

July / August 2017



An entry in the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2016
Graham Ross, member of Southeast Essex CTC
"Peleton"

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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: Dave Rowlands

Volume 4/2017se51

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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

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

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(preferred) Contact</u>
President	Dave Rowlands	president@essexcycling.co.uk
Secretary	Lynda Collins	secretary@essexcycling.co.uk
Chairman	Brian Taylor	☎ 01277 657867
Vice Chairman	John Steer	vicechairperson@essexcycling.co.uk
Treasurer	Stefan Eichenseher	treasurer@essexcycling.co.uk
Members' secretary	Martin Cockersole	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
Distribution Officer	Jonathan Collins	spotlightsubscriptions@essexcycling.co.uk
Webmaster	Malcolm Mitchell	webofficer@essexcycling.co.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 - Liaison	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 September / October 2017 edition is on **15 August 2017**.

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

Editor's Foreword

A comprehensive programme of events going on in the next couple of months:

If you haven't remembered throughout the year the entry opens on **1st September 2017**, the **Dave Doo Photo Competition** is on.

Also, your **Event Card** is due on **8th October 2017** to claim your Standard or Premier Award.

Despite my plea for support contingents for our inter-group events, the provision of alternative rides evidently mitigates a sound turnout of the "locals", and thus one event after another will disappear: The *George Welch* ride is already a few years gone. This year there is no *Ruff-Stuff*, and next year the SEG's 75 looks likely to be in jeopardy.

Interestingly, in the times of necessity of mutual support to aid the few Essex-wide gatherings the SEG's decided to provide an alternative venue to the *Summer Meet*. From internal knowledge: this is due to a couple of people bearing a grudge against the pub landlord on some personal experience, so they don't like to attend that particular venue.

On a positive note: I have secured another contributor with cycling holiday adventures. Her essays will pour in with the next issue. I hope that this will encourage Manchurian to provide a few of his tales from the land across the lake, formerly a British colony.

With express permission of her husband I published the eulogy for Christine Smith in its entirety (p.26). I thought that reminiscing on the history of cycling in Essex might throw up some memories of the older readers. Maybe you want to add in some contributions of past experiences.

Right, so that 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

Hello all, summer is upon us and our meandering leafy lanes are calling us!

The *Dot Sharp 80K*, the *Audax Windmill Rides* and the *Peggy Thorndyke Memorial Rides* have been and gone, but still plenty of events to look forward to. The Colchester 40K/40M is on the 13th August and the Colchester 100K/100M on the 24th September. On the social side there's the *Essex CTC Summer Meeting* at "The Hurdlemakers", Woodham Mortimer, on the 23rd July. Let's hope the barbie gets fired up this time!

And don't forget the *Dave Doo Photographic Competition* entries open on **1st September 2017** (closing a month later).

Let's have a happy and safe summer of cycling, look out for the wildlife: Three Hornchurch CC riders were recently knocked down by a deer which shot out from the undergrowth near Navestock!

Happy cycling,

Dave Rowlands

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Member Groups' Reports

Chelmsford Member Group

21 May - Ride to the south west - When I volunteered to lead a ride I decided to take them in a slightly different direction to our usual rides. I got six riders on a bright but fresh Sunday morning. With a group that size you would think it would be difficult to lose anyone, but there's always one! Dave S went ahead of me before Ingatestone and got out of hearing range when we made a turn. After doing a tour of the 'burbs of Brentwood we found him at our destination, the "Café in the Park". He was already talking to an ex-member of the extinct Brentwood Group.

Suitably refreshed we made our way across the south of Brentwood and into the countryside to the west. The terrain gets lumpy out there, but the result is some pleasant views and after the recent rain everything looked fresh.

The "Two Brewers" at Ongar was surprisingly empty, so we were served quickly and had a leisurely lunch. It was good to find a pub still doing baguettes on a Sunday, although a full Sunday roast was on offer.

There was some reluctance to use the farm track to Kings Street, so we had a short stretch of A414 to ride. It was remarkably quiet. Meanwhile Dave R had used the track and declared it OK.

Finding a tea stop is often a problem, i.e. too close, too far, but seldom closed at about 3 o'clock. This is what we found at "Francesca's Coffee Shop" in Mountnessing despite their web site giving a 4 o'clock closing time. Of the five remaining riders there were no takers for an alternative tea stop, so I continued on my way back to Chelmsford. After White's Bridge near Margaretting I was on my own and completed the ride after 56 miles. **Mel Martin**

4th June – A ride to a very popular bikers stop - The day's leader, John B, announced he was ill and unable to ride so Adrian took up the challenge. There had been some pre-ride email conversation about the distance between venues. It was decided the distance between elevenses and lunch was too great. The elevenses stop of Greenstead Green was retained, but lunch was changed to Finchingfield.

Adrian, Martin, Ioan and I left Chelmsford in sunny but fresh conditions. On a blind bend on the road from Fuller Street to Ranks Green a car came hurtling round locking up its wheels. The driver was in complete denial he did anything wrong commenting we were in the middle of the

road. It was lucky we weren't, because the car was nearly the same width as the road.

