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

June 2015

Issue 233

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Centre 19 meeting's date

June 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 1st June 2015

The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 15th June 2015

The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT A132

July 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 6th July 2015

The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO76LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 20th July 2015

The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT A132

Reps Ramblings

Hi there Crusaders, well I hope you are all keeping well and getting out on your bikes.

What a great start to the season, 15 of us went to the Emerald Isle for a week finishing at the rally in Arklow. Paula and I did 1,137 miles and I am sure after Trevor and co do their few days in Wales they would have totted up a fair few miles. A big thank you goes to Mr K for all his work in finding a great lodge for our first stay and doing all the leading, and to Paula and Sue for the fab meals they cooked, and to satisfy 13 people with no complaints, that wasn't easy lol.

Renewals are down a bit this year, mainly due to age, aches and pains and not being able to ride. With a couple of late ones, I hope you have renewed now. We stand at 58 for this year at the moment.

Congratulations for 20yrs 15yrs and 10yrs go to: -

Gary Daisly and Alan Ferry - 20yrs; Peter Gauntlett, Sean Davies, Norman Collier, and Andy Cullum - 15yrs; Sue Haynes and Adrian Whitten - 10yrs.

Ride outs have been doing well, lets keep it up.

Here's to the International at Bushey I have no meeting times for this as its local and some work or go early, there are still some places on the London bus tour so if you want to go on this get in touch with C13 rep John Knott

vsocjkk@yahoo.co.uk

PS it doesn't mean to say I will be leading ride outs in the UK!!

C19 Irish trip. May 2015

As there was a rally in Southern Ireland [Arklow] and I hadn't been there before and intended doing the rally, I suggested an extended trip/holiday the week before so preparations started way back in November 2014

I soon got enough people to warrant the trip and also get the reduced ferry price being offered by Irish Ferries from Holyhead to Dublin for a group booking.

I then started looking for somewhere to accommodate 13 adults with the required sleeping configuration, not an easy task, until I found Sykes Cottages, a holiday accommodation letting agent who made it very easy. We eventually settled for a 6 bed, 3 storey house in a place called Monasteraden, County Sligo, if anyone wants details I would be pleased to help.

On the 16th May some of the group met at the rest area on the A120 and off we went to meet up with Sue and Chris at Kettering services where we arrived bang on time at 1pm, a quick fuel up and off we went again to meet up with Mark, Kay and Kevin the Trike from C13 at Corley Services on the M6. My first mistake as I have no doubt someone will mention it, I missed Corley Services, apparently I was overtaking a lorry, a good job the C10 rep had the presence of mind to pull in and tell the others what had happened, 1 – 0 to Trevor !!

The next stop was a Travel Lodge at Knutsford for the night, all booked and paid for as part of the original arrangements, again, good value for money.

We set off the next morning at 7.45am for Holyhead and had an uneventful trip, phew. Arriving in plenty of time for the 11.50 crossing, all fueled up as well.

The final leg was the ride to Monasteraden, about 140 miles. The sat nav was doing strange things and I managed to take a wrong turning in Dublin, realising what I had done as soon as I did it, 2 – 0 Trevor, although he and a few others didnt follow so broke the ride out rules about following the leader 2 – 1 Trevor, they did wait however and off we went again, sat nav then sent me through a town when we could probably have gone round, other then that and some very cold rain we arrived at our destination about 5.30 to be welcomed by Ivan, the owner,

The house was on 3 floors with 2 double bedrooms and 4 twin rooms on the ground floor, there is also a disabled wc. The first floor had the kitchen, dining room and games room with table tennis, table hockey, trampoline and table football, the 2nd floor had a large TV with wi, netflixs and comfy chairs.

All unpacked and ready to go we ordered a Chinese meal for delivery the first night, 3 other nights Paula and Sue cooked for us all, well done girls, washing up and drying up was shared by all so no problems there. One night we ate out in the local largish town called Ballaghaderreen, certainly no place to eat in our village which only had a pub and small shop.

The drinkers amongst us enjoyed the pub but got annoyed at being ' locked in ' every night as is the tradition in the outback villages, I am sure they enjoyed the lock in.

The weather wasn't up to much most of the time but didn't stop most from going out for a ride on most days, some chilled on some days, one day we all got a mini bus taxi for a day out in Boyle to look at the King family home, very impressive.

