

Chester & North Wales CTC
CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru
Secretary's Annual Report October 2018

Introduction

Although this is called the 'Secretary's Report' it is drawn together from documents submitted by volunteers spread over a large geographical area. The report includes updates from the informal groups, events run by C&NW CTC, the Link magazine, the website, Right to Ride, the work of the Committee and the plans for next year.

Congratulations are in order for several members. Peter Williams who was one of the top 3 nominations for Cycling UK Outstanding Individual Campaigner and to Chris Harris who won the Exceptional Individual in a Cycling Group category. The Eureka Café was honoured by Cycling UK with a Life time Achievement Award as part of the new Cycling UK Café of the Year Competition. Sue Booth was presented with her well deserved Certificate of Merit at the Chairman's meet in January.

1. Informal Group Reports

Ynys Môn (Anglesey) (Ifor Jones)

The Ynys Môn Informal Group has rides from the car park in Llanfairpwll starting at 10 am on the first and third Sunday in the month provided the weather is favourable and we are not taking part in rides organised away by the parent group which is the Chester and North Wales Group.

The group is small and consists of a group of friends who are retired, although for one ride a member did bring his daughter along. Bikes used are usually touring bikes although one member has a hip problem and sometimes rides an electric bike.

Rides tend to be between 30 and 40 miles mostly on Anglesey although we do occasionally cross the Britannia Bridge and ride towards Caernarfon. Average speed tends to be about 9 miles an hour.

The Parent group rides we rode have tended to be Cheshire (e.g. The Presidents ride, Cheshire Cycleway). We also attended the Birthday Rides and York Rally. Sandwiches are never carried and thus we frequent Cafés for food.

Chester CTC including Chester Fabulous Ladies (Sue Booth)

The year started with the usual gathering at Christleton Pond for a sunny jaunt to The White Horse at Churton; whereupon Sue received a large gilt framed Certificate of Merit. This was followed by very possibly the wettest and coldest ride of the year to Thornton Hough (3 riders). Chester Sunday rides have amassed between 3 and 10 riders, and have included highlights such as a swim in Ellesmere, herding sheep and a classic car rally. Wednesday evening rides ran as usual between April and August, ending in Weatherspoons, where one evening Ray presented Bob and Dave with a belated framed map and commemoration of their Lands End John O Groats ride in 2015.

Chester Fabulous Ladies celebrated 10 years in style, with a new cycle top to mark the occasion. The tops arrived just in time to be sported on the ladies' weekend, this year in Castleton, with highlights of Ladybower Reservoir, Nelly's cafe and Winnats Pass.

We had a charity ride in March, in aid of Smartworks, a charity supporting women into work by providing appropriate clothes, training and advice – we raised £65 and presented it to a lady from the charity at our coffee stop. We then had our 10-year picnic in Tattenhall, where there were thank-you's galore, including personalised certificates from Cycling UK for all the leaders who are currently helping out (with a little reminder of when people first came out). Fab ladies have welcomed 23 new riders (to date, Sept) and visited two new cafes this year, bringing our total to 55 different cafes.

Finally, the Bob Clift Cheshire Cycleway Rides were very successfully, being fully booked and sending out 243 riders; and a new 75-mile refreshment stop this year of St Philips, the 'Pink' Church at Hassell Green. We then featured on the front of 'Cycle'!

A very Big Thank You to all the Leaders for each group. Here's to 2019!

CTC Eryri Thursday Cycling Group (Doreen Lindsey)

The group has had a good year, we meet for rides on three Thursdays a month and on two Saturday mornings

The Thursday group rides are strictly social & usually between 25 & 30 miles & always a stop for lunch in a café or pub, on one of the Thursdays we have the 'Northern Group' who usually like to do a more challenging ride

We ride in the lanes of the Llŷn Peninsular, Anglesey & the Snowdon hills

Saturday Easy Riders (SER) morning rides are usually between 10 & 15 miles & have a coffee stop halfway these are held on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month, these rides are to encourage people to try getting out on their bikes

We have also had two camping meets this year one at Bala Lake, at this meet most campers bought canoes as well to use on the lake. The other camp was at Brynteg Anglesey hosted by one of our members on her campsite

Some members have attended Cycling UK events & our leader Doreen Lindsey was chosen by Cycling UK as one of their 100 women who inspire others

We do not ride in August when the roads & lanes are busy or in December

Mold Informals (Tony Wilkins)

Sadly, for some time now Mold Informals has been struggling with lack of riders. Apart from Tony Small there has been little uptake on our rides. The odd enquiry we have had over the last couple of years have not come to anything when they are told how we ride. Probably something to do with not wanting to take a nice new road bike off road!

After some consultation between ourselves we have decided that keeping the Mold Informal section going in its present format is not productive. We have decided to step aside and leave the way open for others if they so wish to have a Mold section that is run differently and more in line with what appears people want.

