

**November / December 2015**



A follow-up in the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2014

**John Steer, member of SEG**

"Aero-pod taxi, anyone?"

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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 6/2015se40

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### Price per annum: £6.00, inc. p&p

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<u>Account Name:</u>	Essex CTC Member Group	<u>Account No:</u>	6554 2231
<u>Reference:</u>	SPLTSUBS	<u>Sort Code:</u>	08-92-99

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
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### **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	Alex Kornfeld	alexkornfeld@me.com	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 January / February 2016 edition is on **15 December 2015**.

## **Editor's Foreword**

You will find a short edition, but powerful in content.

As I am compiling this issue of Spotlight, some extraordinary information reaches the editing table from the latest Member Groups' AGMs.

The concerns that the Havering MG would go informal were already in the air at the last Essex CTC MG committee meeting (9<sup>th</sup> September). However, with her latest email the EMG secretary tells me that even the strongest MG (according to actively riding members), the SEG's, decided to go into "administration".

I always thought that their secretary, John Steer, would die of boredom without his preferred child of holding the South East Group upright and together.

But I do understand that one man alone can not run a group, even with his veteran expertise. Officially, there are at least three different heads required to take on the 5 or 6 mandatory jobs. See page 23 on an elaboration of what we certainly need.

Unfortunately, I am going to join the not-that-much-active crowd of cycling enthusiasts, due to a change in job leading me out of the area. You may already have noted that there is a *vacant* position for the Treasurer on page 4. The treasurer's position will certainly need a person who can attend the committee meetings.

With regards to my position as Spotlight Editor, I might be physically absent, but most of my correspondence runs on-line. So for the time being I do not intend to give up the post as Editor yet, unless someone else desperately wants it.

The new job – with regular hours – should get me out more, just not around Essex. I shall see you latest at the Christmas Meet.

Leaves me to say – as always – 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**



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

How was your summer cycling this year? Did you manage to put in more miles that last year?

By the time you read this Spotlight the AGM season should be over. Did you volunteer for any of the positions within your group or in the EMG? If not, why not? You can't expect the same old faces to keep plodding along each year in the same positions, if you want the groups to move on and keep up to date with the 21<sup>st</sup> century's ideas.

Fresh ideas are needed to encourage younger members into our groups as well as more ladies of any age.

Next year sees the Tri-Vets event taking place, this is a 100 mile event ridden in 4 stages taking you from the start in loops and back to the start, anyone over a young age of 50 years can take part, what a good time to wear an Essex CTC cycling top (!) (I'm told this will be the last time John Davis and Chris Mills will be organizing this event.)

Don't forget to attend the Christmas Inter-Groups meeting at the "Fox and Hounds" at Cock Clarks on the 11<sup>th</sup> December (another chance to wear an Essex CTC top!)

Talking of December - now would be a good time to tell your family that you would like an Essex CTC summer shirt or a winter jacket or even just the long sleeved normal jacket. Details for consideration are on page 14.

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***

## **Technical Lecture**



### **Sports science: Bespoke cycle design**

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**Dr Jonathan Paulus** - Design  
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**Jose Quiros** – Frame Builder

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**13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**7.30 pm**

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

### **Chelmsford Member Group**

**1 October 2015 – Lamarsh** -We've had some beautiful weather these last few weeks and today was no exception. A chilly start, but then hardly a cloud to be seen all day and only a light southerly wind in the afternoon. However, this only attracted 5 riders to the start, although a total of 8 were involved at some point during the day.

The route to elevenses at Greenstead Green took us via Channels, Terling, Cressing and Stisted. The countryside looked at its best in the misty morning sunlight, but it seems we were all a bit 'head down' as we completed the 22 miles to elevenses by 10.50. There was a ploughing competition going on at Greenstead Green and the second-hand tool sale attracted a lot of interest from our group.

