

January / February 2016



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Kenneth Plowman, member of SEG
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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 1/2016se41

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Impressum:

EMG Secretary: Lynda Collins, 142 Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, CM3 5LL, Tel: 01245 320 733, secretary@essexcycling.co.uk

Editor: Stefan Eichenseher, 42A Whitegate Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2LQ, spotlighteditor@essexcycling.co.uk

Advertising Officer: Martin Pipe, Tel.: 07802 200660, m.pipe@blueyonder.co.uk

Postal subscriptions: Jonathan Collins, 142 Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, CM3 5LL, Tel: 01245 320 733, spotlightsubscriptions@essexcycling.co.uk

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

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

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(preferred) Contact</u>
President	John Steer	president@essexcycling.co.uk
Secretary	Lynda Collins	secretary@essexcycling.co.uk
Chairman	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867
Vice Chairman	Adrian Leeds	vicechairperson@essexcycling.co.uk
Treasurer	Adrian Leeds	treasurer@essexcycling.co.uk
Members' secretary	Melvin Martin	registrationofficer@essexcycling.co.uk
Welfare officer	Brian Penny	welfareofficer@essexcycling.co.uk
Promotions officer	Brian Penny	☎ 01268 777941
Editor	Stefan Eichenseher	spotlighteditor@essexcycling.co.uk
Advertising officer	Martin Pipe	spotlightadvertising@essexcycling.co.uk
Distribution Officer	Jonathan Collins	spotlightsubscriptions@essexcycling.co.uk
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	Dave Rowlands	☎ 020 3663 4345	Secretary
	Alex Kornfeld	alexkornfeld@me.com	Delegate
South East Essex	John Steer	☎ 01702 529638	Secretary
	Jon Collins	☎ 01245 320733	Delegate

Other Committee members

EDARF	John Davis	edarf@essexcycling.co.uk
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Certificate of Merit Committee

Brian Penny, John Steer, Martin Cockersole

Essex CTC MG Trustees

Stefan Eichenseher, John Steer, Brian Penny

Closing date for the March / April 2016 edition is on **15 February 2016**.

Editor's Foreword

Unlike my introduction in the last issue, Havering is still going reasonably well as a Member Group and part of the Essex CTC. The change of the SEG's to becoming an informal Member Group resulted in little change for the organisation of the Essex CTC, except that the treasurer now has to find the money to fund the room for their club nights. (No doubt, I will get an email suggesting a different solution that might be already in the pipeline.)

I have to say, the *Marshalling Duties* by Brian Stevens (p. 25) sound very encouraging and are a good example of what interesting experiences there can be on these fresh-air-in-nature stints.

With this new issue you will find the *Proposed Calendar Events for 2016* on page 13. As in every year we have our Standard and Premier Awards (see p. 14), and on page 15 you find a list of all the other awards and competitions that can be attained throughout the year. For last year the *Honours List for 2015* is on page 27.

A new category appeared in the last AGM with regards to contributions to the Spotlight: crowning the most prolific Spotlight Reports writer for each group. Apart from the encouragement to invite other cyclists to put pen to paper and write about their impressions of the Sunday Ride, I hope that this also leads to new contributors in general.

Please do not forget, the *Essex CTC Triennial Veterans Ride* takes place this year on June 19. Please raise your hand to volunteer for Chris Mills on 01245 360115.

Note, since this winter is very mild, you should get loads of miles in.

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

Happy New Year to you all, welcome to 2016, I hope that your Christmas Day and New Year's celebrations weren't too heavy, leaving you with some extra weight that's going to take some miles to shift.

The Essex MG's Christmas meet at the "Fox & Hounds" on December 13 went well with 15 SEG's, 5 Chelmsford City and 4 Havering. No sign of Colchester, probably as it was a very damp morning. The food came up quickly after the orders went in. Michelle and Steve had extra staff in to cope with the extra custom; and Martin Pipe was running the SEG's 40th celebration CD on the TV in the other room.

Our first riding event is the SEG's 75 event on the 28th February, starting in Wickford like last year.

