

SEAX

The newsletter of the Essex Crusaders, Centre 19, Virago Star Owners Club.

July 2015 Issue 234

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Centre 19 meeting's date

July 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 6th July 2015
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 20th July 2015
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

August 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 3rd August 2015
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 17th August 2015
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

Reps rambling

Hi there Crusaders, well the international rally at Bushey went very well indeed, with 20 crusaders making the event and just short of 500 members, all the worry and planning paid off, so well done to JK and the team at C13.

The best bike award, there was one and it was called the chairman's choice, and to get there 10 bikes were picked and I got my very first rosette; and the winner was Anna Strom from Sweden with her Virago, immaculate condition and well deserved.

I believe there has been a change in the ride out list so please check and make a note if you have to.

Let's hope it's a good one next week as we join C10 at St Ives where they have a stand at the St Ives festival,

I won't be able to make the next south meeting as I will be in Porto, hopefully getting a tan and the only water I see will be in the pool or beach. Trevor will also be away so I have asked Bob to host the meeting.

Doncaster Rally meet at Takeley rest area 09.30 Friday 31st July
This years AGM will be the 18th Oct at the Rettendon Bell with the same agenda as before, a pre meal followed by the meeting, I will need names as usual and will ask nearer the time so please put this in your diaries, and it would be great if more of you can make this so we can try and please more of you.

Last but not least it's good to see Jo back on the road on her 750 Virago, happy riding Drag Queen.

International Rally 2015

It started for me when Fred and I met 22 bikes [Dutch, Finns and Swedes] off the Harwich ferry at 6.30am on Thursday, I then took them to the Bungalow Cafe at Marks Tey, went home for my bike and after Bruce and Chris came we left for Bushey about 9.20am, 27 bikes in total ,A12,M25.

The journey was uneventful for me as lead rider but I believe there

was some catching up to do at the back, anyway all arrived safely about 10.40 and the site was not ready for us so I got a telling off for being too early, can't help the low volume of traffic guys !!

We all had fun and games getting tent pegs in to the hard ground but got there in the end so all set up before lunch and the sun was shining.

The evenings entertainment was in the club house but I understand that there were about 200 members from all over the world ready to party, Two non Blondes were on stage and very versatile they were too, something for everyone and the atmosphere was electric, a lot of fun was being had and the rally hadnt really started yet !!

Friday was bright and sunny and a steady trickle of members all day saw the venue fill up to just under 500 people, several that I would have expected to be



there weren't for whatever reason, but certainly didn't spoil the event. Evening entertainment was in the marquee with a solo singer and 2 bands to play for us, all good so far.

Saturday was not so sunny so it was just as well that enough members had chosen to go on the Routemaster double decker bus trip to central London, all 4 of them, full to busting. There was also another ride out to The Ace Cafe, again, something for everyone.

The bus trip left at 10.30 and got back at 3.30 just in time for the International Presidents meeting



which went on for 2.5 hours. A lot of ground covered so very productive as far as the clubs go.

Entertainment on Saturday night was in the marquee and again we were entertained by some good musicians, late night food was available on Friday and Saturday nights in the form of hog roast, burgers and hot dogs



Saturday also saw Morris Dancers and a display of 'old' Police motorbikes, selected judges from the membership had also chosen 10 bikes to be finally judged by Kevin Hoyte for the Chairman's choice award which finally went to an 1100 Virago from Sweden, a lovely unmolested bike from any angle with I believe, over 50k miles on the clock, a credit to her owner. Well done.

Sunday saw the statutory drizzle first thing which made packing up a tad damp, we left by 10am and home well before lunch, knackered.



The rally was a huge success, well organised, workers identified by hi viz jackets and buzzing around all the time, lots of things going on and several trade stands, food was acceptable and served very quickly. Feedback at the Presidents meeting was good, showers were mentioned, see below.

I heard one or two complaints about the showers being cold, all I can say is that they were warm at 5.30am !! Seriously though, with the volume of people using the showers, the hot water heaters couldn't cope with the volume of water being used,

It was nice to have a chat with our founder member John Brynning

who originally intended to come with Peter Healy, the other founder of the club, unfortunately Peter had family business to deal with at the last minute so couldn't attend, John was telling me his rallying days are over, well he is 80 after all.

The International is in Sweden next year so start planning now.

We have National rallies at Doncaster C5 in July and Bournemouth C17 in August so hope to see you there.

Ta ta for now
Peter

*So long and thanks for all the chips **

I would like to thank all the members, and associates, for all the good times I have had with the club. Joining the VSOC, and centre 19 in particular, was one of the best decisions that I have ever made. Nobody could wish for a better set of friends.

You can imagine that with over 15 years of membership there have been some truly outstanding times. All of them have involved riding my bike with like minded people.

