

Chester & North Wales CTC
CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru
Secretary's Annual Report October 2019

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.

Sadly, the Club lost several members during the year some of whom are mentioned below:

David Ackerley who died after a short illness; he had held a huge variety of posts over the years including event organiser, Link editor & contributor, ride leader, (was also) DA Secretary for 4 years, Vets 100 Organiser, presented with a 1999 CTC Certificate of Merit in 2009 and in 2014 was the North West Volunteer of the Year and National Volunteer of the Year.

Noel Blundell: prominent cyclist with the former Liverpool DA, member of the Wednesday Riders for many years, died December 2018.

Ron Davies: Served in Bomber Command during WW2, founder member of Ledsham Family Section (now Two Mills Group). Died in his 99th year, February 2019.

Charlie Evans who rode with Wednesday Riders and was a regular volunteer booking riders in for the Bob Clift Memorial Rides, who died suddenly on a ride in the summer.

Tony Wilkinson who had been a regular rider with many of the C&NW CTC groups and who had supported many of the Club events; in later years a keen electric bike rider.

Barry Seago rider with Watson's Wanders and (in earlier years) racing cyclist.

Mrs Iris Mills who donated the President's Trophy in memory of her son Graham Mills (who was C&NW CTC President at the time of his death in 2007) passed away in October after suffering ill health for many years.

Our thoughts are with their families and friends, and with those of others in the Club who have passed away but are not mentioned above.

Congratulations are in order for several members and groups: Janet Gregory and Two Mills won the Best Event category for the Spring 50 Tourist Trial at the 2019 Volunteer of the year awards and Glynn Jones had a letter of thanks for Paul Tuohy following Glynn's nomination in the 'Exceptional individual in a cycling group' category.

In September at the 80th Anniversary Celebration Chester and North Wales CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru were presented with a Cycling UK Certificate of Appreciation 'for 80 years of outstanding voluntary service'.

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 throughout the year, provided the weather is favourable and we are not taking part in rides organised by the parent group; Chester and North Wales CTC. Also, some ride as well on other Sundays and Wednesdays arranging the start place and route amongst themselves.

The group is small and consists of a group of friends who are retired. Bikes used are usually touring bikes although one member usually rides an electric bike. Rides tend to be between 20 and 30 miles mostly on Anglesey. Average speed tends to be about 9 miles an hour.

The Parent group rides have tended to be to the east e.g. Cheshire Cycleway, the Bala Parade and the Bala Bash. We attended the 80th anniversary, going by car to the Vale of Clwyd and then one riding from Denbigh and others from Llanrhaeadr to Llanfair DC for the anniversary dinner. 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)

Chester CTC continue to have two rides a month, usually meeting at Chester Town Hall. We started our year with a damp gathering at Christleton pond, to join the New Year's Day meet, and ended the day in the Ring O Bells. We have ridden along the river, canals, up hills into Wales and out into Cheshire Lanes (and up Cheshire hills when Dave gets a chance). A contingent from Chester came to the Welsh Festival, and we had a short Sunday ride to meet a longer ride out from Chester to The Raven in Llanarmon. We also had a delightful ride to Tatton Park, where Alex and I had a go on a carousel.

The highlight for me, although I was the only Chester person there, was the Wayfarer weekend, celebrating 100 years and incorporating the Rough Stuff Fellowship. Brilliant sunshine after three dry weeks showed the route of at its finest; topped with a ride all the way along the canal from Llangollen to Chirk.

Summer evening rides ran from April to August, with snow on the hills visible on our first evening in April. We were able to split into a couple of groups most weeks, offering a faster group for the more adventurous, and a sedate normal social group for the rest; and welcomed a few new faces.

Chester Fabulous Ladies monthly rides have included favourites such as Cleopatra's, Tarvin Sands, Gladstone's Library. Our weekend away in May was to Caernarfon, and my rides included Lon Las Ogwen, slate quarries, Bangor Pier, a vineyard, steam trains, sunsets over Anglesey.

In May we met up with a couple of ladies from Chelford Chicks in Bunbury, although they had lost their group. Next year we have an invite to meet up with Team Glow, a large ladies group based in Manchester.

We have had 13 new riders this year to date, example of a comments from the Ladies:

"after joining the Fabulous Ladies cycling club I progressed from a mountain bike to a road bike and joined the ladies for a weekend of cycling in Snowdonia. I loved the rides, despite taking a tumble due to shale! Amazing weekend, can't wait for next year's weekend cycling trip".

