



# Suffolk Riders



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## Intro from the Chairman



For the first Suffolk Riders newsletter, whether you like it or not I thought I'd bore you with a few words. It has been discussed in committee for a while that we should send out a monthly newsletter instead of dribs and drabs of information over the course of each month. The ethos behind this is that it

should help our members to plan their attendance at upcoming events and push the committee and events sub-group to ensure everything is organised well in advance. Time will tell if this works out in reality, but we're ever hopeful.....

Well 2019 has been a full year already with many members having completed European tours and weekend trips and I hope many of you are well on the way to completing the summer challenge. We have had several training rides, breakfast runs and day trips, some better attended than others. We've attended open day events, supported CCMC on their fun runs and we've attended the new Stonham Bike show which was a great success. We've had the Quiz Night, A jumble auction - raising £300 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, a few group-night ride-outs including the excellent treasure hunt, and a Slow Control event. We now run the Reiten Breakfast runs which has enabled us to widen the brand further into our classic demographic with regular advertisements of the event by Reiten Motorrad.



And as if that wasn't enough, there's much more to come with further breakfast runs, training rides and our autumn tours as well as group nights back in the community centre at Needham Market from 23<sup>rd</sup> September and our stand at the Copdock Show. A full and fulfilling year for the group, hats off to all those who have helped with or supported these, it's really appreciated!

### *Our apprentice treasurer - John Kerry*

The committee co-opted a member at the beginning of summer with a view to him taking over the treasury at the end of the year. John sat quietly in the corner on his first attendance to committee meetings. Once he'd been introduced and welcomed, he said very little, listened, looked perplexed now and then, and laughed with us on occasions. At the end of the 3-1/2 hour meeting he said to me 'Jon, I had no idea how much goes on behind the scenes, I'm blown away!' John was referring to the scope and amount which is discussed, managed, debated, planned and procured for the benefit of the membership, not only by the committee but also by the events sub-group – who organise breakfast runs, ride-outs, guest speakers, etc., and the other regular helpers - training ride leaders, ride-out leaders, etc., etc. He was humbled and immediately felt like he was part of a large team of keen hardworking folk who do what they can for the group membership and the community of rider & road safety as a whole. Eternal thanks to all of those who give their time to help the group and its members and to all our members for their continued support for Suffolk Riders. *Jon Jamin*



## August Events

### *Moto GP - Brno, Czech*

It was all Bryan Duncan's fault. After the trip last year to see if the Millau bridge was as spectacular as it was made out to be (it was!), Bryan casually mentioned he'd always wanted to go the MotoGP in Brno. "Where's that?" I said. "The Czech Republic", he replied. "turn right at Prague and keep going for another 200 km." "Hm" I thought, sounds like a nice trip. I bet we can find some stunning roads. So that was how 7 bikes, their riders, and Jon's daughter Jemma found themselves waiting on the quayside at Harwich for our delayed ferry to Holland. After a smooth crossing in

spite of the gales, we had an early start and rode across Holland's flat, straight and boring countryside to Arnhem, rode over the (rebuilt) 'Bridge Too Far' instead of stopping for more

coffee, crossed into Germany, and joined the 10,000 km German Motorbike Route, nicknamed "Pan Germania". That was more like it, in fact it was so good we rode some of it twice by mistake! As became a recurrent theme, Bryan and Kevin rode more slowly than the



other five, but arrived first. We think they must have cast iron bladders. We stayed that night in Bad Laasphe, which was actually rather good, and the next day carried on the Route almost to the Czech border. We stayed the second night in a

Czech entrepreneur's idea of a wild west ranch. The food and drink were good and quite cheap, resulting in a couple of very grey faces in the morning (no names, no pack drill, David). Day 3, onto Brno. The roadworks were everywhere, and truly awful. Steve mumbled about the EU spending our money on Czech roads. Some of wished they'd spent it sooner! Jemma had had enough by this time and flew back from Prague to go to a friend's party. I can't say I blame her, the Czech roads were shocking. We arrived in our resort hotel near Brno overlooking a lake. Nice swimming pool, only slightly green, but the spare ribs were so good some of us had them 3 nights running. Saturday we visited the old town of



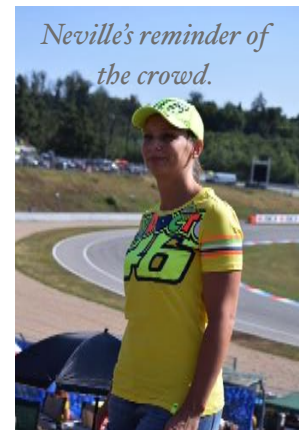
Brno. After we'd done Brno, it was lunch time, so we found an Italian restaurant.

