



## Introduction

2024 saw C&NW CTC celebrate its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and several of the Clubs hard working volunteers were recognised during the year; congratulations to all who were recognised with awards. These awards were presented at & after the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration:

Dave Matthews	Going the Extra Mile Silver Award +20years	For his volunteering for C&NW including running events, committee posts
Stuart Evans	Going the Extra Mile Silver Award +20years	For his ride leading over many years for several groups
Paul Mills	Going the Extra Mile Certificate of Appreciation	For his diligent work as C&NW CTC Publicity Officer
Dave Statham	Going the Extra Mile Certificate of Appreciation	For his ride leading & helping riders with bike repairs
Pete Dilworth	Going the Extra Mile Certificate of Appreciation	For his ride leading, volunteering at events & helping riders with bike repairs
Linda Scott	Going the Extra Mile Certificate of Appreciation	For her volunteering work with the Fab Ladies group
David Robertson	Going the Extra Mile Certificate of Appreciation	For organising routes & venues for the Watson's Wanders
Janet Jones	C&NW CTC President's Trophy	For editing the Link and assisting with events

At the Welsh Festival in Ruthin Gwenda Owen (Cycling UK engagement Officer for Wales) presented 3 volunteers with Awards:

**Emrys Jones - Going the Extra Mile Gold Award (+30years)** -for his volunteering work as event organiser, tour leaders & ride leader. In particular for his volunteering with CTC Cymru & the CTC Cymru Welsh Festival of Cycling

**John Holiday - Going the Extra Mile Bronze Award (+10years)** – for his volunteering at the CTC Cymru Welsh Festival of Cycling

**Lowri Evans - Going the Extra Mile Silver Award (+20years)** – for volunteering with C&NW CTC and CTC Cymru Welsh Festival of Cycling

## Condolences

Sadly, Janet Atherton OBE passed away in March 2025. Many will have known her as a rider with the Fab Ladies & the Belles and also in her role as the Chair of the Cycling UK Trustees. She was extremely approachable and friendly as well as being a talented organiser with great energy in promoting Cycling & Cycling UK. Those who were at last year's C&NW CTC AGM will remember her pleasure at being able to return to making presentations to volunteers after her absence following a period of illness. Unfortunately, in summer 2024, she had to step down from her roles in Cycling UK due her diagnosis with the illness that eventually claimed her life.

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

## **1. Informal Group Reports**

### **Ynys Môn (Anglesey)**

There are only a small number of members in the group (who have all be riding together for many years) currently there are no formal rides. Some riders supported events such as the Welsh Festival in Ruthin in July.

### **Chester (including summer evening rides and Chester Fabulous Ladies) (Sue Booth)**

The Chester group has continued to ride, although at times they have reported low numbers and struggling to get rides leaders. Despite problems with suitable start venues the Fab ladies have continued to ride (weather permitting) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Once again there was an enjoyable Ladies weekend away. As the days are getting longer the weekly evening rides are restarting 7pm from the Town Hall Chester.

Many thanks to Sue and the ride leaders for all of their work.

### **Watson's Wanderers (Allan Samuel)**

We have continued as an active group riding out on almost every Tuesday over the year ca. 48 of them. Only Christmas or atrocious weather has kept us indoors on Tuesdays.

We have seen our numbers growing over the year; for much of 2025 we have been joined with eighteen plus riders for our Tuesday jaunts. The fall in numbers that happened over the pandemic is now well and truly behind us. We have also been joined by a growing number of lady riders – now up to six.

We aim to have groups of six or so riding together which can mean that we go out in four or even five groups. Our thanks to the ride leaders that support us and to Dave Robertson who, as well as leading a group, also does most of the route planning and venue booking.

Our summer formula of elevenses and lunch stops is a hit and we even include a tea stop if time and a cafe are available. Our winter routine is to have a single stop for lunch.

Changing times and loss of venue availability on Tuesdays means we are always on the lookout for new cafes and pubs. Consequently we continue to explore our region from Tatton Park (East), to Market Drayton and Sleaf Airfield (South), to Carrog and Gwaenysgor, nr Prestatyn (West) and finally up the Wirral as far as Leasowe (North).

### **Wednesday Riders (Paul Mills)**

Wednesday riders as an informal group have not been active these past few years but do have small WhatsApp groups arranging their own ad-hoc rides.

Going forward restarting official group rides has occasionally been attempted with a few individuals showing some interest, we will see how things develop.