CTC Eryri Thursday Cycling Group (Doreen Lindsey)

The Eryri Informal Group meets at various places at 10.30am for a ride out to a café for lunch, the ride is usually between twenty & thirty miles with anything between five & fifteen members out with us, we are mostly retired riders & we welcome tandems & electric assist bikes. Our rides are on alternate Thursdays but we do not ride in August when we have busy holiday traffic on the roads.

We mostly ride on the Lleyn Peninsular or sometimes as far as Dolgellau & the Mawddach Trail. In September we had a very successful camp beside Bala Lake, after our ride & pub lunch some members bought their canoes out & enjoyed a paddle on the lake.

An email reminder is sent out before each ride with more info on where we are going etc.

We have a 'sub' section called the Northern Group which is based in the Anglesey/Bangor area, they have had twelve rides since September 2018 with an average of ten riders out.

We welcome anyone holidaying in the area to join us for a ride.

Graham Hines has also started organising some rides in the area at weekends.

Watson's Wanderers (Allan Samuel)

We have continued to grow strongly. 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 cafes. Rides vary from 40 to 70 miles in length depending on weather conditions and the time of year. Inclement weather has forced us to cancel three rides over the last twelve months but that aside we enjoy good support throughout the year.

Our President for life Harry Watson, who will be 91 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 his wife

Celia on occasion and we are very pleased that they can still get out to meet us. Long may it continue.

Rides are led in the main by Dave Robertson, with a number of us taking the lead for the second group.

During the year the Wanderers took part in many other events including the Vets 100, Bob Clift, Macmillan coffee morning in Oscroft. This year six of our riders: Ian Galliard, Simon and Fiona Chynoweth, Holger Paesler, Mike Evans and Dave Britton took part in a sponsored LEJOG.

Our group continues to make an impact into Cycling in Chester and CWaC. John Violet is our representative on CWaC's development of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

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

Wednesday Riders (Chris Smith)

2019 has been a year of highs and lows for Wednesday Riders.

Our weekly emails now go to 108 addresses (up from 94) and the number of ride leaders listed is up from 28 to 30. However, this latter figure conceals a reduction in the number of actual ride leaders with only 17 of the 30 leading any rides this year, a considerable and worrying reduction on last year. We have struggled to find leaders for the easier rides on our programme and several have been cancelled for this reason.

In March we celebrated our 36th year with a Charles Allen memorial ride calling in to Hadlow Road (preserved station) to present a cheque to the Friends Society.

In May we had a 3-day mini tour of Lancashire attended by 26 riders, whilst it was very popular and well attended, it was on this tour that Charlie Evans died suddenly whilst riding with a small group. Despite great efforts from the other riders, members of the public, and the emergency services, nothing could be done for him. A large contingent of Wednesday Riders rode to his funeral and formed a guard of honour as a mark of respect to Charlie and his family. Discussions are ongoing with Sustrans about a suitable memorial on the Chester Greenway.

At the end of June, 7 of our group took part in an epic ride, which they called Y2D, from Chepstow to Chester (138 miles) with 5 of them completing the whole distance and 2 doing the extra to make it 150 to Parkgate!

In September we combined with Merseyside CTC to follow the Tour of Britain on the Birkenhead stage, whilst getting Cycling UK flags banners and shirts outside the Eureka café shown, however briefly, on television.

A contingent enjoyed the CTC Birthday Rides this year held at St Neots, the accommodation was excellent, but the countryside not to everyone's taste!

The normal Wednesday rides held every week, weather permitting, have usually been popular requiring us to split into 3 or more groups with some days having 30+ riders to accommodate. Our small Friday Informals group rode regularly during the spring, but took a summer break and is now starting to ride again for Autumn. They have no programme but communicate via a Google email group and Whats App. These tend to be a little faster than Wednesday Rides.

The past 2 years we have organised a 100 mile and a 100 km midsummer challenge which has proved very popular especially with those not used to riding that distance, we also had a dozen or more riders on the 100mile Tri Vets in July.

Wednesday Riders this year have reached out to other informal groups within C&NW; some successfully with Pensarn Pootlers on rides to Lake Vyrnwy and to Llanrwst; others less so, such as the 80th Anniversary ride from Bala through Dolgellau to Barmouth. Just three Wednesday Riders (two on ebikes!) and a friend completed the ride in poor weather using a route designed by the late David Ackerley. Only one said he planned to do it again!

We have welcomed an ever-increasing number of riders (and leaders) on ebikes, and in particular been pleased to see some older riders being able to return to taking part in longer and hillier rides than they have been able to do in recent years.

We remain concerned about the situation with ICE information and GDPR and have been experimenting with ICE information stickers on helmets. It is really time national office came up with a robust solution.