When in Rome... We'd taken taxis to avoid the rain, so lunch was quite merry (again).

Sunday we and 186,000 other folks went to the MotoGP, many of them on bikes. We followed some of them hoping they knew where they were going and eventually found a bike park inside the circuit, very close to the entrance. We sat on the hillside and watched the Marquez brothers win their events, both avoiding the more unfortunate riders who slid off in spectacular style just in front of us. Perhaps they saw Jon brewing coffee on his gas stove, and were put off... A nice Dutch couple were amazed that five old British pensioners had ridden all the way to Brno. The cheek of it! I bought a Valentino Rossi umbrella to keep the sun off me just as the clouds rolled in, but who had the last laugh when it started to rain? Racing over, ears singing, all we then had to do was filter past the other 186,000 folks on the scenic country

route back to Brno. The police waved us on, what solid white lines?

Monday we rode south to Austria to avoid the roadworks on the road back to Prague. Good roads, more EU money well spent. Skirted Vienna, across to Salzburg and into Bavaria. Waitresses in dirndl skirts, more beer. Tuesday fast back roads to Munich, coffee in Dachau, enough said, then back on the Route, finishing with the famous B500 to Baden-Baden. Imagine 30 miles of sweeping 70 mph bends up to a ridge with spectacular views across the Black Forest, and then down to Baden-Baden. Wow. Put it on your bucket list! Wednesday back on the Route, arriving just in time for lunch at the Nürburgring, to watch the Porsche owners club noisy playtime. Wednesday night we stayed in Namur in Belgium, yet more beer, then Thursday morning we headed off for Calais and Eurotunnel. Huge queues on the M25 gave us yet more filtering practice, and home in time for tea. I rode 2,075 miles, including going round in circles and retracing our steps from road closures and accidents. Thanks for the company boys, it was fun. *Phil Sayer*





**And more from Brno:** I recently returned from the Czech MotoGP trip, organised by Phil Sayer. Typical of many member organised trips, the routes were distributed well in advance for comments and negotiation, the accommodation was all booked and was ideal, the riding was pretty much as you like – keep together and follow the leader or do your own thing, and the evenings were full of chit-chat, beer, food, beer, debates (political or otherwise), beer, banter, beer, piss-taking, fun and laughter. Oh and beer, and a few heated Brexit debates too..... nuff said! My bruises are all but cleared, I hope the others are too..... A great day's racing at Brno and visits to Dachau

and Nürburgring on the way home. All-in-all a really enjoyable trip with some great roads, stunning views and enjoyable riding, thanks Phil for organising it and opening it to the membership. *Jon Jamin*



## *The Breakfast Run.*



Our breakfast ride to Burnham Deepdale was attended by 4 enthusiastic members.... the roads were a bit damp but it didn't rain much and once north of Thetford it stayed dry. Lovely ride which was a bit technical at times (shush: rumour has it Jon got lost Ed.), many single track



roads in deepest darkest Norfolk, some even had tarmac. A fantastic breakfast though, well worth the ride... *Jon Jamin*

## ***Group Training Ride: Bungalow Diner - Marks Tey (No. 31 on the Club's Routes and Waypoints Page).***

Not only do you get a ride through some lovely roads in Suffolk and Essex on a Sunday morning, you get a geography lesson as well. Stephen Worrall, one of our intrepid training-rides team pointed out that we would



cross four bridges over four rivers: the Gipping, Brett, Stour & Colne and could we spot them? Your scribe managed two, but needed a map and recall to find the others. NB, they are small bridges. Nine plucky riders braved the winds (actually not too bad) to meet at Beacon Hill, along with a chapter of big cruisers and trikes, marshals and cyclists. The first group out just happened to be the oldest, with two considering themselves lucky to be able to ride at all. Thanks to the progress in modern medicine, in the last few months one had his mitral valve stitched up (the one with a big smile on his face and a new KTM) and the other has a titanium scaffold holding up his lumbar spine (your scribe). What tips did your scribe get at the debrief? Speed creep in the 30mph zone, and 'swan necking' into bends (apparently an old police saying), guilty as charged sir (and a definite NoNo for 'the test').

