

SEAX

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

June/July 2018 Issue 266

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Centre 19 meeting's date

June 2018

North meeting

8pm Monday 4th June 2018

The Crown, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Colchester CO7 7QR

South meeting

8pm Monday 18th June 2018

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

July 2018

North meeting

8pm Monday 2nd July 2018

The Crown, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Colchester CO7 7QR

South meeting

8pm Monday 16th July 2018

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

Reps ramblings

Hi Crusaders how you all keeping, well all the memberships are now in and we have had 6 non renewals and a couple of new members , some of you have met Cynthia on her 535, and welcome to Russell , Mark and Sean has rejoined lets hope we will see you about and enjoy what we have to offer, so we are at 46 members as of now.

I would just like to say what a fantastic turn out we had on Sunday the 20th for the ride to the Hospice, 18 bikes and 20 members enjoyed the nice sunshine and most of us went on to Shotley , it would be great if we had that more often.

Don't forget to check the calendar for what's coming up, bring your family to the Mersea picnic, car or bike, it's a family day where we can get to meet the unseen wives once a year.

As you may have seen on our FB page the long service patches were handed out around the country and abroad, so congratulations got to Nikki Harris , Sue Sullivan and Ian Whitcomb for 20yrs, myself for 15yrs and Derek Lawson Smith for 10 yrs.

What a great weekend for the first Rally of the year hosted by C15 The Smugglers, great weather location and of course the people who make these events worth going to, the numbers were a bit low but 176 through the gate was enough for a great time, we had 12 Crusaders in attendance.

As a reminder last AGM Trevor and myself announced we were standing down this October, BUT, as of yet no one has stepped fwd and no interest at all has been shown, so come on guys and gals this is YOUR club to, it is not fair that the same people do all the work all the time, I will leave it at that for now.

A few weeks ago we had our club lunch at a nice little pub with great food and our own room as well , 20 turned up for this so that was a good turnout, let's hope we can see more ride outs like this through the year.

Ride out to Shotley Marina 15th April 2018

Several of us met up at Langham Shell garage at 10.45am and were joined by Trevor and others so then there were 8 bikes, not bad for the first ride out of the year although not too warm.

2nd manning was opted by Alan who was leading the ride and worked OK although not too sure it was really necessary for 8 bikes, nevertheless it was a good learning curve for Cynthia, a new member of C19 and on her first ride out with us on her very pretty 535.

The ride took us through lots of villages, Dedham, Lawford, Horsley Cross, Manningtree, Holbrook [home of the Royal Hospital school] Woolverstone and probably others which I have missed, it was a scenic route and certainly took me to places that I havent been before

We arrived in good time to Shotley Marina and had food and drink in the customary way, just has to be done.

Having put the world to rights, walked along the front, analysed the rusty steel supports supporting some marine structure and discussing the cleaning of the rocks forming a break water it was time to go.

Every one for themselves on the A12 and I know we all got back in one piece. As above, it could have been a bit warmer for me being an old skinny pensioner.

Peter

Rally in a hotel 27th to 29th April

The time had come, our first rally of the season, and the weather looked yuk, cold and wet, but you know what I didn't care because I knew I never had to put a tent up, yes it was a rally in a hotel at Gloucester. There was 1 downside Paula hasn't got her bike back from the garage, and I am hoping while I am writing this the solution has been fixed , so as she was going in car all luggage went in that so I didn't even load the bike woo hoo..

It was arranged to meet at South Mimms services at 10 30 as 2 Dutch were going to travel with us, Wendy and Nuno, so all fuelled up along with Peter and Dave 6 of us set off. We made good time and 4 others caught us up as

we had a nice break and they hadn't but Alan and Dawn broke away for food and Gary and Dave went at a slower pace .