### **Wrexham Reivers (Lowri Evans)**

The group has continued to ride as many weekends as possible with the frequency of impromptu rides has increase greatly as fewer people are able to commit in advance to leading a group, however there are often two or more routes on offer. Stuart Evans, Mark Jones & Lowri Evans have led many of the advertised rides with Ken McDonald now also leading frequently. Rides continue to be arranged by email on a week-by-week basis, with some just coming to the café at the start of the ride to meet up with friends. Thanks go to all of the ride leaders and to all of the riders who have turned out and kept the rides going.

A belated Christmas Diner was planned for late January (when the Ponderosa was supposed to reopen after refurbishment) sadly the venue is still closed. Hopefully in 2025 there will be a return to the popular Christmas celebration.

**Shrewsbury CTC** have been in touch with C&NW CTC regard to some combined rides and a representative has been over to have a ride with the Watson's Wanderers and they may also have joint rides with the Chester group.

## **2. Events 2024 & 2025 to date**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 AGM - Pulford** – Well attended with several small groups of riders cycling out. See minutes

### **Weekend 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Ladies Weekend Bala organised by Sue Booth**

A group of 10 ladies enjoyed weekend based in an Airbnb in Bala. There were several rides (of varying hilliness & distance) including rides to Corwen and to Llyn Efyrynwy. Many thanks to Sue for organising a great weekend.

### **12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Berwyns Audax Events (Dave Matthews)**

As in 2023 our luck held with the weather---glorious until some late thunderstorms doused the last of the 200k riders. In common with last year entries were low, but almost everyone who entered turned up to enjoy their ride.

#### **Tour of the Berwyns 210km 2650m climbing**

20 riders set out of which 15 returned on 2 straight wheels. Mechanicals varied from total DI2 failure to wheel collapse. All riders returned safely---whether by rescue vehicle or their own steam. There were no entrants from Chester & N. Wales CTC which is a shame---but I guess a sign of the times and increasing age of our stalwarts.

#### **Panorama Prospect 130km 1000m climbing**

14 riders turned up for this event including 3 from Chester & N. Wales CTC. All completed the course successfully except one rider who packed early and went home

Thanks once again to Janet Jones for maintaining her favourite sunspot on the Panorama whilst checking the riders through and providing essential cakes and drink.

Thanks are also due to Margaret Matthews for manning the kitchen at the start of the event and to Andy Whitgreave for issuing brevet cards.

This is my last event as an Audax UK organiser after 23 years. It has been a great experience and I now hand over to Brandon Edgeley who has agreed to be the Custodian of the event into the future.

### **9th June 2024 Glan Gwna Audax events (Graham Hines)**

Graham Hines introduced 2 new events which included some spectacular scenery in north west Wales. Rides started from the Glan Gwna holiday park.

**Glan Gwna 200** 210k with 2700m climbing. 15 entered but only 9 started. The route went out to the tip of the Llŷn Peninsula then to Aberdaron and Llan Ffestiniog where the ride climbs to 480m over the Migneint towards Conwy. Due to the strong head winds and driving rain the later parts of the ride were the toughest! All completed the event.

**Glan Gwna 125** 124k with 1400m climbing. The route started as the 200 but at Pwllheli turned north east over the hills to join Lon Eifion NCR8 for much of the way back. 9 riders completed the ride with most arriving back before the heavy rain. There were C&NW CTC riders completing both of the events.

Many thanks to Graham for these new events. An addition route for the Sunday is planned for 2025.

### **16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Chester Active Travel Festival**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year C&NW CTC had a stand at the festival. This year it was held in the centre of Chester which led to more passers by looking at the stands & displays. John Violet & Paul Mills set up the stall & were joined by Allan Samuel, Dave Matthews & Lowri Evans taking turns to run the stand. There were several people who came to the stand who said they intended to join Cycling UK. Ian Slater was working hard all day on the Chester Cycling Campaign stall. Many thanks to all who helped with the stand. There is a 2-day event this year but C&NW may not have enough volunteer as the event clashes with Audax events & the Ladies Weekend.

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways 50-mile ride**

This year the entries were limited to 50 and the event was fully subscribed, with about 40 riding on the day. The weather was good and people enjoyed the adapted route to Bunbury (although most got somewhat entangle in the traffic heading towards the motor racing at Oulton Park). The catering at Tillies was efficient, with the riders arrival just sufficiently staggered. The event was blessed with good weather and all seemed to have a good day out. Many thanks to Dave Matthews for organising and to Marget Matthews, Andy Whitgreave and Allan & Lynne Samuel for their work as volunteers.