At Greenstead Green we met up with Dave, Ken, John D, Heather and Eric. From these only John joined us for the ride to lunch. There were a few stops for him to have a puff on his inhaler and to retrieve his hat!

"The Red Lion" is now called the "Finchingfield Lion". There were no sandwiches available so three of us made our way to the "Picture Pot Tearoom". Adrian and John were happy with what the pub could provide. I re-joined them later for a beer. Martin and Ian then made off leaving the three of us to have a swift visit to the Guildhall opposite. At the turning for Bardfield Saling John continued straight on leaving Adrian and me to continue to Chelmsford with no tea stop. **Mel M**

11th June, Ride to Nayland - Only five of us gathered at City Hall for this ride with numbers reduced by various other events and holidays. The weather was bright and breezy and we were pleased to welcome a new rider Ravi for his first outing with our group.

Marks Tey was our destination for elevenses which we reached via Terling, Whitam, Kelevedon and Messing making a first leg of 26 miles. With a bit of wind assistance we managed to get there just after 11am.

At elevenses there were a dozen members, which was very nice but a bit of a shame that more of us had not ridden there together. Six of us set off for Nayland, but John B had to peel off en route to get home. At the "Anchor Inn" we were well served, if a bit slowly due to the number of customers there.

The return to Chelmsford was hard going due to an increasing SW wind. We had a pleasant tea stop at "Paycocks NT" in Coggeshall and I arrived home with 72 miles on the clock. **Martin Cockersole**

18th June- A day of sticky tar - Elevenses at "Roundwood"; Forecast maximum temperature was 29°C. I had no way of confirming that, but Breeds Road was semi-liquid!

It was also Father's Day and I didn't get a ride in a two-seat Spitfire or a new carbon bike, so I had to get my pleasures from leading the Chelmsford Group.

Five riders left Chelmsford on a route as different as I could make it from our last trip to Finchingfield. In Stisted there were crowds of people lining the route who cheered us on. I discovered they were actually waiting for classic cars to pass through. We arrived at "Roundwood Café" at almost bang on 11 o'clock to find four members already there.

After mainly tea and tea cakes four left for Finchingfield on a 16-mile loop. At one point the clip on my map board covered a vital junction so adjustments had to be made. For all I knew there could have been icebergs hiding on that piece of chart! For some parts of the ride I led from the back, as it was more convenient and it saved wearing out my mirror. In Finchingfield I had my packed lunch in the shade in the churchyard. There I applied sun screen to some toes. I wasn't going mad, I just had two toes chafing and sun screen was a substitute for Sudocrem. I then re-joined the other three at Bosworths. Of the three one forgot to pay and hopefully that has now been sorted, so we can go there again.

The next stage was a tea stop at "Rayne Booking Hall". Ravi, who lives in Braintree, headed for home leaving three of us to chat in the shade. John D then left for home leaving just Diana and me to head for Chelmsford.

It was also the day of the London to Brighton Ride, but my ride of 62 miles was marginally longer. Although we did a few hills there was nothing like Ditchling Beacon. **Mel M**

2nd July – The search for suitable pub - Seven riders left Chelmsford led by Dave R. To arrive at the "Snug Café" at High Easter at 11 o'clock several loops were put in. Already there was birthday boy Adrian, who paid for all our refreshments, which were gratefully received! Both John B and Adrian had family commitments, so we were down to six for lunch.

Our route took us up a long straight beside Hatfield Forest. The whole area displayed double yellow lines to encourage people to use NT car park and pay £6 for the privilege. At the end of this road we accessed the Flitch Way and headed west. About three quarters of it had a pleasant smooth surface and then we came across a section of a loose material, which tested our sense of balance.

Our intention was to have lunch at "The George" in Little Hallingbury but we were hit by the curse of the Sunday Roast. They were not very helpful, i.e. did not offer starters like soup so we left. Dave then took us onto Hatfield Heath and we got the same response at "The Thatchers". That's two pubs to keep off the runs list. Personally I will not be giving them any custom on weekdays. "The White Horse" did offer soup, but we decided to go for sandwiches at the Co-op next door.

Heading south after our cheap lunch we came across the annual car show at Matching Green, which explained the amount of traffic in the area.

By the time Dave and I got back to our cars in Meteor Way we had covered just over 61 miles. **Mel M**

Colchester Member Group

May 14, 2017 - Great Notley - Although I had my name down as Ride Leader for some time, the destination lunch stop and morning tea stop were blank on the Colchester group Runs List, until just over a week before the ride. Several weeks previously another of the regular riders pointed out that the weekend of May 13–14 was National Mills Weekend and perhaps it would be nice, if I could sort out a route that went near to a windmill. Great idea was my response which is where the planning and associated grief came in! I knew that in our area we are lucky to have numerous mills dotted around, many of which have undergone conversion to dwellings. However, how to link some together as a ride given the locations turned out to be a bit problematic with arranging morning tea and lunch stop locations around them. After over 100 miles of route reconnoitring I settled on a route around 59 miles taking in Terling Smock Mill and Bocking Post Mill.

