prepared).

So after coffee, tea, ploughman's lunch and some general banter, it was off on a wet but fast ride home. Where Alan started to struggle with the extra 10lbs of water he was carrying in his soaked clothes. It appeared to be a much faster ride home mostly down hill and at Noak Hill we all split up and went our separate ways: Gordon, Ian and Chan to get something to eat and Alan to find a towel. To top it all, just as I got home the sun came out and it had stopped raining. How's your luck !!!!! Alan Pine

12th July : Great Saling, changed on day to Rainham Marshes - due to miserable weather - Only two shipmates for the good ship Havering, Peter Broxley and me. With rain forecast, a short ride was decided on. We headed along NCN 136 to Rainham and through the marshes to the "RSPB Visitors Centre" for an extended 11ses with bird watching and ship spotting thrown in!

Return the same way as far as the car park in Hornchurch Country Park, where we split for home. **Dave Rowlands**

Essex CTC "B.A.R." Trophy

Lynda Collins, Sectary, Essex CTC MG

As from this year, the Essex CTC Committee has added a new award for Best All-Rounder (B.A.R):

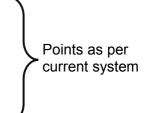
The Beryl Russell Best All-Rounder - Female Cyclist

The Peter Moore Best All-Rounder - Male Cyclist

The trophies will be presented at our AGM in November

The B.A.R. award is decided on points gained from cyclists completing a for a range of activities between November 2014 to the end of October 2015.

- Taking part in Essex MG Sunday rides (1point for half day, 3 points for a full day)
- Taking part in Essex CTC Cycling Events
- Writing articles for Spotlight
- Marshalling and organising events
- Attendance at Summer and Xmas social events
- Entry in Photographic Competition



There is still time to gain points for this year's trophy!

Fun from the m²: … found on my travels through the Internet. [Ed]

The "BBQ-bike"



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Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
1 Sept	[EMG] Photographic Competition Entries open: 1 st Sept - Closing date: 20 th Oct	Lynda Collins
27 Sep	[EMG] Colchester 100 , start from Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261	Malcolm Mitchell 07531 511112
15 Oct	<i>[MG]</i> Chelmsford AGM, 8.00 pm, Chelmer Club Hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067	Adrian Leeds
18 Oct	Submit your Events Card Claim your Standard/Premier Award	Lynda Collins
23 Oct	[MG] South East Essex Group AGM , 8 pm St Laurence Church Hall, Eastwood, SS2 6RH	John Steer
24 Oct	[EDARF & VRC] - Autumn Meet, at Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club, Essex RM14 3TY, 12:00 noon	Peter Smith 01992 573591
25 Oct	[MG] Havering Group AGM , 10.30 am Thames Chase Visitor Centre Pike Lane, Upminster, RM14 3NS	Alex Kornfeld
14 Nov	[EMG] Essex CTC MG AGM , 10:30 am at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067 (refreshments are provided)	Lynda Collins, 01245 320 733

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

Your Events Card is now due!

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



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You can also pass your card to your group secretary, who will pass it on to the secretary of the Essex Parent Member Group (Lynda Collins)

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
13 Sep	Rayne Station	Monk Street	D Russell
20 Sep	Greenstead Green	Gt Yeldham	A Leeds
27 Sep	[EMG] Colchester 100, s Colchester, Bakers Lane,	tart from Playgolf CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261	Malcolm Mitchell 07531 511112
ALT:	Sawbridgeworth Shed	Green Tye	D Emery
04 Oct	Greenstead Green	Lamarsh	M Cockersole
11 Oct	Blue Egg	Monk Street	J Beaumont
15 Oct	[MG] Chelmsford AGM, Meteor Way, OS167, TL6	8.00 pm , Chelmer Club Hut, 98067	A Leeds
18 Oct	Ongar Budworth Hall	Navestock Side	A Leeds
25 Oct	Bretts Wh. Roding	Spellbrook	D Russell
01 Nov	Andrewsfield	Finchingfield	D Cox
08 Nov	Hastingwood	Hatfield Broad Oak	M Cockersole
14 Nov	14 Nov [EMG] Essex CTC MG AGM, 10:30 am		Lynda Collins, 01245 320 733
15 Nov	Coggeshall Dutch Nursery	Mount Bures	ALeeds
22 Nov	Stansted Mountfitchet	Fernaux Pelham	D Southin
29 Nov	Perrywood	Goldhanger Chequers	D Emery
06 Dec	Sawbridgeworth	Moreton	J Beaumont