Talking of which, if you're not riding it, then please volunteer to help out with the marshalling of it around the lanes of Essex. Some members from the two more northern groups would be nice. (By northern I mean above the River Crouch.)

We have a new rider in the SEG's who is a seamstress and she is willing to alter the long sleeved Essex jackets, replace broken zips, alter suits, dresses and anything else that we wear (for a price of course, as agreed by yourself and her)

If you're looking for a New Year present for yourself then what about an Essex group jacket or a short sleeved shirt. Brian Penny is still taking orders. 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.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year once again.

John Steer



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Member Groups' Reports

Chelmsford Member Group

8 November 15 – Hatfield Broad Oak - A mild day with only light wind attracted 10 riders to the start at City Hall. A quick vote resulted in a clear decision to stop at 11am for 2 minutes silence on Remembrance Sunday wherever we were. We set off on the normal route via Fyfield and Moreton arriving for elevenses at 10:50 at the "Harlow Garden Centre". There we were joined by Chris and Gillian and I was concerned that serving 12 people might mean we were in the queue or being served at 11am. This could have been awkward, if no-one else was interested in the 2 minutes silence. In the event we were all served very efficiently and were at our tables at the anointed hour. It was great to see and very moving that at 11 am Big Ben struck from a radio behind the counter and all staff and customers stood and remained silent. Brilliant – I needn't have worried.

9 Riders went on to lunch at the "Cock Inn" in Hatfield Broad Oak. The route took in a couple of 'traffic-free' sections at Matching and after Hatfield Heath, which both worked out fine.

A stop for tea at "The Snug" in High Easter and then home well before dark after about 53 miles. **Martin Cockersole**

15 November 2015 - To paraphrase Winnie the Pooh, the wind was blowing blustery and the trees were thrashing "thrustily" and I think it was safe to say - that seven windswept Chelmsford riders set off on a very "gusterly" day. "Coggeshall Vineyards" was our elevenses stop and we took the extremely exposed Airfield route to make full use of the following sou'wester. The overnight gusts of 40 mph (source, the met office website) had stripped the trees of all sorts of loose wood, around which we swerved and over which our tyres ominously crunched. One twig folded up John's milk-bottle-plastic mud-flap but mercifully there were no punctures.

After enjoying some quality tea and toast, just three of us went on to lunch the rest having a weather eye for the challenging headwind among other factors. We were blown along the steep Chappel to Bures climb so fast that lunch was varied on-the-fly to Bures itself after checking the "Thatcher's" for other riders. This enabled us to get a head start on the return run. We were obliged to dine outside of the fully booked-out "Eight

Bells”, but on the plus side (correct me if I’m mistaken) – I can’t remember a milder November day.

We ate our keenly priced toasted sandwiches in the sunny, sheltered beer garden in the company of ladybirds, flies and wasps. By the time we left the wind had dropped a little but was still gusting to 30 mph. We went via the very muddy, potholed and steep road through Daws Cross, Colne Engaine and Langley Mill and managed to fit in a tea-break at “Black Notley Golf Club”, 15 miles later. By then, battered by the relentless wind, we were all tiring out at a fair rate. The final leg of the ride became for me, a grinding effort with lights on and everything clenched that could be; considering that it was a mid-November ride I suppose I mustn’t grumble!

Adrian Leeds

29 November 2015 - Windy out! - Five riders left Chelmsford led by John B in a heavy drizzle. The journey out to elevenses was generally with the wind behind us. Down Hammonds Road I made a mental note not to come back that way.

At “Perrywood Nursery” we found Dave R already seated. Ken Rickwood joined us later.

Afterwards both headed for home as did Peter T. It left four of us to set off on a loop before lunch but I think John went further north than he intended. We looped round the top of Birch Airfield and from Birch village it was a constant struggle against a buffeting headwind. Martin C had found it too much of a struggle earlier and decided to make plans for getting home.

Because of the wind we arrived at “The Chequers” in Goldhanger later than we intended. It was very busy and fortunately with only three of us, John, Jason and I, we propped ourselves up against part of the bar.

Our exit from Goldhanger went well at first, but John missed a turn and we found we were going back along the main road! We only did about 50 yards, when I knew it was wrong, i.e. I recognised the road and the wind was from the wrong direction.

