

**March / April 2016**



**Runner Up in the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2015**  
**Maureen Brazier, member of SEG**  
"Just look at that view"

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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 2/2016se42

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

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

<b><u>Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>(preferred) Contact</u></b>
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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	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 May / June 2016 edition is on **15 April 2016**.

## **Editor's Foreword**

Well then, I am back – job did not turn out as well, as I hoped. But for the better, I would think, as I now can properly attend (to) events on Sundays that go into the late evening.

So, I did my volunteering duty (being an example) by marshalling on the SEG's 75, at the last check point together with Ian Mather. Preparing to get fit for the Tri-Vets I cycled first to the start in Wickford, then to "The Bake House", our post at the A414 crossing. Initially a bit wet, the day turned quite sunny, but with cold wind (especially when out of the sun). Worse though, I've seen the result of lack of regular mileage in the pace of my fellow riders going to our lunch stop – conveniently opposite "The Bake House". When finally arriving home at 4.30pm, I also felt it. There is certainly something to be said for regular riding to keep up the stamina for longer distances ... (Note to self: must remember!)

Now, the way the president is plucking his tailor, we should soon see another advert in the magazine.

Please do not forget, the *Essex CTC Triennial Veterans Ride* takes place this year on June 19. More information and further details are on p.27.

For the long-distance loving riders, there is a list of Audax events on p.11. The dates for these got me thinking whether it would be wise to put longer riding events on a Saturday, as any late finish wouldn't impact on the Monday morning pain to get up.

Anyway, 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***

By the time you read this Spotlight the first event of the Essex groups will have been and gone with hopefully better weather than last year and lots of riders taking part raising money for the Essex CTC Parent Group.

Don't forget that there are other events put on by the EMG during the other months throughout the year. Also don't forget to get your events card signed and sent to the Essex Member Groups secretary (Lynda Collins) for your points (in October), which will be awarded to your section and there is the chance that you might win an award yourself.

As we come out of the winter and head for a warmer spring (our weather hasn't been that bad - maybe very windy at times), spare a thought for those in the West Country and up north with all their wet weather, wind and flooding.

I personally have had some alterations done by our seamstress to my bib-longs and leggings. She is willing to alter the long sleeved Essex jackets, replace broken zips, alter suits and dresses (for a price as agreed by yourself and her).

Brian Penny is still taking orders for Essex group jacket or a short sleeved shirt. His number is in the Spotlight under officers of the EMG for more details.

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

***John Steer***



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

### **Chelmsford Member Group**

**10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 - Chelmsford's Ride to Copford Green** - Adrian led three of us off on what seemed a Sights of Chelmsford ride. We later discovered he had a fright on the Humpback Bridge of slipperiness over the canal so was avoiding it.

The four of us made steady progress to "Perrywoods" and found Dave R waiting for us. We were later joined by John and Margaret. Dave, and the tandem-trike riders decided to take a direct route to the pub, whilst we went on a loop east through Layer Breton. As if by magic all seven of us turned up at "The Alma" at about the same time. John regaled us on his life in the RAF on topics like why naval pilots with beards used more oxygen! *[...and those of us, who were not present, still wonder, Ed.]*

The route back was more direct and with no stop for threeses, lights were not required. Other than a crisp wind it was perfect cycling weather with good visibility, sunshine and the only dampness was on the roads. **Mel Martin**

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2016** - Six of us assembled at the start and Dave S led out through Writtle College to near Willingale in a light drizzle. Dave didn't feel too grand so there were no crazy loops or blinding pace, but we did arrive at "Blackmore Tea Room" early. Martin turned up just as we were finishing our refreshments. He decided not to stay and started heading back to Chelmsford, but then did a U-turn, when he found the Havering Group going to the tea room. We had a quick look at the adjoining "Leather Bottle" and it looks like it is being converted to a private dwelling.

Four of us went on with a meander through Doddinghurst arriving at "The Stag" at Marden Ash for an early lunch. It appeared the pub had been taken over by new people, because we were made welcome and there was no trouble getting sandwiches (unlike last year). As we had a leisurely lunch with lots of chat the sun had come out. After the previous week's big freeze the mild weather was welcome.