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Bert Bailey Memorial Vets 100 (Ian Slater)**

The 57<sup>th</sup> iteration of the Bert Bailey Memorial Vets 100 ride took place on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024. 74 people were registered for the ride with 57 starting. The first 25 miles certainly involved some challenging weather, with torrential downpours. As a result, everybody arrived at Overton looking thoroughly bedraggled. There were three who voted to return home at that stage and the rest ploughed on regardless, with much good humour and fortitude. The rain came and went sporadically for the rest of the day, but we did the last leg in sunshine and people's kit dried out somewhat. This year we had one-third female and two-thirds male finishers.

There were a few mechanicals along the way but nothing that required the attendance of the sag wagon. The e-bike riders all got around with some charge left on the battery, either by not using it for the first 50 miles, or recharging at the lunch stop. Both tactics worked a charm.

The age range of participants was from a sprightly 50 all the way up to 85. The cups for the oldest finisher on an e-bike went to Philip Owens and for the oldest male rider of a conventional bike went to Abbas Rashid.

The Vets raised about £400 profit this year.

Thank you very much to all the volunteers and caterers (Kelly, Mark and their teams) who helped to refuel the riders and without whom there would be no event.

Many thanks to Ian Slater for the huge amount of organising work and all of the volunteers (including Dave Matthews & Stuart Roberts who were attending controls and running the sag wagon) who worked hard to make the event such a success

### **13<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Corwen July Audax events Barmouth, Y Brenig Bach & Bala Parade**

These events were organised by Graham Hines with the main control at Yum Yums in Corwen. Once again there was a friendly atmosphere at the start as rides signed in and got ready for their various challenges (or gentle rides).

Congratulations to the 14 who completed the very challenging Barmouth Boulevard ride. There was at least one C&NW CTC member (although they didn't note the Club on their entry). Only 3 completed the 100k Brenig Bach – the riders included Terry Davies of C&NW CTC. 10 completed the Bala Parade, a shorter gentler 60k ride with at least 4 being C&NW CTC members (although only 2 noted the club on their entries). Several added to the distance by riding out to the event.

Once again thanks are due to Graham Hines for his work in preparing for the events and his work throughout a very long day at the control.

### **10<sup>th</sup> September "Momma" Audax Rides Report John Gallagher**

Once again, the start was from the Barbour Institute Tattenhall with the finish at the Sportsman's Arms (as Old Ma's was still closed). John Gallagher organiser the event for the first time, with Brandon Edgeley as mentor.

**Pistyll Packing Momma 200K** 209km 22 riders started. The route passed through Chirk, up the Glyn Ceiriog Valley to Llyn Vyrnwy via Pistyll Rhaeadr, over the Hirnant Pass to Bala, from Bala home via Melin-y-Wig, The Shelf and Hope Mountain.

**Momma's Mountain Views 130km** 13 riders headed to Chirk then did a very hilly route to return to Tattenhall.

**Momma's Leafy Lanes 55K** 16 riders started with the most senior being 91 years old.

The weather was fair, although there was light rain near Llyn Vyrnwy. All riders successfully completed and there were no accident or incidents. Many thanks to John, Brandon and all of the volunteers.

**28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Hill Climb & Freewheeling** – (Lowri Evans). Although only 4 took part in the Hill Climb & 6 in the Freewheeling the event was well supported by volunteers and all had an enjoyable time. The events started & ended at the café in Llanbenwch. The hill was as steep & long as ever, and there was a new Freewheeling course which was closer to the hill climb & the café. The results of the Hill climb were 1<sup>st</sup> Ben Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Larwood (1<sup>st</sup> vet), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lowri Evans & 4<sup>th</sup> Dave Matthews (1<sup>st</sup> Super Vet). The Freewheeling results were 1<sup>st</sup> Dave Matthews, 2<sup>nd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Lady) Lesley Lee, 3<sup>rd</sup> Steve Larwood, 4<sup>th</sup> Ben Hughes, 5<sup>th</sup> Lowri Evans 6<sup>th</sup> Dave Statham (1<sup>st</sup> e-bike) Many thanks to Pete Dilworth, Lesly Lee, Ken McDonald & Paul Mills who all volunteered & helped at the event. It is hoped to hold the Hill Climb & Freewheel again this year on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October– take the opportunity to come and enjoy the day.