Just out of Sudbury we passed the Henny Swan on the banks of the Stour, looking picturesque: certainly a place to take my good lady. Then a little further on at Lamarsh, the round tower



of Holy Innocents church appeared on the left-hand side, so we stopped to have a look; quite beautiful. We arrived at the Bungalow Diner, the second group were already in place, which was heaving with people enjoying large portions of whatever they had ordered. We settled down to chat and wait for the last group to arrive. And we waited, and waited. I'll let Stephen pick up the story.

...and we never arrived! In fact we never set off! My bike flatly refused to restart.

On this one occasion I was the only tutor on duty. I planned to ride with the associates we were expecting to join us, and waited with Jeff and Jess for any late arrivals, letting the members present get underway ahead of us. But when we decided to leave my bike just wouldn't run.

The engine started then repeatedly stopped. All variations of turning the key, pressing the starter and twisting the throttle failed. And a little blue smoke puffed from the exhaust. Were it a 'proper' motorcycle there would have been carburettors, points and spark plugs to fiddle with, but modern bikes offer little for the stranded rider to do, apart from call for assistance. Which I duly did after bidding farewell and apologising profusely to the two patient associates, who in the end didn't get their ride! Calls and texts were sent to advise the other riders of our plight, but these were not found until later. Green Flag came to my rescue and delivered me and the bike back home by about 1500hrs. The engine diagnosis will be carried out by my local dealer, I am beginning to suspect fuel contamination!





## *The Treasure Hunt.*

Two heads are better than one.

I realised this was the best way to take on this year's treasure hunt, following my pathetic efforts a couple of years ago when I was cheered for coming in last. I asked around but could not find a buddy to ride with because of prior commitments, so it had to be the long-suffering wife, and she did come, under sufferance. Obviously I didn't try too hard as Brian C was on his own. Next year Brian?

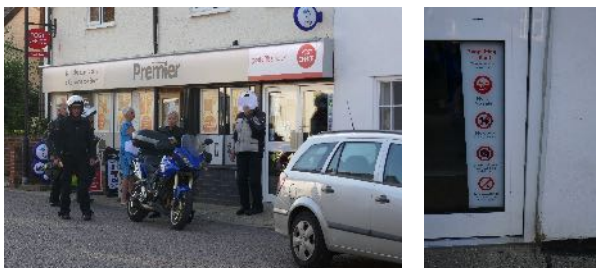
The Valentines put on a corker, pre-plan locations in 7 villages to be found from anagrams, collect clues at the start and off you go, but you had better be careful to record exactly what was wanted on the answer sheet. The only anagram that took more than a few minutes was WONDLENOT (Old Newton).

One of the clues for Mendlesham (Shammelden) was:

9. You can't go in to buy here when properly dressed as a 'yoof' or a motorcyclist!!!.....Why not.

The answer: Crash hats and hoodies forbidden.

Check out the Post Office window and there



you are - the window sign.

As my good lady will not travel on a bike, we were in the car, and there came a major problem for us (not bikes). About three-quarters around and not doing too bad we came across 'Road Closed'. Satnavs are pretty useless when it comes to bypassing an obstruction on country lanes. It seemed that every road we tried was closed. By now she was not a happy bunny so we decided to retire

'hors de combat', with 8 clues complete. On arrival at The Retreat, who was there, apart from the Valentines and the Spreadburys (who were doing the marking), but the eventual winners Tony B & Jane, a superb effort, first back and 100% correct.



After the prize giving came the 'and now for next year's organiser'. Steve and Cath V. proposed the winners should organise, but not if you were a previous winner, so next in line was Keith and Maureen G, previous winners; third was Phil & Sue Sayer. He did seem overjoyed at the prospect.