It had been decided to make for the "Saddlery" for afternoon refreshments, as it was a good compromise for where the four of us lived. On the way Dave took us along the bridleway, which joins the road to High Ongar to Kings Street. What we didn't know was there were two huge mounds of

dark loam on the adjoining fields and the machinery that put them in place had left the bridleway in quite a state.

On arrival at the “Saddlery” we found the car park was full and thought finding a seat in the café would be a challenge. It was a false alarm, as it was the shop having a sale.

Dave had stayed out all day and headed for home via Writtle, whilst the three of us went up to Stock before going our separate ways. **Mel Martin**

## **Colchester Member Group**

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Colne Valley Golf Club - Four Valleys and Two Golf Courses** - Twenty-three turned up at the container for the day's ride. Malcolm set off with 22 of the riders assisted by Des, another ride leader. Alan did his usual Easy Rider ride. The elevenses stop was at the “Brett Vale Golf Club”, Raydon, just over the border into Suffolk.

The ride to lunch at the “Colne Valley Golf Club” at Earls Colne would pass through no less than 4 valleys; the Brett, Box, Stour and Colne. The ride went over the Brett at Shelly Bridge. After crossing, Alan led past Shelly Priory Farm and over the Box just before Scotland St near Stoke by Nayland. He crossed the Stour at Bures over the bridge and back into Essex, and passed over the Colne after Colne Engaine. There were 10 of the group, who went on to lunch meeting up with 4 already there, Les & Gill with their tandem along with Sarah and Mary. Alan arrived a bit later making 15 in total for Lunch. **Alan Palmer**

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2016, Maldon** - Seventeen riders turned out for the ride plus one guest rider from Poland named Radoslaw, who would be out until elevenses. He has ridden with us before. He seems to pay a yearly visit to Colchester. The morning itself brought with it light rain on our sixth ride in January. Yes, by a quirk it was a 5-Sunday month, plus a ride on New Year's Day. Because of the continuing rain just 7 of us rode on to Lunch at the “Queen Victoria” in Maldon. **Alan Palmer**

## **2016 Flitch Bikes Audaxes**

*By Tom Deakins*

Full details on [www.aukweb.net](http://www.aukweb.net) [PayPal entries] - enquiries to the organiser: [tom.deakins@btinternet.com](mailto:tom.deakins@btinternet.com) or by post to **Tom Deakins, 31 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 2AA** with entry form and two SAEs [one, if you'd prefer the route sheet to be emailed].

Route sheets & GPS tracks may be subject to last-minute changes following route checks.

- **All events use some intermediate commercial controls: pubs, cafes, shops etc.**
- **Riders need to be self-sufficient on the road.**

**SATURDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**, Churchend, Dunmow

**£8.00** Fee includes food at start & finish.

**07:30 Horsepower 200km**

Controls at Lavenham, Snetterton Park and Newmarket



**EOL possible!**

**09:00 Horsepower 100km**

Out and back route to Newmarket.

**SATURDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**, Manningtree

**£4.00** 'X' rated – no facilities - café at finish

**00:01 Green & Yellow Fields 300km**

Through the night via Barton Mills 24 hour services to breakfast on the North Norfolk coast, return trip through Wymondham & Needham Market.

**SATURDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**, Manningtree

**£4.00** 'X' - café at start & finish

**09:00 Asparagus & Strawberries 400km**

Classic tour of East Anglia, via Ixworth, Halesworth, the Reedham ferry and Acle to fish and chips at Wells-next-the-Sea; back through the night to Barton Mills and Saffron Walden.

P.T.O.

**SATURDAY, 2nd July, Churchend**

**£15.00**

**11:00 Kingdom of the East Saxons 400km**

A completely new event, featuring full TLC: entry fee includes food at start, after 150km, & food + sleeping accommodation at 250km. Pub at finish after final 150km loop. Staying almost entirely within the ancient Kingdom of the East Saxons and including visits to the tidal waters/seaside at Manningtree, Harwich, the 'Sunshine Coast' [Walton, Frinton, Clacton], Wivenhoe & Burnham-on-Crouch.

**FRIDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> JULY, Churchend**

**£9.00** Includes brunch at the finish

**21:00 Hereward the Wake 300km**

Up through the Fens at night to Whittlesea via Cambridge, then some lesser known and scenic parts of Beds, Herts and the 'Essex Alps'.

**SATURDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, Churchend**

**£6.00** Includes breakfast at start. Pub finish

**06:00 The Flatlands 600km**

From scenic north Essex to the Humber at Goole, with a lot of Lincolnshire Fenland and River Trent Flatlands in between. Two gently rolling section in the Wolds for variety. A lot of Wetherspoons pubs, 24 hour McDonalds and garages to provide sustenance... No sleeping accommodation provided, but 'budget hotels' in Lincoln at around 400km. Flat enough to consider carrying sleeping-bag and bivi - plenty of bus shelters too...

**2016-17 Season**

**SATURDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2016, Churchend, Dunmow**

**£8.00** Includes food at start and finish

**08:30 Flitch Bikes 200km**

Café controls at Grantchester, Hawstead and Mistley

**09:30 Flitch Bikes 100km**

Out and back to the 'Maglia Rosso' at Hawstead.



## **SEG's 75 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

*By John Steer, Organiser*

The day started out with a light drizzle which soon stopped. While the first entrants were signing in the photographer from the Echo arrived. I then filled her in on what the event was about and she took a few pictures.

Daryl Smith and I put up three banners (one was for the Southeast Group supplied by the CTC) the other two where purely CTC ones.

With the café open and riders arriving to enter things started to look good. Ian Mather (aka Dormouse) started to take the money and entry forms, while I was with the photographer. Stefan turned up to assist with taking the names and money from the entrants.

As each group left, I didn't have to give out the warning about flooding and ice as I did last year, as the previous few days were kind with little to no rain. I just wished them good luck.

The marshals at check point 5 proposed a revision of the opening time (on check-card open from 12:15), as the first rider arrived at 12:50, whilst they were standing in the cold and due to clock off at 14:45 (or after the last rider's through).

After the free advertising in CycleClips the turn-out was a bit disappointing. In total 38 entered, but only 34 returned, three DNF and one, who entered by post, was a non-starter.

This year all returnees were in time at the finish, which just shows how good the weather was. OK, a bit of a cold stiff wind on the way out, but a tail wind back. And plenty of sunshine, once the clouds moved on.

Obviously you can't guarantee what the weather is going to be so early in the year. I think that all the riders who take part in events so early in the year should pat themselves on the back as they don't know what to expect. ☺

## Forthcoming Events



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

Date	Event	Organiser
7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>EDARF - Spring Meet</b> , at Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club, 12:30, see below	Peter Smith 01992 573591
8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>[EMG] 80km - Dot Sharp Memorial Ride</b> , Starting 9.30am from: Mountnessing, Church Hall	Adrian Leeds 01245 260 272
19 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>[EMG] Essex CTC Triennial Veterans Ride</b> ; more information on p.27	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>.

## EDARF

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### *Spring Meet*

**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club**

**Essex RM14 3TY**

12:30 noon for 13:00 pm

**£20** for 3 courses

### Contact

**Peter Smith**

**01992 573591**

**smithepping@hotmail.com**

## 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 Mar	Marks Tey, Diner	Little Totham, Swan	M Cockersole
Mar 20	Bretts	Monk Street	D Southin
Mar 27	Finchingfield	Great Yeldham	J Beaumont
Apr 03	Heybridge Basin	Layer DLH	A Leeds
Apr 10	Andrewsfield	Cornish Hall End	D Emery
Apr 17	Sawbridgeworth	Hadham Ford	J Beaumont
Apr 21	Spring Tour (5 nights)	Stowmarket, Suffolk	J Taylor
Apr 24	Blue Egg (Alt Run)	Castle Hedingham	J Beaumont
May 01	Greenstead Green	Lamarsh Lion	M Cockersole
May 08	<b>[EMG] 80km - Dot Sharp Memorial Ride,</b> Starting 9.30am from: Mountnessing, Church Hall		Adrian Leeds 01245 260 272
May 15	Marks Tey, Diner	Nayland Anchor	A Leeds



