

C&NW CTC 80th Anniversary Lunch - 7th September 2019

The Party's Over...

...and what a party! Our 80th Anniversary Lunch was marked by sixty-four past and present members and guests who gathered to enjoy good company at a memorable lunch in Neuadd Eleanor Memorial Hall, Llanfair DC on 7th September.

Amongst the guests were Cycling UK's CEO , Paul Tuohy. Also attending from National office were Alex Cuppleditch, Julie Rand and Rob Staning. Paul joined those who rode to the lunch from St. Asaph Cathedral and at the lunch spoke warmly about the work done for cycling by enthusiastic groups such as ours. Chairman David Matthews responded to these words of praise before Paul presented us with a framed commemorative *Certificate of Appreciation* on behalf of 'Everyone at Cycling UK' for our "...outstanding contribution enabling more people to enjoy the wonderful benefits of cycling".

We welcomed too, past Secretary, Ken Brown, who served in that demanding post for some seventeen years - many of them in the lean years of the 70s and early 80s. Alongside Ken, was past-President, Ann Taylor, whose contribution to C&NW over many decades was immense. Our special guest was Shirley Ackerley, widow of David who died suddenly last Autumn. It was fitting that Shirley should attend, as part of our celebrations had been the Bala to Barmouth ride devised by David (and published in a previous edition of The Link). This ride had been undertaken by a small group, two of whom were present to greet Shirley at the lunch.

Archivist, Arthur Miller, prepared an intriguing display of cups, trophies and other artefacts which stirred curiosity in some and nostalgia in others. Roughly one in five of those present were past members - a tribute to the spirit of friendship that we have all experienced in cycling and especially in C&NW.

"nice to see many old friends, quite emotional in fact", "we share so many memories" were one old member's touching comments I received afterwards - as was, "meeting so many of those I had ridden with in the past made me feel part of the DA again".

As might be expected, a lot of work had been put in to ensure the smooth running of the event by many members and Chairman David praised their efforts rightly singling out the work of Vice-President Glennys Hammond and Secretary Lowri Evans. Amongst her many accomplishments Glennys was also the designer of our Anniversary Cake which was ably cut by Paul Tuohy. I was therefore very pleased to present Glennys with the President's Trophy in recognition of her service over many years - not least for her work (with husband John) in designing and running our excellent website, work that alas, has now come to an end.

We ran several events in the months before the big day on 7th September. Several members took part in the one-day Holyhead to Eureka ride on 18th May, superbly planned by Terry Davies. Those present who rode all or part of the route were presented with commemorative Certificates.

The Photo Competition entries were judged by Andy Polakowski (many thanks Andy). Glennys Hammond was first in the General Category, second was Chris Smith. First in the UNESCO World Heritage sites category was John Ferguson, second-placed was Glennys. The entries will be displayed at our AGM on 3rd November.

Last but not least was the superb meal at the lunch in party-like surroundings with balloons and table decorations.

Perhaps the best summing-up of the proceedings were comments I received from two more old members:

"...with our grateful thanks for a superb 80th celebration... we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves - pure nostalgia. Much effort went into the organisation, and for us, a great success. Thank you for inviting us".

Mike Cross, President C&NW CTC