

November / December 2016



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Spotlight – Magazine of the Essex CTC MG, a local Member Group of Cycling UK (formerly the Cyclists' Touring Club), the national cyclists' organisation

President: John Steer

Volume 6/2016se47

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Where a reference is given, consider paying your pre-entry fee online! Then please advise the organiser on your Entry Form that you have done so.
--

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
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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 January / February 2017 edition is on **15 December 2016**.

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

Editor's Foreword

AGM season ... this reminds me that I have to write my end-of-year reports for the two positions I'm holding. I hope that you were all attending your "local" member group's annual meeting to sort out the few bits that are still organised locally, such as runs secretary, main contact person and delegates who should represent your group at the Essex CTC committee.

Perhaps you have also discussed a way of how to appeal to the younger generation and introduce new blood...

If you can spot it, there are 1.5 pages covered in "non-essential" content, which could be used for subsidising Spotlight production costs. I would appreciate you thinking on how best to promote the virtues of the hard-copy version of the Spotlight to businesses and individuals alike.

As you may have detected I have introduced highlighting in the runs lists to give prominence to the dates, where Essex CTC all-group events take place. This should allow those who still want to take part in the cycling community, but feel no longer fit to cycle to the venue to quickly find where they can meet like-minded friends.

Apart from these "business-issues", I read of new 11ses and lunch venues of which, short of looking them up on the Internet, I have never heard. Maybe the authors of the ride reports want to explain more about where these places are and how well they cater for cyclists, so that others also can take a chance. Venues include: "The Orange Tree" and "Norpar Flower Barns".



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



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The President's Piece

We had a very good summer with lots of good weather, with some strong winds - but at least it was dry - with many miles put in by members of the groups. Yes, it was very hot on some days, but at least when you're cycling you have the wind in your face to keep you cool until you stop.

It now looks like summer is over for another year with the rain, the cold, the frosts all on their way. How depressing, I hear you say. Never mind, we all know that when we are out on our bikes, who gives a hoot to the inconvenience of what the weather can throw at us, as we ride on with that strange grin on our faces – “Or is that a grimace?” ☺

Please don't forget the Essex Groups **AGM on the 12th November** at the Chelmer Club Hut in Meteor Way, Chelmsford, CM1 2RL, start **at 10.30**; so be early, as the seats fill up quickly. If you haven't been before, Meteor Way is off Waterhouse Lane. The Chelmer Club Hut can be found at the end of the Way with a right turn at the end and follow to the end. Cycle parking is available by the Hut; car parking is back at the car-park on the right, as you come into Meteor Way.

Don't forget the Inter-Group winter-meet at the “Fox and Hounds”, Cock Clarks, on the 11th December. I will see you there.

There is no need to add “Cycling UK” to our shirts, as we can carry on with just CTC on them. Now is the time to order your Essex CTC winter jacket, they are wind-proof and shower-proof.

Brian Penny is still taking orders for jackets, long 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 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, whether it's the CTC or Cycling UK.

This is me signing-off after five years as your President. I hope that I haven't been too depressing over my time in office and that some have enjoyed meeting me and shaking my hand.

Best regards **John Steer**



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Member Groups' Reports

Chelmsford Member Group

21st August 2016 - A Sunday ride into Suffolk - The six of us led by Adrian were blown north to Marks Tey. Norman, Heather and Eric decided the "Bungalow Diner" would be their elevenses stop. We were tempted to do the same, but decided to carry on to the designated stop of Aldham "Mill Race Garden Centre", in case someone had gone there to meet us. It was just as well, as Phil was waiting in the tearoom. His lad was gliding up at Wormingford, which gave him the perfect excuse to ride with us.

I don't think anyone else noticed, but as we crossed Wormingford Bridge into Suffolk a heron was keeping pace with us before giving up! This part of the route up to Assington was identical to Colchester 40 mile event. At the "Shoulder of Mutton" we were met with the curse of "We only do Sunday roasts". It was a good job we had a plan B, where in this case "B" stood for Bures. The "Eight Bells" was full of life and provided excellent sandwiches.

