

Chester & North Wales CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru
Secretary's Annual Report April 2026



Introduction

2025-2026 was a busy year with many enjoyable group rides and successful events. There have been club rides on a regular basis; events including a very successful Triennial Vets 100, Audax events, Bob Clift rides, Ladies Weekend, President's Ride & Lunch and group Christmas dinners. Club kit has been updated to include the new cycling UK logo, and new badges designed and produced for riders completing C&NW CTC Audax events. In addition members have been representing cyclists' interests at planning meetings and consultations.

Thanks go as always to all the volunteers, organisers and riders who make all this possible.

Condolences

Sadly, some individuals who had been long standing members passed away during the year.

Arthur Miller had been very active in the Club organising and leading rides, Club Secretary and later archivist were some his posts and roles. He was also an accomplished rider and ride leader who rode with the Ledsham Family section for many years. Club members attended his funeral service.

Jean Ashton who had been a keen rider and had ridden with Chester & N Wales CTC groups passed away. She had been honoured as one of Cycling UK's 100 Women in Cycling for her achievements and contribution to cycling.

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

1. Cycling UK Updates – stop press

On the 13th April Cycling UK sent out an email to notify of updates to documents and policies relating to member groups. Currently officers are working through the updated documents to understand the changes. The Ride Leader Handbook with guidance has been updated & is a useful resource, templates & forms for risk assessments have also revised and all the documentation now has the new Cycling UK logo and style. Following a legal ruling there is also guidance on Women only rides and inclusion. The information is being forwarded to groups and committee members.

2. Informal Group Reports

Ynys Môn (Anglesey)

The group hasn't been holding group rides as many of the previous members are no longer riding.

Chester (including summer evening rides and Chester Fabulous Ladies)

The Chester group & Fab Ladies have continued to ride, with their range of rides at weekends and evening rides in the summer. There was a successful Fab Ladies ride leaders' weekend last summer, and another is planned for the end of April 2026. Sue Booth has recently set up a WhatsApp group to ensure that riders in the area are aware of up coming rides & events.

Watson's Wanderers (Allan Samuel)

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

We have seen our numbers growing over the year; for much of 2025 we have been joined with around twenty, lately 25+, riders for our Tuesday jaunts.

We aim to have groups of six or so riding together and we are now riding with four even five groups.

Our thanks to the ride leaders that support us and to Dave Robertson who as well as leading 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 cafe are available. Our winter routine is to have a single stop for lunch.

We travel to all points of the compass from Christleton from Tatton Park and Market Drayton in the east to Sleaf Airfield, Corwen and Gwaenysgor, near Prestatyn in the west. Changing times and loss of venue availability on Tuesday's means we are always on the lookout for new cafes and pubs with 5 new lunch venues and 2 new elevenses stops added last year.

Wednesday Riders (Paul Mills)

Whilst small informal WhatsApp groups continue, for all intents and purposes this section of C&NW is in cold storage. Restarting official open group rides has occasionally been attempted with a few individuals showing some interest but there have been no further developments in 2026

Wrexham Reivers (Lowri Evans)

The group has continued to ride as many weekends as possible; the frequency of impromptu rides has continued to increase 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, Ken McDonald, Mike Frith, Geoff Pettitt & Lowri Evans have been the main ride leaders, with other assisting especially when riding in their local area. 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 the ride leaders and to the riders who have turned out and kept the rides going.

As the Ponderosa was still closed the group held their Christmas Dinner at the Crown Llandegla. There was a great welcome, and a lovely atmosphere were all could enjoy the event. We are looking forward to many more rides in 2026.

3. Events 2025 & 2026 to date

Sunday 11th May 2025 - Tour of the Berwyns & Panorama Audaxes plus 2 new Audaxes - Brandon Edgeley

2 new events had been added. The Populaire attracted several riders who possibly would not have attempted one of the longer events. There was only a relatively small field for the new gravel ride; however, it was a challenging course and only a certain percentage of Audax riders currently go for the gravel events.