The route via Colne Engaine and Daws Cross on quiet lanes to our lunch stop at the "Lion Inn" at Lamarsh was particularly enjoyable. A shame that this otherwise excellent pub doesn't serve sandwiches on Sunday lunchtimes. Nevertheless the starters offered were of good quality and the beer pretty good too. John and Margaret were due to meet us there, but a puncture en route had delayed their arrival. Unfortunately it was rather a quick 'hello and goodbye', as we were ready to leave.

We intended to have tea at "Perrywoods" but on passing Inworth Church we noticed there was a flower festival on. We stopped there and were offered excellent tea and a huge choice of cakes for a very modest contribution. The highlight though was probably a chat with a lady who was very knowledgeable about the architecture and development history of this church.

Then it was back to Chelmsford for an early finish with 62 miles completed. **Martin Cockersole**

**18th October 2015, The Tour de Navestock** - It was the day of the Chelmsford Marathon. So our outward journey avoided the cycle way through Central Park and we picked up NCN 1 well after Writtle. We still had to contend with runners and marshals, etc. until Radley Green.

The nine of us out stopped for elevenses at the café attached to Budworth Hall in Ongar. It was a bit of squeeze getting us in but a table for seven of us was prepared.

Afterwards Adrian took us down some lovely quiet lanes in the Stanford Rivers area, where the only traffic seemed to be horses. Heather and Eric left us on Shonks Mill Road, as we turned up Mill Lane. The hill up this lane had Tom and Dave with their fixies out of the saddle for a long period!

We arrived at the “Alma Arms” at Horseman Side about 12:40. Food and drink had to be ordered separately at different tills and we were given a pager. When that went off we all got up to collect our food from the counter. The beer was more expensive than usual but the food cheaper, e.g. pint of Suffolk County £3.70, BLT baguette £3.95.

The problem Adrian had now was finding a threeses stop at the appropriate time so a few loops were put in. No advice on which way we should go was offered on this stage! At Swallows Cross the group headed for “Blackmore Tea Room”, but I headed off for tea at chez Martin. 57 miles in dry, mild weather with only light winds leaves little reason to moan. **Mel Martin**

## **Colchester Member Group**

**September 13, 2015 – Wherstead** - Sixteen left Colchester Leisure World, including one newish member - Massimo (he rode with us to elevenses once in August) - and one returning - Steve (his first ride with us after recovering from a knee operation).

To elevenses at Mistley Place Park we took an indirect route through Langham, over the A12 and into Dedham, where at Lamb Corner we saw signs warning of runners (it was The Dedham Run), though didn't see any; past the llamas of Hunters Chase, across the A137, and through Little Bromley we went.

Two groups of eight left Mistley: one for lunch in Wherstead, and the other (them and they) bound for their homes. We turned left, past Mistley Towers, along the waterfront and Manningtree High Street, up Colchester Road, and through a little estate, emerging at the main road just as the others biked past. We followed them past Cox's Hill, and turned onto Mill Hill as did they. Then we bade them farewell at the top, as we turned into Manningtree Road to descend into Dedham, while they continued along

that Load Road. In the village centre we saw some runners, but alas, by now they were walkers!

Aside from Chris' pump coming adrift from his bike frame and falling to the road, the miles through Stratford, Higham, and Great Wenham were unnoteworthy.

First spots of rain were felt in Copdock, and by Belstead it was definitely drizzling. Steve noted the distance on a road sign to Wherstead being "only a mile", but I was quick to state it would undoubtedly be farther... and so it proved to be!

From Belstead we crossed the A137 again, into Valley Lane to reach a bridleway, where Chris let out a "hiss" after Steve went over some thorns. It was actually Massimo's rear tyre however, that would be deflated no more than a mile away, and if that, to our lunch stop at "Suffolk Food Hall". With Vic and Steve's help Massimo set about changing the tube, and I ate my lunch.

Once at our destination, the excitement didn't stop there, for I had noticed a footpath sign on the way in that reminded me of an expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award that took me over the Orwell Bridge by foot. I haven't much of a head for heights, but with the high retaining wall and Steve's company, I was quite comfortable up there. Of more concern was the debris strewn on the footpath, and the low and seemingly slight barrier between it and the dual carriageway. What a view though!