Afternoon tea was taken at "Paycockes" in Coggeshall, a very relaxing location. We left Phil, as he had to return to Wormingford Airfield. There was still a good breeze, mainly against us, and nobody fancied riding across Silver End Airfield, so Adrian, Dave S and I set off for Kelvedon. Our return retraced much of our outward route, but with the head wind we went for the shortest way back into Chelmsford. There were many signs in the city that the V-Festival was taking place, but mainly from the volume of the music. **Melvin Martin**

16 October 2016 - Ride to Matching Tye - The early morning rain prompted my wife to ask me what I would do, if I got to the start for this ride, which I was down to lead and found nobody there. I said I would probably come home, thinking it would probably be still raining. Her question proved prophetic and I was on my own at the start, but as I really wanted the exercise and the rain was easing I decided to follow the route I had planned anyway.

With elevenses at Blackmore it's a bit tricky to make the first leg long enough, but by looping around a bit I arrived there with 18 miles on the clock. I'm glad I carried on because Mel arrived there at the same time to join the ride asking where the rest of the group was, which I couldn't

explain. Particularly so, as the forecast proved correct and the weather was now dry and bright.

Mel and I then had a very enjoyable ride to the "Fox Inn" at Matching Tye with some welcome wind assistance. This hostelry is really excellent for a cyclist lunch stop with good beer and no fuss about not having a Sunday roast.

Heading for "The Snug" at High Easter for threeses we took in the attractive link past Matching Church then via Matching Green to White Roding in bright sunshine.

We managed to dodge a nasty black cloud which passed us to the west, as we made our way back to Chelmsford in dry conditions. I had 55 miles on the clock on arriving home at 4pm after a good ride with good company. Thanks Mel – without you I might well have gone home from Blackmore. **Martin Cockersole**

Colchester Member Group

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

Haverling Member Group

August 7th - Gordon led the pack on a short ride to "Thameside Thurrock Visitors Centre" at Mucking via Bulphan. Elevenes with views across Old Father Thames. Return had a little off-road thrown in at Saffron Gardens! Thirty easy, sunny miles, ten out.

August 14th - Three out on a cloudy Sunday. A brisk climb up to South Weald, on to Horsemanside then down into the Roding Valley. At Tawney Common we went off-road in Mountwood Lane to North Weald and elevenes at the station. A quick cuppa while an old diesel hauled train pulled out then a look at the classic cars on show.

Onwards to Magdalen Laver and Sheering then across the border into Hertfordshire and through Sawbridgeworth.

"The Orange Tree" turned out to be a bit upmarket for us, so sandwiches in the garden for us. Although I fancied a bowl of chips as well - £3 for a handful of chips!

Weather brightened up for the return, a tailwind too! Hatfield Heath, Matching Green, Willingale then past the doomed "Norton Heath Café", Blackmore and back to Upminster amassing 58 miles in the process.

August 21st - A new couple made the numbers up to eleven. Up Bird Lane and down The Avenue, Hutton, a dry Buttsbury wash, Stock then past Marconi's old gaff and then off to "Paper Mill Lock" for our caffeine hit.

Onwards and upwards, then a slight navigational moment landed us in Witham!

Soon back on track, but running a bit late; so stopped for lunch at Black Notley instead of our intended destination of Stisted.

"The Vine" turned out to be a lovely pub, nice food but service a bit slow!

Return into a headwind through Gt Leighs, Writtle and Blackmore.

Another 75 miles.

August 28th - Kelvin led a group of six to a drizzly elevenses by the river in Chelmsford. On to a very busy "Compasses" at Little Green; service was fast as usual.

Several vintage bicycles were there including a rare Vampire Convincible with its unusual sliding bottom bracket.

A little drizzle saw us off for the return via Writtle.

September 11th - Kelvin led ten to elevenses in Shenfield then on to lunch at "The Viper".

After basking in the sun a quick ride back via Blackmore.

September 18th - Seven out on a cloudy day, ups and downs to "Norpar Flower Barns". Arrived a bit early, but they kindly opened up for us.

More ups and downs, Toot Hill and Theydon Bois led us to Epping Forest and lunch outside "The Kings Oak"

Return via Loughton, Chigwell Row and Stapleford Abbots.

September 25th - Fab five set off for elevenses overlooking Hanningfield Reservoir. On to an alfresco lunch by the Blackwater in Maldon.