In the immediate future it may be best that the current Mold Informals part of the web site be removed. Hopefully there is someone in the wings who will wish to take it on in the future.

Watson's Wanderers (David Matthews)

The group goes from strength to strength.

Our President for life Harry Watson, who will be 90 years young on November 5, still travels to meet us at our various coffee and lunch stops from time to time. We are also joined by wife Celia on occasion and we are very pleased that they can still get out to meet us. Long may it continue.

We still meet every Tuesday at the Plough in Christleton at 10am. Ride destinations are published on the WW blogsite, <https://watsonwanderers.wordpress.com/>. Numbers are increasing to the extent that we now usually ride in two groups of approximately 10 people (to the same venue) to reduce pressure of numbers on the roads and in cafés. Rides vary from 40 to 70 miles in length depending on weather conditions and the time of year.

Rides are led in the main by Dave Robertson, ably assisted by secretary Allan Samuel.

During the year Wanderers took part in many other events including the Vets 100, Macmillan coffee morning in Oscroft and a sponsored LEJOG by Dave Robertson.

Secretary Allan Samuel is involved in the "Chester Cycling Strategy" Group.

As reported last year, the Watson's Wanderers remain in good health and can look forward to a continuing robust existence.

Wednesday Riders (Chris Smith)

2018 was the 35th anniversary year of the Wednesday Riders and a special ride with anniversary tea and, of course, cake was held in March.

In 2017 two rides were cancelled due to the weather but in 2018 only 5 of the 17 rides planned in the period Jan to April, were as intended. Once summer arrived things went much more smoothly. Rides have continued to be well attended, with numbers of 30 or more not uncommon.

In the 2018 programme we decided to experiment with two B rides during the GMT period, including a car-assist ride. The second is due on Nov 7th. We intend to repeat this experiment in 2019. We also included an increased number of car-assist rides to more far flung destinations and these have proved popular so we will continue this in 2019. Where possible we also include a local ride at the same time for those who prefer this.

Every week riders are emailed details of the ride – usually with an electronic link to the route; there are now 101 people who receive these emails. There are 24 who are ride leaders and although the group has little problem finding leaders for our longer/harder rides, it recognises there is a greater demand for shorter/easier rides than we are able to meet due to ride leader's preferences.

The Friday Informal rides have continued this year with rides most weeks during the winter months and quite frequently during the summer period. There are usually between 2 and 6 of us and those riding all say that they enjoy the variation of riding in smaller groups than our Wednesday Rides. It opens up different venues to us, and also means less of those stops for clothing adjustments, punctures, visiting the bushes etc. This results in either a longer ride or an earlier finish.

In June we ran our first ever Mid-Summer 100 ride giving a choice of either 100 miles or 100 Km. Both rides were very well attended and the vast majority of riders were keen we should include a similar event in 2019. We therefore propose to run similar rides to a different destination next year.

In February a trip to Gran Canaria attracted just three riders, well down from the 16 who went in 2017. In July 12 went to the Isle of Man and all enjoyed the experience. It was very easy to organise as members booked their own ferry and accommodation. We may repeat next year if there is demand. Many of us went to the Birthday Rides at Yarnfield this year and hope that some way will be found for the Birthday Rides to continue.

Finally the Wednesday Riders would welcome other Chester and North Wales riders to join us for any of our rides, but particularly the car assisted ones, which take us into new areas which may be conveniently situated for other sections.

Wrexham Reivers (Lowri Evans)

The number of riders attending the Espresso Cafe at Gwersyllt varies from week to week; although in general fewer have been attending on Saturday's this year but there are often informal rides on other days of the week as well. Once again, the rides list has been drawn up with 2 destinations; this has been to try to keep to safe manageable numbers in groups on the road. Members have taken part in many of the Chester & N Wales CTC events, attended the CTC Welsh Festival at Ruthin, and completed Audax events in all kinds of weather. Congratulations to Terry Davies for his 1st place in the Tourist Competition in 2017, and to Steve Larwood who was 3rd. Congratulations Julia and Paul who were married in July and honeymooned touring on their new tandem. Thanks are due once again to all of the members of the group who have contributed to a successful year with many memorable rides, and particularly the ride leaders who have guided the group.

2. Member Group Report from Two Mills CTC (Janet Gregory)

Two Mills (Wirral) is a recognised member group of Cycling UK. Our members live mainly in Wirral including Neston and Ellesmere Port.

Highlights of the year include:

- Our women's group, the Wirral Bicycle Belles, who meet monthly on Saturday morning, enjoyed their first weekend away cycling Bay Cycle Way all in glorious sunshine. Several of our volunteers helped with an extra celebratory bike ride around the Wirral Circular Trail on Saturday 4th August as part of Cycling UK Women's Festival.