It was still raining when we mounted our steeds to leave, but it wasn't the weather that hindered us, it was the rear tyre of Massimo's bike. We didn't even reach the road!

When we did get going again, there was a steady stream of traffic in both directions. Chris saw his chance and went, the rest followed some minutes later, back the way we came, to the A137. From there I led from the back, riding as I was, without mudguards.

*Continued on page 18*



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## Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
14 Nov	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC MG AGM, 10:30 am</b> at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067 (refreshments are provided)	Lynda Collins, 01245 320 733
13 Dec	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch,</b> "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm	Brian Penny
21 Feb	<b>[MG] SEG 75 miles</b> - from 8:30am at the Wickford Café Restaurant, 3-5 The Broadway, Wickford SS11 7AD, OS map 178, TQ747936 (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>.


## **Be safe, Be seen ... in our Essex CTC Jerseys!**

*By John Steer*

December = Christmas!!

Now would be a good time to tell your family that you would like an Essex CTC summer shirt or a winter jacket or even just the long sleeved normal jacket.

The winter jacket is wind-proof and shower-proof, the normal jacket is good for the cooler mornings in the spring and autumn, and obviously the short sleeve summer shirt speaks for itself.

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

## 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

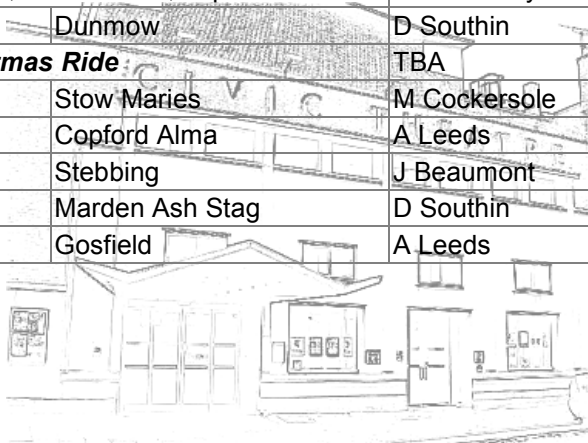
**Rides Start:** Sundays: Bus Station at the end of Fairfield Road  
(near the Civic Theatre) 9am for 9.15am

All day rides start **9.15am**

For Tuesday evening destinations

call Dave Russell ☎ 01245 381055

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
14 Nov	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC MG AGM</b> , 10:30 am at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067 (refreshments are provided)		Lynda Collins, 01245 320 733
15 Nov	Coggeshall Dutch Nursery	Mount Bures	A Leeds
22 Nov	Stansted Mountfitchet	Fernaux Pelham	D Southin
29 Nov	Perrywood	Goldhanger Chequers	D Emery
03 Dec	Chelmsford Xmas Meal	Horse & Groom Roxwell,	A Leeds
3 Dec	<b>[MG] Chelmsford MG, Christmas Dinner</b> , Horse & Groom, Roxwell Rd, at 7:30pm		Details, etc: A Leeds
06 Dec	Ingatestone Garden Centre	Moreton	J Beaumont
13 Dec	Ingatestone Garden Centre	Essex CTC Xmas Meet, Cock Clarks	A Leeds
	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch</b> , "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm		Organiser: Brian Penny
20 Dec	High Roding Snug	Dunmow	D Southin
27 Dec	<b>[MG] Informal Christmas Ride</b>		TBA
03 Jan	Maldon Fig Tree	Stow Maries	M Cockersole
10 Jan	Perrywood	Copford Alma	A Leeds
17 Jan	Blue Egg	Stebbing	J Beaumont
24 Jan	Blackmore	Marden Ash Stag	D Southin
31 Jan	Andrewsfield	Gosfield	A Leeds