Wrexham Reivers (Lowri Evans)

The number of riders attending the Espresso Cafe at Gwersyllt varies greatly from week to week; probably fewer have been attending on Saturday's this year but there are often informal rides on other days of the week. To try to keep to safe manageable numbers in groups on the road the rides list has been drawn up with 2 destinations whenever possible. 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 2018 and to the other team members, Paul Mills, Steve Larwood and Lowri Evans and to John Wilkie for completing the Paris Brest Paris Audax. 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:

- The annual Early Season Challenge Ride took place on Sunday 14th April, 50 miles or 50 km route centred on Farndon Sports and Social Club. This year, we increased the participants to 300 to meet the demand.
- It was particularly pleasing for our group to be recognised amongst CUK volunteer awards announced at the annual national club get together in London, Saturday 15th June. Winning Best Cycling Event for the Early Season Challenge.
- Our women's group, the Wirral Bicycle Belles, who meet monthly on Saturday morning, enjoyed their second weekend away based at Worcester. Several of our volunteers helped with an extra celebratory bike ride around the Wirral Circular Trail on Saturday 3rd August as part of Cycling UK Women's Festival.
- Two Mills members (past and present) have supported Chester and North Wales CTC events, particularly during their 80th anniversary year. A number of us attended Birthday Rides held this year at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire. A contingent also enjoyed warmer weather in France at the Semaine Federale.
- Eureka Cyclists café, which is our groups' regular meeting place, is currently up for sale. We await the outcome with interest.

3. Events 2019

1st January 2019 Chairman's Ride - New Year's Day Meet

About 40 people turned up at the Carden Arms in Tilston for the traditional New Year's Day meet. There was a warm welcome and 34 stayed on for an enjoyable meal. The C&NW CTC Tourist Competition Trophies for 2018 were also presented; the Gentleman's trophy went to Terry Davies for the 2nd time, the Lady's Trophy Lowri Evans. Thanks are due to Dave Matthews for arranging an excellent social start to the year.

27th April 2019 Eureka Audax events (Dave Matthews)

Unluckily we managed to coincide with storm Hannah which brought torrential rain and cool weather for the entire day which resulted in a very high "DNS" count for all rides.

Eureka Excursion 215km (PBP 200k qualifier this year which stiffened the resolve of a couple of late qualifiers)_12 (3 from C& N.W CTC) riders started out at 08:00 to face the horrendous conditions. The ride passed without incident but 3 riders DNF in the bad conditions. Times varied from 10h 20m to 13h 09m. Well done to those who persevered throughout a very hardy experience---The true spirit of Audax!

Tea in Prospect 135km This ride proved very popular again this year with 40 riders entering- but only 3 hardy souls turned up to ride on the day. There was awful weather up at the semi-deserted Prospect Tea Rooms which blotted out the magnificent views over Cheshire. Many thanks to Linda and the staff for cheering up and feeding our 3 bedraggled riders.

The cyclists enjoyed another break from the weather at Tilly's in Bunbury, before riding back through the lanes to the Eureka Café. Times varied from 07h 30m to 09h 35m.

Two Mills Twirl 68k 2 riders, father and adult son, embarked on this short ride to Cleopatra's in Holt. As with the other riders, they stoically accepted their soaking.

Many thanks to the people who helped to make this soggy event such a success in spite of the conditions---Andy Whitgreave issuing Brevet Cards at Eureka Café; Graham and Vicky Payne who marshalled the car parks: Linda and her staff at Prospect Tea Rooms; Kevin and staff at Tilly's and especially to Anne Peek and her staff at Eureka café for remaining ever cheerful and helpful through a 13 hour day.

Eureka Café is currently up for sale; Dave Matthews will not be organising these events next year.

18th May 2019 Holyhead to the Wirral ride

This ride was part of the 80th Anniversary celebrations. Terry Davies put a huge amount of work into route planning; riding the route 3 times and checking out cafes and stops and preparing routes sheets. John Mathers & Roy Spilsbury lobbied contractors to ensure that riders didn't have to take a hilly detour to avoid works near the A55 so all was set for the ride.