- The Early Season Challenge Ride took place on Sunday 25th March, 50 miles or 50 km route centred on Farndon Sports and Social Club. It is the key annual fundraiser for the group. This year, amongst the 200+ participants, we welcomed Dan Joyce, editor of *Cycle* who gave us a positive write-up in the magazine.
- We have arranged bulk orders of Two Mills group jersey both summer and winter style kit. Our committee agreed generous subsidies which we feel reflects well when members are seen riding together both locally and much further afield.
- Two Mills members regularly support Chester and North Wales CTC events alongside our own busy rides programme; a large number attended Birthday Rides at Yarnfield, Staffs. We also enjoyed a cycle tour in the Isle of Man.
- Chris Harris recognised with a Cycling UK volunteer award at the annual national club get together in Harrogate. He won the category of Winning Exceptional Individual Cycling Group, for his growth of the Tuesday Evening Cyclists who meet at Willaston during the summer; Over 100 people join those weekly rides. Eureka Cyclists café, which is our groups' regular meeting place, also won Lifetime Achievement; it has been serving cyclists since 1929.

3. Events 2018

1st January 2018 Chairman's Ride - New Year's Day Meet

About 40 people turned up at the White Horse in Churton for the traditional New Year's Day meet. There was a warm welcome and an enjoyable meal. Mike Cross presented Sue Booth with her well-deserved Certificate of Merit. The C&NW CTC Tourist Competition Trophies for 2017 were also presented; the Gentleman's trophy went to Terry Davies for the 1st time, the Lady's Trophy Lowri Evans. Thanks are due to Dave Matthews for arranging an excellent social start to the year.

21st April 2018 Eureka Audax Events (Dave Matthews)

There was good fine and warm weather after the long drawn out cold winter.

Eureka Excursion 215km---40 (2 from C&NW CTC) riders started out at 08:00 to enjoy the early morning sunshine and windless conditions. The ride passed without incident except for one rider who DNF due to a mechanical issue. Times varied from a rapid 9h 07m to 12h 45m.

Tea in Prospect 135km This ride proved very popular again this year with 45 riders (10 from C&NW CTC) braving the long hill to the Prospect Tea Rooms above Llangollen.

We had glorious weather up at the Tea Rooms and many riders stayed a while to enjoy the excellent fare and magnificent views over Cheshire. Cyclists then arrived at Tilly's in Bunbury in time for lunch, before a gentle ride back through the lanes to the Eureka Café.

Times varied from 06h 35m to 11h 59m. There were 8 DNFs---no problems; just riders who decided not to take the final check in at Eureka Café.

Two Mills Twirl 68k 12 riders (2 from C&NW CTC) embarked on this short ride to Cleopatra's in Holt. There was one DNF due to a mechanical problem.

Many thanks to the people who helped to make this event such a success---Andy Whitgreave issuing Brevet Cards at Eureka Café and helping check in returning riders ; Graham and Vicky Payne who marshalled the car parks before riding "Tea in Prospect" on their tandem; the owners and staff of all of the cafes and especially to Anne Peek and her staff at the Eureka café for remaining ever cheerful and helpful through a 13 hour day.

23th May 2018 Treasure Hunt (Liz and Peter Conway)

Riders met up at the Chameleon Restaurant, Manley Mere Sail Sports to have a cuppa before the event and get briefed on the route by Liz and Peter Conway. Riders set off as teams and individuals to ride the 23 mile route. The riders enjoyed sunny weather as they searched for clues, returning to Manley Mere in time for a late lunch. Prizes were presented by Mike Cross: Sue Booth & Davin Palmer were the winners of the team category with Sylvia & Robin More & Douglas Yates in second place. Lowri Evans won the individual category with Paul Mills 2nd and

Terry Davies 3rd. Thanks to Liz and Peter Conway for the route and imaginative clues and all of the organisation involved in the event.

19th May 2018 Berwyns and Panorama Prospect Audax Rides (Dave Matthews)

The weather was glorious at the start and it remained sunny and warm all day.

Tour of the Berwyns 210Km; 3100m climbing (following a review of GPS data, the amount of climbing in this event is to be reclassified as 2650m; 2.75 AAA in future)

There were 50 entries for this event with 41 starters on the day. The ride was completed in times varying from 09:15 to 13:28. Four riders were declared as members of C&NW CTC. Some issues arose including one rider who checked in at the first control but didn't inform the organiser that he would not complete; another rider was found to be riding without entering (he entered and paid at the first control).

Prospect Panorama 135Km; 1000m of climbing. There were 36 entries for this event with 24 starters all of whom returned safely. 2 riders were declared as members of C&NW CTC.

This ride shares the first part of the route to the Prospect Tea rooms with the 200 K event but then short cuts back from the Panorama via Sun Trevor to Chirk for a control at Castle Bistro. Many thanks to John and Carol Pardoe of Seamons CC and for operating the start, the control at Prospect café and signing in the early finishers.