Tour of the Berwyns 208K 20 riders completed

Over the Marshy Berwyn 165k gravel taking in the Wayfarers path 4 riders completed

Panorama Prospect 133K 16 riders completed

Cheshire Lanes Populaire 57K 9 riders completed

Many thanks to Brandon and all the volunteers who made the event possible (including Janet Jones who once again provided very welcome refreshments on the Panorama.)

18th May 2025 - Bob Clift Memorial Rides 50 mile and 80mile events from Duddon Dave Matthews, Robert Wardle and David Robertson

There was good weather and both events were well supported. There were no issues with the 50mile route. The 80mile route had a main road section to avoid very rough surfaces on a quieter route. Since the event there have been some repairs so it is intended to reinstate the quieter option for 2026.

Entries were limited to 50 per distance. The 50mile ride was oversubscribed – 42 riders started & all finished safely (there are 3riders who withdrew prior to the closing date so they have free entries next year). 31 entered the 80mile event with 26 starters (who all completed).

The events will be Sunday 31st May 2026. Dave Matthews to organise the 50mile event again with Rob Wardle organising the 80mile event.

Thanks were noted for the organiser & all the volunteers.

7th & 8th June 2025 - Caeathro Caernarfon - Glan Gwna 200 & 125, Cylchdaith Yr Wyddfa 108K

Graham Hines

The Glan Gwna events were in their 2nd year, both on the Saturday, with the new 'Cylchdaith Yr Wyddfa' on the Sunday. As intended several people decide to ride on both days. The rides started at the Glan Gwna site with refreshments available at the café. The weather was breezy with some heavy showers at times on the Saturday, and windy on the Sunday. The rides were a success with riders enjoying the challenging events.

Glan Gwna 200 – 213K -13 riders completed the event

Glan Gwna 120 – 125K -14 riders completed the event

Cylchdaith yr Wyddfa – 11 riders completed the event with 1 having done the 200 the previous day and 7 the 120.

Many thanks to Graham Hines for organising the events.

This year the events will be 6th & 7th June 2026 with a new 50 k event on the Sunday

Weekend of 7th June - Fab Ladies Weekend – Arnside – Sue Booth

Once again Sue Booth organised a successful Ladies weekend that was enjoyed by all of the participants (even though the weather was unsettled at times). Thanks were expressed to the organiser.

Sunday 6th July 2025 - Triennial Vets 100 – Ian Slater

Ian Slater organised a very successful event; 77 entries were received and 76 started the event, all of whom completed it. There were 6 participants on e-bikes. The weather for the ride was dry, however there was a stiff headwind for the return leg. Participants praised the catering at the controls.

To try to avoid clashes with the road closures for the West Felton Village fete groups were started at 5minute intervals rather than the usual 10 minutes. The change of start times from the original emails sent in the week of the event was discussed. Some individuals missed their groups but were able to change to other groups. Timing of groups is being looked at for 2026 event.

Cycling UK did provide the certificate template with the new logo (although they had to be chased for it). Their original plan for participants to order their own badges from the Cycling UK shop fell through shortly before the events; many thanks to Ian Slater for taking the orders and arranging distribution.

The event is scheduled for Sunday 5th July 2026 and already almost fully subscribed.

Thurs 24th to Tue 29th July 2025 - Welsh Festival CTC Cymru, Ruthin - Emrys Jones / Lowri Evans and Clwydian & Dyffryn Clwyd Audaxes Graham Hines

The Festival was well attended with 94 people signing in (plus another 10-15 who came for the Audax events but not the other parts of the Festival). The weather was generally good with people enjoying the rides over the 4 days and the competitions on the Saturday (treasure hunt, hill climb and freewheel). The meals on the Saturday and Sunday evening were very popular with over 60 people enjoying evening meals together both evenings.

Graham Hines organised the Audax events on the Sunday –

The Clwydian 207k with 2800m climbing - 7 completed the challenging event

Y Dyffryn Clwyd 130k with 2000m climbing – 16 completed the ride

Both events went well with all riders in before 9pm. There are some minor adjustments to make to arrangements for 2026.