Back on course we pulled into “Bunsay Downs” for refreshments and a break from the wind. Christmas had arrived with two members of staff putting up decorations.

With our lights on we made for Chelmsford with one almighty gust at the Danbury roundabouts almost halting progress. Back at my car in Meteor

Way I had covered 55 miles and was relieved we didn't get the heavy rain forecast. **Mel Martin**

Colchester Member Group

September 20, 2015 - Tollesbury - Nine of us turned up at Colchester Leisure World (Sarah, Clive, Robert T, the two Steves, John, Vic, Derek and Pam), all expecting someone would have risen to the challenge of our first leader-less and destination-less ride, and have come with a plan. Or maybe Alan would get back from Cornwall just in time, and come to our rescue? 9:25 am: blank looks all round. This was the first time we'd faced this situation, who would save the day?

Well, no-one volunteered, but we managed to have a brilliant day out after all - and we certainly reflected several times on how much work our regular ride leaders put into the Sunday rides. Thank you all.

By 9:33 am, we'd decided to head to Coggeshall, and then come up with a plan for a lunchtime destination while we had elevenses. Derek left us early at Great Tey (to see his grandson playing in a football match) and we carried on to the "Dutch Nursery". We enjoyed a sunny stop in the garden and, as we were leaving we had a chat with the group from Lobbs Cycles - including National Cycle Network Route 13 Sustrans Volunteer Ranger Andy O'Hare, and Jacqui Stone of Abberton Rural Training.

We got a bit confused about the right turning to get out of Tollesbury, as we refused Robert's offer to look at his map, but we were soon rolling along again in the sun. It was really lovely - apart from the field we passed which was being sprayed, and some nasty pesticide caught us on the other side of the hedge. Sarah peeled off for home, so then it was just Clive, Robert, Vic and Pam. Clive turned off to Abberton Reservoir, followed by Robert and Pam, but we lost Vic who had gone ahead towards Peldon. As our route took us past the "Abberton Reservoir Visitor Centre", we called in to pick up a map of the new cycle route that Jacqui had mentioned earlier. There we stopped to look at a spoonbill that was attracting lots of attention, which led to ordering a cup of tea and more cake!

Great day, well done everyone - and thank goodness we'll have an organised ride leader and destinations again next week!! **Pam Nelson**



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Essex Cyclists' Touring Club - Proposed Calendar for 2016

7 Cycling Events



Date	Event	Organiser
28 st Feb	SEG's 75	John Steer
8 th May	Dot Sharp Memorial Ride 80km	Adrian Leeds
26 th June	Windmill Rides 110km/210km	Stefan Eichenseher
10 th July	Peggy Thorndike 100km/100mls	Stefan Eichenseher
14 th Aug	Colchester 40/40	Brian Penny
4 th Sept	Rough Stuff 29mls	Brian Taylor
25 th Sept	Colchester 100km	Malcolm Mitchell

2 Social Events



24 th July	Summer Meet	Brian Penny
11 th Dec	Christmas Meet	Brian Penny

1 Photographic Competition



Entries open: 1 st Sept	Closing date: 2 nd Oct	Lynda Collins
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➔ Submit your Events Card*



9 th Oct	Claim your Standard/Premier Award	Lynda Collins
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➔ Most important last (first) date of the (new) year!



14 th Nov	Essex CTC AGM	Lynda Collins
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*) You will need to complete an **Events Card** throughout the year and submit this to the Essex CTC MG Sectary **by the 9th October 2016** to claim your award. The idea is to provide a visual incentive of events completed and give evidence to make it easier for the secretary to compile the list of award presentations.

The 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.)

Participation = points towards Awards



Marshalling at an Essex CTC MG event (as listed above) can count as one event towards the Standard and Premier Award. (This does not include the 100 mile cycle event required for the Premier Award.)

One event (including a 100 mile or above event) from another CTC area/region can be used to count as an event for the Standard and Premier Award.

Individual awards based on the number of cycling events successfully completed are available to individual **Essex CTC MG** members as follows:

Standard Award	Complete 4 EMG events
Premier Award	Complete 5 EMG events with at least one event of 100 miles or more

Certificates for individual cycling events are available on the day of the event.