It's impossible to list all the good times because there have just been so many.

From the first Essex rally to the latest Irish rally. All the local Sunday ride outs down roads that had only been ridden by Dick Turpin. The visits to Suffolk, Covent Garden, the Ace Café and all the routes down to the South Coast. Mile and miles of pleasure and a few yards of nightmare! Brilliant.

But now I will be leaving the area soon and joining another centre. If they are half as friendly as the centre 19 people I will be well pleased.

I shall keep in touch and hopefully Peter will keep on sending me Seax. That way I'll get to know what you have all been up to. I might even become your Northern correspondent.

So take care of yourselves and who knows, we might, just might, meet up at a rally somewhere, sometime. I shall be thinking of you and you will be missed.

Cougy

* Apologies to "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"

Ride out to Hellfire caves 21st June

Sadly only six bikes from C19, I took my grandson, so seven of us met at Brentwood services for a ride out, first to South Mimms services M25 to meet up with 10 bikes and two trikes from C13, and then on to The Hellfire caves at West Wycombe in Bucks.

The route we took was more M25 yuk! to junction 18 and then on to the A404. Staying on the A404 to Amersham a little bit of the A413 and then back on the A404 to High Wycombe. A short ride on the A40 took us to the caves where C13's Ginger Ninja had found out that the car park at the caves was only small, so we parked in an overflow car park in an adjacent garden centre.

A footpath took us up a steep hill and down the other side only to find there was a shorter one that cut the bloody hill out altogether. We were greeted at the caves by a bunch from C12 who Kevin had asked if they'd like to join us, as it was their turf, all in all a really good turnout. It was nice day so we sat in the courtyard for about half an hour eating and drinking [tea and coffee tut!], Kevin was able to get a group discount so in we go. Not quite what I was expecting, no guided tour, shame, certainly different to any caves I've been in before. Apparently, you need to spend the night in there in the pitch black darkness with the bats if you want to see or hear the ghosts, yeah right.

Time to go home. C13 went some scenic route but we decided the fastest was for us, so it was M40, M25.

A really good day, thoroughly enjoyed it but Chiselhurst Caves are better.

Trev



From the Editor

Dont forget the bring and buy stall at the picnic on the 12th July, those items that are gathering dust and you no longer want.

I just had a result with my car insurance with a company called e sure, go on line for a quote if your present company wants too much at renewal time.

The International rally caught on camera for your perusal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDG2XJmBXI>

Ride out's 2015

July 3rd/5th

C7 party, Mount Pleasant, Tonna, Neath, West Glamorgan, Wales SA113HX The theme for this party is Lumberjacks, listen to the Monty Python song and you'll get the idea.

July 5th

Beaver Water World, Tatsfield, Kent TN162JT [£5-00]. Almost next door is Helmet City, I'm reliably informed this is also worth a visit. Meet Thurrock 10am to give us enough time to do both.

July 12th

Centre 19 Picnic, Cudmore Grove, East Mersea. We're trying a picnic this year as opposed to BBQ because there's an awful lot of work that has to be put into it. Generator has to be hired, collected and returned, marquee, tables and chairs, trestles and boards for BBQ's and water heater collected and returned [by Alan] plus salad and rolls has to be prepared. Tea and coffee can be purchased at the park or bring a flask or better still if anyone can bring a camping stove and kettle, I know there'll be at least 2 or 3.

Meet at Boreham 10am, Peldon Rose PH 11am or make your own way there.

July 19th Impromptu Meet Boreham 10am

July 26th

Change from Silverball cafe to Bexhill Motofest, De La Warr
Pavilion Car park, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN401DP [free]
Meet Thurrock 10am

August 2nd
Centre 5 Yorkies Rally

August 9th
Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey
Meet Thurrock Services 10-30

August 16th
Aldeburgh, Suffolk
Meet Boreham 10-00, Langham 10-45

August 23rd
Covent Garden, London
Meet Thurrock Services 10-30

August 30th
Centre 17 Scrumpies Rally

September 6th
Peterborough Show [all kinds of cars and motorbikes]
meet Boreham 9.30

September 13th
Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks.
It is proposed to make this a 2 day trip, apparently you need all day to see it. So go up
Saturday and come back Sunday. All depends what type of accommodation I can find !!

September 20th
Leysdown Via Minster on Sea, Kent
Meet Thurrock Services 10-30

September 27th
Audley End Stately Home, Saffron Walden, Essex
Meet Boreham 10-00

October 3rd [Saturday] - Ride to the Wall. details to follow

October 4th - Copdock Bike Show

October 11th
Brightona Bike Show, Brighton - Meet Thurrock Services 10-00

October 18th
C19 AGM at the Rettendon Bell.