5 riders met up at South Stack (Terry Davies, Mark Evans, Colin Bell, Steve Jones & Lowri Evans) after being photographed by Janet Jones they set off on the first leg of the route. Janet met the group several times along route to take pictures; she did ride part of the route with the groups as well. Fortunately, the weather was fairly dry, and the group made reasonable time to the first stop in Llangefni. Then on through Bangor; shortly after this the group met up with Martyn Johnson who had come out that morning on the train - his train had been delayed so he had missed the group at the start. Another quick stop at Conwy Marina then onto Pensarn (too late to meet up with Dave Matthews who was doing part of the ride) and after another stretch along the coast, inland towards Pant Asaph with a quick stop for a cuppa at the Druid Inn. Steve and Martyn had had to peel off at various points to catch trains but Terry, Colin, Mark & Lowri continued to the Wirral with the final photos taken outside the Eureka.

A few club members also took the opportunity to ride sections of the ride during the year.

Many thanks to Terry for organising such a memorable ride, to Janet for taking photographs and to all who took part in the event with such friendliness & good humour. Thanks also to Glennys for producing certificates for all those who completed & claimed sections of the ride.

1st June 2019 Berwyns Audax Events (Dave Matthews)

The start/finish of these rides was moved at short notice to Duddon Village Hall due to Willington Hall Hotel's late inability to host this event. We thank the Hotel for hosting these rides since 2001 and are sorry that, due to circumstances beyond their control we are unable to use them as an event base. Thanks are due to all those who enabled us to move this event at such short notice; AUK, Chester and N. Wales CTC, catering ladies and Duddon Village Hall. A tricky job that worked out well in the end.

Tour of the Berwyns 210K; 2650m climbing. There were 45 entries for this event, with 26 starters on the day, including 7 riders from Seamons CC. 23 riders returned safely, in times varying from 09:00 (chapeau!) to 13:00. 2 riders failed to finish due to mechanical issues. Unfortunately, we had an accident near Saughton when a rider in a small group failed to notice a pothole. He came off sustaining cuts and bruises and a wrecked helmet. This rider was able to ride safely 10k back to Duddon Village Hall and drive back home. A full report of this incident has been sent to AUK and Chester & N. Wales CTC.

On a positive note, all riders said it was a cracking route and how much they enjoyed the ride and stunning scenery---which is what really matters!

Prospect Panorama 135Km; 1000m of climbing. Following a flat ride through Farndon and Cross Lanes, this event takes the long climb from Johnstown up to the beautifully situated Prospect Tea Rooms above Llangollen, exactly as for the 200k, but then short cuts back from the Panorama via Sun Trevor to Chirk. There were 19 entries for this event with 11 starters, 10 of whom returned safely. Unfortunately, there was a serious incident at the roundabout near Chirk station when a rider went into the back of another rider, fell off and sustained a broken femur. After assistance from other riders, the organiser & volunteers Terry Davies was taken to hospital. Terry is now back on his bike and working hard to regain his fitness. A full report of this incident has been sent to AUK and Chester & N. Wales CTC.

Many thanks to John and Carol Pardoe of Seamons CC and for operating the control at Prospect café, also to Margaret Matthews and Sheila Railton for dealing with the catering at very short notice. Thanks are also due to Brandon Edgeley for his assistance all day whilst in the final stage of studying to become an accredited AUK organiser. His first event was a 200k from Nantwich on June 29 2019, mentored by Dave Matthews: Brandon is now a fully-fledged organiser a welcome addition to the ranks.

Putting the accidents to one side, another successful set of events in which all returning riders said how much they enjoyed the day out. It is intended to repeat these rides in 2020 from Duddon Village Hall on the 6th June.

16th June Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways (Tracy Johnson)

There was a new organiser for the 2019 events – Tracy Johnson. Sue Booth (the previous organiser) had found a new venue, so the event started from the Cheshire View.

The 100 & 50 mile events had been fully subscribed, but some people who had entered didn't attend. The rider numbers were:

100 miles 82 riders

50 miles 133

25 10 out of the 11 registered.

Despite very difficult weather conditions at times, everyone who started also finished; some complained about the torrential rain along the ride but overall people enjoyed the routes and the refreshment stops were amazing as always. Emma at St. Philips church went above and beyond by supplying hot drinks to our cold wet riders despite this stop supposedly being for cold drinks only.

The new 25 mile ride only had 10 riders but they all said the route was lovely and the refreshments at Old Ma's cafe were well received and delicious.

As always, the volunteers did an amazing job and without them the event just wouldn't happen.

The last-minute route alterations due to road works on the 100-mile event worked well.

All the venues were great, the riders commented that the event was to quote one rider

"the nicest, friendliest and tastiest ride I have ever done"

Many thanks to Tracy & all of her team of volunteers.