So why not come along next year for a bit of fun and serious riding and try to beat the formidable Butler team (and Gilberts and Sayers)? *Ed.*

## *The BBQ*

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Set in the beautiful grounds of Woodbridge School (fees from £3.3k to £10.7k/term - journalists always put these figures in, so why not me), thanks to the good offices of Chris Patten, this year's BBQ was held under the shade of old oak trees by the rugby field. Lots of riders joined John Morgan on his jaunt round some twisty roads before arriving. John J and Ben F did the alpha male thing on the barbecue, and excellent it was. Nice to catch up, and the wife enjoyed meeting the other ladies. Ed.

### *Note from Jon Jamin:*

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to this year's Bank-holiday Barbecue:

John Morgan for planning and leading the ride-out to the event.

Keith & Maureen for the table and food and for helping set up.

Ray for sorting out numbers, hounding for payment and for helping set up.

But mainly to Ben Firbank & Chris Patten who chose the venue, organised and ferried around getting all the gear & food to the event.

I stood back at one point and noticed everyone was chatting, socialising, generally looking content and having a great time, which was brilliant. The weather was fantastic, the venue was ideal and the natural shade of the trees on the edge of the pitch was perfect.

Thanks all, it was a really successful, enjoyable event. Same again next year please..... J





# Member's Forum

## GOOD FISH AND CHIPS – WORTH THE RIDE

It was when four group silver tops got together and made a major decision. Forget breakfast runs, let's go for fish and chips. Great idea.



Where are we going? What about that café over the Humber Bridge? Which one? It had long tables. What's it called? I don't know. Well that's a good start then. We did go that way for fish and chips with what's his name. When was that? About 3 years ago. What's it called? Hold on a minute, 'um was it Captain's Table? Have I been there? No you weren't with us. It was me and the guy with the GS Adventure and Lee came with his associate. Let's see if Lee wants to come with us as he might remember where it is.

Right, Lee's coming. That will make five of us. Where we meeting? Hang on, when are we going? Next Sat Saturday okay. Yep, yep, yep, yep.

Meet the usual place then. Where's that? Esso Thetford 8.00 am and we will stop for a cuppa at that garden centre off the

A52. Lee's got a route. NOT going if it's raining.

It all went very well. The little guy with the RT didn't turn up. Said he was too tired and didn't fancy all the holiday traffic. There were still 5 as my associate came along. The Concreation was the café off the A52 at Swineshead.

All in and sat down by 9.30 am when the owner came over and said I remember you lot. Pad and pen in hand he pulled up a chair saying I might as well sit down as this might take a while.

We only want TEA. Well maybe I'll have beans on toast. Make that 2. I'll have sausage in a roll, I'll have a bacon sarnie, and you sir, bacon and egg sarnie. Sorry we only do egg and bacon sarnies.

Onward and upward all went well until 2 new roundabouts at DRIFFIELD that the GPS didn't recognise. Mine's saying U-turn, mine said go back to 1<sup>st</sup> roundabout. Hang on, mine's recalculating, follow me. We did, down the narrowest lane in South Yorkshire, steep as well. Blimey, when we got to the top what a view and a signpost





showing a right turn for Hummanby. Yer that's the place we are heading for, I remember now. The Captain's Table – spot on.

Table for 5 please and a menu. It's cod and chips. Take a seat in there. What you having. I don't know, it's cod and chips. NO rock, NO haddock, NO skate, cod and chips. Only decision you need to make is do you want bread and butter and tea. We'll all have the cod and chips with bread and butter and tea. GOOD.

It was good, very good for £8.10.

What way we going back? Well, that's another story.

Concreation Garden Centre, Boston Road, Swineshead, PE20 3HB – 83 miles.