John Wynstanly left us to get more miles in while we returned via Stock and Buttsbury. **David Rowlands**

Plea for Volunteers

By the Editor, on behalf of the EMG Committee

The title sounds familiar? Well yes, re-cycled from a previous edition, but just as urgent:

Considering the uptake of applications for the Cycling UK Board of Trustee Elections 2016, I am sure that there are likewise members out there, who could bring their expertise to our committee. We have two members who carry out four functions - this cannot be right!

The **Essex CTC AGM is on 12th November**, so it is important that as many members as possible attend and it is even more important that members stand up and apply for the positions on the committee.

It is very easy to look the other way, leave it to 'someone else', just turn up for the club run and hope 'someone else' has prepared the ride. I'm afraid the same faces each year step up to the plate and take on the functions.

Due to his term coming to an end, the President reluctantly relinquishes his position. This means that we will need another person to officiate events and awarding ceremonies.

Our Membership Secretary also likes to step down due to other commitments, which distract him from his job.

There are another one or two positions in jeopardy, where a new face could refresh the committee.

However, I would like to propose that the positions should not be filled with another person of the South East Group!




Please contact the secretary, Lynda Collins, on 01245 320 733 or by email collins.lynda@btopenworld.com with any suggestions. ☺

ACME - Audax Club Mid-Essex

By Tom Deakins

The information about my events ("2016 Flitch Bikes Audaxes", Mar/Apr 2016, p.11) in Spotlight earlier this year generated quite a few new entries.

Now a new group, ACME (Audax Club Mid-Essex) have formed out of 12 regular Audaxers in Mid-Essex comprising Witham, Chelmsford, Dunmow, Tiptree and Mersea Island. There are two new organisers and lots of plans. We even have a jersey! 

Audax Club Mid-Essex (ACME) - Winter Series 2016-17

ACME's new series of monthly 100km Brevet Populaire Audaxes, starting from Witham's Battesford Court [Weatherspoon's] or Kelvedon Station. 10:00am start, optional pub finish. £4 entry fee.

Late start to enable easy train assisted travel or 'Extended Calendar Event' to 200km.

Witham starts have event car parking [£1 donation] at the Labour Hall, near the station. Kelvedon Station has cheap parking at the weekend. Postal Finish.

Sat 3rd December 2016: The Stansted Airport Express

Almost to the end of the runway and *The Coffee Shop* at Thremhall Park, back via Thaxted and Black Notley. Organiser: Tom Deakins.

Sat 21st January: 2017 The Kelvedon Oyster

Down to the coast with re-fuelling options at Rowhedge, West Mersea [oysters!] and Heybridge. Organiser: Graeme Provan.

Sat 4th February 2017: Knights Templar Compasses and Cross

The Essex Mystery <http://vulpeculox.net/index.htm#mystery> – Knights Templar legends! Via Margaretting, Little Green *Compasses* [passing several more] and Crossing Temple Barns. Organiser: Grant Huggins.

Postal finish = post completed brevet cards with any receipts to the organiser, first thing Monday morning, if possible.

Full details on www.aukweb.net : paypal or postal entries.



Forthcoming Events



Organisers: please advise the editor of anything you wish to be included

Date	Event	Organiser
12 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
11 Dec	[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch , "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm	Brian Penny
26 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, 01702 529 638

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


Advertising in Spotlight

by Martin Pipe

Are you aware of any upcoming public events - for example, cycle rides and charity functions - that could benefit from advertising in Spotlight?

If so, could you please pass the details to the Advertising Officer Martin Pipe: Tel.: 07802 200660, m.pipe@blueyonder.co.uk?

We are able to include "one-off" adverts in single- or multiple-issues at competitive prices.

Please note that notice would be required, in keeping with the magazine's two-month production schedule (see closing date on page 4). 

