

# SEAX

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

May 2015 Issue 232

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## *Centre 19 meeting's date*

### **May 2015**

North meeting

8pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 [ 4<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday ]  
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT A132

### **June 2015**

North meeting

8pm Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015  
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO76LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT A132

## *Reps ramblings*

Hi there Crusaders, I hope you have been enjoying the nice weather we have had recently and took advantage of it, well we have had some good turnouts for the rides so far let's see if we can keep it up.

For the Comfort café, we had 28 bikes leave Borham with the help of C13, thanks to all who helped with the 2nd manning. It went well but unfortunately we had 2 breakdowns, when we got to the café we were met by C10, we need more of these rides I think.(not with breakdowns tho )

I hope you have all renewed by now, unfortunately the renewal list is late so I don't have an update.

MAY MEETING, the south meeting on the 18th will be hosted by Bob, as a lot of us will be in Ireland, any updates I will notify Bob before I leave.

Apologies for the mix up this week at the meeting as the bar staff had changed and the reserved spot was overlooked, sorted now though.

There are a couple of changes to the ride out calendar so please amend your list or reprint list.

We said farewell to Sue Haynes on Monday who is now going over to C10 but I am sure we will still see her at rallies and maybe even at some ride outs, thanks again Sue for all your time with the raffles at meetings and events Tina has offered to take over and give it a go, so thanks to Tina as well. As for Merchandise I will take it from Sue when it arrives, its all been ordered and paid for so it shouldn't be long.

Well I think I have bored you enough so bye for now and enjoy the coming months on your bikes.

## *The World Famous Comfort Cafe 12<sup>th</sup> April*

14 bikes from C19 were joined at Boreham by 12 bikes from C13, 26 bikes no pressure then. I decided that with that many bikes I would have to second man. After gathering everybody round and telling them the route and that Cougar would be tail end charlie we set off.

The route I'd decided on was Boreham village then left to Great Leighs on to Great Dunmow through Thaxted and on to Saffron Walden. The plan then was the B1052 to Linton then the A1307 to the cafe at Little Abington, but like all well laid plans! Saffron Walden has a bloody one way system and we ended up on the B184 which took us up to the A11, no problem we're still on route.

Once on the A11 the wheels came off [not literally], Craig from C13 came up and flagged me to pull over into a lay-by and announced tail end charlie was missing. Not only is Cougie missing but about eight other bikes, shit what's happened, you always fear the worse. They couldn't be lost I've second manned every roundabout, every turning, can't go wrong can it? when someone breaks down it can. Debbie on a 750 Virago from C13, a new member out on her first ride out, breaks down. Cougie the valiant stays with her and waits for Green Flag while the others carry on, then, Grumpy also from C13 breaks down, he and his wife Sue wait for their recovery. Meanwhile back in the lay-by after a few frantic phone calls and the last two second men deciding to join us after about 10-15 minutes, about 15 minutes later it was decided to carry on, two from C13 stayed to wait in case any of the others turned up, good job because within a few minutes they did. So eventually we got to the cafe for a very welcome breakfast and drink. We were met at the cafe by about a dozen from C10 who'd been waiting for about an hour.

Everyone made their own way home, myself Terry, Chris, Sue and Bruce went via Finchingfield, Bruce carried on back to Paula's while we stopped for the arbitrary ice cream and sit on the grass in the Sun

It was a bit eventful but I'd like to think the route was enjoyable, the Sun shone and everyone apart from those that conked out did finally arrive so all in all not too bad. Phew!

Trev

PS we had to stop a couple of times on the way home as an air filter kept falling off Ed

PPS not my bike by the way !!

PPPS Now repaired and fitted back securely.

## *Old Farts Club*

The Old Farts Club is a group of retired C19 riders who take the opportunity to have a ride out midweek. Anybody who is available usually on a Wednesday is welcome.

Wednesday 15th April seven of us met up at Thurrock services and decided on Hastings. John

[satnav brain] Evans led and took us through I know not where on a really interesting ride across country eventually arriving in Hastings at about 12-30. Hastings is packed, don't these people got a job, no wonder the country's in a state. We parked the bikes in a car park on the front, you have to pay to park a motorcycle in Hastings, £1-50, and then strolled up for obligatory fish and chip restaurant. We managed to sling some people off a table outside in the Sun, sat down, ordered our food, relaxed and watched the world go by, very civilised. Terry's son Paul turned up with his daughter Macy so after his dinner they went off to the beach, Norm went off for a walk, the rest of us decided after our fish and chips we have to have a knicker bocker glory, it's the law, except for Bob who blatantly broke the law and had apple pie. After such a blowout we had to make a choice, the funicular railway or crazy golf, crazy golf it is. So off we strolled to find Terry. Bob, John, Cougie and me walked on the beach but Barney and Norm went along the footpath and we would meet at the crazy golf. We found Terry and his family no trouble. We walked over to the golf but no Norman and Barney, so we wait and we wait, twenty minutes later they amble up "we thought you'd take longer to walk along the beach" they said. Terry, his son and granddaughter made a start with the golf but the rest of us felt it was probably better to make our way home. We said our goodbyes got back to the bikes made our way through the town on to the A21 then we hit it, traffic, constant apart from the dual carriageway and the first part of the M25, Dartford tunnel YUK! will they ever get that sorted. After miles of filtering we finally got through the tunnel only to find the A13 approach and the A13 itself just as bad, mind you an accident didn't help. Barney thought he'd stay on the M25 to the A127 but that wasn't any better, 13miles of filtering he said. Amazing what a bit of sunshine does. We all got home safe that's the main thing and we did have a fantastic day.