## Havering Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** David Rowlands

david\_rowlands@hotmail.co.uk or ☎ 07948 583979

**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
Mar 13	Harlow Garden Centre	Alex Kornfield: 01708 229924
Mar 20	Mayfield Bakery	Gordon Peel: 07711 609230
Mar 27	Blue Egg Gt Bardfield	Kelvin Dane: 07922 111790
Apr 03	Short Ride, Beginners Welcome	Gordon Peel
Apr 10	The Beehive Gt Waltham	Kelvin Dane
Apr 17	Harlow Garden Centre	Alex Kornfeld
Apr 24	Maldon	Alex Kornfeld
May 01	Short Ride, Beginners Welcome	Alan Pine: 07716 096303
May 08	<b>[EMG] 80km - Dot Sharp Memorial Ride,</b> Starting 9.30am from: Mountnessing, Church Hall	Adrian Leeds 01245 260 272
<b>ALT</b>	Hopleys Garden Centre Much Hadham	Kelvin Dane
May 15	Blue Egg Gt Bardfield	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](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 and All Saints Church Hall,  
Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood, SS2 6RH

Date	Elevenses	Lunch Destination	
13 Mar	Norton Heath (Transport Café)	Galleywood (Great Baddow Barn)	
20 Mar	Woodham Walter (Bunsay Down Golf Club)	Little Braxted (Green Man)	
27 Mar	High Easter (Snug Café) 9am start, Writtle (Lordship Tearoom) 9.30am start for morning riders only	Great Bardfield (Blue Egg)	
03 Apr	Bicknacre (White Elm Tearoom)	Tillingham (Cap & Feathers)	
10 Apr	Cooksmill Green (The Bakehouse)	Ramsden Heath (Nags Head)	
17 Apr	<b>[IMG] Car-assisted: Viking Trail, Kent,</b> Meet 9.15am at “Le Café Crème”, Birchington CT7 9RA		John Steer 01702 529 638
<b>ALT:</b>	Norton Heath (Transport Café)	*see note	
24 Apr	Chelmsford (Recess Coffee Shop)	Stebbing (Andrewsfield Aerodrome)	
01 May	Maldon (Request Coffee Shop)	Kelvedon (Railway Tavern)	
08 May	<b>[EMG] 80km - Dot Sharp Memorial Ride,</b> Starting 9.30am from: Mountnessing, Church Hall		Adrian Leeds 01245 260 272
<b>ALT:</b>	Blackmore (Blackmore Tearooms)	*see note	

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

## Colchester Informal Member Group – Runs List

Secretary: Alan Palmer  
 ☎ 01206 792929, mob 07939 395067 or  
[alanpalmer@phonecoop.coop](mailto:alanpalmer@phonecoop.coop)  
 All rides meet Leisure World Container  
 by Skatepark at 9:30am

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
Mar 13	Dedham, Art & Crafts	Great Wenham, Queens Head	Paul & Caroline Avison
Mar 20		Maldon	TBA
Mar 27	Assington Barn	Hadleigh, The George	Des McCarron
Apr 03	Flatford NT Tea Rooms	St Osyth Red Lion	Malcolm Mitchell
Apr 10		Castle Hedingham Bell	Des McCarron
Apr 17	Tiptree	Little Baddow Paper mill lock	Paul & Caroline Avison
Apr 24	Witham Olivers Nurseries	Andrewsfield Aviation	Malcolm Mitchell
May 01		TBC	Des McCarron
May 08	<b>[EMG] 80km - Dot Sharp Memorial Ride</b> , Starting 9.30am from: Mountnessing, Church Hall		Adrian Leeds 01245 260 272
<b>ALT:</b>		TBC	Gillian Walker
May 15		TBC	Paul & Caroline Avison

### 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

## **Havering Member Group**

**Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 2015** - Anna, Sue, Alan, Chan, Kelvin, Reg and Dave set off on a mild and breezy day up Warley Hill and down Dark Lane. More ups and downs to South Weald, Navestock and Shonks Mill followed, after which we landed at "Stapleford Abbots Aerodrome" for lunch overlooking the runway.

Return was short but up and down via Havering-Atte-Bower, Rise Park and Romford. **David Rowlands**

**Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 2015** - Chan, Joe and Dave set off into the drizzle after persuading birthday boy John Wynstanly to meet up with us for 11ses. Through the Fens to Dunton and on to Billericay, where at Ramsden Heath John was waiting for us. He must have found a wormhole through space! "HALL+Co" had been recommended to us and didn't disappoint; very cycle friendly.

On into the murk to East Hanningfield, Bicknacre and our target "The Fox and Hounds", Cock Clarks. The SEGs and Chelmsford were already getting stuck in when we arrived. A good turnout, not put off at all by the weather.