Chelmsford Informal Member Group – Runs List

Contact: Adrian Leeds

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

Runs Secretary: John Beaumont:

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

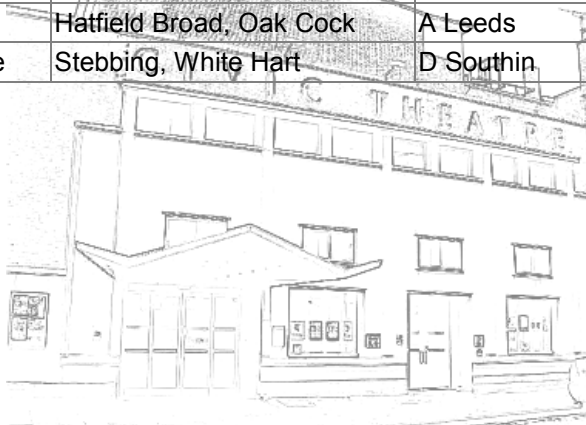
Rides Start: Sundays: Bus Station at the end of Fairfield Road
(near the Civic Theatre) 9am for 9.15am

All day rides start **9.15am**

For Tuesday evening destinations

call Dave Russell ☎ 01245 381055

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
12 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
Nov 13	Maldon, Fig Tree	Copford Green, Alma	M. Martin
Nov 20	Ongar, Budworth Hall	Hatfield Broad Oak, Cock	A Leeds
Nov 27	Blackmore, Tea Rooms	Matching Tye, Fox	D Southin
Dec 04	White Roding, Bretts	Monk Street, Farmhouse Inn	M Cockersole
11 Dec	[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch , "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm		Brian Penny
Dec 11	Terling, Owls	Cock Clarks, Xmas Meet	D Russell
Dec 18	Maldon, Fig Tree	Witham, Wetherspoons	J Beaumont
Dec 25	Christmas Day	God Rest Ye Merry Cyclists	N/A
Jan 01	New Year's Day – 10 a.m. start	Moreton, Nags Head	A Leeds
Jan 08	Rettendon, BNH	Maldon, Wetherspoons	M Cockersole
Nov 20	Ongar, Budworth Hall	Hatfield Broad, Oak Cock	A Leeds
Jan 15	High Easter, Post Office	Stebbing, White Hart	D Southin



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 & www.haveringcycling.com

Rides Start: Roomes (Home & Fashion) Store, Station Road, Upminster

All rides meet 08:45 for 09:00 start unless otherwise stated

Date	Destination	Leader
12 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
Nov 13	Hatfield Broad Oak	David Rowlands
Nov 20	Destination to be decided on the day.	Kelvin Dane
Nov 13	9am START Hatfield Broad Oak	Dave Rowlands 07948 583979
Nov 20	9am START Destination to be Decided	Kelvin Dane
Nov 27	9am START Moreton	Dave Rowlands
Dec 04	10am START Short Ride to Christmas Lunch	Dave Rowlands
11 Dec	9am START [EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch, "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm	Dave Rowlands
Dec 18	10 am START	Kelvin Dane
Dec 27	10 am START The Viper	Dave Rowlands
Jan 01	10 am START Short Ride, Beginners Welcome	
Jan 08	10 am START Ramsden Heath	Dave Rowlands
Jan 15	10 am START	Kelvin Dane

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



Southeast Essex Informal MG – Runs List



Contact: 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 & 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 for GPX and TrackLogs TCX files of our rides.

Date	Elevenes	Lunch Destination
12 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
13 Nov	Writtle (Lordship Tearooms)	Mill Green (The Viper)
20 Nov	Ramsden Heath (Hall & Co.)	Mundon (White Horse)
27 Nov	Butts Green (Garden Centre)	Writtle (Rose & Crown)
4 Dec	Blackmore (Blackmore Tearooms)	Ramsden Bellhouse (Fox & Hounds)
11 Dec	[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch , “The Fox and Hounds”, Cocks Clark, 12pm	Brian Penny
ALT:	Rettendon (BHN Garden Centre)	[EMG] Xmas Meet Cock Clarks (Fox & Hounds)
18 Dec	Chelmsford (Secret Garden Tearoom)	TBC
25 Dec	Merry Christmas	Merry Christmas
1 Jan 2017	10.15am for 10.30am start from Wickford Diner, High St, Wickford.	Mill Green (The Viper)
8 Jan	Woodham Walter (Bunsay Down GC)	TBC
15 Jan	Margaretting (Saddlery)	Ramsden Heath (Nags Head)
22 Jan	Hatfield Peverel (D’s Café Diner)	Maldon (Queen’s Head)