Event and contact details will be published in the Spotlight. For further details on the events please see our website at <http://www.essexcycling.co.uk/events.htm>.

Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
21 Feb	[EMG] SEG 75 miles - 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
A reminder for Veterans and Volunteers!		
19 Jun	[EMG] Essex CTC Triennial Veterans Ride	Chris Mills John Davis

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

Essex CTC Awards and Competitions

➤ **The Beryl Russell Best All Rounder - Female Cyclist**

➤ **The Peter Moore Best All Rounder - Male Cyclist**

The B.A.R. Award is decided on points gained from cyclists completing a range of activities between October 2015 and the end of September 2016:

- **Taking part in Essex MG Sunday rides**
(1 point for half day, 3 points for a full day)
- **Organising Essex CTC events**
(List of points available on the website or from your runs secretary)
- **Marshalling** (6 points per event marshalled)
- **Taking part in Essex CTC cycling events**
(List of points available on the website or from your runs secretary)
- **Attendance at social events**
Christmas 2015 and Summer Meet 2016 (1 point for each)
- **Writing articles for Spotlight** (3 points per article)
- **Entry in photographic competition** (1 point)

Spotlight Awards

➤ **Spotlight Trophy**
(Best Spotlight Article)

➤ **Measor Trophy**
(Best Spotlight Runs Report)

Dave Doo Photographic Competition

(see page 26 for more details)

Essex CTC Inter-Group Competition

Points for Essex CTC Member Group members (Havering MG, Chelmsford MG, Southeast IMG, and Colchester IMG) starting and successfully completing events are accumulated alongside points awarded for members organising and marshalling at events, and contributing to Spotlight. The Member Group with the highest number of points at the end of the year is awarded the “**Essex CTC Inter-Group Challenge Shield**”.



Chelmsford Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: Adrian Leeds

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

Runs Secretary: John Beaumont:

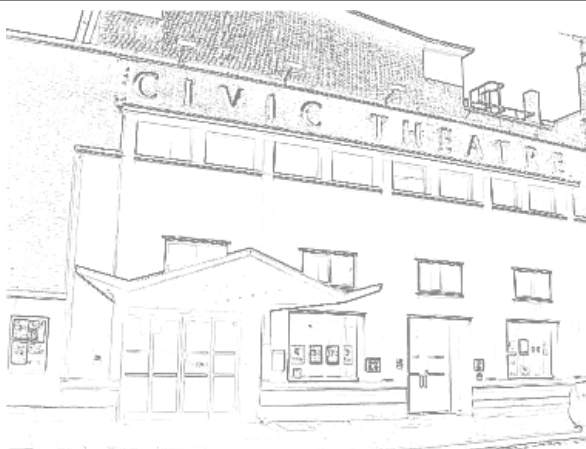
5 Riddiford Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2GB, ☎ 01245 630864

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 Jan	Blue Egg	Stebbing	J Beaumont
24 Jan	Blackmore	Marden Ash, Stag	D Southin
31 Jan	Andrewsfield	Gosfield	A Leeds
07 Feb	Rettendon, BHN Pot Plants	Maldon	D Emery
14 Feb	Dunmow	Littley Green	A Leeds
21 Feb	[EMG] SEG 75 miles - 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)		Details: J Steer
ALT:	Hastingwood	Elsenham, Crown	TBA
28 Feb	Sawbridgeworth	Allens Green	D Russell
06 Mar	Billericay, Wetherspoons	Highwood, The Viper	D Southin
13 Mar	Marks Tey, Diner	Little Totham, Swan	M Cockersole