The Captain's table, Hummanby, Filey, Yorks. YO14 0JT – via Humber Bridge – free for m/cs – total 185 miles. *Keith Gilbert*

## Richard Tricker, what's he up to?

To paraphrase a WWI barrack room ballad "old soldiers never die, they simply fade away", if I may paraphrase yet again, "old tutors when they retire, take up old passions, and even new ones". I was thinking this as I left my old tutor's garden to ride again some of the Suffolk lanes that he so patiently took me over. Keeping my eye on the vanishing point, shifting my centre of gravity in bends, Richard Tricker, I'm thinking, had the patiences of Job: although I know I tried that patience a

few times. When the BMW K1200S became just too expensive to maintain, Richard hung up his boots and used the money to buy - a camera (a good one). Workshops followed and so far two commissions for St Elizabeth Hospice (Ipswich) for their fund-raising events. His other main passion is bonsai and does that need patience. I never realised how much work is involved, especially if you are rearing around 40 varieties. Then as if he needed more to do there is the large garden, currently filling in the pond – he recently sold the Koi, some he'd had for around 30 years; then moving the greenhouse re-arranging vegetable beds, borders, and occasionally lying in the hammock in the sun for a well earned sleep after lunch. You can see that Richard is taking things easy now that he no longer has to follow the likes of me around on a motorcycle. *Ed.*



# Technical Corner

## BMW CLUTCH OPERATING OIL

### WARNING - BEWARE

If you own a BMW R1150 or R1200GS and you do your own servicing, or take it to a non-BMW dealer, make sure you do not put BRAKE FLUID in your clutch master cylinder.

It could be very costly.

The system is designed to work with a mineral oil - HYSPIN™ V10.

This is available from BMW dealerships - 250ml for £9.95.

Much to my surprise my local BMW dealer was not aware of this.



## Front and rear cameras.



Recently I read an article concerning insurance claim chasing companies, and with estimates upwards of 40% of cases involving fraud, I wondered whether front & rear cameras on a bike would lessen the risk of being penalised in a no fault accident or incident. Recently one of our members had his bike written off after being shunted in the rear when pulling off the road to put on his wet gear. At the time the driver said “I didn’t see you mate.” He is using McAms to process his claim and

was told that 90% of rear end accidents are settled as no fault. However, it now appears that the driver may have changed his story, claiming that our member was turning back onto the road, right into his path. Our member may be lucky in that there was a witness. Perhaps, when the claim is settled, he might recount what happened for our benefit. Anyway, I started looking at front and rear cameras and quite liked the specification of the Innovv K2, not cheap at £289 on Amazon, but if considered as an insurance policy, possibly well worth the money.

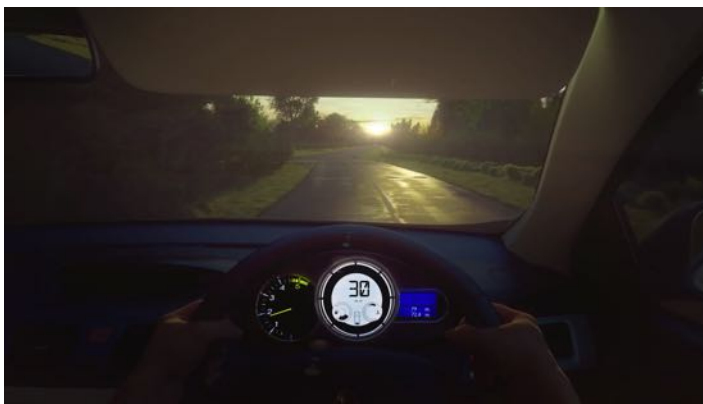
If you have experience of using a camera in an insurance claim, or know someone who has, or even if you just want to say your piece, please let me know at [webmaster@suffolkriders.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@suffolkriders.co.uk). *Ed.*

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## A video worth watching!

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The current issue of Care on The Road has a link on page 15 to a DVLA video at [youtu.be/tcNT83m4VGU](https://youtu.be/tcNT83m4VGU)



It shows the build-up to an incident similar in principle to the one that nearly wrote off Glen Mures (meaning, it might be a set-up, but it is realistic) and it is worrying because the motorcyclist may very well be unaware of it developing. It is one of the reasons I always fit daylight running lights at a level well below my headlights. *Chris Austin.*

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## WINTER TIP

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September's round the corner, end of October a lot of bikes disappear into the garage.



Keep riding and keep warm. So much good kit about. Heated clothing, heated grips, heated seats.