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Havering Member Group – Runs List

Secretary: Alex Kornfeld, alexkornfeld@me.com Promotions Officer: Alan Pine

apine@sky.com or 2 07716 096303

www.essexcycling.co.uk & www.ctc.org.uk/local-groups/havering

Rides Start: Roomes (Home & Fashion) Store, Station Road, Upminster All rides meet 08:45 for 09:00 start unless otherwise stated

Date	Destination	Leader
Sep 13	Great Bardfield, Blue Egg	Alex Kornfeld
Sep 20	Destination to be decided	Gordon Peel 07711 609230
Sep 27	<i>[EMG]</i> Colchester 100, start from Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261	Malcolm Mitchell 07531 511112
ALT:	Maldon	Kelvin Dane 07922 111790
Oct 04	Short ride	Gordon Peel
Oct 11	Littley Green, The Compasses	Kelvin Dane
Oct 18	Submit your Events Card Claim your Standard/Premier Award	Lynda Collins
Oct 18	Much Hadham	Alex Kornfeld
Oct 25	[MG] Havering Group AGM, @ 10.30am Thames Chase Visitor Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster, RM14 3NS, Ride to AGM, 9am Start	Alex Kornfeld 01708 229924
Nov 14	[EMG] Essex CTC MG AGM , 10:30 am at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067 (refreshments are provided)	Lynda Collins, 01245 320 733
Nov 01	Short Ride	Gordon Peel
Nov 08	Hanningfield Reservoir	Alex Kornfeld
Nov 15	Writtle, Lordship Café	Gordon Peel

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

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South East Essex Member Group – Runs List 👘

Secretary: John Steer	Note: * When EMG or MG
01702 529 638– <u>segssec@btinternet.com</u>	events take place the local ride
Runs start: from the Wickford Café	will include a booked Elevenses
Restaurant, 3-5 The Broadway,	venue, but not a specific pub for
	lunch, unless otherwise stated.
9.30am, unless otherwise stated.	Check out
Club Nights are the 2 nd & 4 th Friday of the month	
	www.velocipede.org.uk for
8.00pm @ St Laurence & All Saints Church Hall,	GPX and TrackLogs TCX files
Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood, SS2 6RH	of our rides

of our rides. Date Lunch Destination Elevenses 13 Sep Chelmsford (Secret Garden Tearoom) Little Braxted (Green Man) 20 Sep | Blackmore (Tearooms) Writtle (Rose & Crown) 27-Sep [EMG] Colchester 100, start from Playgolf Malcolm Mitchell Colchester, Bakers Lane, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261 07531 511112 ALT: Great Baddow (Bringy Pine) Cold Norton (The Norton) 04-Oct Rettendon (BHN Garden Centre) Mill Green (The Viper) 11-Oct [MG] Crab & Winkle, Kent Contact: Mel Martin ALT: *see Note Ingatestone (Garden Centre) 18-Oct Maldon (Request Coffee Shop) Little Totham (The Swan) 23-Oct [MG] South East Essex Group AGM, 8 pm John Steer St Laurence Church Hall, Eastwood, SS2 6RH 25-Oct Writtle (Lordship Tearooms) Cock Clarks (Fox & Hounds) 01-Nov Battlesbridge (The Stables Café) West Hanningfield (The Ship) 08-Nov Margaretting (Saddlery) Stondon Massev

00 1101		(Bricklayer's Arms)	
14-Nov	[EMG] Essex CTC MG AGM , 10:30 am at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS TL698067 (refreshments are provided)	167,	Lynda Collins, 01245 320 733
15-Nov	Maldon (Barge Tearoom)	Little Braxted (Green Man)	
22-Nov	Ramsden Heath (Hall & Co. Coffee Shop)	Bicknacre (Brewer's Arms)	
29-Nov	Rochford (The Beehive)	Hawkwell (White Hart)

Colchester Informal Member Group – Runs List 🕉

Secretary: Alan Palmer 201206 792929, mob 07939 395067 or <u>alanpalmer@phonecoop.coop</u> All rides meet Leisure World Container by Skatepark at 9:30am