## Havering Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** Alex Kornfeld, alexkornfeld@me.com

**Promotions Officer:** Alan Pine

apine@sky.com or ☎ 07716 096303

[www.essexcycling.co.uk](http://www.essexcycling.co.uk) & [www.ctc.org.uk/local-groups/havering](http://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
Nov 14	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC MG AGM</b> , 10:30 am at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067 (refreshments are provided)	Lynda Collins 01245 320 733
Nov 15	Writtle, Lordship Café	Gordon Peel 07711 609230
Nov 22	9am Start, Purfleet	Kelvin Dane 07922 111790
Nov 29	9am Start, Ingatestone	Joseph Collins (joe.collins.se@gmail.com)
Dec 06	10am START, Short Ride or Mayfield Bakery	Gordon Peel
13 Dec	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch</b> , "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm	Brian Penny
ALT	10am Start, Alternative Ride	Gordon Peel
Dec 20	10am Start, Mucking	Kelvin Dane
Dec 27	<i>No Club Ride</i>	
Jan 01	FRIDAY 10am Start, New Year Special	Dave Rowlands 07948 583979
Jan 03	10am Start, Short Ride or Mayfield Bakery	Alex Kornfeld 01708 229924
Jan 10	<b>[MG] Havering MG, Christmas Lunch</b> (Detail to follow on web site)	
Jan 17	10am Start, Ingatestone	Joseph Collins

### 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– [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

**Note:** \* When **EMG** or **MG** events take place the local ride will include a booked Elevenes 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.

Date	Elevenes	Lunch Destination
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
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)
06-Dec	Chelmsford (Recess Coffee Shop)	Little Green (The Compasses)
13-Dec	[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch, "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm	Brian Penny
ALT:	Cooksmill Green (The Bake House)	Cock Clarks (Fox & Hounds)
20-Dec	South Woodham Ferrers (Tropical Wings)	West Hanningfield (The Ship)
27-Dec	Ramsden Heath (Hall & Co. Coffee Shop)	Mundon (White Horse)
01-Jan	Informal Ride 10.30am start	Mill Green (The Viper)
03-Jan	Woodham Walter (Bunsey Down Golf Club)	Boreham (Queen's Head)
10-Jan	Margaretting (Saddlery)	West Hanningfield (Three Compasses)
17-Jan	Bicknacre (White Elm Tearoom)	Little Totham (The Swan)



## 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
Nov 14	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC MG AGM</b> , 10:30 am at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067 (refreshments are provided)		Lynda Collins, 01245 320 733
Nov 15		Newton Green, Saracens Head	
Nov 22	Dedham Craft Centre	Kersey, Bell Inn	Malcolm Mitchell
Nov 29	Earls Colne, Golf Club	Bures, Thatchers Arms	
Dec 06		Stratford St Mary, Anchor	Derek Snowling
Dec 13		Lawford, Hearts Delight	
13 Dec	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch</b> , "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm		Brian Penny
Dec 20		Ford Street, Shoulder of Mutton	
Dec 27	Coggeshall, Dutch Nursery	Copford, The Alma	
Jan 03		Bures, Eight Bells	Des McCarron
Jan 10		Gt Totham, Prince of Wales	Paul & Caroline Avison
Jan 17		Heybridge Basin	

### 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

The way back to Colchester was the most direct leg: through Tattingstone to Bentley — stopping in East End to take off waterproofs, as by then the rain had stopped and it was getting quite warm — through Brantham along the A137 to Lawford, up Cox's Hill, and right at the top. Gillian went straight on here, though I am unsure which way Chris or Steve went! Those that remained turned left then right, toward Green Island Gardens. Bob turned off Bromley Road headed for Wivenhoe via Crockleford Heath, so that the group of eight was whittled down to four before Colchester, where three of us peeled off for our homes, leaving Sarah alone to ride on to hers in Kelvedon. **Malcolm Mitchell**

**October 18, 2015 – Langford** - Eighteen cyclists gathered at Colchester Leisure World and left in two groups, Alan leading Penny and Robert, while I led the rest. We went via West Bergholt and up Argents Lane, where we were treated to a small herd of deer running playfully in the field alongside. In Great Tey I made a boo-boo — I turned right then left toward Earls Colne instead of left then right toward Coggeshall — but we were soon back on track thanks to an interjection from Pete Finch.