If anyone would like to join us on these midweek rides just let me know and I'll put you on our text list.

## *For Sale*

### EGGS... AT BOTH THE NORTH AND SOUTH C19 MEETINGS

When I attend either of the monthly meetings I will have with me, eggs for sale.

These are from my daughters smallholding in Mundon, they are free range and very fresh.

Prices for a box of six eggs:

Bantam Chicken Eggs (small) £0.80

Standard mixed size and colour Chicken Eggs £1.00

Large Chicken Eggs £1.20

Duck Eggs £1.50

Quail Eggs £ 1.50

I always have the standard chicken eggs because there are lots of standard chickens.

The others are subject to availability as there are only have small numbers of the birds.

**Bob Owen**

Hi Everybody,

Just a few things to say.

Firstly many thanks to those who turned up for the last North meeting. We had a better turn out than of late the meeting was very jovial too. We even had 4 bikes there, the weather must be improving! It would be good to see a few more still at the next one.

Many thanks to Bob, who suggested the ride out to Eagle Heights near Dartford, as we have had a record 3 write ups for this I won't go into it again, just that it was a very different venue to the kind we normally frequent and the fly display was truly spectacular. I really enjoyed everything there, thanks again Bob.

One last reminder for the Charsfield Village Fete on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Programme as follows:

Ride out to our house to arrive approx. 12 noon for lunch, tea coffee etc. as before.

2pm Bikes taken to the fete and displayed, free entry to the fete and an afternoon of fun for all.

For those wishing to stay later, the entertainment goes on into the evening, with BBQ, music, dancing and bar continuing until last man standing.

Anyone wishing to stay the night can either bring a sleeping bag and crash indoors or a bring a tent and pitch it in the garden. Hope to see you there.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, Summer Solstice run

Only myself and Barney for this so far, we'd love the pleasure of your company so come and join us.

Ride to Lowersoftness to watch the sun rise and then ride to Land's End to watch it set. Staying at the Land's End Hotel Sunday night and returning on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Price of single room B & B is £75.00, so please don't leave it to late if you want me to book up for you.

Any questions about either event please call me on 07879491241

Regards

Stainless

## *Ride out to Eagle Heights on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015*

First day out on a motorbike.

It was my first experience of a motorbike, half way there we stopped to see how many were going and only 14 were, my Nan, me, grandad, Bruce, Bob, Paula, Jo, Katarina, Lucinda, her friend, Cougar, Dawn, Alan and Trevor.

It was amazing as I'm only 7, we went to Eagle Heights, there were vultures, eagles, barn owls, little owls.

On the way back I saw a pond and a railway.

From Adele age 7 grand daughter of Tina.

## *Eagle Heights part 2*

Wasn't sure about this one, wasn't particularly far for a bike ride but nine of us on seven bikes, Paula, her girls and their friend and Jo in the car decided to give it a go. We were not disappointed it really was bloody good. Eagle Heights is listed as a wild life safari park but as the name suggests it's main thing is birds, predatory birds mainly, eagles, a vulture [Harold], hawks and falcons, some laughing kookaburras, very funny. There were some other animals, a camel, a rhea, a couple of meerkats and a group of beautiful huskies. The highlight of the day is the display. We're all sitting on benches and a lad tells us about these birds, while with an assistant, whose moving about behind us, sends whatever bird he's talking about to each other just over our heads or sometimes between us, a bloody great bald eagle or an even bigger vulture [Harold] nearly scalping us, awesome. There are two displays a day, always with different birds and sometimes they do a display with the huskies, unfortunately not this day. Bruce, Paula, Jo and the girls stayed a bit longer and were able to hold some of the birds but the rest of us decided to leave.

A really excellent day, well worthwhile. Well done to Bob [Chapman] for suggesting it.