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
Sep 20		ТВС	
Sep 27		100 , start from Playgolf Lane, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261	Malcolm Mitchell 07531 511112
Oct 04		Edwardstone, White Horse	
Oct 11	Boxted, Fillpots	Boxford, White Hart	Des McCarron
Oct 18	Coggeshall, Dutch Nursery	Langford, Museum of Power	Malcolm Mitchell
Oct 24	[EDARF & VRC] - Autumn Meet, at Langdon Hills Peter Smith Golf and Country Club, Essex RM14 3TY, 12:00noon 01992 573591		
Oct 25		Hadleigh	Paul& Caroline Avison
Nov 01	Lawford, Hearts Delight	ТВС	Paul & Caroline Avison
Nov 08		Gt Totham, Prince of Wales	
Nov 14			Lynda Collins, 01245 320 733
Nov 15		Newton Green, Saracens Head	
Nov 22		Ford St, Shoulder of Mutton	

Note:

Members are welcome to attend Bike Drinks, for all local cyclists, held on the 3rd Monday of the month, 8pm at "The New Inn", Chappel St South (CO2 7AX).

Check our website for further information: www.colchesterctc.co.uk



The New Inn, Colchester

Z 2015 David Doo Photographic Prize

By Lynda Collins



This year, we are once again organising the David Doo Photographic Competition - named in honour of the late Chelmsford member, who was also a keen photographer. The competition is intended to be a fitting annual tribute to him.

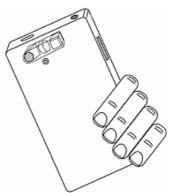
Cycling and photography are complementary hobbies, as the frequent use of cameras on tours and Sunday rides amply demonstrates. Our beautiful countryside and the camaraderie of wheelman ship are natural photographic subjects.

What you submit is entirely up to you - the competition brief is to celebrate cycling in any form. We'll publish the entries on the Essex Cycling website, and your efforts will be judged by impartial photographic professionals.

The winner, whose name will grace an Annual Challenge trophy, will be announced at the Essex CTC AGM in November. There will also be a small trophy to keep.

- The competition is open to all Essex CTC members and there is no entry fee.
- Photographs should be submitted digitally or can be hard copy and sized 7x5in or 6x4in.
- Entries are limited to one photograph per person.
- Entries open on 1st September 2015 and close on 20th October 2015.

Please forward your prints to Lynda Collins 142 Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford, CM3 5LL. 🚓



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ANNUAL TRAINING CAMPS

February, March, April and September

South East Essex Member Group

7th June, Secret Garden / Littley Green - We set of this morning in sunshine and made our way towards Galleywood before turning off for Deadmans Lane, making our way through the housing estate dogging the potholes as we went, on our arrival at the garden centre we was put straight into the large room and our orders were taken. That's when some confusion occurred with some of the orders. Martin was concerned that the teapot wasn't big enough for sharing between three. Others were brought other people's orders, before it all settled down. After 11ses we set of for Littley Green and lunch. Our thoughts were: can we get to lunch before the other group that went to High Easter? Can we get to the pub before the llford group that turned up at the 11ses cafe stop? We arrived before both of the groups, with the High Easter group arriving shortly after my group. Beer and food ordered we sat in the garden enjoying the sun when Martin P set up his microphone and was busy recording every word that was being said by the groups' members. Ian, our runs leader had listened to me, when I requested that he take a route out to pass by St Ann's Castle and pass through Takeley the last time we had gone to Littley Green. Threeses was taken at the "Butterfly's Café".

21st June, Hythe to Dungeness - Fifteen met at the cafe in Hythe for our ride out to Dungeness. After coming off the Sustrans path we turned to follow the route that I had planned. On the way we picked up a couple on a tandem who had phoned me the day before wishing to join our ride (Graham & Sally came from Gravesend). This brought our number to 17. I had chosen to ride our usual route in reverse to try and get to our lunch stop early because of it being Father's Day and the pub getting crowded. Riding a route in reverse can be very different from the one you are used to and I found a few different roads I'd never tried before. Our approach to New Romany was from a direction I had once returned by many years ago, when I first started taking the group on this ride. We arrived at our lunch destination early enough to find three tables reserved for us. Drinks and meals ordered we sat down to wait. And boy, it seemed like a long wait, even though the pub wasn't full. Our return was to be in reverse, as well, but my lefts and rights didn't workout to be the right L/R's, as they should have been. Still, we made it to Donkey Street for our cream teas and all was forgiven. We left the couple from Gravesend at the tearooms and made our way home.

 ${\bf 28}^{\rm th}$ June, Finchingfield - Lynda Collins and I were once again marshalling the Windmill event at Finchingfield for the third year running

and we came to question why there is no-one from the Colchester or the Chelmsford groups, who live closer to the marshalling venue willing to do the job of marshalling at such a picturesque location.