Our food arrived quickly and after a good chinwag it was time to go [cycle]. The drizzle had turned to fog, so it was lights on all the way home via Bicknacre, Stock and Buttsbury. A dark plunge down Warley Hill and home with 50+ miles on the clock. **David Rowlands**

**Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 2015** - What a day! Thirteen cyclists including new lady rider Helen set off. How to make a short ride long?

Let's cycle around in ever decreasing circles till you get to Ockendon. We then crossed the M25 back into Aveley. Then we negotiated one of the busiest junctions in Essex by the QE2 Bridge, then on to "RSPB Rainham Marshes" for teas.

We made our way back via the Ingrebourne valley for an easy 25 miles.

**Kelvin Dane**

**Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2016** - Seven souls set off from Upminster for our longest ride of the year so far! A cloudy day, but the sun did poke its head out a few times. Ups and downs to Childeritch, then through the woods to Brentwood. In Worrin Road the evil puncture fairy struck yours truly in the front tyre (second New Year's Day in a row!). Soon mended and at

Shenfield Chan turned for home. Six carried on to Mountnessing and Hay Green then back into the woods to Mill Green.

We found the SEGs already installed, and “The Viper” was filling up fast, but we managed to find a table. After filling our faces, we took a direct route home via Ingatestone, the old A12 to Shenfield, and then more forest action. In The Avenue, Stephen left us for Tilbury. A zoom down Warley Hill, then Sue and Gordon headed for Upminster, Kelvin, Gerald and I split for our homes. **David Rowlands**

**Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 2016** - Late Christmas lunch at “The Harrow” in Hornchurch. Nine made it, but only two cycled! Thanks to Alan Pine for organising this year.

**Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 - The Bell Ingatestone** - Seven riders, three degrees, three punctures (!) forty miles, one nice pub and a great route led by Joe Collins.

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 2016** - John Wynstanly, Stephen, Chan, Gerald and I were joined by Emma Harper and new lady rider, Yai, made the numbers up to seven on a mild morning. Cloudy at first, but the sun soon came out to play! First leg was to “Blackmore Tea Rooms”, after a quick splash through Hay Green ford.

Martin Cockersole joined us for 11ses and after our caffeine fix he headed back to Chelmsford, while we continued to Matching Tye on lanes teeming with cyclists. Lots of new tarmac too, with more to come judging by all the signs up about imminent road closures!

Just outside Fyfield the puncture fairy struck Stephen, who then decided to go home. Onwards to lunch at “The Fox”, half the group inside and half out.

Gerald headed straight back to E17, while the rest headed for Moreton and Toot Hill. At the bottom of Berwick Lane Yai had a clip-less moment, no damage to Yai, but a scratch on her (nearly) new machine!

Dave and Chan headed straight home while John took the ladies back to Upminster. **David Rowlands**

**Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2016** - Change of route today and a last minute change of leadership. Alan led Helen, Sue, Yai and Chan on a wet and windy short

ride to "Blackmore Tea Rooms" via Kelvedon Hatch and Doddington. Glad to say there were no incidents, punctures or crashes. But we were like wet dogs when we got to the café.

After a hot drink at a table near the fire we made a faster route back. Alan had to leave at Stag Lane and Chan kindly led the remaining riders safe and sound, but wet and cold back to Upminster - only 25 miles today but that was enough! **Alan Pine**

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## ***Cover picture:***



Runner Up at the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2015  
**Maureen Brazier, South East Group CTC**  
"Just look at that view"

The verdict of the judge was:

"A good example of framing the subject and not putting the cyclist in centre and also giving a sense of scale. Tricky lighting to capture well. If the camera was a little higher, the top of the helmet would not disappear into the bright sky."

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## **South East Essex Informal Member Group**

**21<sup>st</sup> December – Ramsden Heath** - Twelve gathered at the start but three decided to go to Bringy Pine at Great Baddow and one left us after a bit (was it something I said?). We arrived at “Tropical Wings” in South Woodham Ferrers after an uneventful ride and no further defections to find Jon C, who had walked from home and to escape from decorating. He certainly lived up to his reputation and was soon devouring two teacakes at elevenses. Six went onto lunch at the “Nags Head”, Ramsden Heath, where you’re always guaranteed a warm welcome, good food and beer.