Twelve of us departed Leisure World Colchester in light rain, and as we went through Copford the sun was appearing and a warming breeze soon dried the roads. On through Messing, Tiptree, Great Braxted, past the watermill at Little Braxted and on to Colemans Cottage “Fishery Café” for elevenses and from there four more riders joined us. Then across Witham and on to Terling, where we had a stop by the smock mill which is now a dwelling. Back on route by Fairstead, Rank’s Green and on to “Lily’s at Notley” at Great Notley Country Park for lunch. On through Rayne, Shalford, Panfield and to our second windmill, the post mill at Bocking, which has had recent cosmetic attention, but sadly was not open to have a look inside. From there on the ride home through Greensted Green and Great Tey we were blessed with the sun on our backs and the wind behind us - marvellous.

I can recommend “Lily’s at Notley” as a good place to stop for somewhere to get a snack and drink, it is on Route 16 of the National Cycle Network. **Simon Brooks**

Haverling Member Group

April 2nd - Five riders, Alan, Alex, Chan, Helen and Oscar set off on a nice sunny day towards Billericay via Bulphan and a busy A128 to Herongate.



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Member Groups' Reports – cont'd.

On to Little Burstead and our (changed) destination, "Barleylands". Back home via Dunton and Bulphan covering 35 miles. **Alan Pine**

April 9th - Nine riders made it to "Lordship Tea Rooms" in Writtle on a glorious sunny spring day.

April 16th - Six (Including ex Havering rider, Perry) on another glorious day to elevenses at "The Snug" Café, High Easter. Perry headed back and we set off for lunch at "The Compasses", Little Green. A steam engine rally meant that the pub was heaving, so iron rations in the garden for us!

Return via The Chignals, Writtle and Blackmore amassing 60 miles.

April 23rd - Eleven for elevenses at Stapleford aerodrome then via Toot Hill and The Lavers to "Mayfield Bakery", Churchgate Street. Return via Matching, Moreton, Toot Hill and Navestock.

May 7th - Dot Sharp 80 K. Three Havering riders, Wai, Chan and Kelvin made it back just in time! Meanwhile Gordon led Helen and Oscar on a short ride to elevenses at Blackmore.

May 14th - Six out on a sunny Sunday to elevenses at "The Clocktower", Chipping Ongar. On to the edge of Harlow, a very busy Sawbridgeworth then to Green Tye via High Wych.

Prompt service for our leisurely lunch stop then back home via Hatfield Heath, Matching, Willingale, etc. 60 miles covered.

May 21st - Kelvin led ten to elevenses at Writtle on yet another gorgeous day! On to lunch at "The Blue Egg", Great Bardfield, via Felsted. The usual excellent food was enjoyed in the sunshine. Return via Felsted, Howe Street and Writtle. 83 miles.

May 28th - Five for elevenses at "The Blue Boar Deli" (formally "The Bridge Deli"), Abridge, different name same service!

Then Coopersale, the edge of Epping, Epping Green then lunch at "The White Hart" Roydon.

On the return Gerald left us at Epping Upland then at Thornwood Common I managed to lose Helen and Gordon! Reunited at Epping we made it home without further mishaps! Another fifty miles. **David Rowlands**

Forthcoming Events

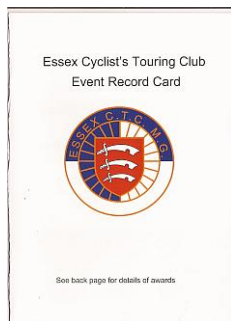


Organisers: please advise me of anything you wish to be included

Date	Event	Organiser
July 23	[EMG] Summer Gathering , Woodham Mortimer, "Hurdlemaker's Arms", from 12:30	Brian Penny
Aug 13	[EMG] Colchester 40/40 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168, TL973262, at 9:30	Des McCarron
Sept 1	[EMG] Photographic Competition Entries open: 1 st Sept - Closing date: 2 nd Oct	Lynda Collins
25 Sep	[EMG] Colchester 100 / 100 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261	Des McCarron

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

Don't forget your Events Card!



Members of the Essex CTC need to evidence the events completed throughout the year in order to claim their Standard or Premier Award.

The **Events 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.). You should take good care of your EC and bring it to all events to get it authorised.

Your completed **Events Card** needs to be submitted to the Essex CTC MG Secretary, Lynda Collins, **by the 8th October 2017** to claim your Standard or Premier Award.

BTW, individual certificates for a completed event are available on the day.

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
Jul 23	South Hanningfield Waterside	[EMG] Summer Gathering (Org: Brian Penny)	A Leeds
Jul 23	[EMG] Summer Gathering , Woodham Mortimer, "Hurdlemaker's Arms", from 12:30		Brian Penny
Jul 30	Rayne Station	Gt Yeldham, Waggon & Horses	J Beaumont
Aug 06	Abberton Visitor Centre	Copford, Alma	M Cockersole
Aug 13	[EMG] Colchester 40/40 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168, TL973262, at 9:30		Des McCarron
Alt:	White Roding	TBA on day	
Aug 20	Perrywoods	Rowhedge	D Southin
Aug 27	Aldham Mill Race	Clare	A Leeds
Sept 1	[EMG] Photographic Competition Entries open: 1 st Sept - Closing date: 2 nd Oct		Lynda Collins
Sep 03	Coggeshall	Assington	M Cockersole
Sep 10	Heybridge Basin (Wilkins)	Goldhanger, Chequers	M Martin
Sep 17	Elsenham Golf	Wendons, Ambo	J Beaumont
25 Sep	[EMG] Colchester 100 / 100 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261		Des McCarron
Alt:	Perrywoods	TBA on day	