After arriving and having booked in and settled Paula went for a swim and I went to the bar, well it had to be done, catching up with all the regular crowd, and even Ian and Den were there so a great turn out with 12 of us Crusaders. We had 2 bands for the weekend and with a buffet meal for the Friday and a sit down 3 course for Saturday what more could you want. Bob Barber organized a great ride out but due to weather it was cut short, but about 20 of us braved it, with only a little shower here and there and a café in the Malvern hills.

After a cold ride home on the Sunday the bike had a good hose down before being put away and then cleaned on the Monday.

Next stop Fubar in Folkstone.

Bruce

Rally in a Hotel 27th - 29th April 2018 Version 2

We certainly picked the right weekend for it didn't we?

The preceding weekend and the following weekend were great weather-wise, but the ride to Gloucester was wet cold and bloody miserable. It could have been worse though, it could have rained ALL the way there instead of only half of the journey.

Dawn and I left about 9.30 on the Friday and by the time we got to south Mimms we needed an hour indoors to warm up again. I got my windproof jacket out to put on but looking at Dawn I decided her need was greater than mine, I felt a bit like Sir Walter Raleigh laying his cloak over a puddle so that Queen Elisabeth wouldn't get her feet wet. The price of chivalry aye?

After warming up we pressed on with the journey and I was quite surprised to see Dave Winning trying to back pedal his bike off the hatched area in the middle of the M40/A40 split. We stopped and waited to see if he needed rescuing but he finally discovered that the A40 was a better route than a hatched divide to nowhere. So then we were 3 until we passed Gary Mac in a layby, who was waiting for Dave Winning. Then we were 4, 2 Harley's now, well done Gary.

We caught the remainder of C19 around the outskirts of Oxford and rode together for a while until I decided I needed food, so that's what we did, and another warm up saw us fit to complete the journey to the hotel later.

It was good to get there and a huge relief not to have to pitch a tent, the room was very comfortable and a hot shower and a cuppa were the first order of the day.

Most of us managed to squeeze around one table for the evening meal and copious quantities of ridiculous banter and drink followed. The meal was very good, plenty of it seemed to send the reminder of the journey there to a far forgotten memory. I wonder how big a part the alcohol played in that?

Friday night's band with a young lady singer and impressive lead guitarist kept us well entertained. I think everyone was ready for bed that night.

Up next morning bright and early, I wandered around the car park looking at the bikes, there were noticeably less bikes this year with several people coming in cars. It was still raining and with the ride out looming large, my thoughts turned back to the day before. I decided to have a hearty breakfast and give it some serious thought, Breakfast at this hotel is more than adequate with as much as you like of everything, my kind of venue really, but I did notice the absence of devilled kidneys and kippers.

I chickened out of the ride out as it was still raining and bloody cold, my excuse was that my gloves weren't dry from the day before, well its better than no excuse at all isn't it?

We caught the bus into Gloucester for the day and had a good look round, I was impressed by the historic docks, which have been restored and not over developed with hideous modern waterfront apartments which seems to be the thing to do these days. Steamships, smoke, railways and horse shit are far more interesting than modern apartments. We had a look around the City Centre and the Cathedral which is massive and can keep you interested for some time, even if you are an atheist like me, it takes a lot of faith to be an atheist, remember that.

Several went on the ride out and I gather it went well, apart from the Vice Chairman's demonstration of his new method to dismount from a motorcycle, from the snippets of information going around I think he used the age old proven method of gravity. I myself prefer to use a more traditional way of leaving my bike, I find it is much more conducive to keeping the machine intact and in good repair, but hey, if it works for him, who am I to interfere?