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 & 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
Jan 10	[MG] Havering MG, Christmas Lunch (Detail to follow on web site)	
Jan 17	10am Start, Ingatestone	Joseph Collins
Jan 24	10am Start, Matching Green, The Fox	Dave Rowlands 07948 583979
Jan 31	10am Start, Ramsden Heath Café	Dave Rowlands
Feb 07	10am Start, Short Ride or Harlow Garden Centre	Alex Kornfeld 01708 229924
Feb 14	10am Start, Writtle, Lordship Café	Gordon Peel 07711 609230
Feb 21	[EMG] SEG 75 miles - 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)	Contact: John Steer 01702 529 638
ALT	10am Start, Alternative Ride	Dave Rowlands
Feb 28	10am Start, Informal Ride	Alan Pine 07716 096303
Mar 06	Short Ride	Dave Rowlands
Mar 13	Harlow Garden Centre	Alex Kornfeld

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 Informal MG – Runs List



Secretary: John Steer

☎ 01702 529 638 – 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 2nd & 4th Friday of the month
8.00pm @ St Laurence and All Saints Church Hall,
Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood, SS2 6RH

Date	Elevenses	Lunch Destination
17-Jan	Bicknacre (White Elm Tearoom)	Little Totham (The Swan)
24 Jan	Cooksmill Green (The Bakehouse)	Chignal St. James (Three Elms)
31 Jan	Maldon (Morrisons)	Heybridge Basin (Old Ship)
7 Feb	Butts Green (Butts Green Garden Centre)	Mundon (White Horse)
14 Feb	Brentwood (King Georges Playing Fields Café)	Stondon Massey (Bricklayers Arms)
22 Feb	Chelmsford (Secret Garden Tearoom)	Cock Clarks (Fox & Hounds)
28 Feb	[EMG] SEG 75 miles - 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) <u>Contact:</u> John Steer	
Alt:	Margaretting (Saddlery)	*see note
6 Mar	Maldon (Barge Tearoom)	Danbury (The Cricketer's)
13 Mar	Norton Heath (Transport Café)	Galleywood (Great Baddow Barn)
20 Mar	Woodham Walter (Bunsay Down Golf Club)	Little Braxted (Green Man)

Note: * When **EMG** or **MG** events take place the local ride will include a booked Elevenses venue, but not a specific pub for lunch, unless otherwise stated.

Check out 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
 All rides meet Leisure World Container
 by Skatepark at 9:30am

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
Jan 17		Heybridge Basin	
Jan 24	Stratford St Mary, Farm Shop	Earls Colne Valley, Golf Club	Malcolm Mitchell
Jan 31	Tiptree	Maldon, Queen Victoria	
Feb 07	Colchester, Playgolf	Nayland, The Anchor	Des Mcarron
Feb 14	Lawford, Hearts Delight	Harwich, The Alma	Paul &Caroline Avison
Feb 21	[EMG] SEG 75 miles - 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)		Details: J Steer
ALT:	Aldham, Millrace	Goldhanger, Chequers	
Feb 28	Greenstead Green, Farm Shop	Groton, The Fox & Hounds	Malcolm Mitchell
Mar 06	TBA		
Mar 13	Dedham, Art & Crafts	Great Wenham, Queens Head	Paul &Caroline Avison

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

Havering Member Group

Oct 4th - Gordon led four to 11ses at "Lordship Tea Rooms", Writtle. 39 miles done in all.

Oct 11th - Kelvin led on a glorious sunny but chilly autumn ride up to Warley via some rough stuff and on to Ingatestone and Cooksmill Green for 11ses in "The Bakehouse".

A meandering ride on to Pleshey and Little Green and lunch at "The Compasses" with Graham Pettit, fresh from Manningtree!

After lunch John W left to get more miles in, Graham headed back to Manningtree and Gerald took a direct route to E17. Kelvin, Gordon and Dave set off, wind assisted, to Writtle, Blackmore and home.

Oct 18th - Gordon and Gerald clocked up 45 miles on a ride to "Mayfield Bakery", Churchgate Street.



Nov 1st - Six including new lady, Alison, ventured out into the fog for a (not so) short ride!

East out of Upminster, then up through the woods to Hutton, Mountnessing & Blackmore to reach our stop at "The Bakehouse".

After coffees and an extended natter it was back into the fog and home via Pigstye Green, Norton Heath & Stondon Massey.

Was nice in places, where the sun managed to burn through the murk.

Nov 8th - Alex led eight on a gentle ride to "The Water's Edge", Hanningfield.