Havering Member Group – Runs List



Secretary: David Rowlands

david_rowlands@hotmail.co.uk or ☎ 07948 583979

Promotions Officer: Kelvin Dane

kelvindane@live.co.uk or ☎ 07922 111790

www.essexcycling.co.uk & www.haveringcycling.com

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

All rides meet 8.45 for 9am START unless otherwise stated

Date	Destination	Leader
Jul 23	[EMG] Summer Gathering , Woodham Mortimer, "Hurdlemaker's Arms", from 12:30	Brian Penny
Jul 30	8am EARLY START Duxford (100 miles)	Kelvin Dane
Aug 06	9am START Short Ride, Beginners Welcome 20/30miles	Gordon Peel 07711 609230
Aug 13	[EMG] Colchester 40/40 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168, TL973262, at 9:30	Des McCarron
ALT:	9am Stansted Mountfichet	Dave Rowlands
Aug 20	9am North Farnbridge 75miles	Dave Rowlands
Aug 27	9am Short Ride	Kelvin Dane
Sept 1	[EMG] Photographic Competition Entries open: 1st Sept - Closing date: 2nd Oct	Lynda Collins
Sep 03	9am START Short Ride, Beginners Welcome Blackmore 25miles	Alison Hunnisett 07944 705870
Sep 10	9am Short Ride	Kelvin Dane
Sep 17	9am "The Three Elms" Chignall St James 60miles	Dave Rowlands
24 Sep	[EMG] Colchester 100 / 100 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261	Des McCarron
ALT:	9am START - To Be Decided	Ian Tarrant 07912 215476

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, 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 Elevesens venue, but not a specific pub for lunch, unless otherwise stated.

Find Garmin GPX and TrackLogs TCX files of our rides on www.velocipede.org.uk

Date	Elevesens	Lunch Destination
23-Jul	[EMG] Summer Gathering , Woodham Mortimer, "Hurdlemaker's Arms", from 12:30	Brian Penny
ALT:	Chelmsford (Moulsham Café)	*see Note
30-Jul	Woodham Walter (Bunsay Down Golf Club)	Little Green (The Compasses)
06-Aug	[IMG] Car-assisted: Rayne Booking Hall Café, CM77 6RX. Start 9.30am (Org: farrideruk@gmail.com)	Ian Mather
ALT:	Norton Heath (Transport Café)	*see note
13-Aug	[EMG] Colchester 40/40 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168, TL973262, at 9:30	Des McCarron
ALT:	Billericay (Lake Meadows - Café)	*see note
20-Aug	Little Braxted (Braxted Bakery)	Layer de la Haye (Donkey & Buskins)
27-Aug	Margaretting (Saddlery Café)	Broads Green (Walnut Tree) Bring own sandwiches
Sept 1	[EMG] Photographic Competition Entries open: 1 st Sept - Closing date: 2 nd Oct	Lynda Collins
03-Sep	[IMG] Car-assisted: South Weald Country Park, CM14 5QS. Start 9.30am (Org: farrideruk@gmail.com)	Ian Mather
ALT:	Terling (Owl's Hill Tearoom)	*see note
10-Sep	Maldon (Fig Tree Café)	Little Braxted (Green Man)
17-Sep	Writtle (Lordship Tearooms)	Cock Clarks (Fox & Hounds)
24 Sep	[EMG] Colchester 100 / 100 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261	Des McCarron
ALT:	Blackmore (Blackmore Tearooms)	Mill Green (The Viper)

Mid-week Rides (Not Oct – Mar)

Wednesday at 10am for 10.30am start from Rettendon (BHN Garden Centre) for an informal ride to either a café or pub for lunch.

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

More information on www.colchestercycling.uk

Date	11ses	Destination	Leader
Jul 23	[EMG] Summer Gathering , Woodham Mortimer, “Hurdlemaker’s Arms”, from 12:30 (Org: Brian Penny)		Des McCarron
Jul 30	TBC	Walton Harbour Lights, Titchmarsh Marina	Des McCarron
Aug 06	Assington Barn	Linsey Tye, the Rose	Des McCarron
Aug 13	[EMG] Colchester 40/40 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168, TL973262, at 9:30		Des McCarron
Aug 20	Dedham	Hadleigh the George	Simon Brooks
Aug 27	Coggeshall Clock Tower	Gt Bardfield ,Blue Egg	Paul & Caroline Avison
Sept 1	[EMG] Photographic Competition Entries open: 1 st Sept - Closing date: 2 nd Oct		Lynda Collins
Sep 03	Greenstead Green	Gt Yeldham, Waggon & Horses	TBC
Sep 10	TBC	TBC	TBC
Sep 17	TBC	Paper Mill Lock Tea rooms	Ashley Ager
24 Sep	[EMG] Colchester 100 / 100 , start from Playgolf Colchester, CO3 4AU, OS168 TL972261		Des McCarron

Please check the online runs-list (www.colchestercycling.uk/runslist.html) fir the latest updates on destinations.