**1<sup>st</sup> January – Mill Green** - The first ride of the new year saw Ian M, John S, Jon C, Mike C and Andy T (a new rider, although he had ridden with us when younger) set off from Wickford at 10.30am on route to “The Viper”. We took our usual route via Stock and Margaretting and arrived promptly at noon to find Ken & Peter, who came by car. As we started to tuck into our food and have a pint of ‘Jake the Snake’, Brian & Veronica also joined us.

**3<sup>rd</sup> January – Woodham Walter** - As torrential rain was forecast for later, two went to the “HALL & Co Coffee” Shop in Ramsden Heath and six went to “Bunsay Down Golf Club”. We met Lynda C & later Derek W, who had made their own way there. The rain started, as we left and we decided not to go to lunch, but to head home instead.

**8<sup>th</sup> January – Boreham** - Fourteen had assembled at the start and we left in two groups led by Peter W, who took a longer faster route and Ian M, who took a more direct sedate route. We were joined en route by Lynda C near Great Baddow and arrived at the “Saddlery” just after the others. The venue is a lot more spacious now and will include a new patio area for sitting outside in the summer (we hope). Six went onto lunch at the “Queen’s Head”, Boreham (a new pub for the SEG’s).

**17<sup>th</sup> January – Little Totham** - Four groups left the café this morning and comprised of Peter W + 3, who went via Sandon, Brain P + 1, who went directly, Ian M + 5, who went via West Hanningfield and one on his own. Lynda C joined us at the café and continued with six others to “The Swan” in Little Totham. Brain P & Lea W went to the “Ferry Boat Inn” in North Fambridge.

**24<sup>th</sup> January – Chignall St. James** - Sandra H and her grandson joined us at the start of this day’s ride, which proved to be an eventful day out for all concerned. John S & Brian P led them and, as they were nearing

Margaretting, John had 2 punctures. His demonstration to the youngster on how to fix a puncture went a bit flat (pardon the pun), when his 2<sup>nd</sup> inner tube felt soft and was duly replaced by a 3<sup>rd</sup>. It later transpired that there was no puncture in this tube. It just hadn't been pumped up enough!!!! The second calamity befell Peter W's group when upon arrival at "The Bake House" near Cooksmill Green they found it to be closed.

Just so nobody can accuse the runs secretary of not doing his job in booking venues: when we checked on Tuesday (I was checking the SEG 75 route with John S by car), it was being refurbished, but was set to re-open in time for Sunday (obviously it didn't).

I contacted John's group and told them to go to the "Saddlery" and from there they would return home. Four decided to go home and either forego elevenses or stop elsewhere, and five continued into Writtle, where we stopped at "Mauro's Coffee Shop & Deli". This is a small place and not suitable for large groups, but served excellent cakes and piping hot drinks. Five went onto lunch at "The Three Elms" via Great Waltham and Chignall Smealy along roads less travelled by the SEG's. Brain P and Martin P (not related but only as drinking buddies) arrived a little after us and were soon enthusing about the guest ales.

**31<sup>st</sup> January – Heybridge Basin** - We were joined at the start by Ian C a past member of the SEG's, who now resides in Maidenhead, but still keeps in touch with us and organises our Easter tours. Ten left in two groups to head to Morrisons in Maldon and when I arrived, I found Jon C purchasing 4 cans of cat food, which he duly carried around with him for the rest of the day. (How lucky is that cat?) Only four went onto lunch at "The Old Ship", but as Heybridge Basin is literally a stone's throw across the river, we went via Little Totham, Tiptree Heath and Tolleshunt Major. On the way home we lost Martin P.

**7<sup>th</sup> February – Mundon** - My group comprised of me and Elaine H, whilst Peter W had five. I went via Great Baddow and Peter via Stock and Galleywood to "Butts Green Garden Centre". We were glad of the warmth from the wood stove and were soon roasting in the heat and enjoying our teacakes and drinks. We had a new member join us at the table, a black and white cat, but no Postman Pat, alas. Six went onto lunch at the "White Horse" and the runs leader insisted on going up Purleigh Hill, but did let us go back down it on the way home. **Manchurian**



## VRC & EDARF

### Autumn Meet 2015

The Viking RC Annual Lunch was held with EDARF (Essex DA Reunion Fellowship) Autumn Meet on Saturday 24th October at Langdon Hills Golf Centre. This was very successful with 49 attending and we had a small surplus. **Peter Smith**



### **SEG 75 Route Checking**

*by Ian Mather*

On 19<sup>th</sup> January I went with John Steer to check the SEG 75 route by car having received a Tracklogs file from Jon Collins. Unfortunately, when I printed it out, I didn't notice the direction arrows, which were very faint. So we drove the route the wrong way round, as we usually like to change it each year but I'm sure nobody will mind.