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2024 -Corwen Audax events- organiser – Graham Hines.** Although most of the riders were able to start the events in the dry, many were put off by the forecast with a relatively lower number of starters; the numbers completing the rides were 13 The Clwydian, 4 Y Dyffryn Clwyd and the Bala Mini Bash. Those on the shorter events were able to avoid the wet/ windy weather suffered by others later in the day. In light of the low numbers on the Corwen events & the new Glan Gwna events Graham Hines will be running one set of what would have been Corwen Audax events this year, however the rides will start from the Welsh Festival in Ruthin. Many thanks to Graham for the events.

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – President's Ride & 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** - 39 people had signed up to attend the event, however storm Ashley, colds, and domestic crisis reduced the numbers able to attend to 26. Most riders met up at Walk Mill for a cuppa & chat before making their way (in strong winds & some rain) to Tilston. Many people arrived by car this year. Mark Watson provided a lunch of soup, sandwiches & cakes & there was an 85<sup>th</sup> birthday cake as well. It was planned to present 8 awards; unfortunately, only one recipient, Dave Matthews was able to attend. Gwenda Owen presented him with a well-deserved Silver Going the extra mile Award. Many thanks to Dave Matthews for organisation & to Glennys Hammond for photography & to others who helped with route checking and on the day

### **1<sup>st</sup> January 2025- New Year's Day Meet**

A combination of a forecast of very bad weather, flooded roads, 'flu & heavy colds, family commitments (and possibly hangovers) reduced the numbers attending this year. 15 people reached the Carden Arms, with 12 cycling all or part of the way. The 3 who rode out from Chester had to contend with the most flooded roads, but still arrived in good spirits. The Carden Arms looked after everyone very well & those who attended had a good start to the New Year. Unfortunately, the Chairman was unable to attend due to a heavy cold.

### **3. Club Communications**

- a. **Facebook & work of the Publicity Officer** our Facebook public page currently shows 1000 members. As it is a Public Facebook group anyone (who is on Facebook but not a member of the group) can easily find a public group upon searching and see: the content that members post, the comments on it, the list of group members, the list of admins and moderators. Many thanks to the moderators of the group
- b. **Instagram** have an Instagram page to enhance our social media presence, we do have a few followers at the moment and hope to build this up in time.

<https://www.instagram.com/chesterandnorthwalesctc/>

- c. **Website** The Webmaster is Simon Tiplady who has done background work on the site and made some updates during the year. Some of the group reps have now been given access to the site and are (very slowly) learning how to update information. Several club pages have been updated and the events list has been set up for 2025. Thanks to Simon for his work.

[Chester & North Wales CTC \(ctcchesterandnwales.org.uk\)](http://www.ctcchesterandnwales.org.uk)

(www.ctcchesterandnwales.org.uk)

- d. **Cycling UK group page** Mainly updated by the C&NW CTC secretary. All club events to the end of September 2025 have been registered and set up on the site.

[Chester and North Wales CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru | Cycling UK](http://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/chester-and-north-wales-ctc-caer-gogledd-cymru)

([www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/chester-and-north-wales-ctc-caer-gogledd-cymru](http://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/chester-and-north-wales-ctc-caer-gogledd-cymru))

**Online meetings continue to be held on Jitsi** a free on-line platform.

Thanks to Paul Mills, Simon Tiplady, Chris Smith, Ian Slater and Mark Jones for their work on club communications and to all of the contributors.

#### 4. **Link**

At the 2024 AGM it was voted that the link should be online only due to increasing costs. Mark Jones volunteered as the new editor but unfortunately personal and technical issue have prevented him from producing a copy so far.

It is hoped that there will be copies in the future.

#### 5. **Cycle Advocacy Network Report**

Gwenda Owen is the Cycling UK's Engagement Officer for Wales, and she has a coordinating role for the Advocates in Wales and has organised some online meetings and networking for people interested in cycle campaigning. Some points from the year include;

**Fringe Meeting at the Welsh Labour Party** 16/11/2024 Llandudno attended to lobby for Active Travel Funding in Wales (very wet & windy meeting on the prom)

**20mph Review teams meeting** responses to the changes were discussed. Some councils have indicated which roads are being considered; however, it hasn't been easy to find which roads are under consideration. There seems to be considerable variation between councils on the number of roads being considered and the publication of the information

**The Draft North Wales Regional Transport Plan** published for public consultation – fears have been expressed about the possibility of Active Travel funds in Wales being cut back

John Mather continued as rep on the C&NW CTC committee & has been active carrying out several site visits during the year in addition to commenting on various proposals. Paul Bevan & Lowri Evans have attend several on-line meetings relating to the various Wrexham Gateway proposals. Paul has also been active with regard to other proposed work in Wrexham & Flintshire.