This is about cold feet. Good boots essential. My money over the last 30 years has been spent on Daytona Road Star. From October on, wear with a pair of high wicking socks to keep your feet free from moisture, which is the main reason for cold feet. I currently use NIKE DRI-FIT. There are loads of alternatives to NIKE. Take your pick. *Keith Gilbert*



# September Events.

## Important.

**Please note that the latest information on future events can be found on the club website's Events page. You should always check there before attending any event.**

## Rideout - Saturday, 7th September: 11:00am.

There is a ride-out, organised by Reiten Motorrad, and lead by tutors from Suffolk Riders. It is open to all, starting at the Old Filling Station, Lower Rd., Glemsford CO10 7QU and finishing at a café in Leiston. Details can be found on their Facebook page.

## Group Training Ride - Sunday 22nd September, 9:30am.

Our dynamic duo Stephen and Stephen have arranged to visit the Sizewell Tea café, riding from Tesco, Martlesham, there was a suggestion that you'd be advised to wrap yourself in aluminium foil for this ride. A waypoint and gpx file, No.34 are on the club's Routes and Waypoints page. If you intend to ride, please inform the Stephens by email ([training-rides@suffolkriders.co.uk](mailto:training-rides@suffolkriders.co.uk)), so that they ensure enough tutors are available. This is a really excellent opportunity for associates (and members like me) to garner a few extra pointers on their riding technique.

## Group Night - Monday 23rd September, 19:30.

This event is still being finalised. Please check the club diary nearer the time for details.

## Breakfast Run - Saturday, 28th September, 9:30am

Tesco Bury St. Edmunds to the Old Barn at Wadenhoe. Jon Jamin will be leading this ride and will put a route on the club's Routes and Waypoints page nearer the time. If you intend to join this event, please contact Jon - [chairman@suffolkriders.co.uk](mailto:chairman@suffolkriders.co.uk)

## Parking, Copdock Classic MC Show - Sunday, 6th October.

We have the Copdock Show creeping up on us and we are very grateful to the members who help each year to park cars for the CCMC show. The donation we receive from the CCMC in exchange for our support is paramount to us funding the training for young riders to advanced riding standard and the

purchase of equipment and training aids to support our core objectives. I thank you in advance for your help at this year's show on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Please offer your services even if for just a few hours as we have all benefitted from the financial support the CCMC has given us to date and you get free entry to the show for your efforts. *Jon Jamin.*