Trev

## *Eagle Heights part 3*

What a chilly start to the day, the longest ride was to Thurrock services, from there 7 bikes rode the whole 12miles to Eagle Heights where Paula, Jo and the kids were waiting so in all 14 of us enjoyed the day where you could get up close to all the birds. Owls, Eagles a Vulture, also huskies a camel and your favourite TV meerkat's.

The display was very good, and the birds had their own personalities, they wouldn't fly or they would just walk around the people. Afterwards a cuppa and then most went home apart from myself and the clan where we stayed to handle the birds, they had a small owl and the bald eagle, I had to handle the eagle weighing in at about 10lbs, light at first but then you could start to feel that weight on your hand, I wondered what he thought when he was eyeballing you. And even Katerina had a go which surprised me as I never thought she would, well done Kat.

Bruce



## *From the Editor*

In view of the recent issues regarding Associate members I think it is time I had my say.

I didn't just exclude the article written by Dawn, I sent her an e mail

dated 27<sup>th</sup> March [ see below ] explaining my reasons, she still chose to circulate her factually incorrect article,

I now stand accused of excluding articles from Seax, [ you know who you are ] and it is being suggested by one or two that C19 members are being kept informed on a ' need to know basis ', again, factually incorrect . As you know I regularly ask for material for Seax. I have NEVER knowingly/deliberately left articles/material from Seax and resent the accusation.

I hope that the perpetrators can provide me with proof of what I am being accused of at the next meeting, but somehow I doubt it.

Finally, let me remind some of you [ only a few ] that committee members give their time and services free of charge, often travelling many miles for which I/we get no recompense, we do it because we are passionate about the club, centre and members. Enough said.

As is always the case, many are quick to criticise but won't step up and have a go,

I would also say that I recommended one of our then active AM's for a NAM award [ National Associate membership ] a few years ago but it was dismissed without further discussion by the Rep at the time.

Can we now get on and enjoy what this club is all about, stop this back biting, enjoy our bikes and restore peace in this great centre.

Hi Dawn

If you are basing your assumptions on what you have read about Lin Beacher, you have got it wrong.

Lin has been an AM of C16 for quite a while and their Treasurer, so based on the effort she has shown the centre [ emphasis on effort ] she was nominated for a National Associate membership of which there are 5 [ I think ] in the club, all of whom have demonstrated that they are worthy of that title.

NAM awards are not given lightly and are afforded more 'privileges' than Associate members.

Perhaps if some of our AM's made more effort they could be considered for a NAM

It is likely that AM's will always be part of the VSOC and there was never an intention to drive them away, it seems they are driving themselves away, their choice.

I believe the AM situation in C19 is sorting itself out so there is no point in antagonising the situation at the moment.

I look forward to getting an article from Alan re the fete, if it comes in the next couple of days I will put it in Seax, he is the main contributor this month as it is.

Don't forget your membership renewal if you haven't done it, you are in the 'grace' period until the end of April after which it will cost you an extra £5.

## *Ride out's 2015*

Ride outs for May

3rd May – change of ride

Air Ambulance Bike Show, North Weald Airfield, North Weald, Essex M16 6HR

Meet Boreham 10-00

10th May

Wesson's [Ogri's] Cafe, Horam, E Sussex TN21 0ER

Meet Thurrock Services 10-30

17th May

Impromptu

Meet Boreham 10-00 [this the weekend where several of us will be on our way to Ireland]

24th May

Centre 2 Ireland rally

30th May

Village Fete, Charsfield, Sussex.

Meet Boreham 10-00, Langham 10-45. Charsfield is the village Alan Ward lives in and he will be supplying food and drink, so if you are going please let him know email [dawnchamness@live.co.uk](mailto:dawnchamness@live.co.uk)

31st May

Flatford Mill, Essex

Meet Boreham 10-00, Langham 10-45

There's been a couple of changes to the ride out list. **First** on May 3rd, from the Harrington Aviation Museum, Northampton to the Air Ambulance Bike Show at North Weald. **Second** Bletchley Park on the 6th Sept and the Peterborough vehicle show on the 13th Sept have been swapped round.

The C7 Tonna, Wales party which I've forgotten to include [nothing sinister] is on the 3rd July.  
Trev.

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

June 7th

Boat trip on the Thames from Tower Bridge, London  
Thurrock 10-30

June 14th

International Rally Centre 13

June 21st

Hellfire Caves, West Wycombe, High Wycombe, Bucks.  
Meet Brentwood services A12 10-00

June 28th

St Ives Festival , St Ives, Cambridge  
Meet Boreham 9.30 sharp, Halstead 10am.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>

C7 party at Tonna, see 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 6<sup>th</sup> – Change of date  
Peterborough Show [ all kinds of cars and motorbikes ]  
meet Boreham 9.30

September 13<sup>th</sup> – Change of date  
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 on Saturday and come back on 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  
Brighton Bike Show, Brighton  
Meet Thurrock Services 10-00.