

Angus James McCulloch

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Angus McCulloch who died aged 86 on 6th January 2010.

It was Angus who, with the late Charles Allan, founded what was to become the Wednesday Section. Charles's request for a cycling companion for "easy rides at 8 mph" led to their meeting at Eureka one Wednesday in early January 1983. They soon were joined by other like-minded cyclists of both sexes and slowly this informal group grew into the Wednesday Section (now the Wednesday Riders). In its early days, rides were very relaxed and yet – unconstrained by the apparent need to get back early to the Eureka Cafe - they ranged far into Cheshire and North Wales in the summer months, the riders often not getting home until well into the evening. Angus was always an agreeable and good humoured companion to ride with, setting a gentle pace but covering good distances.



It was in recognition of Angus's role in the founding of what is now one of the strongest Chester and North Wales groups that, upon the death of Charlie Allan in 1998, Angus became the Wednesday Section's Honorary Life President. It was thus with pleasure that we enjoyed his company, and that of his wife Marie, as guests of honour at the lunch in March 2008 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of the Wednesday Section.

On rides, Angus occasionally talked of his times in the Army during the Second World War when he served in Palestine, Egypt and Italy. What he did not mention was the fact that his task in the Royal Signals was to intercept encrypted enemy signals as a result of the breaking of the German Enigma code. Shortly before his death he was pleased to receive from the Prime Minister a formal letter of thanks in recognition of the vital role he had played. It was typical of the man that he kept up his wartime friendship with his closest Army companions by organising an annual reunion until well into the 21st Century.

Angus grew up in the Everton district of Liverpool, working at first for Ogden's tobacco company. After the War and his marriage to Marie, he was employed by Shell, moving to Childer Thornton. He was a prominent figure in Shell employees' social activities, notably photography and ballroom dancing.

His funeral was well attended by many of his former cycling companions and we offer our sincere condolences to Marie, his daughters and grandchildren. He will be sadly missed.