Colchester Informal Member Group – Runs List

Contact: 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
Nov 06	TBC	Woodham Walter, Queen Victoria	Des Mccarron
12 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
Nov 13	Coggeshall, Marks Hall	Bures, The Eight Bells	Simon Brooks
Nov 20	TBC	TBC	TBC
Nov 27	Assington, Farm Shop	Hadleigh, The George	Paul & Caroline Avison
Dec 04	Colchester, Playgolf	Nayland, Anchor Inn	Des McCarron
11 Dec	[EMG] Essex CTC Christmas Lunch , "The Fox and Hounds", Cocks Clark, 12pm		Brian Penny, 01268 777941
Dec 11	TBC	Lawford ,Hearts Delight	TBC
Dec 18	TBC	Lawford ,Hearts Delight	TBC
Dec 25	NO RIDE	TBC	
Jan 01	Invitation Easy Ride	TBC	Alan Palmer
Jan 08	Coggeshall, Marks Hall Gardens & Arboretum	Earls Colne, Colne Valley Golf Club	Simon Brooks
Jan 15	TBC	TBC	TBC

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.colchestercycling.uk



The New Inn, Colchester



Cycling UK, formerly Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC)
For further information about the CTC and the events and services
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Spotlight

– the bi-monthly magazine for all cyclists in the Essex CTC member Group

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Saturday: 10.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday: 10.00am to 4.00pm
Contact: 01246 300000

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South East Essex Informal Member Group

21st August, Writtle to Blackmore - A small group of us followed the main group out to Writtle at a slower pace with Lea in tow. We arrived at the tea rooms not long after the main group to find Ian, Charlotte and their baby Chloe. Some of us had cuddles with Chloe (she won't remember), before the groups split up going in three directions. One supposedly going to Felsted, one back home and the other to Blackmore: between Brian P and myself we navigated our way through the lanes to Newney Green and the "Duck Inn" pub, just so that we could check what ales they were selling and the price of their food. Then it was off to Blackmore and the "Prince Albert" for lunch and the biggest Beef Sandwich I have ever had. Ron also had the same, Lea and Brian shared a Prawn and Salmon sandwich and chips, good value we all agreed. This pub must go on the winter runs list.

28th August, Tollesbury to Little Totham - I drove to Lynda and Jon's so that Lynda could have company on the ride out to Tollesbury. We made good time and arrived not long after Ian's group. Going by the time I was waiting, I thought they must have been there for some time – They were already eating. The musical entertainment was an old record player and the only music seemed to be a steel band being repeated over and over again. I couldn't wait to escape, as much as I like steel bands. Ian led us on a devious route to the pub where we met Mick C and Ron S who had both been on the later start. There was a quick shower while we were sittin outside and a quick rush into the pub for shelter. Then we headed off for threeses and home.

4th September, Billericay to Mill Green - We set off this morning with a new young lady riding on off-road (tractor tyre bike). She rode up Brock Hill without any effort. It was the same for every hill she encountered and this was her third time out on a bike. Havering joined us at the café in the park, but she was going to go home after 11ses. Our ride out to Mill Green was an easy one and we took our lunch in the marquee, which was still standing from a previous function. While we sat there, Martin C and two other riders turned up followed shortly by the Chelmsford group and those that had ridden the rough-stuff. Inter-group banter followed before we parted company and headed for our threeses stop.

11th September, Blackmore to Marden Ash/Ongar - I led Mel M and Ron S out to Blackmore this morning, while Peter W had taken the bigger group by a longer route. Mel M set off for home with Peter's group, while I set off with Ron S to the "Brewers Arms" in Marden Ash. I took Ron via

the farm track to give him a taste of what to expect on the coast to coast. On arrival at the pub I had to arrange the side gate to be opened, as they keep it locked to stop casual drinkers slipping in with their own cans/bottles. Shortly after our arrival (we had got our food), when Mel and his group arrived, I had to open the gate for them. When we set off after lunch it was hard work for me going up the hills, but fast going down and along the flats. We made good time and stopped for 3ses at "Hall & Co" in Ramsden Heath before going our separate ways home.

18th September, Woodham Walter to Little Braxted - I wasn't out today, as my wife had had a bad fall the day before.