Waiting for us at the “Dutch Nursery” were Simon and his brother Anthony, Ken, Derek Snowling, and Dave Russell from Chelmsford City, Shelley, Les and Gill on their tandem, and Sarah; arriving a little after we did, John and Margaret on their tandem trike. That brought the rider tally up to 27 for a brief time. This might have been the last visit by Colchester CTC to the “Dutch Nursery” as sadly we were told it would be closing in two weeks time.

Alan and Dave went their own way to Langford through Kelvedon and Wickham Bishops, and were already sat comfortably at the Museum of Power when we arrived (late) — my route was a little longer, through Terling and Nounsley.

The way back was much more direct, through Wickham Bishops, Tiptree, Messing, and Copford, where some carried on along London Road, others choosing the more scenic route along Church Lane. The last I saw of anyone was on Straight Road... **Malcolm Mitchell**

## **Havering Member Group**

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



## **Velo Club Wrinkly di Petritoli (VCdP)**

### **- As seen on TV**

*By Gordon Kisby (CCMG)*

Saturday 19/09/2015, feeling a bit down; my favourite teams, Chelmsford City and Petritoli 1960 had both lost and my Gazanias were showing signs of mildew.

However, we had been entered into a 'sportivo' the next day, provided we agreed to join 'Petritoli Bike' and rode as part of the 'Pila' team (una pila – a battery). I didn't ask why, and 'We' being my fellow VCdP members Geoff and Y.T. We each handed over 72 euros for the team kit and membership fee (?!)

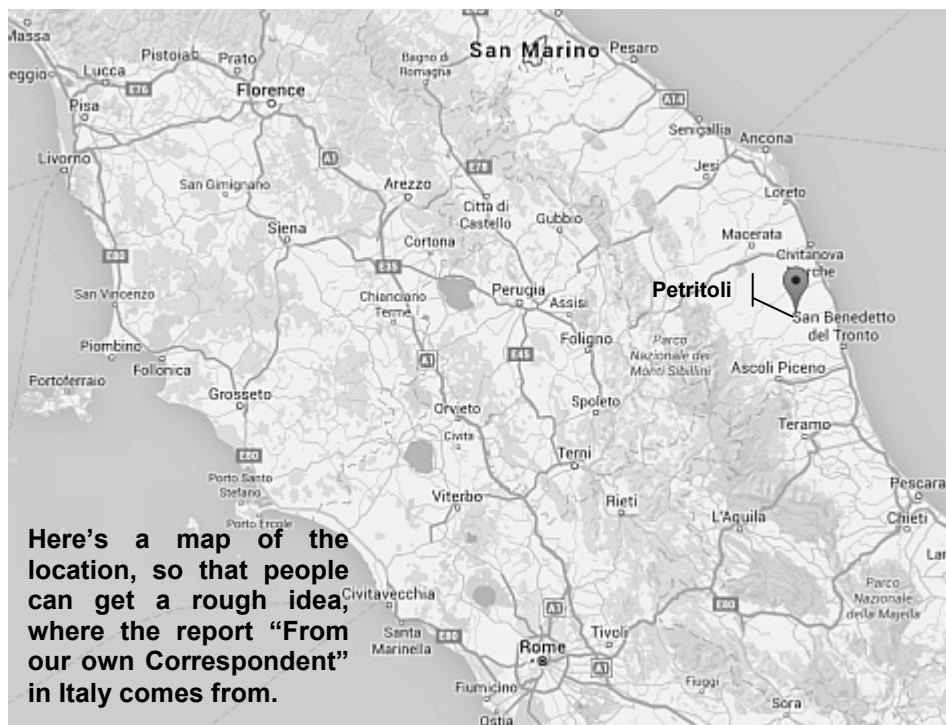
We set off from Fermo with the peleton, who dropped us early on, despite it being downhill for the first 10km. Geoff hadn't ridden in a large group before and we were happy to go along at our own pace. We are tourists after all! The trouble was that we were not provided with a route sheet! We caught a small group of riders and decided to overtake them. A few km down the road we had to wait for them to find out where to go next. Luckily, the first food stop was just round the corner and from then on there were signs at road junctions showing the directions for each of the categories: i.e. red arrows for the 120km riders, yellow for us on the 80km, and green for the 50km. During the rest of the ride we climbed up a few long drags, e.g. into Montegiorgio, catching some riders and being caught by others. After having our entry cards 'punched' in the beautiful hilltop town just mentioned and being fed and watered we set off again. Some downhill sections were done at over 70kph! The route finally took us back up to Fermo, but we seemed to be about 20km short. We launched ourselves up the cobbled streets and into to the centre of the 'old' city, displacing some of the cobbles as we 'dug in'. At the finish we were told that the route had had to be shortened because a road race and a marathon had been organised using the same roads as our event! We were immediately interviewed by some bloke who introduced us to the crowd. We had by then been joined by a friend of ours, Dermot, who had finished about 10 mins before us.