We all assembled in the evening again, we were like the knight of the round table, but with shirts and ties. It was a 3-course meal on Saturday night and I must take my hat off to the organizer who had supplied a name card with our choice of menu on, just as well really because some of us could not remember what we had ordered, me included. The food was really good and I had to compliment the manager for it, he thanked me and warmly shook my hand, which took me slightly off guard, I hope he didn't think I was Quarr! Looking around the table it was duly noted that Dave Enefer's dark purple shirt was exactly the same colour as the wall paper behind him, this observation sparked off a new party game called "where's Dave?" I reckon he wasn't just in the Army in his younger days but must have been special forces

and like a chameleon can blend perfectly into his background, a master of camouflage no less. He could probably sneak up on you anywhere without you knowing, the only way we found him was when Helen sat on his lap, I think it must have been his aftershave or pheromones or something she smelt.

We were entertained in the evening by 2 non-blonds, two women singers whom we have had before at our events and always entertain well.

I didn't win anything on the raffle, not did anyone on our table, (I put that bit in to pacify Trevor). The evening drew to a close and people wandered off to bed wondering what the weather would be like in the morning. Yep! You guessed it, still wet, cold and miserable. Everybody wrapped up and looking at some of the ladies, Bernie and Helen, all you could see were their eyes. We left in dribs and drabs making half-hearted plans to make it to South Mimms.

By the time we got to Beaconsfield Services we were cold enough and dived in there, lo and behold there was everyone else with the same idea, Sunday was even colder than the ride down on the Friday.

We struggled back onto our bikes and had to make one more stop before we got to Suffolk, finally arriving home about 3.30pm. It was nice to get home and put the kettle on. Despite the weather it was still a good weekend but what a temperature contrast to last year! The bikes looked like we'd been to a scrambler meeting, it took me 2 days to clean them, I was in my element!! Thanks to everyone who came and made it a good fun weekend, I had a great time

Stainless

Belgian Rally 4th to 6th May 2018

Some of us agreed that as we were meeting at 8.20am at Eurotunnel we would book a Premier Inn the night before, some braved it and rode down on the same day.

I eventually left here at 14.40pm with new member Cynthia to meet up with Debbie at Thurrock, an uneventful trip. We then left Thurrock for another safe ride to Folkestone Premier Inn, all good so far

It was an early start, well not for me !! and a ride to get petrol nearly ended up with 2 adventurers diverting off to the M20, problem averted... just although I didn't wait around to find out how .

Once in France Kevin Blythe had agreed to lead the pack of 13 bikes avoiding the Antwerp ring road which may have been a problem on a Friday pm and we arrived at Zandvliet, North of Antwerp and about 145 miles from Calais at 2.30pm, no problems and it was a warm sunny day

Most of us had 'dormitory' accommodation with a bed, toilets and warm showers although not warm to start with, thanks Nicky for getting them fixed.

Food as always is good at the Belgian rallies, the evenings entertainment and band was good and the atmosphere good, it was a warm evening so a time to sit outside and catch up if you needed to escape the loud music.

Saturday's ride out took us on a scenic route to Zeeland area in Holland and a place I have been to before, I was reminded that when we did this ride out 7 years previously I made a comment that my feet didn't touch the ground on the whole ride so another challenge with myself and again, my feet didn't touch the floor for 35 miles, these large rides [60 bikes] are always aggressively marshalled and all junctions and roundabouts are blocked by all members of the ride, even our new member took part.

Back to the rally site and whilst having a cuppa I was presented with a large fresh cream birthday cake and a patch making me an Honorary member of the Belgian club, an accolade I am very proud of, I have attended every Belgian rally since day one so 11 in all.

Saturday night's entertainment/band was very good and many were on the floor strutting their stuff.

We left about 10.30am on Sunday and decided to tackle the Antwerp Ring road with no problems at all, one stop for fuel near Bruges and we arrived at Eurotunnel in good time, a stop for fuel at Maidstone Services got me home by 15.40pm. I have never seen the Dartford crossing so empty, no filtering and no hold ups, happy days.

Once again, a good rally, very good weekend, spoilt with birthday gifts and cards so an enjoyable weekend and nearly 600 miles covered.

Looking forward to our trip to the International rally in Denmark now.