I arranged an inter centre table tennis and table hockey competitions which was battled out with gusto, Big Chris beating Gary in the table hockey and Dave Winning beating me in the final of the table tennis, well done guys.

All in all a great place to stay.

On Friday 22nd May we packed up and headed off to Arklow, about 50 miles south of Dublin and about 163 miles at 9.45, no problems until I got to the site and did 2 circuits of the roundabout 3 – 1 Trevor, although I was the only one to do 2 circuits, so maybe not 3 – 1 Trevor after all. He was watching me like a hawk.

The rally was dry and warmish so that was a plus, we had a nice ride out on Saturday but the roads are shite and need serious attention, you think we have problems in the UK, think again in my opinion. Anyway, we went up a mountain pass and saw some

stunning scenery, a visit to the village where Ballykissangel is filmed for some and others did alternatives.

Sunday was pack up time and as the ferry wasn't until 14.30 we left at 11am for the ride to Dublin ferry port, I had plotted another route which cut 15 miles off the normal route and avoided all toll charges, I lay awake for a while the night before as sat nav told me it was through Dublin and it worried me a bit. Anyway we arrived at the ferry port intact, no mistakes and then Trevor decided to go to some place he knew which has a petrol station and eatery taking everyone else with him, rules broken once again as I was lead rider and carried straight on 3 – 2 Trevor although as said previously he has been awarded a dubious 1 for me doing 2 circuits of the roundabout. The ferry was an hour late leaving which was a nuisance as we had at least 100 miles on the other side to our Travel Lodge and 3 others



were going all the way home without stopping, arriving at 1am and 10.30pm. It was a long way and getting cold, I was glad to stop over for the night.

We set off at various times on Monday 24th from the Travel Lodge with Gary leaving at 5am followed by the 2 Daves half an hour later and Debbie and I leaving at 7.30 for a good traffic free ride home in good time, Kay, Mark, Chris and Sue left about 10.30

Trevor, Norman, Cougar and Barney went off to Wales for 4 days so we didn't see much of them after getting off the ferry, hope you enjoyed your extended trip.

All in all we had a good time, mixed weather, some emotions, but best of all we all got there and back in one piece with no problems at all.

The end result was probably a slight win for Trevor but as I lead the whole journey there and back in a country I haven been to before, the result was probably a draw. Until next time when you lead a ride out Trev, I will be watching and the return match starts again.

I think we did about 1200 miles in all, so a good test for the bikes and the riders !! See you all in Bushey. Mr K



From the Editor

Just a reminder for those that have forgotten to renew their membership, you have until the end of May after which you will be a member no more.

Please try and buy your International rally tickets in advance, looks to be a good event.

Ride out's 2015

Impromptu Sunday rides unless otherwise stated are back to Summer time
Boreham 10:00

Ride outs for May and June

May 31st

Change of destination (no longer Flatford Mill)

C19 have been invited to show our bikes at Ashridge House, Berkhamsted (HP4 1NS) on Sunday May 31 for a charity event for the Hospice of St Francis (HP4 3GW) that Vanessa from C13 now works for. There are other centres going and all will leave the hospice at 11:45 to ride on mass to Ashridge House, where we can display our bikes and allow people to see them etc. As well as promoting the club there should be requests for photos, if you wish allow these there should be payment for the privilege by way of a donation to hospice funds. We will leave the Brentwood services (M25/A12 Junction 28) at 10:15 allowing plenty of time to get to the Hospice. There is a pub where we can get refreshments before we leave for Ashridge House. Entrance to the house is free for those whose bikes are on display. Please let Bruce know ASAP if you intend to come so that he can pass on numbers.

June 7th

Boat trip on the Thames. I have got 50% discount vouchers. Depending on which cruise we choose it is either £6-75 or £8-50 (I think).

Meet at Thurrock 10-30

June 14th

C13 International Rally

June 21st

Hellfire Caves, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3AH

Meet Brentwood services

10-00

June 28th

St Ives Festival, St Ives, Cambridgeshire

Meet Boreham

9-30 sharp, Halstead 10-15

July 3rd to 5th

C7 party at Tonna, see C19 or VSOC website for details.

July 5th

Beaver World, Tatsfield, Kent [Near Biggin Hill]. Beaver World is an animal rescue centre, apparently quite interesting.

Meet at Thurrock 10-30

July 12th

Centre 19 Picnic, Cudmore Grove, East Mersea

July 26th

Silverball Cafe, Royston, Cambridgeshire.

Meet Boreham 10-00

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