When the organiser realised that we were 'stranieri' he got a local TV-company to interview us. The questions were straightforward to understand and despite Geoff telling them that I was 74, it went OK.

According to my neighbour we appeared on Channel 101's sports bulletin that evening. And in a newspaper report the next day we found out that our team had come second. All other information, e.g. our time and position, has as yet not been forthcoming. For gleaning information in Italy one often needs the gift of telepathy! 🚲



(L-R) Dermot, Gordon, Geoff



Here's a map of the location, so that people can get a rough idea, where the report "From our own Correspondent" in Italy comes from.

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## **South East Essex Member Group**

**13<sup>th</sup> September – Little Braxted** - My first ride with the group for over 2 months as I had completed my journey from Lizard Point to Dunnet Head to add to last year's Lowestoft Ness to Ardnamurchan Point.

Thirteen (a portent of misfortunes to come) assembled at Wickford for the start. Brian and Leah left to do a shorter route, as he's been gradually helping her improve her riding ability over the weeks and months. The rest of us set off to ride to the "Secret Garden Tearooms" in Chelmsford and after an hour and a half of cycling we were seated in the function room enjoying our various refreshments.

Seven left to continue onto Little Braxted and the "Green Man" pub, but only five arrived. On coming up the hill by the church in Wickham Bishops Mel was in front followed by Ron and Martin then me and the others. I caught up to Ron & Martin and said to follow Mel while I waited for the others. Unfortunately, Martin lost sight of Mel and didn't see him turn left to the pub and so proceeded straight on only realising something was amiss at Great Totham. We arrived at the "Green Man" to find Mel there, but alas no sign of the others. We ate and still had no sign of them, when we left. It later transpired they returned to the pub after we'd gone. Afternoon tea was taken at "Tropical Wings" in South Woodham Ferrers.

**20<sup>th</sup> September – Writtle** - Eleven left Wickford to proceed to "Blackmore Tearooms" although upon arrival three decided to go elsewhere. The seven who continued onto Writtle were somewhat bemused by the inability of the runs leader to remember the route (I think I was still dreaming of the Scottish Highlands) and at one point nearly had them on the A414 (oops). They all had a laugh at my expense at the pub, when Martin P, a late arrival, proceeded to spill his beer all over me.

**27<sup>th</sup> September – Cold Norton** - Today we were joined by Danielle, who has been out with us before and eight went to "Bringy Pine" at Great Baddow, although three decided to go to "Butts Green Garden Centre" instead. Only David K, Jon C and myself went to "The Norton" for lunch.

**11<sup>th</sup> October – Ingatestone** - A new rider (Vince N) joined us today and was brought along by Peter W as he lives in Rayleigh. Karen H was also present, but alas no Paul (much to my dismay as I'd missed the Wickford Wit), as he was suffering from a chesty cough. Brain, Leah and Martin went to "White Elm Tearoom" in Bicknacre, whilst we continued to "Ingatestone Garden Centre" in two groups. Although a table had been

reserved for us, service was slow especially for hot food and was a bit expensive.