This was our first event to provide immediate validation of rides at the finish which saves a lot of hassle for the organiser and having to address 50+ envelopes for returned brevet cards. It is intended to operate in this way at all future AUK events organised by Dave Matthews.

Also, thanks are due to Brandon Edgeley for his assistance all day whilst studying to become an accredited AUK organiser and to Willington Hall for hosting us throughout a long 15-hour day.

17th June Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways (Sue Booth)

This year saw the 32nd Bob Clift Cheshire Cycleway Rides. Sue Booth ran the highly successful Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways 50 and 100mile events. The 50mile event was one of the Cycling UK Challenge Rides. Both events were fully subscribed with fields of 150 and 100 respectively. Sue's organisational skill were stretched to the limit when she was told shortly before the event the field usually used for parking was not available. She arranged 3 alternative car parks (with parking allocated according to rider seniority – the eldest being allowed to park closest to the event). All enjoyed the events & stops and the great weather. Cycling UK had arranged for a professional photographer to attend the event – one of the pictures (of C&NW CTC riders in the new club kit) was used as the main image in one week's Cycle Clips. George McEnroe was the youngest rider on the 100 miles events; he was presented with the Jim Skelding trophy. Many thanks to all of the volunteers at the venues around the course; John Mawson for checking out the courses and planning the route, Charlie my right hand man (literally) booking people in and chief certificate writer, Nicky for shopping and rescuing the certificate situation, all my tea makers and helpers at base, and to my long suffering family who, despite losing me to admin, emails and excel worksheets, still create useful gadgets and help out on the day. Finally, thanks to the riders who enter, turn up and ride, all returning with smiles on their faces!

Many thanks to Sue Booth who is stepping down from the organising of the event after 3 highly successful years. Currently the search is on for a successor to organise the events.

1st July Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans 100 (Laurie Mason)

On a very hot day riders came to Duddon Village Hall to take part in the 53rd annual Veterans 100 ride. Over forty entrants took part and after refreshments before the ride, they set off in one of four groups at 10-minute intervals. Glennys Hammond photographed each group with our President Mike Cross before they left. Forty-one intrepid cyclists left Duddon from 8.00am to begin the 100mile ride in rapidly rising temperatures. Lunch was at the halfway point at Four Crosses Village Centre prepared by Kelly and her mum Janet. Afternoon tea was at Overton, the next stop. Again, Mark did not disappoint with his wonderful selection of food. At Tilston, Farmer John was waiting to provide the usual drinks, this year even more gratefully received.

Again, thanks to John and Sue for their hospitality. All riders, (bar one who had to call on the services of Sean and his sag wagon), made it safely back to Duddon to receive their certificates from President Mike Cross. David Blake received the trophy for the oldest male rider and Doreen Lindsey received the trophy for the oldest female rider. Thank you to all the helpers who made it such an enjoyable day. Next year's ride is scheduled for 7th July. Thanks to Laurie and all of the volunteers for a well organised event that was enjoyed by all of the riders.

14th July Corwen Audax events (Vicky Payne)

When Graham and I left home at half-past six it looked like it would be another fine sunny day; after some early mist it developed into a beautiful warm sunny day with little breeze to speak of. Probably the best weather we've ever had for an Audax event.

Barmouth Boulevard 200k

A long hard hilly ride, again crossing remote areas. There were twenty-five starters including one declared Chester and North Wales rider, finishing in times ranging from nine hours-thirty-nine to twelve hours-thirty-nine. There were two DNFs - one as a result of a back problem and the other as a result of getting lost. All the returning riders raved about the scenery some saying it was the finest ride they had ever done.

Brenig Bach 100K

This is a very hilly ride in surprisingly remote countryside. There were thirty-one starters including two Chester and North Wales CTC members finishing in times ranging from a speedy five hours two minutes to a more sedate but still good time of eight hours sixteen minutes. All completed the ride but several riders' entries couldn't be validated as they don't bother with controls and info's; nevertheless, all enjoyed the day and the spectacular views.

Bala Parade 60K

Designed as an introduction to Audax riding this is a lovely little ride along the Dee and up the south side of Llyn Tegid on quiet roads with a control at Llanuwchllyn in a pub which doubles as a village shop. It's popular with families and our super vets as well as those just starting out on Audax events. This year we had ten starters finishing in times ranging from three to four hours. There were five declared Chester and North Wales CTC members

It just remains for me to thank everyone who entered, everyone at the controls especially Sandra at the Manor Craft Centre and Ian at the Royal Oak who both open early especially for us and go out of their way to welcome the cyclists. And lastly thank you to long-suffering Graham without whose support I would not be able to manage.

Next year's event will be the same weekend. Thanks to all the controls especially Sandra at the Manor Craft Centre and Ian at the Royal Oak for all their assistance on the day. And lastly Graham not only for his invaluable help on the day but his support all year round.

1st September "Momma" Audax Rides Report (Dave Matthews)

Once again---good weather!