Nov 15th - Nobody liked the idea of fighting a headwind back from Writtle, so Plan-B called for a short ride along Old Father Thames to RSPB Rainham Marshes. Chan, Gordon, John W and Dave topped up caffeine levels and retraced our route home. **David Rowlands**

Nov 22nd - Long lost Havering rider Jeff Addinall, David, Alan, Chan and myself rode all the way to "Ingrebourne Valley", our shortest ever distance to morning coffee!

Then Wennington and on to the fens, we missed out my planned route up Old Church Hill and down South Hill. All our knees and my back were very pleased! Up Horndon-on-the-Hill and back across the A13 and into Stanford-Le-Hope and Mucking by the river. Short way back through Bulphan.

Nov 29th - Plan B revisited! Joe led Chan and Gordon to "RSPB Rainham Marshes" for coffee. There the trio were treated to a free sports massage! Much relaxed they set off into the wind for the return. **David Rowlands**

*Fun from the ☆: ...
found on my travels
through the Internet. [Ed]*



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- Autumn camp based in Puerto de Pollensa



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South East Essex Informal Member Group

18th October – Little Totham - Thirteen were at the start in Wickford and we left in two groups to make our way to the “Crystal Café” in Maldon. Seven went onto lunch at “The Swan”.

25th October – Cock Clarks - Thirteen must be our lucky number, as that was the number of riders who left to go to Writtle and our return to the “Lordship Tearooms” after a considerable break. Martin P decided not to join us, as he went to Writtle cemetery to take pictures of a cyclists’ grave for inclusion in the SEG 40th Anniversary DVD. Seven went onto the “Fox & Hounds” and afternoon tea was taken at Battlesbridge, albeit only two of us.

1st November – West Hanningfield - Fourteen left Wickford in two groups to head for “The Stables Café” in Battlesbridge. Unfortunately, Karen H had literally just gone down the road when she punctured and the delay meant her group of five didn’t arrive until after 11.30am. Martin F joined us at the café having cycled directly from home in Southend, but failed to collect his £200 because he didn’t pass GO! Seven went onto lunch at “The Ship” which now has very limited snacks on a Sunday and may be taken off the SEG runs list for the time being.

8th November – Stondon Massey - We returned to the “Saddlery Café” at Margaretting, which has undergone a major refurbishment and is much larger and will eventually have a new outdoor patio area for when we have some sun, whenever that may be. Seven from sixteen out left to go to “The Bricklayers Arms” but unfortunately the runs leader lost Martin P (he stopped to take a photo and I forgot to tell him to turn left), so I decided to buy him a pint when he eventually turned up at the pub.

15th November – Little Braxted - Only eight left Wickford, as two went elsewhere and John S came by car. We were making our first port of call to “The Barge Tearoom” down on the quay at Maldon, as it’s on charter between April and October. The ‘Hydrogen’ Thames barge was launched in 1906 and was used to carry 220 tons of cargo, mainly oil and tar from the rivers Medway and Thames to Scotland until 1976. In 1992, she was bought by the Blackwater Barge Co. Ltd., was restored and is now used for charters and as a tearoom with her sister barge ‘Thistle’. “Shiver me timbers, pieces of eight, walk the plank, hey Jim lad, black spot, whale ahoy and scrub the decks” were just some of the phrases uttered by the runs leader. Only five went onto the “Green Man” pub, perhaps the rest couldn’t take much more of his wit and wisdom, hey?

29th November – Hawkwell - As this was a local ride for the runs leader he had the option of staying in bed for an extra lie in, but as is his dedication to the group he decided to ride to Wickford. Danielle had brought her boyfriend Connor along and with nine others we left to head through leafy lanes and suburban avenues to the “Beehive Café” in Rochford. John S obviously decided to have a lie in and Ken W was also there to greet us. As he’s a regular at the “Beehive”, he gets a cuppa and his favourite corner spot upon arrival. Seven went onto the “White Hart” via Canewdon and into the increasingly gusty winds, but survived to enjoy a nice plate of sandwiches or soup and plenty of beer (well some did, mentioning no names).