Driving is very different from riding on your bike and trying to look out for signposts, grass triangles, road names, place names and useful information, whilst speeding in a car was difficult. We stopped for lunch at the "Blue Egg" just outside Great Bardfield and enjoyed a warming mug of coffee, whilst tucking into our hot chicken or pork ciabattas. Never one to miss an opportunity to talk to other cyclists, John was soon telling them about the SEG 75 and they went away clutching an Essex CTC business card.

Upon returning home, I set about writing up the route sheet, and trying to decipher my hurriedly scrawled notes and hieroglyphics proved an interesting task. But eventually, after much tearing of hair (what little I have) I'd finished (or so I thought). I decided it was best to put it to the test and on 28<sup>th</sup> January, as it was a nice day, I set off to ride the route. As I live in Shoeburyness, it's a 15 mile journey to the start in Wickford, where I arrived just before 9.30am. I set off and began to follow the route sheet occasionally stopping to check distances and make notes, whilst enjoying the ride through countryside less travelled by the SEG's. I must tell the runs secretary to organise some rides out to these areas, but since that's me, I'll be sure to do it. As I said before, you see a lot more riding a bike and signposts that I'd missed in the car miraculously re-appeared, road names, such as Ford Lane, became Bury Lane and left turns became right turns. Ooops! Funnily enough, as I was stopped just outside Howe Street making more notes another cyclist came whizzing by and shouted "Hello" and then "Colchester" (I was wearing the yellow Essex CTC top,

which he recognised) and it later transpired it was Malcolm Mitchell. He was out riding a DIY Audax and achieved 132 miles that day to add to the others he's been doing on a regularly basis.

By 1pm I was starting to feel hungry and stopped at the "Blue Egg" for lunch (this is getting to be a habit) and like John I was regaling other cyclists' about the SEG 75 (a chip off the old block or a mere whipper snapper learning from an old master, hey?). On reaching Great Bardfield I found myself heading into a strong wind and as the sun began to slowly descend it got a bit chillier. As I was passing through Stebbing, I decided to call in at the "White Hart" and enquire if they did bar snacks on a Sunday, which they did, although they would like them pre-ordered. I did the same at the "Butcher's Arms" near Ford End. And after speaking with the manageress, it was agreed that a group would be very welcome, if we pre-ordered, as normally they only do Sunday roasts.

I got back to Wickford having ridden the route in just under six hours and then rode back to Shoeburyness bringing my total for the day to 103 miles. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and it will be useful training for my next big adventure in America in June when I'll be travelling through NJ, PA, NY, CT, VT, Canada, NH & MA. 🚲



## Dot Sharp Memorial Ride 80 km

CTC Tourist Competition Event



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Start from St John's Church Hall, Church Road,  
Mountnessing, CM15 0TH,  
OS167 TQ632976

Contact: Adrian Leeds, 01245 260272,  
[leeds.adrian@gmail.com](mailto:leeds.adrian@gmail.com)

You find the entry form on our website  
[www.essexcycling.co.uk](http://www.essexcycling.co.uk)

## **Did yer know? – Interesting Essex Facts**

*contributed by Brian Stevens*

- The hit song “Billy don't be a Hero” by Paper Lace was written in the lounge bar of the “Old Dog” in Herongate.
- Danbury Common hosts the largest Adder population in the UK.
- Manningtree is the smallest town, while Tiptree is the largest village in Essex.
- Layer Marney Tower is the tallest Tudor gatehouse in the UK.
- The sunniest place in the UK is Ashingdon Village.
- Essex has 35 Islands - that's more than any other English county.
- The largest village green in England is at Great Bentley.
- Colchester Castle is the largest Norman Castle Keep in Europe



### **2016 Triennial Veterans' Ride**



on **Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Start / Finish at **St. Johns Church Hall,  
Church Road, Mountnessing, Essex (TQ632977)**

Start time is **8.30am**

The rides are open to any cyclists aged 50 or over.