Pistyll Packing Momma 209km; 3500m ascent A tough ride but thoroughly enjoyed by all the riders who experienced dry conditions and could see the beautiful views once again.

22 out of 23 riders completed the route in times varying from 10h 30 min to 13h 41 min---the latter just inside the time limit. It was unfortunate that the Cross Keys at Llanfynydd was shut due to a major electrical fire, so the normal resuscitation was not available this year, prior to the steep ascent of Hope mountain. There were the two riders from C&NW CTC.

Momma's Mountain Views 137km; 2000m ascent. Still a tough ride with three very steep climbs between Chirk and Ponderosa Café including the Old Horseshoe pass---and then steeply up Hope Mountain out of Llanfynydd. 19 of 21 riders completed the route in times varying between 06h 16min and 09h 30min. 3 riders were registered as C&NW CTC.

Footnote: AUK have re-assessed the climbing on this route and reduced it from 2.00 to 1.75 AAA points in future. In spite of this, the climbs remain as high and steep as ever.

Momma's Leafy Lanes 62km There was a major last minute re-route between Bunbury and Duckington as a lorry had overturned on the A534 near the Bickerton Poacher and spilled diesel all over the place. The re-route is now preferred to the original and is to be incorporated into

next year's ride. Also, it became apparent after the ride that the previous declared distance of 57km (54km on the re-route) is well under the actual of 62km. A very pleasant day out with three family groups taking part. 4 riders were registered as C&NW CTC.

Everyone had a thoroughly good day out and were impressed by the quality and scenery of the routes. Next year the rides are on 14th September.

Thanks to all the cafes and controls for their help and especially to Brandon Edgely for manning the Old Ma's café control throughout the event, as part of his apprenticeship to become an Audax Organiser.

23th September 2018 Presidents Ride and Lunch

47 people attended the President's Lunch in Tilston; many met at Walk Mill for a café stop prior to a photo call and the rides to Tilston. After an enjoyable lunch provided by Mrs Harvey and her team of staff the presentations were made.

For the first time in several years Cycling UK had provided the Tourist Competition Certificates and Mille Miglia Certificate – these were presented to riders who gained them in the 2017 season. John Ferguson was presented with the President's Cup for the huge amount of work he had done in relation to the new club kit along with his other contributions to the Club over the years as Committee member, Publicity Officer and ride leader.

Glennys Hammond was then able to surprise Mike Cross with the presentation of a certificate in recognition of the fact that he had been President of C&NW CTC for over 10 years. Glennys read a citation and also presented Mike with a photobook to remind him of some of the club events during the time he had been President.

Thanks go to Mike Cross for organising the event.

29th Sept 2018 Hill Climb & Freewheel events (Lowri Evans)

The weather was bright and sunny for the events and everyone met up and booked in at Llysfasi as usual. 10 people rode the Hill Climb and 11 took part in the Freewheeling competitions. Ben Hughes won the Hill Climb with Steve Jones was second (and first male veteran), Phil Bennett-Lloyd was third with Clare Bennett-Lloyd in 5th place and first Lady rider. Dave Statham was the 1st Super & Mega Vet.

Dave Statham's won the Freewheeling with John Wilkie second a few feet ahead of Roy Bunnell in third place; Clare Bennett-Lloyd was the first lady in 6th place.

Anne and Alun Jones marshalled the events and Glennys Hammond was photographer. Following the events most went for a meal at the Three Pigeons, Graigfechan. The entries were down slightly from previous years even though the weather was good, but several apologies were received from those who had hoped to attend. All seemed to enjoy the day (apart possibly from the actual ride up the hill). Thanks to all who took part for supporting the event, to the volunteers for their help once again and to Coleg Llysfasi & the Three Pigeons Graigfechan.

Corwen Audax Events 13th October 2018 (Vicky Payne)

There was lots of agonising over the weather forecast which was dire, however the Audax handbook strongly suggests that unless there are amber or red weather warnings in place events should proceed. There was only a yellow warning for rain; it was also windy with gusts up to 40mph but unseasonably warm. The entries were lower this year only 77 as opposed to almost 100 in the last two years; but in the end only 14 started the events with cancellations mostly due to the weather; I don't blame them in the slightest, I would not have ventured out.

The Clwydian 212K. Six riders set off and returned in times ranging from 11.20 to 13.35.

Amazingly they all with one exception said how much they had enjoyed themselves. The sixth was reserving judgement until he saw how he felt the next morning! When you achieve something against the odds it does give you a great sense of personal satisfaction and wellbeing.

One of the riders commented on how welcoming the people at all the controls were. Presumably footfall was sparse in the conditions so they had more time to engage with their customers.

There was one declared member of Chester & North Wales CTC who has since told me it was like banging your head against a wall – lovely when it stopped!