Since the Colchester CTC Informal Member Group has its roots in the “Cycle Champions”, bikes, helmets, etc. can be provided free of charge.

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).



The New Inn, Colchester

Member Groups' Reports – cont'd.

South East Essex Informal Member Group

23rd April – Newney Green - There were 12 out consisting of Derek (Wickford café only), Colin D, Peter W, Mary F, Peter C, Henry P, Tony B, Martin P, Lia W, me and newcomers Paula R and Joseph M. We organised into two groups to 11ses at "The Saddlery" led by Peter W and the slow group by myself on the recumbent. From "The Saddlery", Martin, Paula, Lia and I continued to lunch at the "Duck Inn", Newney Green, which served sandwiches that filled a plate with loads of salad. We returned via Ingatestone and had afternoon tea at Battlesbridge. **Brian Penny**

23rd April – Earl Soham, Suffolk - The first car-assisted ride of the year was to Wickham Market and eleven of us met for breakfast at the "Carmarque Café" in the Valley Farm Equestrian Centre. We followed some very quiet and peaceful lanes to Parham Airfield, which is now a Bomber Command and Resistance Museum. We continued through Framlingham and eventually made our way to the "Victoria" pub for lunch. On leaving Earl Soham we took a back roads route, which proved eventful especially for Peter R who found a £10 note. Unfortunately the return car journey was hampered by roadworks on the A12.

Wed, 26th April – Purleigh - Just Peter R and me today, but we had an eventful time dodging the weather and checking the clues for the forthcoming cycle treasure hunt. As we were getting into Purleigh the heavens opened; but luckily for us the mobile library enabled us to take shelter and we avoided a drenching. During a brief interlude we made our way up the hill to "The Bell" pub and stopped for lunch and a drink. Later on we had to take shelter from hailstones as big as peas.

30th April – Littley Green - Twelve left Wickford in two groups and headed for "D's Diner" in Hatfield Peverel where we met John S and Lynda C who had ridden from SWF. Unfortunately, Brian's group were delayed and decided to return home after elevenses. Eight continued to lunch at "The Compasses" via Ranks Green, Great Leighs and Leez Priory.

Wed, 3rd May – Maldon - Although Mel M and Graham R met with me and Peter R at BHN they decided to return home as they had other commitments. We headed for Maldon and had lunch at the "Fig Tree Café".

7th May - Blackmore - As the Dot Sharp Memorial 80k was being held today, the SEG's only had an advertised morning ride and eight left Wickford for the tearooms, which were particularly busy with lots of cycling clubs. Four of us decided to continue to a pub for lunch and we went via Willingale, Bird's Green and Roxwell to "The Duck Inn" at Newney Green.

Wed, 10th May – Tillingham - Paul H (newly retired) joined me, Graham R and Peter R on our ride on the Dengie Peninsula, a route less travelled by the SEG's due to the busy roads. We made our way to Bradwell and stopped to admire the estuary views before visiting the war memorial at RAF Pegwell Bay. We had lunch at the "Fox and Hounds" in Tillingham and had our sandwiches outside in the sun beside the green.

21st May – North Shoebury - Although this is not a popular route for some, fourteen riders left Wickford including Steve G and Peter W with John S joining us at Ashingdon. The elevenses venue was the "Lakes Café" at Great Stambridge and another new one for the SEG's as was "The Angel" pub where six continued on for lunch. We were also joined by Claude A who had ridden directly from home.

Wed, 24th May – Little Braxted - Following a recommendation by Colin D, I decided to investigate the "Braxted Bakery" in Little Braxted with Peter R, Paul H and Tony B. It was a particularly lovely day and we enjoyed riding through the Essex countryside to this new venue. It comprises of an indoor area with a covered terrace, function room and outdoor seating.

28th May – Felsted - We had two start times today with one group led by Peter W leaving at 9am and heading for the "Snug Café" at High Easter and the other with me at 9.30am going to the "Lordship Tearooms" in Writtle. The two groups met up at "The Swan" in Felsted, which served good food and expensive beer (£4.20 a pint).

Wed, 31st May – Blackmore - Another fine day saw four of us heading to the "Prince Albert" in Blackmore, which is under new management and has been spruced up with a new outdoor area and potted plants. The *Betty Stogs* copper coloured bitter was a particularly legendary brew among those in the know.

4th June – Stow Maries Aerodrome - Nine met at BHN Garden Centre for the start of a cycle treasure hunt that would take them on a 16 mile route with 17 clues to be solved. These included cryptic ones, such as 'give generously' (Charity Farm) and 'haircut sir' (A & G Barber) as well as observational ones. As some took longer to complete the route than

others, it was decided not to go onto the pub for lunch. The 1st prize went to Paul & Karen H and the 2nd to Peter W. [*Which were what? Ed.*]

Mon, 5th June – Summer SEG 75 - Jim C and Graham R had marshalled at the February event and wanted to ride the route so I joined them. We left the “Wickford Café” at 9am and made good progress helped by a tailwind to the “Blue Egg”, arriving at noon. After a nice lunch we bought some takeaway cakes to consume on our return journey, which got harder as we headed into the wind. As we approached Chalk End about 2.30pm, I said we should find a bus shelter to have our cake and lo and behold one appeared just around the corner. Cycling, cake and good company = the perfect combination. By the time I arrived home in Shoebury I’d completed 113 miles.