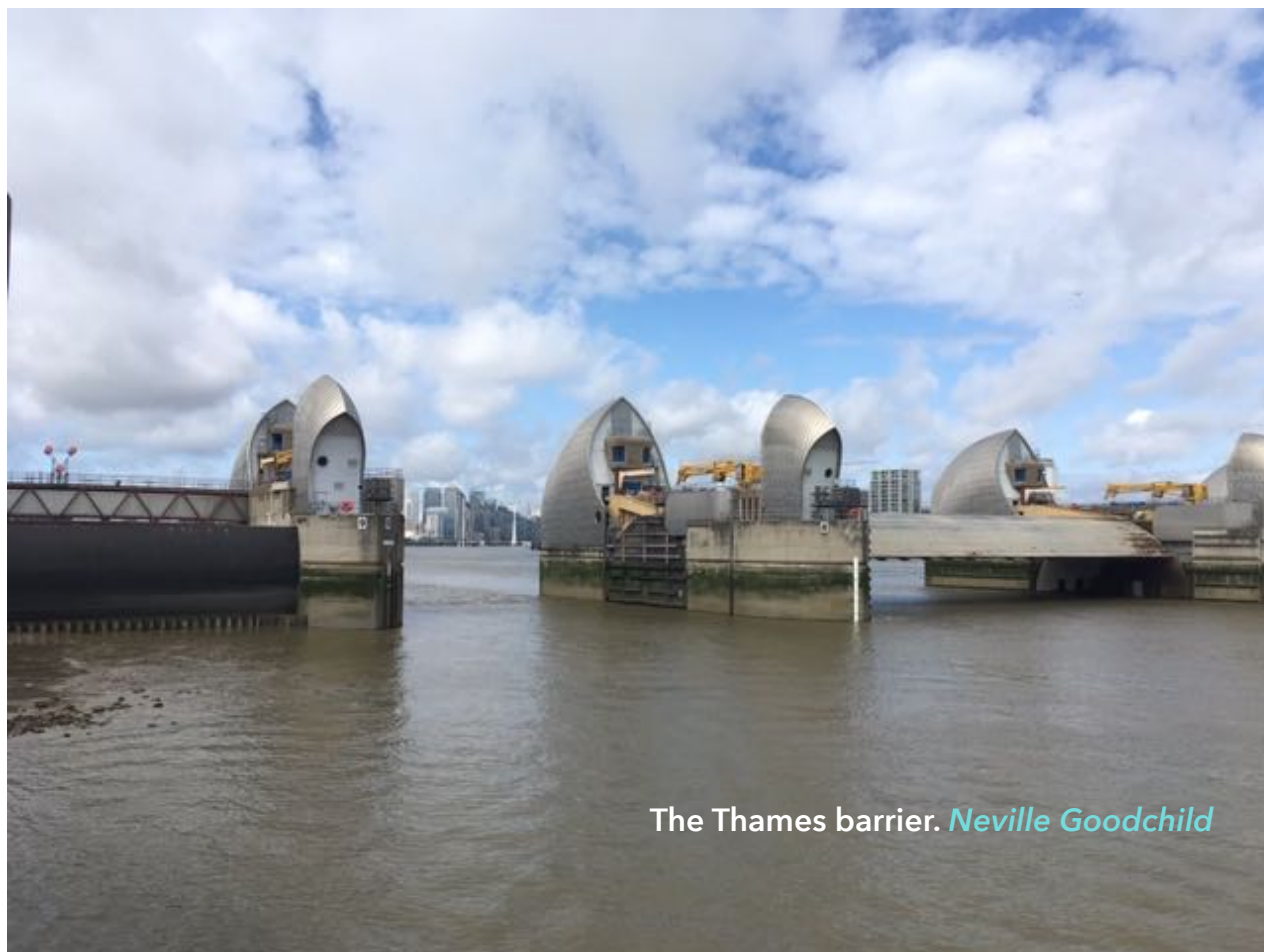
The original request for volunteer parking can be found [here](#).

## SUFFOLK RIDERS SUMMER RIDES - UPDATE

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Pleased to have members sending in their photos. **ENTRIES CLOSE END SEPTEMBER.**

Nice to hear that the routes have taken members to places they would never have visited. One member even said that on the London route they were going to return for another visit. *Keith Gilbert*



The Thames barrier. *Neville Goodchild*

# The Last Laugh Word

*This newsletter is an experiment.*

It was proposed at a committee meeting to reduce the number of emails proliferating each month, and to ensure that events were planned at least a month in advance. Please note above to see if that part was successful!

I volunteered to be the first guest editor in the hope that by including articles about preceding events, news, items of interest, etc., we might attract, and inform those who don't open the club's emails (that's about 40% of members), and to give a light hearted account of the club's activities to those who do.

As you might imagine, the effort involved in producing this newsletter is significantly greater than sending out 3 or 4 emails a month. If you think that this is a valuable asset to yourself as a club member, we need a couple of things from you.

First: please tell us what you liked, or didn't like, what else you would like to see, or even whether we should stick to the emails.

Second: we need input from you. If you see something which you think might interest members, or, if you attend an event, could you spend a while writing your views (NB the more humour the better), or if you did your own thing which other members might enjoy in the future, please let us know. Adding a photo will enhance your contribution no end.

Third: and probably the most important if this newsletter is to survive - would you volunteer to be guest editor for a month? It would entail collecting content from wherever, and giving a steer to how you would want the newsletter to appear. You would not be expected to do the layout! I must admit that I have struggled with the vagaries of two software packages, neither of which was either intuitive to use or consistent in execution. A totally frustrating experience. So I will undertake the layout under the guidance of the guest editor,

*My sincere thanks to all those who provided copy, without you this newsletter would have been very 'sparse'.*

Contact me [at webmaster@suffolkriders.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@suffolkriders.co.uk)