The Clwyd Gate 138K. Graham and I had ridden most of this route the Wednesday before in perfect weather. It's hard in terms of climbing but the scenery is gorgeous. Only four riders (two of whom were Chester and North Wales CTC members) ventured out and they all completed in times ranging from 8.55 to 10.08. Again, they were all in good spirits on their return and said how much they had enjoyed it. Our own Terry Davies said he actually found the rain refreshing as he was getting a bit hot on the climbs.

The Bala Mini Bash 60K This turned into a women only event with four intrepid ladies setting out. One rider doing her first audax had jumped the gun and left about half an hour before the others. She was the only one to complete the ride but sadly her ride could not be validated as she had not got an answer to the info question. The other three ladies abandoned before reaching the first control at the end of Llyn Tegid due to rising flood water. The B road around the lake was closed a short time later.

I have to say that this year in particular I am glad it's all over and that everyone was accounted for. They all deserve medals for turning out in such conditions. Many thanks to everyone who took part, to all the controls but especially the Corwen Craft Centre and the Royal Oak and last but not least to Graham and also our daughter Sabina who manned the control in Pensarn after the café had closed.

4. Club Communications

Website (Glennys Hammond - October 2018)

- a) Chester and North Wales CTC website has been updated regularly throughout the year with details and entry forms for 2018 Events. Reports and photos have been added up to October this year as they have been made available.
- b) Previous editions of The Link up to Spring 2018 are available for members to download.
- c) Committee Meeting Minutes up to 6th September 2018 have been posted on the Documents page. Minutes are posted only once they have been approved by the Committee at the following meeting.
- d) An important item for the website this year was posting the publicity and ordering process of the newly-designed Club kit including Information for the second batch of orders.
- e) News items have included a variety of topics from ongoing road works to alerts for members to enter events and access photos, Club documents, and other items of interest.
- f) Consideration of the impact of GDPR on website content is ongoing. Some changes have already been made.
- g) The colours of the site will be changed later this year to reflect the new club kit colours of yellow, black and white.
- h) Comparable statistics from October 2017 - September 2018 show that overall visits to the site were down since October 2016 - September 2017. January, April and July 2018 show spikes in the usage graphs which seem to be accounted for by access to Event information, the Photo Gallery, Reports and 'New Club Kit' information. The use of desktops has decreased slightly but there is a continuing trend towards the use of tablets and mobile phones using Android operating systems - although I-Phones and Windows systems on desk top computers are still the most used. Statistics about site usage are readily available from the Webmaster or Website Editor on request.
- i) Renewal of the website domain name and hosting has increased slightly this year. Total cost will be £90.70 including VAT an increase of £3.60p. They are due for payment in early November.

Facebook & work of the Publicity Officer

Mark Jones continued as publicity officer until the summer when he stepped down due to other commitments. Mark administered Facebook for the Club and promoted some of the Club events. Very Recently Graham Hines has stepped forward into the role.

5. Link (Janet Jones)

Here we are twelve months on, 3 copies of The Link under my belt and a fourth in production (due out second week in November). I have thoroughly enjoyed putting your stories and photos into print. Thank you for all your kind comments. I feel privileged to be the first to read your amazing adventures, rides, experiences and anecdotes. The dead line for copy for The Winter 2018 edition is 26th October which has predated the AGM but please continue to send copy in as it will most certainly go into the Spring 2019 edition.

If you would like to see some new features and have some ideas then don't hesitate to contact me. This will help to keep it fresh and interesting.

Subscription numbers are roughly at the same level as this time last year (approximately 135) although I will need to chase up some that have not yet renewed since their subscription ran out after the last edition.

Due to increasing costs the subscription cost is currently under review.

6. Right to Ride (Peter Williams)

Looking back over the year there has been some successes. These are:

Cheshire West and Chester Council have at long last organised an Active Travel Forum. This is led by CWaC's Public Health Department. Four meetings will be held each year and we have had 2 meetings this year. It is early days yet, but I hope this will help us to achieve more cycling routes and facilities within the Borough.