7th July Triennial Veterans 100 (Laurie Mason)

This year the weather was great for the event. 81 riders aged between 50 & 83 set off from Duddon Village Hall (with one on an electric bike). A great turn out, partially due to the increased publicity as it was a triennial year. All completed the ride bar 2 who decided to pack at the lunch stop. Once again Laurie Mason had done a great job of organising the event; the food stops were excellent as always with elevenses at Overton, lunch at Four Crosses, afternoon tea on the return through Overton and cold drinks from John on the last leg. Many thanks to Laurie and all of the volunteers who make the event such a success.

Entries are already open for the 2020 event

13th July 2019 Corwen Audax events (Vicky Payne)

The weather was warm, not too windy and a bit drizzly. All the preparations had gone off without a hitch and I was feeling quite upbeat travelling down to Corwen in the early morning. I was still upbeat on the return some fourteen hours later.

Barmouth Boulevard 200k 24 entrants set off in good spirits including some doing their first audax. There were three declared Chester and North Wales members. One notable entrant was my Audax Events Team contact Ian Hennessey who had travelled up from Exeter.; He obviously enjoyed the event posting some photos and a write up on the Audax Facebook page. There were also entrants travelling from Glasgow and Didcot and all ports in between.

The café control at Abergynolwen was closed this weekend; usually the riders have a choice of control in this village either the café or the pub. The majority use the café but this year it had to be the pub. I went to see the Landlord as I felt it only fair to warn him and he was very accommodating; several of the cyclists commented on their return how welcome they were made to feel and how good the food was.

All twenty-four finished the ride in times All finished in good spirits delighted with the route and the fantastic scenery.

Brenig Bach 100k 13 entrants embarked on this epic ride into a land time forgot. Or at least that's how I feel about it when Graham and I route check; the route goes through remote areas where you would not be surprised to encounter horse drawn wagons, Roman legions or cattle drovers. We managed to ride up all but one section of the nine climbs identified by Graham's new Garmin. On the day 11 riders including two declared Chester and North Wales members completed the route; the two remaining riders got as far as Pentrefoelas before deciding to return as the misty conditions were exacerbating a pre-existing chest infection. They hope to come back next year and complete the ride.

Bala Parade 60K There was a better turn out than in the previous few years. 18 riders of whom 4 were declared Chester and North Wales members. A 7-year-old and her 9-year-old brother riding alongside their father were my youngest entrants to date; I was delighted when they all completed the ride. Everyone completed the event.

Thanks go out to all the controls for their kind attention and excellent service throughout the day especially Sandra at the Corwen Manor Craft Centre and Ian at the Royal Oak, Brandon Edgely for donating some energy bars left over from his first time organising an audax event which were quickly snapped up and last but not least my husband Graham without whose support I would not be organising these events.

14th July Treasure Hunt (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson arranged a very successful treasure hunt from the Eureka Café as part of the 80th Anniversary celebrations. Most people opted to compete as teams of two, to get added brain power, but some rode the 17mile route as individuals. All enjoyed the event and returned to the Eureka for refreshments and to find out the answers to the trickiest clues. Colin Simms won the individual prize and Paul Mills and Lowri Evans won the team event. Many thanks to John for setting the route and devising the clues, and to the Eureka for hosting the event & for providing generous prizes.

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

Due to the "Tour of Britain" circling the Manchester area on 31st August, the rides were re-scheduled to Sunday 1st September, unfortunately this meant that we missed the glorious weather and had a dull, wet day for all three events.

Pistyll Packing Momma 209km; 3400m ascent. A tough ride on the day:10 out of 14 riders completed the route. Unfortunately, there were 3 accidents during this event which led to the DNFs. One rider slid off near Pistyll Rhaeadr, so shortcut home along with his companion. One rider crashed whilst descending the North Hirnant and ended up in Wrexham A&E with a broken rib. A third rider crashed very close to the finish in the rain and darkness when hitting some feature of the bad road surface, fortunately without serious injury. A full report of all 3 accidents has been sent to Audax UK along with the event returns. A copy of this report has also been sent to Cycling UK national office for information as this is a joint AUK/CUK event. The 10 riders, including Phil Scott from C&NW CTC, who completed the event were as complimentary as ever about the quality of the route and scenery---just wishing they could see more of it on the day.

Momma's Mountain Views 130km; 1750m ascent. 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. 22 of 26 riders completed the route.

Graham & Vicky Payne, Mark Walsh and John Wilkie represented C&NW CTC.

The route name should have been "Momma's misty lack of views" on this occasion as the cloud was well down, but this did not detract from the quality of the route or the steepness of the climbing.

There have been a number of changes to the route sheet for this event over the last year, which has led to some minor inaccuracies relative to GPS. The route sheet is always the primary reference in Audax but the route sheet is to be better coordinated with GPS and hence the brevet cards in time for the 2020 event.