6th December – Littley Green - Mel M joined us at the start in Wickford but only stayed with us for a short time, as he was defecting to the Chelmsford MG who were en route to “Ingatestone Garden Centre” (little did he know, but more about that later). Anyway, eight minus Mel made it to the “Recess Coffee Shop” in Chelmsford (a new elevenses venue for us) and Jon C went for a large coffee @ £2.25 which was so large you could float a duck in it.

Four headed out via Chelmsford central park where we came across 100’s of Santa Clauses running for charity and, having got through safely, we were soon on our way to ‘Huffer-heaven’ at “The Compasses” pub. The route through the Chignalls saw ‘Rocket Ron’ flying faster than a speeding bullet up the hills. At the pub, Jon C having already had a large coffee decided to eat a whole huffer (see photo), Ron S joined him, but Jim C and Ian M shared one. Just as we were tucking in who should appear but Mel, who finding no one at Ingatestone decided to come and join us. Having stuffed ourselves we decided against stopping for afternoon tea and made our respective ways home, where I had 73.4 miles on reaching Shoeburyness.



13th December – Cock Clarks - It was a dank and drizzly day for the start of the Christmas meet ride and the runs leader decided to change the advertised elevenses venue of “The Bakehouse” and headed for “Butts Green Garden Centre” instead. Only five went with him, which left four including a new rider (Sandra H) to ride to Bicknacre and “White Elm Tearoom”. We all arrived roughly at the same time just after midday and

were soon enjoying the company of fellow riders from Havering MG and Chelmsford MG. Four stopped at the "Haybarn Tearoom" in Battlesbridge for afternoon tea. **Manchurian**

Marshalling Duties

by Brian Stevens

I read with interest about marshalling in the Nov/Dec Spotlight, as in the past I've done my share of them. I can remember one 100 miles event the Havering organised, with me on duty at Little Dunmow. I got there 30 minutes early and having a nice lay down on the grass bank. When out of a nearby house a man and woman asked, if I was ill and do I need an ambulance? I explained what I was doing and they went back indoors; five minutes later the man came out with a mug of tea and biscuits for me!

The Havering Section had a treasure hunt once (organised by John Copas). For this I had to hide behind some bushes near where the treasure was hidden to see who found it first. After an hour or so watching cyclists riding past and not finding it, I looked up to find a large man with a shotgun and a big dog demanding to know what I was doing in his field behind them bushes. Luckily, I had the event information sheet with me, but for a time that was really scary!

Dot Sharp asked me to Marshall on the "Brentwood 75" in High Ongar outside the "Red Lion", which I did for two cold years. Well, I thought it was cold until the route changed and I was on duty at Cooksmill Green, which I did car assisted with Danny Pinner. I still think this was the coldest day ever; just getting out of the car to sign those cards was torture! With our duties over we set off to Norton Heath to park up the motor (the café wasn't open on Sunday in those days), but before we could go cycling we had to knock the ice of our bikes! David Rowlands kept this post warm for me the following year, but it was also the last time the Brentwood Section would organise this event.

I've also twice been a riding Marshall on the Triennial Vets rides, when I was under 50 and really enjoyed it. Then at the ripe old age of 51 I rode it properly, but as a leader and didn't really enjoy it as much! ☺

Cover picture:



First Prize at the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2015
Kenneth Plowman, South East Group CTC
"The Breakaway Group"

The verdict of the judge was:

"A good example of an action shot; in focus, tight framing and a shallow depth of field keep the eye on the cyclists. The only criticism is maybe it needs a touch of fill-in flash to open up the faces in shadow. Well done."

2016 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 wheelmanship are natural photographic subjects.

The competition is open to all Essex CTC members and there is no entry fee. But entries are limited to one photograph per person.

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.

Photographs should be submitted digitally or can be hard copy and sized 7x5 or 6x4 inch.

Entries **open on 1st September 2016** and close **on 2nd October 2016**.
Please send your entry to the Essex CTC MG Secretary by close of entry.