I do have a moan about the group that was out though:

I'm told that 5 went to 11ses, but and it's a big BUT no one went on to lunch, neither did they bother to let Ian or me or the pub know. I had a phone call at about 1.45pm asking me how long before they either turned up or, if they weren't coming, could I let them know, as they had a table reserved for us at 1.00pm. Please members of all groups, if you have booked a venue and you are not going to make it, can you either phone it or someone at home, who can pass on the message. Venues for 11ses and lunch may refuse our custom, if we let them down on bookings.

25th September, Butts Green to Ramsden Heath – Two or were that three groups set off this morning, Ian took his group via Battlesbridge to see the vintage cars. - Was it one set of old crocks looking at another set of old bangers? - I set off with Ron S in tow. Soon after entering South Hanningfield Lane I heard another voice speaking to Ron, but it wasn't until the end of the Lane I spotted Martin P ... Well, it is a nice fast downhill ride. We made steady progress to East Hanningfield with a turn to the left and then a right taking us along Back Lane to slow us down as we were early for 11ses. Peter W turned up with his group followed a bit later by Ian and his group. After 11ses Ian took his group on a loop to lunch, while Peter led some back to Wickford. Ron, Martin and I set off for lunch. On the way Martin said that we were going to be early. I said, not to worry, as we could get our orders in and be seated before the others arrived. I was wrong, as the others turned up while we were still getting our drinks and ordering food. While we were eating Lynda arrived and joined us with her Bacon Butty ... NO (!), she had a cheese baguette and salad.

2nd October, Margarettering to Cock Clarks - We set off in three groups this morning slow, medium and fast you might say. My group was the second to arrive while Ian's brought up the rear. After elevenses, my group consisting of Lynda & Jon C, Martin F, Ian M and myself set off up through Stock and a long and winding route to the "Fox and Hounds". On

our arrival we found John Davis already partaking of his lunch. Michelle had said to me, when I gave my name: "Oh no, not another John." Brian and Lea followed some time later having lost the key to their lock. Instead of joining us inside, they sat outside at one of the bench seat/tables. When we set off for home, we left Brian and Lea enjoying the cool but bright sunshine.

9th October, Crab and Winkle/ Canterbury ride - The weather forecast for the day said no rain until between 1pm and 2pm. So imagine the surprise, when at 9.30 the heavens opened and it rained heavy for about 2 hours non-stop, which meant that before we even got to the café for our breakfast before the start of the ride we were wet (some more than others). Lynda and Jon were talking of going home, as Jon didn't have a waterproof coat and Lynda didn't have her big gloves. I lent them both their needed equipment and they stayed for the day. After a few miles and some of us trying to keep the group together, this included some of the Kent riders, we lost Jon C, Ian M and Ron S. I went back to where we had turned off. Note, the runs leader didn't stop to check that we were all together. After me then catching up to him and the rest of the group and phone calls trying to contact the three lost riders, we made intermittent contact with signals coming and going. Not long after this, one of the Kent riders (Beatrice) had a puncture. We left her and the other riders and made our way towards the Reculver, which must have been about 10 miles or more away from where we had lost the three not so wise men. On our arrival at the Reculver the three were waiting for us having arrived

shortly before us. We once again set off as a group, but minus the Kent group, which we had left sorting out their puncture. Our route was up a grass field and I mean up: I think that we were lucky not to slip and slide on the wet grass, as we went up hill. We eventually arrived at our lunch stop in Hern Bay and met up with the Kent group again for lunch.

Then it was off to find the Crab and Winkle trail for the last few miles of the ride and a sightseeing tour of Canterbury (I think). We arrived back at the cars dry by now. **John Steer**



Carving on the "Crab and Winkle" trail (NCN1)

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A Persian Gulf Tour

By Steve Gregson

Wow, its mid-March, so far no rain ... one thin top sufficient. So as we await our visa for Oman at the Musandam border, we reflect on the first few days after arriving in Dubai for a month's tour of the Emirates and Oman. The accommodation had been excellent, 3 stars and the food gave us no stomach problems, lots of fresh fish.

On the down-side, we had not found any quiet roads nor rough-stuff. In fact the roads were mostly highways, but we felt safe on the noisy hard shoulders. The odd cycle path in Dubai and Ras-Al-Khaimah had given us some respite. Earlier, we had been stopped in R.A.K by a jobsworth who said it was actually a promenade and where did we come from? – 'England, Blackburn, Rovers' and then his eyes lit up and he wished us a good journey.