Dates for 2026 are 23rd to 28th July with Audax events on the Sunday. Emrys Jones stepped down & new officers were elected at the CTC Cymru AGM with 4 being C&NW CTC members. Many thanks to all who volunteered at the event to make it possible, and those who have volunteered to help next year. Bookings for the festival & Audax events will be open soon.

Sat 6th September 2025 – Momma Audax Events John Gallagher mentor Brandon Edgeley

A very successful day which started with the presentation of the President's trophy to Brandon Edgeley by Dave Matthews. The Momma series of routes are: the 211km Pistyll Packin Momma, the 130km Momma's Mountain Views and the 55km Momma's Leafy Lanes. Over the 3 events there were 40 entries; there were 25 starters. All finished the longer & shorter event, but only one complete Momma's Mountain Views out of a starting field of 4. There were no accidents or incidents. Thanks to John Gallagher & Brandon Edeley for organising the events, also Caroline Wrench, Dave Sale who helped with snacks at the start. The rides are scheduled again for September 2026.

Sat 19th October 2025 President's Ride & Lunch Neuadd Eleanor, Llanfair D.C.

19 people booked for the event, with 12 deciding to ride on the day and some others coming by car. The poor weather forecast resulting in some people who had booked deciding not to come. Caffi Cariad provided an excellent starting venue and Mark Watson did a very good job of the catering. There was discussion about ride leaders – possibly having the option of a lead ride might encourage some riders to attend and ride in unfamiliar areas (as some don't use route sheets or GPS). Thanks to Dave Matthews & Lowri Evans for organising the event.

Saturday 25th October 2025 Hill Climb & Freewheel – from Llanbenwch (postponed from 4th October)

Due to weather warnings for Storm Amy the event was postponed from 4th October; on the day there was strong wind, but the forecast rain held off. As has been the case in recent years there was a small turn out of competitors (6) but a very good turnout of volunteers. Once again Ben Hughes was victorious in the hill climb in 7 minutes 11 seconds, surprisingly Lowri Evans was second several minutes slower and Andy Barber a very close 3rd; the super-vets Geoff Siddell & Mike Gilbert had a close finish a little while later. Mike Gilbert won the freewheeling and Lesley Lee won the ladies category. All were made very welcome at Llanbenwch where there were refreshments available before & after the event (which was important as it is mainly a social event). Thanks go to the volunteers and competitors who make the event possible and who come to enjoy a social event. It is hoped to hold the Hill Climb & Freewheel again this year on Saturday 3rd October; take the opportunity to come and enjoy the day.

1st January 2026- New Year's Day Meet

17 members attended the event with 12 riding over; a few rode as individuals & groups rode from Chester & Gwersyllt (15 stayed for the meal). The meal of soup with bread & chips, and fruit cake to follow meant all were well fed, and there was a chance for riders from different groups to meet up. The weather was windy and there were some significant showers, but all agreed it was a great start to the year with excellent company. Many thanks to the Carden Arms & Dave Matthews who organised the event (Dave Matthews has already booked the venue for 2027)

4. Club Communications

Facebook & work of the Publicity Officer (Paul Mills)

Our Facebook public page currently shows as 1.1K; it is an Open Group where anyone (who is on Facebook but not a member of the group) can easily see the content that members post, the comments on it, the list of group members, the list of admins and moderators. Volunteer admin & moderators have worked hard to keep the site clear of unsuitable material by declining some participants and posts; they have during the year approved additional participants. Content includes ride reports, news about road closures, consolations and events as well as a limited number of adverts from local cafes and cycle related services.

Instagram

Gradually gaining in popularity. The C&NW CTC section currently shows 250 posts and 76 followers
<https://www.instagram.com/chesterandnorthwalesctc/>

Website

The Webmaster is Simon Tiplady who has done background work on the site and made some updates during the year although there are still issues with getting it updated. Sue Booth, Allan Samuel & Lowri Evans have been updating sections relating to Chester Section, Watsons Wanders & Wrexham Reivers. *(In mid-April 2026 the webmaster has updated the site & made technical changes so that it should be easier to update in the future)*

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

(www.ctcchesterandnwales.org.uk)

Cycling UK group page

Mainly updated by the C&NW CTC secretary. Almost all of the 2026 events are now registered and showing on the events calendar 2024 club events.