As an away ride coincided with this one the runs secretary deemed that there should be no afternoon lunch stop due to the likelihood of no runs leaders being present. As I was unable to go away (John S, my driver was absent) it was decided that Lynda & Jon C and myself would continue towards Bicknacre. At Margaretting, I went with Jon to check whether the "Saddlery Café" had moved from outside into their newly refurbished premises and Lynda continued on ahead. They plan to be inside in the next few weeks and hopefully just in time for our visit on 8<sup>th</sup> November. We then tried to catch Lynda up but owing to some confusion about the route we had no hope in hell of seeing her, as she went to Galleywood and we went to Stock (oops again). We left messages on mobile phones and tried to arrange a meeting in East Hanningfield, but after another phone call back-tracked to West Hanningfield and went for lunch in the "Three Compasses". The moral of the story is to agree on the route and not deviate or pass go and collect your £200. After an enjoyable meal we returned to the Rettendon Turnpike to go our separate ways and it was here that I met Brian, Martin & Leah who had gone onto Cock Clarks to book the Xmas meet at the "Fox & Hounds". Congratulations to Leah for riding so far. **Manchurian**

## **Plea for volunteers**

*by Stefan Eichenseher*

As already eluded to in the foreword of last Spotlight, there's a special issue that requires your contribution - and that's volunteers for marshalling on cycling events.

This subject had been discussed in the last EMG committee meetings, and does certainly influence considerably, how we can put on events on our calendar to serve our active riders and encourage more participation.

At the last Essex CTC MG committee meeting before the AGM the Events Calendar for the following year is broadly decided with organisers and dates set. However, *then* begins the difficult part of trying to engage you into supporting the events:

95% of your contribution to an event is ... **time!**

*[Well, if you re riding the event it's 100%, Ed.]*

We (organisers) just need you (That is, in a Lord-Kitchener-pointing-finger 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 electronic gadgets, and every-so-often sign a check card and put a time on it. Of the 7 riding events with an average of 5 manned check points (probably less) there are only 35 members needed to keep watch. Ok, you might want to buddy up against loneliness, as for certain you cannot afford to sleep whilst on watch.

I would like to add that no EMG event is “owned” by a specific MG.

And to explain: as per history the CCMG was organising the “Windmill Rides”. Their decision not to continue was taken due to lack of volunteering marshals - or more precisely, that some people also wanted to ride the event, and others had done the volunteering for “forever” with no one else being prepared to take over.

[BTW, they were “organising” the event, the profit still ended in the Essex MG coffers. *Ed.*]

However, I (from the SEG’s) did not want to give up this “historic” event and took over the organisation with similar difficulties of finding marshals. Yes, riding the event again (which is different from riding the distance during route checking), would be a fine thing, but I have had my fun on the rides, and now want to give back, so that others can enjoy.

On the last event in June at the last minute Dave Russell (CCMG veteran) took over the outpost. In comparison now a regular couple usually sitting in Finchingfield conveniently next to a café decided to give the towel back to the German, making this vital check point a difficult spot to hold. As per suggestions, it would make sense to have volunteers from the area through which a course is routed. Thus, “up North” (beyond Braintree) a call is going out to our friends in Colchester...

However, this should not detract from the fact that the SEG’s 75 – though may be renamed after incorporation into the Essex CTC MG – and also the Peggy Thorndyke 100/100 will also need supporters from the nether regions of the county.

I am / we (organisers) are looking forward to receiving messages from volunteers, who can stay that one afternoon of an event away from the family... 🚲




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

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

Update from the September 2014 car vs Brian Stevens collision:

"Still not out cycling yet, but I have got an old exercise bike my neighbour was about to throw out, so spinning my legs now each day. Clocked up about 200 miles on it so far!

I'm looking toward spring to get out cycling again. Slater & Gordon have done a good job and I've now got a nice cheque in the bank. But of course, money will never replace the amount of time I've lost cycling in my Essex Lanes." 

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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>
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