12th July, Blackmore to Stondon Massey - Eleven set off this morning in two groups. The first group to arrive at the cafe was Peter W's. When my group arrived, there must have been about fifty cyclists trying to park their bikes and get into the café to get served. After 11ses, only three of us went on to lunch. I led by a new route - to me and I think maybe even the group. I won't tell you though, as I will use it again (as a surprise). We made good progress and arrived at the pub about twelve thirty. Our ride home went well and we had 3ses at the "Hanningfield Nature Reserve", Ron S left us at the Turnpike and then I showed Mike C a new route home missing most of the traffic. Our day did have an indecent that took place in High Ongar, where an irate motorist vented his feelings for two wheeled riders, who don't pay road tax (abolished in 1937) or have insurance on their bikes (CTC 10 Million third party quietened him down, but I still didn't have road tax on my bike). When will these people learn about the facts of cyclists being on the roads that were not built for cars?

19th July, Woodham Walter to Little Totham - Twelve set of in two groups this morning. On our arrival Peter W's group was already sitting outside and waiting for the food. The new inside seating area was empty and only two people in the old area, where we used to sit. Seven went on to lunch, where once again, I led by a devious route to try and confuse those that thought that we were going to go through Beeleigh Abby - we didn't. We rode out through Ulting to the B1019, then left to Great Totham. After GT, we turned right and rode up through Totham Hill and then worked our way to lunch at the pub in Little Totham. On arriving at the pub, we were told that there were no pub snacks, as they were only doing roast dinners. I pointed out that I had phoned on Thursday and left a message and again on Saturday. After a guick con-flab between the bar maid and the landlady our orders were taken. Claude found time to speak to a driver of an old Bentley, whose name he had gotten from one of the ladies in the car. "Hi Ray," Claude said. The poor fellow thought that he knew him. After some had downed three pints, we left and headed for Maldon and the park, which was packed.

Our ride back was the usual route towards Mundon and the turning off for Purleigh to Cocks Clarks. Threeses were taken at the "Butterfly's Café" before we all parted for home. **26**th July, Ramsden Heath to Woodham Mortimer - What a wet day the 26th turned out to be. I think the only redeeming feature was the new café at Ramsden Heath. What a smart café? About 7 or 8 of us braved the heavy down pours to arrive at the 11ses stop very wet and bedraggled. We were cheerfully greeted by the staff and mad to feel welcome even though we were soaking wet. Needless to say only 4 brave riders went on to lunch, as it was the inter-group "Essex Summer Meet". As we sheltered in the pubs' marquee awaiting our lunch orders with a pint apiece, dripping wet with a cold wind whistling through the tent 3 riders from Chelmsford group arrived shortly followed by 3 from Colchester. We all shortly left after our food and drinks as the weather improved slightly. On the way home we passed the "Fox and Hounds". I offered to buy a round, but Martin P declined wishing to get home, while the weather was being slightly calmer. So ends another damp and windy day in the saddle.

2nd August, Butts Green to Broads Green - Much better weather this Sunday and a larger group. Two groups set off: Peter W leading one while I followed on with the other. Peter's group arrived first shortly after mine (3 of us). Alan & Jill Smart were spotted at a table outside sitting in the shade. Those that know them went over for a chat, before we went on to lunch. Once again two groups set of for lunch - not because there were too many for one group but because David K wanted a slower/shorter ride. We headed for Chelmsford and the park, which was quite empty with easy access along the shared paths and we had an easy ride in the sunshine to Broads Green. I explained to David our reasons for using a pub that didn't serve food, while we waited for the 2nd group. After eating our food I said to David "My cider tastes very lemony". He then said, "I'm drinking your cider and you have my shandy. I gave you the wrong glass!" - Oops. On the way home the group stopped at the Nature Reserve in Hanningfield for 3ses. Then David was led back to Wickford to pick up his car.

9th **August, 40k/40m Event** - The organiser was delivered early to the American Dinner in Marks Tye, which was lucky, as there was already a cyclist waiting to sign in. I have to say that the weather was a lot better than a couple of years ago, when some of us finished the event in a torrential down pour. Well done Brian! A very enjoyable ride. All we need now is for Colchester take it over then you can ride it with other members of the SEG's. *[If you followed the conversations in the committee, you knew that the take/over is in the making. Ed.]*