Please find the entry form on [www.ctc.org.uk/ctc-tri-vets-rides-2016](http://www.ctc.org.uk/ctc-tri-vets-rides-2016).

Entries must arrive by **May 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**.


Contact Chris Mills, Wisemans, Barrack Lane, Great Waltham, Essex, CM3 1ET, on 01245 360115, or [millsycyclist@icloud.com](mailto:millsycyclist@icloud.com)

## ***In search of somewhere in France - continued***

*By Brian Penny*

There were three big locations for the tour. The first was Oradour-sur-Glans, which is now a memorial to a World War 2 atrocity, when the village was plundered on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1944 and has been left untouched since then. Once a thriving village it now consists of burnt out cars and shells of local housing and businesses ... a truly harrowing visit. The second big location was the town of Aubusson. We arrived there during the weekend of France's national music festival when musicians perform in every town throughout the country. Charles Aznavour it was not, - as a punk rock band and a poor man's tribute to Kraftwerk blasted out music loud enough to wake the dead. It really was a privilege to be there. The day after we had an hour to explore Aubusson and discovered it to be a very pretty town in its own right with a river weaving its way through the centre of brightly painted cottages. The third big location was of course Sainte-Sévère-sur-Indre. Located near La Chatres in the Centre Val de Loire region we had an unexpected climb to get into the town passing several sign posts recording the village being the location of the film *Jour de Fete*.

So was the visit worth it? Not half! Films can be deceptive. We now know that Jacques Tati used several locations for the film and brought all the footage together to look like the same place. Although the village has a small population, it is tightly packed and has to accommodate a main road with HGVs charging through it. Although next to a noisy main road, the village centre remained in tack, as it was on the film although nothing like as big as expected. The barn structure was magnificent and is clearly the focal point of the village. The big disappointment was that the café no longer exists. Indeed the café did not exist when the film was made with the occupier of the property agreeing to it being temporarily adapted to look like a café to ensure the fluency of the film plot. To one corner of the centre is an impressive museum dedicated to the film that explains how *Jour de Fete* was made. The problem for us was that the museum was all in French and that none of us had French good enough to understand the explanations of how the stunts were performed.

So my intrigue has been satisfied and I am content that my own love of *Jour de Fete* has been acknowledged in the country where it was made. However, my lack of French means I'll have to return to Sainte-Sévère-sur-Indre at some point in future when my ability with the language has improved. Just how did Jacques Tati manage to get a bicycle to go unassisted for so far? The mystery goes on. 

## **Obituaries -**

### ***Remembering Ian Craig (1938 -2016), 'The Ultimate Half-wheeler'***

*By Sara Craig*

Ian started cycling as a schoolboy, going down to visit his brother in Tilbury Hospital from Grays. He obviously got the taste for it, because, in spite of his mother's protestations, in his teens he set off for France with a change of clothes and a small amount of money in his pocket. Having survived that, he went on many trips with Viking Road Club mates, mostly in Europe. He loved riding the mountain passes and riding in France, especially from our little house there.



Ian was a proud member of the Viking Road Club, and rode time trials and other events with good results. He was a member of the CTC for 61 years and of the Forty Plus.

After his retirement, he continued to go out for his daily 35 miles or so, come rain or shine. Sadly, he was unable to ride in his last years, as his health and mobility deteriorated.

Rachel (his daughter) and I would like to express our gratitude to all who attended the funeral and gave support at this sad time. 🚲

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

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

***Eva Paine*** is now in the Grays Court Care Home, Grays, RM17 6EG, telephone 01375 383941. Her name will be familiar to many CTC members, as she was the editor of the EDARF Magazine for many years. Eva's cycling experiences started with the Grays and Thurrock Section of the CTC and the Romford Wheelers. As well as an organiser for EDARF events, she was also in the Forty Plus.

Eva would welcome visitors, cards or phone calls, so that she can keep in touch. Please note: if you ring, let the phone ring for a long time in case she's out of the room. (*updated by Margaret Davis and Christine Smith*) 🚲

## Useful Website Links

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

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Herongate Cycles (Cycle Shop)	<a href="http://www.herongatecycles.com">www.herongatecycles.com</a>
Hopleys Garden Long Barn (Café)	<a href="http://www.hopleys.co.uk">www.hopleys.co.uk</a>
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