Honours List 2015



Inter-Member Group Trophy

South East	400 points
Chelmsford City	346 points
Colchester	247 points
Havering	104 points

Measor Trophy

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

- **Martin Cockersole**
(Chelmsford City MG)
"Heybridge"
Report 29 March 2015"
(March/April 2015 issue)

Premier Award

- **Dave Southin**
(Chelmsford City MG)

Dave Doo Photographic Competition

- 1st Prize: Kenneth Plowman -
The Breakaway Group
- 2nd Prize: Maureen Brazier
Just Look at That View
- 3rd Prize: Mike Curtis
Ascending Brock Hill

Best All Rounder Awards

- **The Peter Moore B.A.R.**
Dave Russell (Chelmsford City MG)
- **The Beryl Russell B.A.R.**
Diana Emery (Chelmsford City MG)

Spotlight Trophy

(best Spotlight article)

- **Melvin Martin**
(Southeast Essex MG)
"Solid and Puncture Resistant Tyres"
(March/April issue 2015)

Standard Award

- **John Rootkin**
(Essex CTC)
- **Dave Russell**
(Chelmsford City MG)
- **John Beaumont**
(Chelmsford City MG)

Spotlight Reports

(most prolific for each group)

- **Southeast Essex**
– Ian Mather
- **Chelmsford City**
– Martin Cockersole
- **Colchester**
– Alan Palmer
- **Havering**
– Dave Rowlands

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

Ken Rickwood has also agreed to select the best contributions in the year 2015/2016.

In search of somewhere in France

By Brian Penny

It must have been 20 years ago when club mate Gerald Turner (better known to some as 'Herman') bought me a video of the film *Jour de Fete* about a postman in rural France who, on seeing a movie in a travelling fair, tries to speed up his delivery round to compete with the American postal system.

Once seen I tend to put videos/DVDs to one side never to be watched again. But *Jour de Fete* is different. Made in 1947, it has a timeless *Dad's Army* feel about it. Jacques Tati's portrayal of a village postman is priceless thanks to a laugh out loud storyline and some very skilful stunts using a bicycle. The quirkiness of the film is enhanced by an announcement at the beginning that the original was filmed using two systems: one in black & white, the other in an experimental new colour system. Unfortunately the processing system of the colour version failed to develop that; only decades later has it been possible to use modern technology to bring the colour version to life.

The setting of the film intrigued me. The film begins with a tractor towing a trailer into a village centre where there is a large barn like structure next to a parade of houses. To the other side of the centre is the village café where most of the film's action takes place. After having seen the film over 100 times, curiosity got the better of me and it was time to investigate where this film was made. But would the village centre still look the same after all these years? Perhaps the village café is now a burger bar? What if the population of the village had multiplied and the barn structure had turned into a multi-story car park? The sleeve cover of the video indicated the film being made at Sainte-Sévère-sur-Indre. According to Google, that village is located in the centre of France and that its population of 1,135 in 1946 was stable having fallen slightly to 851 in 2009. Perhaps the village centre might still exist after all!

As it happened Martin Pipe is also a fully signed up member of the *Jour de Fete* fan club and accompanied me on this mystery ride along with fluent French speaker Ron Snape. Tour planning took several months. The towns and villages for overnight accommodation were rarely the ideal 40 miles distance apart that we wanted and it was clear that cafés would be few and far between. We were cycling in the least densely populated part of the country.

The first day of the tour was not very encouraging. The first night was spent in Chateauroux where, to keep costs down I booked a hotel in an industrial park 5 miles from the centre. Getting late and drizzling, we eventually found the Lego-block like hotel thanks to some kind dog walkers, who went out of their way to show us the right road. After that the tour went like a dream. The sun shone hot every day. The scenery was spectacular and the camp sites were where we expected them to be. Even the cafés existed in places where we had not expected.

Continued in the next issue

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 hoping to be out cycling again by spring. In the meantime I keep busy updating my Facebook page: Cycling in Essex plus." 🚲



The SEG's 75 75 Mile Reliability Ride



Sunday 28th February 2016

Start at Wickford Café Restaurant,
Wickford, Essex SS11 7AD
from 8:30am

Contact: John Steer, 01702 529 638,

(The ride runs throughout OS map 167)

Find the entry form on www.essexcycling.co.uk

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
Haverling Member Group	www.ctchaverling.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

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