Peter

Sue receiving her 20 year patch



Bruce receiving his 15 year patch



Del receiving his 10 year patch

East Anglian Children's Hospice

On Sunday 19th May Eighteen bikes and twenty one people from C19 rode to the children's hospice in Ipswich to present a cheque for £500 donated by C19. It was a lovely day and the hope was to show the bikes to the children and even allow them to sit on them if they were able. Unfortunately on the day there were only children that were at end of life so all children that were in respite had been sent home to allow the grieving families to stay instead. So all that was left was to position some bikes by the entrance and stand in front with Natasha who was there to represent EACH and have some photos taken. A bit disappointing but very sad and everybody of course understood.

Afterwards some people decided to go their separate ways while the rest of us went on to Shotley Marina where the RNLI had some stuff going on and to have some well earned lunch.

Trev



Christmas Party 5th January 2019

If you remember back in November 2017 it was mentioned in Seax that we intended to host a joint centre post Christmas party at the Holiday Inn, Eight Ash Green, Colchester CO63QL. This has been booked so we just need to fill the spaces.

The venue is large enough to have 100 people [maybe slightly less for more comfort] and we are hoping to fill the function room which we will have to ourselves.

We have hosted Christmas parties at this venue previously with great success which is why it was decided to go back there

We need to start getting an idea of numbers from C19 before opening it up to other centres so can you please think about it and let Bruce or myself know

The cost for those deciding to stay over is £60 for a double or twin room with full, eat as much as you like breakfast, the Christmas meal is £24.95 for 3 courses and you will have use of all hotel facilities from 2pm on Saturday 5th January, swimming pool, spa, jacuzzi and gym for those feeling energetic !!

We also need to consider if we need a disco for the evening, our experience is that it was too noisy for the space and was very intrusive to chat, a lot of people left the room and went in to the reception area. This is a decision to be made by members of course so up to you.

Please consider this event and put it in your diary now with a call to confirm your attendance. Thank you

Peter

From the Editor

See the above article about the Christmas party in January 2019 which I have left in just to remind you all. Please let me know if you intend coming as these things have to be planned in advance, thanks to those 6 that have let me know, surely there must be more.

You will see Mersea picnic on the rideout list for 8th July, this is an event where you bring your own food, blanket for the floor, chairs etc but C19 provide tea, coffee, soft drinks and a shelter if it rains which it won't of course. A good fun day near the beach so please come along and support us. Cars are welcome. Some help in setting up is appreciated as well please.

Ride outs

If the weather is inclement can you phone the reps to see if the ride is still on.

Please note that Ride outs from Boreham will revert back to 10.30am from the 3rd December and back to 10am from the 4th March 2018, if anyone is up for braving the weather of course !!

Centre 19 Rideouts 2018

June 3rd Route 11 cafe on the A11, Boreham 10.00, Halstead 10.45

June 8th-10th Danish International Rally

June 10th High Beech, Epping Forest, Boreham 10.00

June 17th Krazy Horse, Bury St Edmonds, Boreham 10.00, Halstead 10.45

June 24th RAF museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon NW9 5LL
Brentwood services 10.00

July 1st St Ives Bike Show at Johnsons of Old Hurst, Cambridgeshire.
Boreham 10.00

July 8th C19 Mersea Picnic

July 15th Bawdsey Quay and Sizewell café, Langham services 10.45

July 20th-22nd, C4 rally

July 29th, The bike Shed, London, hurrock services 10.30

August 5th Museum of Power bike show, Langford, Maldon. C19

August 12th Norfolk Tank Museum

August 19th Aldburgh

August 24th to 27th C4 Rally, Redcar, Fourgasm four.

Sept 2nd Greenwich

Sept 9th Gorleston & Beccles

Sept 16th Route 11 cafe

Sept 23rd Silver ball cafe & Finchingfield

Sept 30th

Oct 7th Copdock Bike show

Oct 14th Brightona

Oct 21st C19 AGM