16th August, Great Totham North - The ride out to the café was led by Brian P, on a very interesting route. Some of us began to wonder, if we would ever get there. After 11ses, 8 set off for Rowhedge making a good pace to reach the pub at about ten past one. Tables had been reserved for us, but no warning from the pub when booking that they don't do snacks anymore. A pint of Cider and a bowl of chips came to £6.40. Others paid more... They are now off of the SEG's list of venues, unless they change (Sunday dinners rule, it seems). Our ride back took in a 3ses stop at Maldon before we headed for Cocks Clarks and then on to Flambards farm. We then split in to two groups again as we headed for our homes. **J Steer**

To tax or not to tax – for "being on" the road

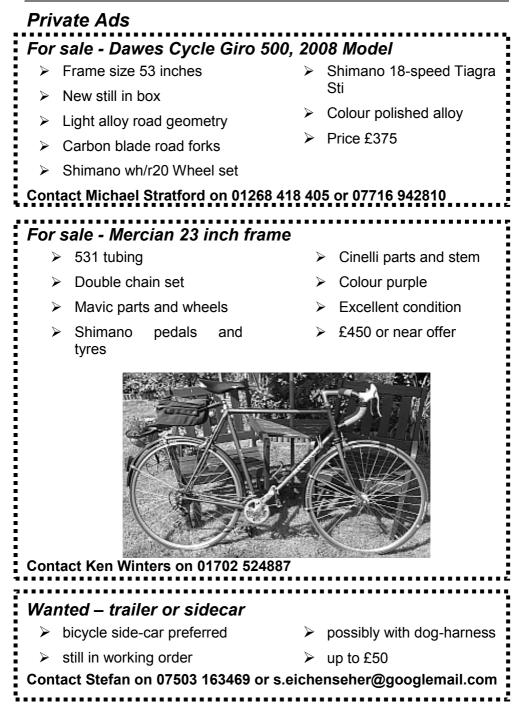
Comment on the report from John S on 12th July 2015

Let them pay road tax. In times of austerity it's very philanthropically for people to financially support their country. I have my car fully legally (taxed and insured) on the road, but I don't pay road tax. I just opt to go by bike right now - and on a road, which was originally not built for cars. Apart from that, your £150odd of "road tax" won't pay for fixing that pot hole over there; it won't even get the lorry and two workers out to do it...

However, I am coming to the point of saying: Yes, let's have a carriageexcise-duty for bicycles ... if it can be implemented according to impact on the road/environment, and if the logistical effort is viable. – And if it's only for the number plate!

The quickly rising amount of complaints against cyclists illegally riding on pavements, and other rogue behaviour, who then can be identified, would certainly force car drivers' opinion to change: either by cyclists enforcedly using the road (and respective impact), or they themselves, their family members or friends being charged by "on the spot fines". I am aware the latter is already in place, but practical enforcement is difficult. However, with a cam-car filming evidence of cyclists' number plates, when violating the highway-code, the fines' just getting send by post. **Stefan E**

[There is evidently lots of toing and froing on the subject, so this is just another opinion (supporting <u>http://ipayroadtax.com/</u>). Ed.]



For a Donation - Classic "Bird's" Tourer

Due to ill-health, I've had to (reluctantly) give up cycling. But I would like my touring bike, which has given me so much pleasure, to go to a good home.

- 23in frame, 531 tubing, lugged, black paintwork.
 Hand built by Bird's in Colindale (London)
- > Vintage Brooks saddle, vintage saddlebag and Zefal inflator
- 18-speed Shimano/Sakae group set (11-32 teeth rear cassette, 36-50 teeth chain rings)
- Weinmann centre-pull brakes
- 700C alloy wheels with quick-release hubs and Schwalbe Marathon tyres
- Chromo-plastic mudguards
- Alloy pedals with toe-straps
- Custom handlebars

It was 'ready to ride' when I last used it a couple of years ago. I would however give it a check before riding.

I don't personally want payment for this cherished piece of (my!) cycling history. Instead, please make a donation (as large as you can!) to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. This cause (<u>https://donate.gosh.org</u>) is close to my heart.

To collect from Brightlingsea (near Clacton)

Contact Malcolm Tayler on 01206 308810 / julesandmal@yahoo.co.uk

For sale - Thorn XTC bicycle, Audax 26" model

 Reynolds 725 butted
 Thorn 26/36/46 x 165mm
 Suntour XC brakes
 24 speed/XT, suit 5'4"
 Brooks B17
 Mavic 317/ LX/36 wheels, 26 x 1.5" tyres
 Contact Steve on 01254 812458 or 01268 542835 or gregsosh@hotmail.co.uk

K Romford Hardriders Sub Section

By J.E. Crowley, Hon. Runs Sec, Hardriders sub/section

Runs Section report for 1949

The section had a very successful year and pursued its intended object of providing runs at 'a slightly faster pace' with commendable zeal. Several weekend runs were held during the year, notably the Easter weekend in conjunction with the Romford Section. The weekend prior to this spent at Lichfield, Staffordshire as a preparation run for the Easter. This form of preparation was made doubly effective by reason of several delays which led to our outward journey of 130 miles being compressed into the Saturday afternoon! Supper was more then usually welcome that night.