- a. Twenties Plenty in CWaC has been rolled out across the borough in urban areas where the average speed was 24 mph or less. This has only reduced the average speed limit by 0.4 mph. You may query as to whether it is this worth all the money spent to introduce this 20 mph in residential roads in the Borough. There has been a 65 % reduction in road traffic accidents with a 40 % reduction in those in the Killed and Seriously Injured Category. There is also a 69% reduction in minor collisions that caused slight injuries. Using the DFT figures this possibly means a saving of £2.6 M to the Public Purse in the Borough. Thanks, must be given to two lady members of the Chester Cycling Campaign, as they have campaigned for many years for this.
- b. A 540. Thanks to Highway England (£540K), the improvements at the junction at Two Mills have been completed, providing for the safety of cyclists. We still need Cheshire West and Chester Council to re-instate the footpaths along the A 540 from Neston up to Two Mills and beyond, to compliment the work Highway England have done. One of our members was seriously injured on the 10th January 2018 as he approached the Two Mills crossroads; had the footpaths been re-instated as a shared path this serious injury would have been avoided. The cyclists Roy Sherif is making a good but slow recovery.
- c. Deeside Industrial Park. Route 568. Improvements for cyclists down on the DIP was announced at the Annual Welsh Active Travel Conference held in Wrexham in May this year. Work, I think, has just been completed in October. The major change here are new shared foot/cycle paths have gone in, with many entrances to factories having raised tarmac therefore giving priority to cyclists and walkers over vehicles. This is a major change and we will monitor how this works in the future.
- d. A 41 in Wirral. New shared paths have gone in from Eastham to Birkenhead at a cost of over £3m during the last few years. This was the result of work financed by STEP (Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package).
- e. Chester Sustainable Forum. A sub group has been formed to look at cycling in and around Chester City. This is headed by Colin Watson, son of Harry. A member of the Chester Cycling Campaign has joined this group. Colin has given two presentations to the newly created CWaC Active Travel Forum. I am personally impressed with these presentations. Time will tell as to how successful this is?
- f. Chester Cycling Campaign. I try and attend each month and some of their successes I have reported above. We the CCC have also met members of the North Cheshire Cycling Campaign who have meetings in Frodsham. Many of their aims are ours also and we work together especially when dealing with CWaC.

- g. Sustrans/ Cycling UK. I with other Sustrans/Cycling UK Volunteers have attended cycling events/festivals etc to promote cycling. Our little band of volunteers have spent several days tidying up local cycle paths by pruning back vegetation, litter picking including the removal of FLY TIPPED material. This has been with the help of the local L As and sometimes Sustran's own vehicle.
- h. I have decided to step down from the Chester & North Wales CTC Committee after serving on the committee for nearly 10 years. The committee is very hard working and the success of the Chester & North Wales CTC (Cycling UK) is there for all to see. We continue to be prominent at Cycling UK's Annual Get Together celebrations and this year at Harrogate we did exceptionally well. I will slowly cut down on my duties as a Right to Ride Representative in the Chester Wirral Area; however, there are a few items on going which I would like to see come to a successful conclusion. I would like to thank the committee for all their support over the years and wish them well for the future.

Right to Ride Reps have also been busy in North Wales. Although not all of the improvements campaigned for at the Goat Roundabout on the Caernarfon by Pass were accepted the campaigners did succeed in getting agreement for better crossings than were in the original proposals. Work has also been done regarding the proposals for changes to the A55 junctions 15 & 16.

Club members attended the Active Travel Conference in Wrexham in May and arranged for the Cycling UK stand to be set up. Right to Ride Reps worked hard to produce responses for the Cross Party Response to the Planning Policy in Wales 10th edition. In addition to the Right to Ride responses the reps helped produce a response was sent in on behalf of Chester & N Wales CTC.

Thanks to all of the members who work so hard campaigning on behalf of cyclists.

7. Ride Leaders Training

Following the request of the 2017 AGM groups were contacted to see if there was sufficient interest to organise another course in 2018; only 2 names were put forward. Possibly there may be more interest in 2019.

Please note that guidance for ride leaders and all of the forms required are available on the Cycling UK website.

8. C&NW CTC Committee

The committee has met five times since last year's AGM. Committee members have been busy organising events, publicising the group, working with other organisations and campaigning. Guidance relating to the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) has been circulated to all of the informal groups and officers. The new regulations are being implemented (for example care with sending emails BCC so that addresses are not accidentally given to other people), new photography posters at events. C&NW CTC have signed up to try out the new Cycling UK data system and the Secretary & Registration Officer will be looking at it.

9. Report of the Awards Committee

The Committee communicated several times during the year and held one formal meeting.

- a. **President's Trophy** Following discussions with the Committee Mike Cross awarded the President's Trophy to John Ferguson. John had organised the new order for club shirts including negotiating the prices with the supplier, linking payments to orders, coordinating with local groups and arranging the swaps of shirts of various sizes. He was the surprised (and somewhat reluctant) recipient of the Trophy and was presented with it at the President's Rides and Annual Lunch held in Tilston on 23rd September 2018.
- b. **Café of the Year** Café Fresh, Dunham won the 2017 competition. The Certificate was presented to the delighted manager Angela Savage and staff by Mike Cross.

- c. **Volunteer of the Year** A nomination was made for Peter Williams in the Outstanding Individual Campaigner category. He was a shortlisted nominee at the Cycling UK Big Bike Celebration held in Harrogate on 6th October.
- d. **Tourist Competition 2017** At the New Year's Day meet, held at The White Horse, Churton, Terry Davies was presented with the C&NW CTC Trophy for the highest placed C&NW CTC Gentleman rider in the CTC Tourist Competition. Lowri Evans was awarded the equivalent Trophy for Lady rider.
- e. **Certificate of Merit.** To mark many years of volunteering Sue Booth was presented with her Certificate of Merit by Mike Cross at the Chairman's Meet.
- f. **Roll of Honour.** C&NW CTC now has its own Roll of Honour which is displayed at formal Club occasions.

