

link y ddolen

CHESTER & NORTH WALES CTC

CTC CAER A GOGLEDD CYMRU

The Link (Y Ddolen) finally makes its electronic appearance after a long and difficult birth!

My apologies for taking so long to get to grips with a task I thought would be relatively easy, but it seems I underestimated the enormous efforts of our previous editor Janet Jones. I'd tried to come up with a version that replicated the old magazine but the software that Janet used was no longer available and the software I tried wasn't a format I could get to grips with - so I'm trying a simpler version - a newsletter style which doesn't take a great deal of technical knowledge which is great - because I don't have any!

So hopefully I should be able to produce, newsletters fairly regularly once I get content - which is where you come in!

Any items, articles, reports or ride information please send them to

link@ctcchesterandnwales.org.uk

It would also help if you sent a quick email to maj.jones58@yahoo.co.uk to let me know you've sent an article for my attention!

Diolch yn fawr. Many Thanks

Mark Jones

Link Editor.

A brief message from your president

Many thanks to Mark for persevering over the last 2 years to present us with this new format of digitised "The Link".

A comprehensive compilation of reports to record our recent activities.

I look forward to future issues of our "new" linking magazine---well worth while in helping to bring all those in our section closer together by sharing news of our exploits.

David Matthews President Chester & N. Wales CTC



C&NW CTC Events 2026 Reports & Photos

New Years Day Meet January 1st 2026 – organiser Dave Matthews

The year started well with members coming together at the Carden Arms. 17 members attended the event with 12 riding over; a few rode as individuals & groups rode from Chester & Gwersyllt (15 stayed for the meal). In the event soup with bread & chips, and fruit cake to follow meant all were well fed, even though the pub was very busy & the New Year event had only ended in the early hours of the morning! 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 has already booked the venue for 2027)

Fab Ladies weekend Newport, Shropshire April 24th-26th organiser Sue Booth

Images Karen Parker and Lowri Evans



12 riders enjoyed a fine spring weekend of riding in the Newport area. Those who arrived by midday Friday were able to go for a ride in the afternoon & in the evening all of the group met up to go for a meal in Newport. The following day the riders split into groups doing rides of various distances to Market Drayton & Cannock Chase. After another social evening riders either had time for another ride on the Sunday, or made their way home.

Thanks to Sue Booth who organised the weekend and also to Linda Scott for planning and leading a route

Sue was also able to make the most of her weekend by doing a park Run and completing her 'Alphabet' before continuing with a ride to Cannock Chase



Ride Report for Tour of the Berwyns and Panorama Audaxes May 2026

Organiser Brandon Edgeley

(Images from ride – Chris Seater)

I had the pleasure of riding the 130km Panorama prospect on the Tuesday before the event as a route check and had a thoroughly wonderful day. The weather on the day of the event was forecast to have some rain nearly all the day, riders would report only seeing 20 minutes at the very most throughout the whole event, some saw none!

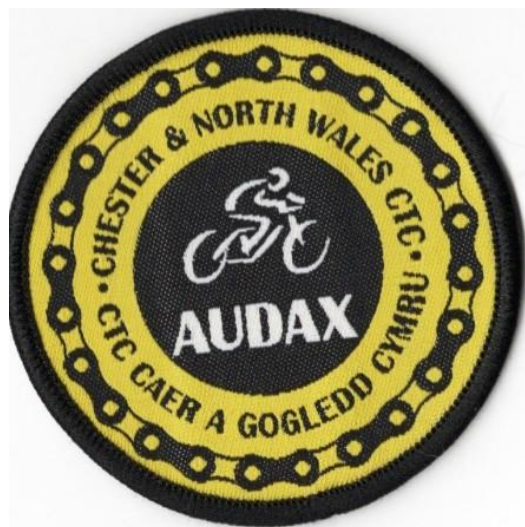
The Tour of the Berwyns 200km is a long established audax classic and many years ago David Matthews created a shorter 130km version that "only" goes as far as Llangollen. It is Audax UK's 50th year so I wrote an article for their member's magazine (Arrivée) in the hope of encouraging some sentimental entries from people who have ridden it before over the past 30 years or encourage those who had never got around to entering it to actually get an entry in. This appears to have helped, assisted by a very conveniently placed Chester & North Wales CTC audax event advert on the same page! The other change was the event this year was scheduled for a Saturday. All of these factors combined to result in about 70 entries, at least 19 of which were CTC members, including three C&NW CTC riders.

C&NW CTC's secretary withdrew prior to the event due to a heavy cold and it was thought that this left Steve Larwood to uphold the club's honour (which he did fantastically as always), however Chris Seater, a regular with the Wrexham Reivers also successfully completed the event as his first 200k ride (although he omitted to list the C&NW CTC on his entry). He now intends to continue riding Audax events. Several others were unable to make it or believed the BBC's pessimistic forecast.



On the day, 37 set off on the Tour of the Berwyns and 17 started the Panorama Prospect. I was helped at the start by three friends who have all ridden the event many times before, two actually helped at the start, then jumped on their bikes and rode the event themselves! The start for the past several years has been Duddon Village Hall, near Tarporley where there are refreshment provided at the start and finish, all included in the entry fee.

The two events set of 30 minutes apart and they all followed the same route to Llangollen Panorama where they were warmly welcomed by C&NW CTC's very own Janet Jones who, as well as offering a brevet card signing service to prove they had been there, also had a supply of water and much more importantly an option of a beautiful lemon drizzle cake or a fabulous bara brith (or both if you wanted!). From here the shorter ride dropped down and made it's way to Chirk and then followed a lovely tour of the lanes back to Duddon. The longer route went to Corwen then all the way over to Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant and down the Glyn Ceiriog Valley to Chirk where it then followed the same route back as the other event.