Easter was spent in the Cotswold's and some of the very fine view obtainable in that locality made a welcome change from the back view of one particular tandem which had very advanced views on hill climbing. For Whitsun several members made the journey to Cannards Grave in Somerset. Whit Sunday was a lazy day spent at Weston-Super-Mare in severe contrast to the long fast run home.

August Bank Holiday found quite a number of members on holiday, but 4 intrepid spirits held a weekend based upon Ambergate in Derbyshire. Some of the scenery notably in Monsol Dales, more than amply repaid some of the 'hardriding' involved. The 165 miles home on August Monday were accomplished with an ease which leads us to believe that 'hills make you fit'.

Concerning the normal Sunday runs during the year. When the Hardriders formed in 1948 it was anticipated that since almost the entire membership was drawn from the active members of the Viking R.C., the section would practically cease to exist as a section during the summer months. It is gratifying to report that despite a very heavy 'non-touring' programme, attended may I add, by very considerable success, the Hardriders have an average attendance for the year of 9 for lunch and 11 for tea each Sunday. This seems to indicate a spirit of great keenness on part of all members of the section and all look forward to an even more successful year in 1950.

[Report re-discovered and sent in by Brian Stevens, Ed.]

Thinking of...

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

Brian Stevens sent in an update on his collision with a car in September 2014 and ongoing recovery:

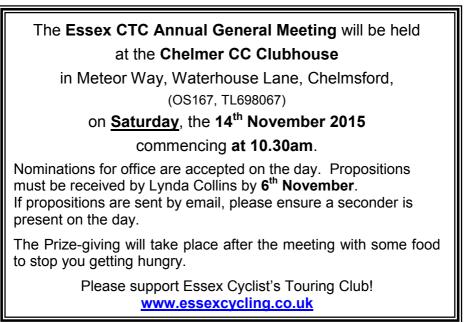
"There still no sign of me cycling yet, I'm walking much better now with the aid of a walking stick. My shoulder is doing well, but my Physio has referred me back to my consultant because of the amount of pain I'm getting from it.

The motorist that knocked me off was in court in June. She got 6 points and a fine! CTC Slater & Gordon are dealing with my claim."

We wish him all the best and good spirits to come back on the bike soon.

Although not cycling Brian is still very much on his pedals and has also contributed with the vintage annual report on the previous page: "It's from 1949 same year I was born! I don't know how long the Hardriders Section was going for, but its Romford Section was wound up in 1962.

Essex CTC Member Group AGM



Useful Website Links

Essex CTC Member Group	www.essexcycling.co.uk
Cyclists' Touring Club	www.ctc.co.uk
Chelmsford City Member Group	www.chelmsfordctc.co.uk
Colchester informal Member Group	www.colchesterctc.co.uk
Havering Member Group	www.ctchavering.btck.co.uk
Chris' route planning resources	www.velocipede.org.uk
Cafés for Cyclists	www.lebidon.co.uk
Yet Another Cycling Forum	http://yacf.co.uk

Advertisers' websites – past & pl	resent (a to z)
API Resprays (Cycle Shop)	www.apibikes.com
Basildon Timber (Decking & Timber)	www.basildontimber.com
Chris Regan Ltd (Accountant)	www.chrisregan.co.uk
Ciclos Uno (Cycle Shop)	www.ciclosuno.com
Cycle Cellar (Cycle Shop)	www.cyclecellar.co.uk
Herongate Cycles (Cycle Shop)	www.herongatecycles.com
Hopleys Garden Long Barn (Café)	www.hopleys.co.uk
Kings Road Cycles (Cycle Shop)	www.shedbornbikes.com
Megarry's Antiques and Teashop (Café)	www.megarrysteashop.co.uk
Richardson Cycles (Cycle Shop)	www.richardsonscycles.co.uk
The Cycle & Toy Centre (Cycle Shop)	www.thecyclecompany.co.uk
The Prince of Wales (Pub)	www.thepow.co.uk



The brave attendees of this year's rather wet Essex CTC Summer Meet at the "Hurdlesmaker's Arms", Woodham Mortimer, in August.