Wed, 7th June - Paul H, Tony B and me went via Terling and Hatfield Peverel to have lunch at the “Peartree Pantry”.

Wed, 14th June - Graham R, Peter R, Tony B and I decided to head in the direction of Maldon on a particular hot and sunny day. We continued through Heybridge, Tolleshunt Major and Tiptree to end up at Little Totham (“The Swan”). For the beer connoisseur’s, you missed their beer festival which featured some 70+ real ales, craft beers and ciders. I hasten to add we didn’t try them all but settled for a ‘*Classic Blonde*’, ‘*Captain Bob*’ and ‘*Landlord*’. Our return journey took us via Langford, Woodham Mortimer, Bicknacre and SWF. **Manchurian**

“Fun” from the ♠: ... found on my travels through the Internet. [Ed]:
Slightly amended version of the CTC-campaign ...



Local Bike Shop v Halfords

By Barry Brazier

I wish to register my disapproval over the three pages of free advertising for Halfords, masquerading as editorial content, in the June/July edition of Cycle.

For many years the Club has encouraged cyclists to support the network of independent, expert cycle retailers and mechanic/technicians found throughout the country. It now seems that “big is beautiful” and the executive has sold out to the nationwide chain.

Our CTC member group seeks to maintain links with our Local Bike Shops, encouraging them to advertise in our group magazine and developing trusting relationships with cyclists. How can we look them in the eye now that the national body has prostituted itself to this large impersonal chain store?

One is reminded of the death of the High Street following the march of the supermarket chains. Is that what the Club (sorry, “Cycling UK”) wants to see happen to our favourite LBS?

PS - the much vaunted 10% discount offered by Halfords is no more than most “real” bike shops offer to CTC members anyway. 🚲

[The ensuing (local) conversation by email included the following aspect, which I find a good additional point to consider: “...Perhaps the fact that Mr Tuohy's title is 'CEO' should have alerted us. Clubs have Chairmen (and women), businesses have CEO's. Chairs respond to the members' mood and aim at consensus. CEO's give orders and act on their own initiative, usually in the interests of shareholders.

On p7 of Cycle [issue: June/July 2017] Mr Tuohy informs us: “...I have formed a partnership consortium with Sustrans and Living Streets...”. That is very much the action of a CEO, acting in what he sees as the best interests of his organisation. As a CEO, he is under no obligation to consult. A CEO is there to get results: in a company only the shareholders can provide checks and balances - but Cycling UK is a charity, not a company and does not have shareholders, so this does not apply. ...” (Martin Fuller by email, 21/06/2017). The only “contrary” point that I would argue is that the Company/Charity status of the CTC (aka CUK) provides ample opportunities for collusion. Ed.]

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Chelmsford Group Spring Tour 2017

By Adrian Leeds

Back again to “The Cedars Hotel” in scintillating Stowmarket for the second year running, the later May date being a choice calculated to give us better weather. This worked out in a strange sort of way, because we had a dry 5 days with some decent sunshine. On the negative side, a nagging North-east breeze slowed and cooled us throughout and saw most riders wearing their full winter kit for at least some of the time.

The group of ten boarders arrived in time for lunch on Thursday, so we had the chance of an afternoon ride. This was a 22-mile round trip to the little café at Finningham coming back via Mendlesham. The ride in some ways set the tone for the rest of the tour, as we battled the very chilly head wind. The second way was that I took an unmetalled track to cut out part of the “B” Road, in this case by sheer luck, landing us at the café. It’s strange how, when something unexpected happens, human nature is to explain it away. In this case, we were presented with three stone cold steel teapots. It was immediately assumed that these must be insulated pots. At last the truth emerged – someone had filled them from the wrong urn.

On Friday we were joined by Mel Martin, riding from “local digs” with an old friend so bringing the total to 11 riders. Friday’s 56-mile ride was for most, the longest of the tour. Ken led the group against the ever-present head-wind to elevenses at Thornham Walks, a regular venue for local cyclists and a reliable good value café. From Thornham we slogged it out to Laxfield finding to our disappointment that the “Low House” (arguably the most charming pub in East Anglia) – was closed. A few yards back, the “Royal Oak” was up and running, so lunch was taken there before we turned down-wind to Stonham Barns for afternoon tea.

On Saturday everyone was pretty jaded from their windswept ride of the previous day so Mark’s ride was suitably scaled down, beginning with a run out to the historic village of Woolpit (the name derived from either a wolf pit nearby, the wool trade or my own favourite theory - the personal name of Ulfketel - which when translated means wolf (ulf) trap (ketel)). Ulfketel was a counsellor at the court of Aethelred the Unready (c.968 AD to 1016 AD). He was a famous warrior and is often referred to as the Earl of the Eastern Angles, so it would not be surprising to find a village named after him. Anyhow, the tea shop sells gorgeous scones and the medieval church, which we visited whilst Joe fixed a puncture is again, quite impressive. After Woolpit we continued up-wind to Bury St.