[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)

The secretary & registration are now using a new system to check ride leader membership. There is currently no system that allows access to details of new members, full ride leader lists & email addresses to be drawn down directly from the website portal – these enquiries need to go via email to National Office.

WhatsApp

Sue Booth has recently set up a WhatsApp Community for the riders and groups in the Chester area. There are general announcements that can be seen by all members of the community as well as several smaller groups so that people can limit the message they get to the ones that are likely to be most relevant to them.

Online meetings

Committee meetings are now held using 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 the contributors.

5. Link

Mark Jones volunteered as the new editor but unfortunately personal and technical issue have prevented him from producing a copy so far. It has been suggested that the online format could be more of a newsletter style than magazine.

6. Cycle Advocates' Report

Gwenda Owen is the Cycling UK's Engagement Officer for Wales, and she has a coordinating role for the Advocates in Wales and in the area covered by C&NW CTC we are fortunate to have several Cycle Advocacy Network (CAN) volunteers; in Wales we have Paul Bevan, Richard Brunstrom and John Mather amongst others. John Mather is the CAN representative on the C&NW CTC Committee.

The UK Government's Road Safety Strategy has been published recently which recognises the need for better (safer) infrastructure and the need to make best use of new and emerging technology and robust enforcement of speed limits etc. It will be interesting to see the promised Scottish and Welsh Road Safety Strategies when they are published.

The UK government's Road Safety Strategy has set some challenging targets:

A 65% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on roads in Great Britain by 2035, using a 2022-2024 baseline: and

A 70% reduction in the number of children (under 16) killed or seriously injured on roads in Great Britain by 2035, again using a 2022-2024 baseline.

The Welsh Government's consultation document "Road Safety in Wales – A New Road Safety Strategy" (Nov 2023–Jan 2024) set out the foundations of the upcoming strategy. It is explicitly built around:

1. Vision Zero — eliminating deaths and serious injuries on Welsh roads;
2. A proactive Safe System approach (safe roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles, safe behaviours, post-crash response); and
3. Strong emphasis on safe speed limits, including the 20mph policy, and infrastructure changes to protect vulnerable users

Wales (John Mather)

- a. The strong winter winds have allowed windblown sand to partially obstruct seaside promenades and shared use paths in exposed locations e.g. on NCR5 at Conwy Morfa and at Colwyn Bay.
- b. Tree roots are becoming a nuisance beneath some of our shared use paths, e.g. on Lon Las Menai between Felinheli and Caernarfon.
- c. The contractors constructing the shared use path between Llandudno Junction and Glan Conwy and those replacing the Sapper's Bridge at Betws-y-Coed are making good progress.
- d. There have been changes to the SNAP reporting scheme by North Wales which can be used to report close passes and other road incidents. Initially it was reported that the scheme had ended which was not the case. Footage from serious incidents is still being processed and appropriate action being taken when and where justified.
- e. We await, with interest, the results of the upcoming Senedd elections and to see if and how this will affect the funding of infrastructure to enable safer cycling. Cycling UK have been and continue to be busy lobbying aspiring members to support cycling in different ways.
- f. A response has been submitted to the new draft Active Travel Guidance (published by Transport for Wales) expressing general support before the closing date (13th February). There are some concerns regarding the inclusion of decision trees (which might be (mis) used to argue that cyclists should be excluded from 'narrow' shared use paths)
- g. Paul Bevan has continued to be active in campaigning in the North eastern area of Wales. Now that funding has been announced it is anticipated that there will be more consultations on the Wrexham Gateway schemes.

England

John Violet covered Cheshire West and Chester for many years and stepped down from the role – the search is continuing for a volunteer to continue with the work. John has attended several meetings to represent Cycling UK and feels strongly that representation is vital at these meetings. A successor is needed urgently to continue the work.

'I have met with opposition Councillors recently with a request for organisations like CUK being able to have an open dialogue with the Council. It will be an absolute shame if we have the opportunity to discuss cycling issues but nobody to represent us!' John Violet

John recently attended the Chester Movement Strategy Engagement Workshop representing the club and the views of cyclists. We are grateful for his continued work.