There was good news regarding several things that people had been campaign about for a considerable time:

- NCR5, which runs along the seafront, is finally open at Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay, Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno, Conwy, and all points west
- A-frame barriers have been removed and replaced with more cycle friendly alternatives along the river Dee
- Conwy CBC has started work on the Llandudno junction to Glan Conwy shared use path

The Chester Cycling Campaign has continued to be active. A bid was put in to the police fund for some Hiviz cycling waistcoats, however this was unsuccessful.

Many thanks to all who have been campaigning on behalf of cyclists.

#### 6. **C&NW CTC Committee**

The committee has continued to hold regular online meetings (now via Jitsi).

## 7. Report of the Awards Committee

The committee members have continued to communicate via email (and occasionally face to face or by phone) but not hold formal meetings. They are pleased to report that all of the nominations for awards that were made were accepted. The list of award recipients from March 2024 to March 2025 is at the start of this report – congratulations to the volunteers

## 8. CTC Cymru

The CTC Cymru Welsh Festival of Cycling was held at Ruthin Rugby Club in July with up to 5 nights of camping and 4 days of rides & events. Riders from all of the C&NW CTC groups took part and many volunteered & helped out at the event. There were also riders from other Cycling UK groups around the UK. Weather was good, and the refurbished showers and changing rooms at the Rugby Club were greatly appreciated. The event will be held again in July 2025 at Ruthin Rugby Club and this year will incorporate 2 Audax events for the first time for many years.

## 9. Ride Leader Courses

Several newly registered ride leaders have taken advantage of the free online ride leader courses offered by Cycling UK during the year.

## 10. Safeguarding

Laurie Mason has continued in the safeguarding officer with no issues reported

## 11. Archives

Graham Hill the Club archivist has sent electronic copies of club documents to Chester Archives. Several books of photos and documents from the club archives were on display at the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration where members enjoyed browsing through and discussing their memories

## 12. 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.

	C&NW Events 2025	
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>	<b>C&amp;NW CTC AGM Pulford</b>	<b>Lowri Evans</b>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>Tour of the Berwyns &amp; Panorama Audaxes plus 2 new Audaxes</b>	<b>Brandon Edgeley</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>Bob Clift Memorial Rides 50 mile and 80 mile events from Duddon</b> Entries now open <a href="https://www.entrycentral.com/cheshirecycleway">https://www.entrycentral.com/cheshirecycleway</a> Note new date	<b>Dave Matthews</b> <b>Robert Wardle and</b> <b>David Robertson</b> <b>(80)</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>	<b>Audax events 😊 in the west of the C&amp;NW CTC area.</b> <b>Caethro Caernarfon - Glan Gwna 200 &amp; 125</b> <b>Also 100k on the Sunday.</b> <b>Riders may wish to make a weekend of the events</b>	<b>Graham Hines</b>
<b>Weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Fab Ladies Weekend - Arnside.</b> <b>Bookings now closed</b>	<b>Sue Booth</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>	<i>Chester Green Weekend &amp; Active Travel Festival</i> <i>do we want a stand this year?</i>	

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>	<b>Triennial Vets 100.</b>	<b>Ian Slater</b>
<b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> to Tue 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>	<b>Welsh Festival CTC Cymru Ruthin– rides on Friday, Saturday, Sunday &amp; Monday <i>Entries not yet open</i></b>	<b>Emrys Jones / Lowri Evans</b>
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Corwen July Audax events The Clwydian, Y Dyffryn Clwyd <b>New date</b> Starting from Ruthin Rugby Club</b>	<b><i>Graham Hines</i></b>
<b><i>August Bank Holiday</i></b>	<b><i>Wild Wales entries not yet open</i></b>	<b><i>Merseyside CTC</i></b>
<b>Sat 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>	<b>Momma Audax Events</b>	<b>John Gallagher mentor Brandon Edgeley</b>
<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>	<b>Hill Climb &amp; Freewheel – from Llanbenwch</b>	<b>Lowri Evans</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>	<b>President's Ride &amp; Lunch Neuadd Eleanor, Llanfair D.C.</b>	<b>C&amp;NW CTC President</b>

### Thanks

Thank you to all who contributed to this report.

Heartfelt thanks are due to all of the Club's volunteers including the members of the Committee, event organisers, rides leaders, webmaster, Facebook moderators, campaigners and the many other members who have worked hard and supported rides and events the year.

The Secretary would like to thank all who have helped & supported her in the role during the year; hopefully there is a bright future ahead.