

Vera's Views

On
Essex Chapter Monthly meeting places

First Tuesday of the month

The Cricketers at Eight Ash Green, Colchester, CO3 9TG

Our host - Matt

The Cricketers is approximately 5 minutes off the A 12.

The Public House is situated opposite a cricket field and has an open aspect which is appreciated more in the summer. There is a garden with decking at the rear, and, to the front, has a safe car park, off the road.

The inside is spacious, yet cosy, and has a welcoming fire during the winter months.

The staff are always welcoming.

Food is selected from the regular menu or the 'specials board' and always looks appetising as well as being tasteful, with adequate portions. There are also 'snacks' available.

Dining is not obligatory, and approximately a third eat here.

Members usually arrive from 6.45pm onwards, and occupy the bar area, but, may occasionally be found in the dining area.

If you have had a hard day and yet still have the rest of the week to go, then, why not come and join us on the 1st Tuesday.

First Friday of the month

The Green Man, Herongate, CM13 3PZ

Our host - Paul Ryan

Paul and his wife, Jackie, are also members of the Chapter, and have been for a number of years.

The Public House is a period black and white, Victorian building, set off the road. There is no official car park, however, parking is available outside the venue and along the two access paths. There is a large garden with plenty of seating and a smoking area. Inside, Paul and Jackie welcome you to their pub, which has a bar area and three separate dining areas. Food may also be eaten in the bar area. They have a varied selection and a 'specials board'.

Approximately 20 Members attend, and arrive about 8.00 pm.

Why not start your week-end here on the 1st Friday of the month.

Second Thursday of the month.

The Lodge Country Inn, Rettendon, SS11 7QT

Our host - Paula

This venue is not visible from the road. It is situated at the end of a tarmac track, with a field on the left. The entrance from the road is through an imposing gateway (without gates), which is lit at dusk. The traffic travels very fast along this road, so, indicate in plenty of time.

There is a very large family garden on one side of the hotel, and a large marque on the other side.

The car park is at the front of the building, and, in the dry weather there are usually many bikes.

There is a restaurant to the left of the bar, however, most members eat in the bar area from approximately 7 pm onwards. This venue has the largest selection of good food at a reasonable price, and, about half of our members take advantage of this.

This is our longest standing meeting venue, and has the largest number of attendees.

***** *****

Second Saturday of the month.

Andy Harris Custom Cycles (AHCC), Maldon

Our Host - Andy Harris

This meeting place is at the workshop of AHCC. All are made very welcome by Andy and his crew from 10.00 am, onwards.

Julia, Andy's wife, and helpers supply a very welcome snack at about 12.30. Tea and coffee is available all the time.

When we lost our casual meeting place, Andy stepped in and invited us to while away our Saturday morning enjoying/sharing useless information.

The venue is within easy walking distance of Maldon shops, so no excuse for the females not to accompany their men folk and leave them in the safe hands of Andy, where they will be well looked after, while you can spend time on important things, like window shopping.

***** *****

Third Wednesday of the month

The Plough, Crews Hill, Enfield, EN2 9DJ

Our tame barman - Simon

The Plough is out of Essex, although, a straight journey along the M25 to the A 10.

Like The Lodge, The Plough has been a longstanding venue for the chapter and serves our members on the western side of our area. The inside has plenty of seating/dining spaces, and about 15/20 members are usually to be found in the bar area from 7.00/7.30 pm. where almost half take advantage of the menu and 'Specials' board. In the warm summer evenings, food and drink can be enjoyed in the large garden area.

Although a little out of our area, if you are able, or, feel like a ride you would be made very welcome and a pleasant evening awaits you.

***** *****

Last Friday of the month

The Eagle, Ongar Road, Kelvedon Hatch, CM15 0AA

Restaurant - Bev

The Eagle is situated off the road with a large car park in front of the building, and a grassed area on the left, furnished with tables, where it is pleasant to sit and while away the time in the summer months. The inside has a small bar area, however, the restaurant at the rear has ample seating. All food is home cooked and the menu has something for all tastes, as well as a 'specials board'. The restaurant has a bright appearance. About 20 members arrive from 7.00 onwards with about eight dining. Bar snacks are also available and can be eaten in the restaurant as well as the bar area.

At the end of the month, why not come and join us and catch up with the gossip?

***** *****

I hope the above is of some use to you. We look forward to meeting you at any of the above venues.

Vera & Rod White