Momma's Leafy Lanes 62km Now a super social event and used as an introduction to AUK for newcomers or a rest home for the elderly. Poor weather but we all enjoyed the ride. 19 riders started and 14 finished in the allotted time. 4 riders were from C&NW CTC and 2 from Chester easy riders getting their first taste of the joys of Audax riding.

Thanks to all the cafes and controls for their help and especially to Andy Whitgreave for manning the Old Ma's café control through most of the event.

Next year the event is to be on 6th September and taken over by Brandon Edgely who is now an experienced and accredited AUK Organiser.

7th September 2019 80th Anniversary Ride and Lunch

64 people attended the President's Lunch at Neuadd Eleanor, Llanfair DC. Many met up in St Asaph for café stops (at the Welsh Maid and Translator's Tearoom) prior to a photo call at the Cathedral and the rides to Llanfair DC. Paul Tuohy, Cycling UK chief executive, attended the event and enjoyed the opportunity to ride with and meet Club members. Following a buffet lunch (provided by Leonardo's of Ruthin) he presented the Club with a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of the club volunteers over the years.

Glennys Hammond was presented with the President's Cup for the huge amount of work she had done over the years as the Club web editor together with her husband John, as webmaster.

The winners of the 80th Anniversary photography competition were announced:

General Category

1st Glennys Hammond

2nd Chris Smith

UNESCO World Heritage Sites Category

1st John Ferguson

2nd Glennys Hammond.

The birthday cake was cut by Paul Touhy and he made a speech. People had a marvellous chance to socialise, reminisce and enjoy the display produced by Arthur Miller the Club archivist.

Many thanks to all who made the day a great success.

28th Sept 2019 Hill Climb & Freewheel events (Lowri Evans)

The weather forecast was grim, and the morning started rather grey and windy; but by the time of the event there was sunshine and only a few minutes of very light rain. Booking in was at Llysfasi and £8.03 was raised in parking donations towards the British Heart Foundation their chosen charity.

9 riders entered the hill climb Ben Hughes put in a great climb and won the event for the 4th time, Ben Larwood was second, Steve Larwood was 3rd and first Veteran. Lowri Evans was 4th and 1st Lady Veteran. Dave Statham was the 1st Mega Vet and Dave Matthews the first Super Vet. Mike Cross organised the timing at the top of the hill whilst Glennys Hammond photographed the riders as they toiled up the climb.

10 riders competed in the freewheel: Dave Statham dominated the event with a clear win, followed by Roy Bunnell on his immaculate Mercian. Paul Mills was 3rd followed by Steve Larwood and Dave Matthews. Sue Booth was first lady by a considerable margin.

Riders then went to the White Horse in Llanfair DC for a meal & the calculation of results. Mike Cross presented the prizes and Glennys Hammond took more photographs. Huge thanks to all who took part in the event, everyone who helped on the day, Pete Dilworth for putting up the warning signs on advance of the event, Llysfasi for parking & booking in venue and the White Horse for venue for the presentation & the meal.

Corwen Audax Events 12th October 2019 (Vicky Payne)

The weather which had wrecked last year's event was fairly benign: a few showers, very little wind and fairly warm. There were some pockets of mist but these soon cleared; the River Dee looked ominously high but I had not seen any reports of flooding. There was a good turnout with 71 riders setting off over the three events. As events go it was an organiser's dream: no incidents or accidents to report and everyone home about an hour before the final cut off time. **The Clwydian 212k** 13 riders were set off on this gruelling event at 8am sharp. 12 finished in time; one person had to abandon at Pensarn as his handle bars had snapped! By all accounts a very rare occurrence? He was able to catch a train home from Abergele. Everyone seemed in good spirits although some were more tired than others. There was just one declared Chester and North Wales CTC member on this ride.

The Clwyd Gate 138k 28 riders eventually started this event. Unlike the 200k riders those on this ride didn't seem to want to start; it was a good few minutes before they all got away. 21 finished in time; DFNs were all accounted for. There was hedge cutting in progress between Corwen and Carrog when they set off resulting in reports of numerous punctures. Some members of Chester Road Club were riding this event as an "extended calendar event". There were six declared members of Chester and North Wales CTC.

Bala Mini Bash 60k 30 riders set off on this popular short event designed as an introduction to Audax. There were 28 finishers & the DFNs were accounted for. There were three tandems which I am always pleased to see being a stoker myself. There were three declared Chester and North Wales members.