Edmunds, where the cycle-path runs right through the heart of the town, making tourist cycling easy and rewarding there. As we'd done this bit last year, it was a flying visit before running out to Hawstead and the famous "Maglia Rosso Café" and cyclists centre. Appropriately, the Giro D'Italia was being screened live as we entered so to complete the Italian theme I had a double Macciato. Tea was taken at Rattlesden where the "5 Bells" made tea for the group at 50p-a-go. Continuing our sporting Saturday, in the pub we had an impromptu sweepstake on the 5000-Guineas netting Ken a lucky £9.

The Hotel was busy so Saturday dinner was served earlier than usual, allowing plenty of time in the bar to plan Sunday's slightly-more-challenging ride. On the day, the group split with an easier ride going north-west and four of us heading east. The "Cedars Hotel" sits right on NCR 51, so this was followed for a good way, despite it being a hilly, loose-gravelled track for a few miles here and there. We tried for elevenses at Tuddenham St. Martin, but failing to find a venue, pressed on to Woodbridge over some pretty lumpy terrain. (Flat Suffolk? Huh!). Eventually, delicious bacon butties were located in the caravan behind the station, and washed down with mugs of builders tea whilst taking in the harbour view. From there, we ran down along the side of the River Deben to Waldringfield, but were a little early for lunch. After a look at the shore view, we rode on to check out an indicated Nature Visitor centre at Newbourne, which was no longer open, so we had lunch instead at "The Fox", another superb Suffolk pub which I would definitely like to visit again sometime.

For afternoon tea, I thought "Helmingham Hall" would do us albeit it was a challenging headwind ride over some undulating ground. Arriving at 4pm I was relieved to find they were still open (as leader I might well have suffered lynching after the hard ride) and serving good tea and cake. The hall and nearby (sumptuously decorated and internally carved) church are well worth a visit. These belong to the Tolemache family, who have owned the lands since before the Norman Conquest and remain proper aristocrats to this day. We arrived back at the hotel with little time to get refreshed before heading out for a group curry night in the town. Note for the future: Stowmarket seemingly has only one taxi, whose driver goes home early on Sundays!

On the final day we returned to Woolpit, (taking a different route) and thence on to Nowton Park for lunch. Rattlesden once more attracted us in the afternoon before tackling the rather rustic expanses of NCR 51 to avoid the commuter traffic and taking in a nice farm!

During the tour, someone referred to Suffolk as "God's County". For cycling, I say "Amen to that". 🚲

Obituaries - CHRISTINE MARY SMITH 1942-2017

By Peter Smith

Christine was a war baby. She used to say that those born between 1939 and 1945 would never throw anything away, and always eat all the food put in front of them. They can sleep anywhere and nothing disturbs them, especially loud noises. She was born in 1942 at Lockington Hall in Leicestershire, where her mother had been evacuated. Christine and her sister Judith and brother Kenneth, lived with their parents, at various addresses in Leyton and Leytonstone. They moved to Woodford Bridge, in 1955.

Aged six she joined the Brownies, then later the Girl Guides, and then the Sea Rangers.

When she was sixteen Christine joined a Youth Club which met at St. Barnabas School in Woodford Green. A cycling club also met there. Christine longed to join them but her bike then was only a sit up and beg job. Although she was saving up for one like theirs (with drop handlebars and gears) by the time the bike arrived, two years later, they had gone. The name and address of their secretary, Barbara Crowley, who became a good friend, was found, and as a result, Christine joined the Epping Forest Section of the Essex District Association of the CTC. They had a clubroom in Epping, at The Bell Café.

The furthest Christine had ever ridden in one day was to North Weald and back with other children in the neighbourhood. North Weald was then still an operational RAF aerodrome and they would lean their bikes against the hedge and watch the aircraft landing and taking off. Christine's first club run with the section was to Bourne End in Buckinghamshire. They must have ridden eighty miles that day and she certainly found out what it was like to be shattered! Club runs with the Section covered three wide areas and followed a four week rotation of Essex, Kent, Herts & Bucks, (like the Bart's maps), and a Youth Hostel weekend. Sunday meetings were at Epping or Brentwood, and if going south The George at Wanstead. They went to places like Maldon, Burnham-on-Crouch, Sudbury and Tring, or they crossed at Woolwich Ferry and cycled to Edenbridge, Hildenborough or Tonbridge. Leaving home at 8am meant they had elevenses at, amongst others, the Cosy Café at Sawbridgeworth, the Marshmoor at Hatfield, "The Big Tea Pot" at Biggin Hill or the transport café at Green Street Green. They would

arrive back home around 7 or 8 pm. Youth Hostel weekends were to Alfriston, Arundel, Oxford or Houghton Mill – they got the miles in!

In 1958 Christine started work at the Ilford public health office until, three years later, she took a job at the Head Office of City firm Van den Berghs Ltd. Riding to work every day not only saved a lot of money, it also kept her fit. She rode along with all sorts of interesting people – Ken Craven, Mick Burrow, Stan Spelling, Arthur Dobbin and Bruce Hunt to mention a few. These were very happy days.