Into Oman and the coast road initially quite flat and quiet, as it wound in and out of the brilliant coloured bays towards the Musandam Peninsula on the Straits of Hormuz, but with a couple of final short sharp hills to test us. To our right, the high rocky Ruus al Jibal mountains with spectacular cliffs.

The original Khasab Hotel had been updated and nearby a local restaurant served mutton curry, prawn and rice, salads, 2 juices. The owner was keen to please and went out to find and give us an ice-cream. There is a spectacular unmade road over the mountains that exits into Sharjah Emirate far to the south, but in 2015 no exit permission for non-Arabs. We had to make do with a dhow trip around Telegraph Island where the term 'round the bend' originated.

Back then on the same beautiful road, 57 miles to Ras-Al-Khaimah and the strong tail wind enjoyed on our way in had thankfully subsided. In the afternoon there was time to relax on the beach before 2 Happy-Hour beers and spare ribs on the Hilton roof-top.

The road to Khatt became quieter and camels were in evidence in the desert. On the way, police had waived us down to make sure we had had no problems. They, like the friendly border staff, were keen to take our photographs; it seemed cycle-tourists were a rarity. The Indian / Pakistani staff of the modern hotel on the hill played high-standard cricket after work. Finally, some Rough-Stuff, as opposite the hotel a steep track headed off eastwards towards Oman. Lots of long, deep ravines, grey rocks and mountainous territory. Long water lines by the road leading to distant farms. In the few hour ride, only 4 lorries and four 4x4's pass me by.

Headwind! The road to Dibba rose to 980 ft., then descended to a beach motel, where a Bollywood movie was being filmed. The glamorous starlet just wanted photos taken with Anni. Perhaps she knew Blackburn! Again, a very tasty complete fish for dinner after a beer from around the back of the hotel where, as in many places, a container sold alcohol at reasonable prices. Never a problem to find a beer on this Gulf States' tour, but difficulty finding postcards to send home. A day off at Dibba, where in the afternoon a tremendous wind blew up the sea.

On the way to Fujairah, the UAE's oldest mosque sited in a green oasis attracted many visitors. The Lebanese hotel manager was expecting his usual Friday 'table' of local dignitaries and plied us with tasty delicacies. As we had already eaten, we could not do them justice!

Liwa was across the Oman border, but again it needed only 30 minutes to cross. The immigration officers tried to help us by stopping cars to ask the drivers about hotels on the Oman side. They gave us water in return for 'selfies' with us! Down the flat service road to avoid heavy highway traffic,

a girl outside a student hostel telephoned her cousin, who arrived from miles away to travel on ahead and find a hotel. Everyone is so helpful here. An empty beach was a walk from the beach between a Brazilian iron-ore plant and a fishing fleet whose boats are dragged zig-zaggedly into the sea.

By now Anni's birthday was approaching and there was a 4-star hotel across the border in Hatta. So we headed north and inland again steadily climbing, spotting bee-eaters on the telegraph poles. Another border crossing, certainly more speedy for us than the Indian-Continent heavy truck drivers busily cooking on their drop down kitchens, under their loads whilst awaiting papers. An interesting hotel in no-man's land was stored in our memory for another time.

The Hatta Fort Hotel was situated in attractive grounds with swimming pools, flowers and trees. The manager was so surprised/shocked to see old folks arriving under our own steam he gave us a 'special' discount so we stayed 2 birthday nights in luxury.

Leaving on March 18th, it may have rained overnight and the distant mountains were a different shade of grey. A dawn chorus. A pick-up stopped ahead and a cyclist jumped out and rode away up a new road. Another border for a short length of Oman but border control definitely relaxed. In fact seeing a motel from across the border, it was a quick about turn to sneak back across it, just after a Fagan and Whalley (of Blackburn) trailer.

There remained just 54 miles back into Dubai, generally descending with large desert dunes on both sides. Two racing cyclists seen out training behind a pick-up; otherwise only camels to distract us, as we headed back for a few days to take in the sights of the city and learned what tempted so many tourists there.