Everyone was back well within the final cut off time and so another successful event was put to bed. My thanks as always to everyone who took part, to everyone at the controls including my daughter Sabina and her husband Carl who after riding the Bala Mini Bash went to Pensarn to man the control after the café closed and finally to my husband Graham without whose help and support I would not be able to organise anything! I have decided that next year will be my last year organising the Corwen events so if you would like to have a go please contact me.

4. Club Communications

Website (Glennys Hammond)

a. Chester and North Wales CTC website has been updated regularly throughout the year with details and entry forms for 2019 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 2019 are available for members to download.

c. Committee Meeting Minutes up to 13th June 2019 have been posted on the Documents page. Minutes are posted only once they have been approved by the Committee at the following meeting.

d. Information on the final ordering of the new Club kit has been posted.

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. Our Webmaster, John and Website Editor, Glennys who have designed and maintained the website over the last ten years are standing down at the 2019 AGM. Fortunately a member of the Club has kindly agreed to construct a new website and will be nominated at the 2019 AGM. We are sure that everyone will offer their support to the new Webmaster.

Facebook & work of the Publicity Officer

Graham Hines took on the post of Publicity officer, however due to other commitments had to step down in the spring & the post has been unfilled since then.

5. Link (Janet Jones)

Another 12 months and Three more Links!

Thank you to everyone for all the contributions to the Link this year. Only once was I a little concerned that I wouldn't have enough copy in order to send The Link out on time but after an appeal and an extension lots came flooding in, so much so I have had a good head start on the next edition. That said keep the contributions coming!

The biggest issue at the moment is the cost and the subscription going up which I understand will be discussed at the meeting.

Next edition is due beginning of December therefore the deadline for copy is 22nd November.

This will be an 80th Anniversary edition so if you have anything to contribute with an 80th anniversary theme please send it to me as soon as possible.

Sorry I can't be with you at the meeting, please accept my apologies.

6. Right to Ride (John Violet)

This has been my first year in this position and it has been quite a steep learning curve. There have been many issues arising and there have been some successful outcomes alongside others which suffer from a more protracted timescale. Overall, the investment in cycling infrastructure has been very small as highway authorities struggle with the long period of austerity and consequential spending reductions.

The main projects which have been brought to my attention are as follows:

Sealand Industrial Estate- Phase 1 of the segregated cycleways is complete and is proving effective. Phase 2 is yet to follow.

Queensferry Bridge Widening- Early consultation has been effective in ensuring cycle requirements are considered in final design.

A55 Junctions 15,16 and 19 – Alterations of roundabouts are at consultation stage.

A483 Wrexham – Alterations at Junctions 3-6 are at consultation stage.

A51 Chester to Tarvin - Alterations are at consultation stage.

Caernarfon By Pass- Cycling UK represented on Active Travel Forum

NCR 5 nr Llanfairfechan – Welsh Office agreed to provide temporary track during roadworks at widening of Roman Road following representation from Cycling UK.

Ellesmere Port to Chester – The canal towpath is to be resurfaced and should be complete by March 2021.

Chester Northgate Towpath – After a long period of closure on grounds of safety due to unstable rock it was reopened for summer 2019.

Chester River Dee – Remedial work to timber decking section and other associated works on Sealand Road have all been completed.

Chester Northgate Phase 1 – Cycle hub location to be amended after consultation.

Cheshire West and Chester Council- Department for Transport require authorities in England to have a plan for infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians in order to bid for financial support. CWAC have been slow to prepare a plan but are now doing so with Cycling UK on the Working Group. It is known as a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and is due to be finished by November 2019. There will then be a consultation period before confirmation by elected councillors.

I wish to thank the several N Wales members acting as Right to Ride representatives in their respective localities for assisting me and providing regular updates. The Right to Ride representatives on their own cannot be expected to know the current situation across the whole network from Holyhead to Chester. Looking to the future, it would be very helpful if members and groups were to refer matters to Right to Ride representatives on a more regular basis. Our organisation would then benefit from more comprehensive information and reports.

7. Ride Leaders

Following a request from members enough emergency blankets were purchased for them to be issued to all of the group's ride leaders; these have been distributed to all of the Informal Groups.

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. Reminders have been sent regarding General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) has been circulated to all of the informal groups and officers. C&NW CTC have been using the new Cycling UK data system with the Registration Officer using it to send out the welcome messages to new members. The group is also looking at the new 'Assemble' software for keeping lists of volunteers.