Most members of the section raced - the men with the Viking Road Club and the women with the Valkyries CC, both racing offshoots of the Essex DA - and Christine soon found herself having a go. When in 1963 the Viking Road Club changed their rules, and membership was no longer limited to men, the ladies in the Valkyries CC all joined the Viking RC. Christine was not the fastest, but was a strong rider and did enjoy it all, especially the weekends staying in cycling digs in places like Calcot Row for the Bath Road courses.

At Christmas the Vikings took up hiring cabin cruisers, at first on the Norfolk Broads and later on the River Thames, along with friends from the Eagle Road Club. In 1963 friend and club mate Lorna Hanlon managed to persuade one of the Viking boats to allow her and Christine to join them on the Thames, and it was here that Christine first met Peter.

The Eagle Road Club was the club everyone knew was the one with the best clubhouse, and Christine was very curious to see it. In those days it was very much a men only outfit, and there was no way any female could get past the gate, let alone inside. After much hinting Peter was persuaded to borrow the keys and take her there to see it – it was at night and under cover of darkness!

Peter and Christine were married in 1965 and lived in Upton Park. Christine was working near Fleet Street and would ride to work every day with a saddlebag. On Wednesdays it was loaded with racing kit and sandwiches, sprints and tubs attached to the front forks with sprint carriers – no joke in the traffic! After work it was over Blackfriars Bridge around the Elephant and Castle and on through Brixton and Streatham to Herne Hill. The ride home was usually with a crowd from the Easterley RC, including Bill and Molly Swan with Linda and Clive Johnson, through the Rotherhithe Tunnel, the last uphill stretch of which, after racing, was like riding up a mountain.

In the late 1960s, the couple bought a house in Epping and set down roots. Peter set about major home improvements with gusto. Their first son, Martin, was born in the summer of 1971, with Simon, following in winter 1973. Snaps from the family album capture a

thoroughly happy family, showing Christine's evident pride in and love for her boys, something that never changed.

In 1990 Christine went for an interview as an assistant at Loughton Public Library. A few eyebrows were raised when, asked how she would get there she replied: by bike. This was her dream job. There had always been a strong family tradition of reading and books. As children, she and Judith would visit the library weekly, and would exchange books when they had read their own. While working there, computers were introduced. Having two teenage sons at home was a big advantage, as Christine became one of the library computer trainers, teaching the public. She also became an expert on Excel. After her retirement in 2008 she continued once a week as a valued and proactive volunteer in the National Jazz Archive. Music, but jazz in particular, was another keen interest. She met many famous faces from the world of jazz at the talks and appreciated numerous performances hosted by the Archive in her role as catering and green room volunteer, something Judith wishes to carry on in her memory.

Christine was proud to be SAGA Editor and General Secretary of the Viking Road Club from 1992 to 2016 and President from 2003 to 2010. After her marriage to Peter, she also took part in a lot of Eagle Road Club events, and spent many happy hours organising and catering. The Eagle Road clubhouse was an important place to the family, and they spent many happy times there when the boys were growing up. In 2015 she took over as editor of the 'Way Of An Eagle' magazine and updated its format. She was very enthusiastic about both the reading and production of club magazines, and spent many hours writing the story of the Eagle Road Club. Sadly she never completed editing and publishing it. This will be finished in her name and memory.

When Martin and Simon were young, the family spent holidays in Jersey at Judith's Hotel. Later they often went on summer holidays cycling and camping in the UK and France. The Norfolk Broads became something of a family tradition, with a couple of memorable holidays where Christine and her sister watched the two boys and cousin Joanna having fun in a dinghy. It was here Christine and Peter went on their honeymoon, and celebrated several wedding anniversaries, and it seems that tradition has been passed down to Martin and his wife, Jenny, who honeymooned there too. When the boys went on independent holidays, Christine and Peter took up Cycle Camping and toured England and Wales, and much of Europe and Scandinavia. In more recent years, family holidays became something of a tradition once again. Christine always loved these holidays, particularly the ones after her grandchildren

Emmeline and Edison were born, and invariably said she didn't want to go home.

Christine was a wonderful mum and was immensely proud of her boys. She taught them bike riding skills and road sense, and in doing so, taught them so much more. She loved them dearly, and they thought the world of her. She was a devoted and loyal wife, who was fortunate to share her lifelong passion with Peter and pass it on to her sons. Christine was never happier than when riding her bike. She did most of her own bike maintenance and was an expert puncture repairer.

Christine was hit by a motorcyclist while on her bike, in a critical road accident in 1999 and then suffered double pneumonia in 2008, from both of which, she came back fighting.

In May 2016 having undergone tests and investigations for the previous six months with deteriorating mobility, Christine was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. It is possible she had her suspicions before then. There followed a tremendously difficult year when her body and limbs slowly stopped working and her voice and swallowing diminished. She somehow kept positive throughout this time, and she was always admirably strong and brave for those around her until the last. She wanted to stay at home and that wish was fulfilled. We will all miss her enormously. æ



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Cover picture:



An entry in the Dave Doo Photographic Competition 2016
Graham Ross, member of Southeast Essex CTC
"Peleton"

"An image pretty much to the Golden Ratio: The backs of the last riders on the left leave the eyes to follow a long line of riders in the distance turning towards the centre of the picture."

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