7. C&NW CTC Committee

The committee has continued to hold regular online meetings (now via Jitsi); due to unforeseen circumstances the meeting planned for early summer was postponed until August.

8. 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. As large number of volunteers were recognised in 2024/2025 as part of the 85th Anniversary Celebrations there were fewer Awards during the last

year. Congratulations to Allan Samuel who was presented with his Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his work on the Committee and with Watson's Wanders.

9. 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 most of the C&NW CTC groups took part and many volunteered & helped out at the event

The CTC Cymru AGM was held in February 2026 and new officers are now in post. The 2026 Festival will be held July 2026 at Ruthin Rugby Club and this year will again incorporate 2 Audax events.

10. Audax badges

It was agreed to have C&N W CTC Audax badges for those completing a club Audax event as mementos for the riders and to publicise the Club. Many thanks to Glennys Hammond for designing the badge in the style of the Club kit. Badges have now arrived and the first recipients will be those completing the Berwyns & Panorama events in May 2026

11. Club kit order

The opportunity to purchase club kit was advertised in the autumn with the £10 discount per item as agreed at last year's AGM. 18 items were ordered so the order qualified for the supplier bulk order discount. The design was updated to include the new Cycling UK logo; unfortunately, there was a manufacturing error and the old format was used. Purchasers were asked if they wanted to accept the kit as it was or have the front panels replaced. All items of kit have arrived & and have either been distributed or will be distributed at the AGM.

12. Emergency Blankets

The Club has purchased more silver emergency blankets – these are available to distribute to ride leaders (and regular backmarkers); stocks from the previous order needed replenishing. Groups have been informed that they are available & some have been distributed. The Secretary is holding the remaining stock.

13. Safeguarding

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

14. Archives

Graham Hill the Club archivist has sent electronic copies of club documents to Chester Archives.

15. Looking forward

The following table shows the C&NW CTC events proposed for next year. Please contact the Secretary or the organiser if you can volunteer to assist at any of the events.

Dates	C&NW CTC Events 2026 (plus a few others)	
Sun 19 th April 2026	C&NW CTC AGM Pulford Memorial Hall	Lowri Evans
Weekend of 25 th April 2026	Fab Ladies weekend	Sue Booth
Sat 9 th May 2026	Tour of the Berwyns & Panorama Prospect	Brandon Edgeley
Sunday 31 st May 2026	Bob Clift Memorial Rides 50mile and 80mile events from Duddon	Dave Matthews 50 Robert Wardle and David Robertson 80
6 th & 7 th June 2026	Audax events in the west of the C&NW CTC area. Caeathro Caernarfon Saturday - Glan Gwna 200 & 120	Graham Hines

	Sunday – Cylchdaith Yr Wyddfa 100K New Menai a Lon Eifion 50 K (62k)	
Sun 5 th July 2026	Bert Bailey Memorial Vets 100.	Ian Slater
Thurs 23 rd to Tue 28 th July 2026 Sunday 26 th July	Welsh Festival CTC Cymru Ruthin– rides on Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday Corwen July Audax events starting from Ruthin Rugby Club: The Clwydian 200k & Y Dyffryn Clwyd 100k	CTC Cymru Committee Graham Hines
<i>August Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Wild Wales</i>	<i>Merseyside CTC</i>
Sat 5 th September 2026	Momma Audax Events Details will be added once listed on Audax UK	John Gallager mentor Brandon Edgely
Saturday 19 th September 2026	Barmouth Boulevard 200K & 120k Brenig Bach & Bala Mini Bash 60k starting from Corwen	Graham Hines
Sat 3 rd October	Hill Climb & Freewheel – from Llanbenwch	Lowri Evans
Sunday 18 th October 2026	President’s Ride & Lunch Start from Walk Mil, ride to Tilston & return	C&NW CTC President

Thanks

Thank you to all who contributed to this report.

Heartfelt thanks are due to all 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.

Special thanks go to some C&NW CTC volunteers who are standing down from their roles:

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.