9. Report of the Awards Committee

Awards Committee Report for the Secretary's Annual Report

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

- a. Café of the Year** Cleopatra's Bistro, Holt won the 2018 competition. The Certificate was presented on the 12th March 2019 to the delighted Proprietors, Phil and Helen by Mike Cross at a well-attended Club gathering. The Mayor of Wrexham Borough Council, Andy Williams also attended.
- b. Cycling UK Tourist Competition 2018** 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 Cycling UK Tourist Competition. Lowri Evans was awarded the equivalent Trophy for the highest-placed C&NW CTC Lady rider. The Tourist Competition will not be held again in the near future.
- c. 80th Anniversary Lunch** The Awards Committee played a large part in the planning, organisation and staging of the Club's very successful 80th Anniversary Lunch and Rides attended by Cycling UK Chief Executive Paul Tuohy. He attended the celebration with three colleagues from National Office. Photos and a report of the day are on the C&NW Website.
- d. President's Trophy** Mike Cross awarded the President's Trophy to Glennys Hammond. Glennys, and her husband John have maintained the Club website for ten years and are handing over to a new webmaster. Glennys has contributed to the Club's activities in many other ways over the years, including designing certificates, the Club's new kit and logos, and the 80th Anniversary Lunch birthday cake. She was presented with the trophy at the 80th Anniversary Lunch at Llanfair DC on 7th September 2019.
- e. Other awards** Glynn Jones received a letter of thanks from Paul Tuohy following his nomination in the National Volunteer Awards 2019.

10. CTC Cymru

The Welsh Festival was held in Ruthin in July with about 80 people attending. Riders from 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 2020 is not yet decided.

11. Tourist Competition the last year.

The C&NW CTC team were the clear winners of the 2018 Tourist Competition with 506 points; this was the final year of the competition. The team members attended the awards presentation in London at the Cycling UK Volunteer Celebration (after an eventful rail journey). Terry Davies was overall winner and 1st Veteran, Lowri Evans was 2nd overall (also 1st Lady & 1st Lady Veteran) Paul Mils was 3rd and Steve Larwood was 4th; these 4 made up the final C&NW CTC tourist competition team. Dave Statham was 5th and missed a place in the team by one point. Over the years C&NW CTC teams won the competition 14 times; those who took part have many happy memories of the events.

12. C&NW CTC Club Shirts

There was a successful order for long sleeved shirts and light weight jackets in the autumn of 2018. There have also been further orders in 2019 for short sleeved shirts, and another order for winter kit (long sleeved shirts, light & winter weight jackets and gilets). The Club has explored the 'Club Shop' option offered by the supplier; it is far cheaper to make up a bulk order when there is sufficient demand. A round up of kit sales is as follows:

2018 168 Short Sleeve Shirts

2019 30 Short Sleeve Shirts, 47 Long Sleeve Shirts 49 Lightweight Training Jackets 8 Winter Jackets, 6 Gilets

A grand total of 308 items.

Thanks once again to John Ferguson for his negotiating skills and his willingness to coordinate the orders.

13. Looking forward

The following table shows the C&NW CTC 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.

1 st January 2020	Chairman's New Year's Day meet at The Bull, Shocklach	David Matthews
Date TBC	Ladies weekend	Sue Booth
Saturday 6 th June	Tour of the Berwyns & Panorama Prospect Audaxes	Dave Matthews
Sunday 13 th June	Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways (25, 50 miles or 100miles)	Tracey Johnson
Sunday 5 th July	Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans 100	Laurie Mason
Saturday 11 th July TBC	Audax events: Barmouth Boulevard, Brenig Bach & Bala Parade	Vicky Payne
Saturday 8 th Aug	Audax events from Crewe	Brandon Edgeley
Sunday 6 th Sept	Momma Audax Rides (Choice of 3 distances)	Brandon Edgeley
Sunday 27 th Sept	Presidents Ride & Lunch	President
Saturday 3 rd Oct	Hill Climb & Freewheel	Lowri Evans
Saturday 10 th or 17 th October TBC	Corwen Audax Events (Clwydian, Clwyd Gate, Bala Mini Bash)	Vicky Payne
Sunday 3 rd Nov	C&NW CTC AGM	Secretary

Events organised by other Cycling UK groups:

Sunday 5th April Two Mills Spring 50 organised by Janet Gregory.

Saturday 27th June Audax events from Crewe organised by Brandon Edgeley

23rd to 28th July TBC Welsh Festival (4days of rides) CTC Cymru

Sunday 30th August TBC Wild Wales Challenge Merseyside CTC

14. 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 John & Glennys Hammond who are standing down as webmaster & web editor after many years.

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 and fitting celebrations of the Clubs 80th Anniversary

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