It had been a good winter tour, excellent weather 25-30C, no rain, flattish territory, good tarmac, friendly folks and no tummy upsets. Would we return? Yes, in winter, and perhaps flying to Salala in the south of Oman heading back to Dubai. A cheap tent would increase the route possibilities. 🚲

Obituaries

Eva Paine (14 December 1923 - 11 August 2016)

By Sara Craig (excerpt from SAGA mag) & her niece Joy

On 25th August 16 we said goodbye to our very dear friend from the cycling world, Eva Paine. Eva passed away after short stay in hospital, although her health had been failing for several years. She made the decision to spend her final months at Grays Court Care Home where she welcomed all visitors.



They always said at the care home where she lived that she was the most popular resident they had ever had. She had always made visitors very welcome in her own home and carried on the same tradition once she moved into the care home.

For many years Eva and Sara Craig did all the catering for the club meets together before the decision was taken to go to a venue that provided catering, but the one thing that Eva did continue to do, was to provide a quiz for everyone to enjoy (or wrestle with) whilst they ate their meals. She was a very clever lady and made up all the clues herself, usually to places in Essex that any good cyclist should know; and there would be lots of groans when she read out the answers and everyone "fell-in" with how she got to them.

For many years she was editor of the EDARF News and she was determined to continue as long as possible. EDARF was for her a labour of love and she attended every lunch until Spring 2016.

Eva and her husband Wally were keen cyclists all their lives; they had no children of their own, but she was known as a 'cycling mum' to the young men in the Thurrock section of the CTC and the Viking Road Club. She was famous for her catering skills and many of us remember her tea-stops at Willingale Village Hall for EDARF Rides and her delicious contributions to the EDARF lunches at Mountnessing Church Hall.

Many friends attended a Farewell ceremony at Basildon Crematorium with a private family burial service at Chadwell Cemetery. The wake took place at Langdon Hills Golf Club. Memories of Eva's life were shared by her neighbours in Grays and stories recounted of her tremendous friendship and kindness, not to mention her tendency to be cantankerous

at times! This raised smiles from the assembled throng! This is exactly what Eva would have wanted.

Our condolences go to her niece Joy and her husband Steve. ☸

[Of the need to have pictures for obituaries: Especially of the elder generation, I remember faces, but can't necessarily attribute a name. So with Joyce; *Ed.*]

Joyce Greet (1930 – 5 June 2016)

By Joan Comport (taken from SAGA mag)

A lot of Cycling Club members will remember Joyce Greet who died on 5th June 2016. With the family, Dave Russell, Kathy Coldwell and Sara Craig, we attended the Service of Thanksgiving for Joyce's life conducted at Chelmsford Crematorium.



Easy to drift back into memories of Joyce helping with refreshments at cycle meets, with those big brown teapots and tables laden with cakes awaiting the rush of competitors at the end of events, good-natured Joyce was a reliable part of the team.

Sara remembered the warm welcome at EDARF committee meetings held at John and Joyce's home in Billericay (soup and homemade cakes!) Kathy reminisced about the many rides they had in the Essex countryside together.

Joyce will always be remembered for her gentle ways and happy smile. Our deepest sympathies go to her family at this sad time. ☸

A poem read at the Service of Thanksgiving for Joyce's life.
[See next page, *Ed.*]

Cycling in the Countryside

by Angela Whybrow

(Re-print of poem by permission from SAGA magazine, Ed.)

*In my spare time, I love to ride
My bicycle out in the countryside
I love to leave the town far behind:
Inner peace, I am hoping to find.*



*When I am cycling, I can take my time:
Enjoy the fresh air and the warm sunshine.
Time is my own: there's no need to rush,
And I am able to savour the welcome hush.*

*Powering the pedals can make my legs ache,
But the wind on my face makes me feel so awake.
I love to freewheel down never-ending hills:
A simple pleasure, but, oh, what a thrill!*

*I hear the village church bells joyfully ring,
And, the call of the cuckoo, when it is spring.
I see cattle grazing in the green fields;
I see sparkling streams and rolling hills.*

*I pass cottage gardens looking all nice and neat:
I pass people out walking and fields full of wheat.
I notice so many details as I ride on my way;
I find myself wishing that I could stay all day.*

Useful Website Links

Essex CTC Member Group	www.essexcycling.co.uk
Cyclists' Touring Club	www.ctc.co.uk / www.cyclinguk.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
Bike-packing and cycle touring journeys	www.ridethebike.co.uk

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