10. CTC Cymru

The Welsh Festival was held in Ruthin in July with about 80 people attending. Riders from almost all of the C&NW CTC groups took part in the Festival, and thanks are due to many of the Club's riders who helped with the organisation of the event. In addition to the usual rides and competitions there was a short ride on the Monday which was registered as part of the Cycling UK Women's Festival of Cycling. The venue for 2019 is not yet decided.

11. Tourist Competition

The C&NW CTC team were the clear winners of the 2018 Tourist Competition with 369 points. The team members attended the awards presentation in Harrogate at the Cycling UK Big Bike Celebration. Terry Davies was overall winner (103 points) and 1st Veteran, Lowri Evans was 2nd overall (also 1st Lady & 1st Lady Veteran), and Steve Larwood was 3rd (89 points) and Ifor Jones in 5th place (78 points) was the fourth member of the team. Congratulations to the C&NW CTC riders who Paul Mills (8th), Emily Larwood (2nd female junior), Vicky Payne (2nd Lady veteran) and Kath Morris (3rd Lady Veteran).

Changes in the rules for 2018 mean that only riders who register for the competition have their riders counted; and the rules have been changed significantly. We await to see what the future of the competition will be.

12. C&NW CTC Club Shirts

The new C&NW CTC club shirts designed by Glennys Hammond proved very popular. 168 short sleeved shirts were sold at a cost to members of £20 each. John Ferguson co-ordinated the order and the distribution. Thanks to Glennys for the striking design & John Ferguson for the logistics. The kit has helped to give the C&NW CTC a visible identity. To try to maintain a visible club presence in cooler weather it was decided to arrange another order – this time with the option of long-sleeved shirts at £35 or light weight training jackets for £50 with the same distinctive yellow, black and white design.

At the time of writing 40 long-sleeved shirts and 32 light weight training jackets had been ordered.

13. Looking forward

The following table shows the C&NW CTC & CTC Cymru events proposed for next year. Please contact the Secretary or the organiser if you are able to volunteer to assist at any of the events. Events in italics are to be confirmed. 2019 will be the 80th Anniversary of C&NW CTC, plans for the celebration include a photo competition and an event on the weekend of the 7th/8th September.

1 st January	Chairman's New Year's Day meet Carden Arms Tilston	David Matthews
Sat 27 th April	Eureka Audax Events (Choice of 3 distances)	Dave Matthews
May	<i>Map reading & Treasure Hunt</i>	<i>TBC</i>
Sat 1 st June	Tour of the Berwyns & Panorama Prospect Audaxes	Dave Matthews
Sunday 16 th June	Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways (50 miles or 100miles)	Bob Clift organising team inc Tracey Johnson, Sandra Edwards and Shirley Trow
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Ladies Weekend</i>	<i>Sue Booth</i>
Sunday 7 th July	Triennial Vets 100	Laurie Mason
Saturday 13 th July	Audax events: Barmouth Boulevard, Brenig Bach & Bala Parade	Vicky Payne
<i>18th-21st July TBC</i>	<i>Welsh Festival (4 days of rides)</i>	<i>CTC Cymru</i>
<i>Sunday 8th September (? & 7th ?)</i>	<i>C&NW CTC 80th Celebration incorporating Presidents lunch & presentation Details TBC Possibly 7th & 8th</i>	<i>C&NW CTC President</i>
Saturday 14 th September	Momma Audax Rides (Choice of 3 distances)	Dave Matthews
Saturday 28 th Sept	Hill Climb & Freewheel	Lowri Evans
Saturday 12 th October	Corwen Audax Events (Clwydian, Clwyd Gate, Bala Mini Bash)	Vicky Payne
Sunday 3 rd November	C&NW CTC AGM	C&NW CTC Sec

Events organised by other Cycling UK groups:

Sunday 14th April Two Mills Spring 50 organised by Janet Gregory.

Saturday 29th June Audax events from Crewe organised by Brandon Edgeley

Sunday 25th August TBC Wild Wales Challenge Merseyside CTC

Thanks

Thank you to all who contributed to this report. More detailed event reports can be found on the C&NW CTC website and in the Link.

A particular note of thanks to Welna Bowden who has served on CTC Council as a Councillor for the North West, and more recently as Trustee on the Cycling UK Council. She will be standing down at the end of the year after 9 years of representing members.

Thanks are due to all of the Club's volunteers including the members of the Committee, event organisers, rides leaders, web editor, Link editor, tea makers, Cycling UK trustees and the many others who have worked hard to ensure that there have been great events & interesting rides.

Finally, the Secretary would like to thank all who have helped & supported her in the role during the year.