Upon their return the riders were replenished with a lovely veggie chilli or soup courtesy of Elaine Jewkes who helped me all day at the headquarters, there was also the option for more cake as well. All finishers were also eligible for a new Chester & North Wales CTC Audax badge for their saddlebags which went down well.

During the day two separate mechanical issues scuppered the chances of two riders on the shorter event. On the longer event two riders had not returned to the HQ by the cut off time (10pm) and when I phoned to make sure they were okay they explained they were still about 5 miles from the HQ, that they lived locally, that they were just going to head straight home and that despite the challenges they had had a great day out!

I have scheduled the same events for next year on Saturday 8th May and have already started the registration process with Audax UK as well as starting the booking process for Duddon village hall. Next year I am also hoping to offer a 250-mile overnight event were



riders leave on the evening of Friday 7th May and have 27 hours to get back after travelling from Duddon all the way to Aberdaron and back!



I would like to thank all the riders who rode the event. I would especially like to thank Janet Jones for staffing the Panorama control and providing cake etc for the riders. A big thanks also to Ian Wilson and Anthony Goodrich who ride for Crewe Clarion Wheelers who came and helped at the start and Elaine Jewkes who rides for Chester Road Club who staffed the HQ all day and provided a knock out veggie chilli. Final thanks to the board and committee members who always help get all these things organised and advertised as well as sourcing badges etc. working tirelessly behind the scenes for the benefit of all club members. Another fabulously successful C&NW CTC audax event!

Bob Clift Memorial Rides Cheshire Cycleway Sunday 31st May 2026

Organisers Dave Matthews, Rob Wardle & Dave Robertson

Images Rob Wardle

Created by Bob Clift, the 150 mile Cheshire Cycleway was originally established in 1986. This event celebrates Bob's memory, with two shorter rides better suited to current town and road conditions.

The rides give the opportunity to cycle either 50 miles through West Cheshire or 80 miles through the Eastern side.

The start/finish is at Duddon Village Hall near Tarporley.

Both rides have a common start to Whitegate Station Cafe at 20 miles.

The 50 mile western route then passes Oulton Park to have lunch in Bunbury. Then onward to Cholmondeley, west of Nantwich, and return past historic Beeston Castle.

The 80 mile eastern route visits Davenham and Swettenham before heading to Goostrey for lunch. The return leg is via Astbury, Wheelock Hall farm (optional tea stop), and Alpraham to an optional break at Bunbury; followed by Beeston castle to pick up the same return route as the West ride.



Riders at the start of the 80 mile event



This event is established for small groups of self-led riders; it is not a race or a sportive.

This is the second time we have run the Eastern leg with organiser Rob Wardle of Watson's Wanderers providing major input, with help from Dave Robertson. The route beyond Whitegate was altered to avoid Hartford and the busy Dual Carriageway--- considered to be a considerable improvement by the riders.

Entry was via entrycentral.com as two elements of a festival.

Entries for the 50m were healthy at 46 (50 limit) 47 riders started and all finished safely.

14 riders entered the 80m with 9 starters, all of whom finished safely in the cloudy but mostly fine weather. 4 entrants had entered the 80m by mistake and were transferred to the 50m which explains the apparent anomaly above.

Looking ahead--- we intend to continue the event next year with Rob organising the 80m and Dave Matthews the overall and 50m. Both routes are now established and do not need any further changes.



We have given consideration to dates next year. This year was the end of Bank Holiday week which probably affected entry levels---especially for the 80m. Easter is end of March next year which affects the Oulton Park programme.

Overall a very successful event helped by the pleasant temperature and almost complete absence of rain.

Many thanks to Rob Wardle, Allan & Lynne Samuel, Dave Robertson, Andy Whitgreave and Margaret Matthews for their support of the event in various capacities.

Stop press 2027 date for Bob Clift Memorial Rides will be Sunday 16th May 2027

Glan Gwna Audax events 2026 organiser Graham Hines

Graham Hines arranged a set of 4 events over the weekend of the 6th & 7th June 2026. The rides all started & finished at the Glan Gwna caravan & holiday site in Caeathro near Caernarfon

Saturday - Glan Gwna 200 6 riders completed the challenging Glan Gwna 213K which had 3000m of climbing, with 2 of the riders being C&NW CTC members. Congratulations to all of the riders.

Glan Gwna 125k 1630m of climbing 18 riders completed the event with at least 1 being a C&NW CTC member. The ride was one of the 50:50@50 events where the aim was for 50% of the field to be female; there were 7 female riders completing the event – congratulation to all who succeeded.

Sunday – Cylchdaith Yr Wyddfa 108K 1410m climbing extremely windy conditions reduce the turnout drastically – only 2 riders completed the event

Menai a Lon Eifion 50 K (62k) this was a new event which was also made challenging by the weather. 4 riders completed the; it was also a 50;50@50 event and 75% of those completing were female.

Many thanks to Graham for organising the events

Bert Bailey Memorial Vets 100 – Organiser Ian Slater

(images Paul Mills & Ian Slater)

We had another successful Vets 100 event on Sunday 5th July. This was the 59th Bert Bailey Memorial 100 miler. 69 riders set out on the day. There were 48 male and 21 female participants. Three people were on e-bikes - actually





Ian Slater at the start of the Vet 100

fewer than last year. Ages ranged from a sprightly 51 to an impressive 82!! Mike Barr and Fiona Chynoweth were respectively the oldest male and female completing the distance on 100% human-powered bikes. Alf Houghton was the oldest participant completing the route on an e-bike. Well done to each and every one of you!

All of the groups were started by Dave Matthews, the C&NW CTC President, the photos below are in the order the groups started:





67 completed the ride in unbroken sunshine, which is unusual in my experience (the weather, I mean, not the ability of participants to get around!) Two riders were defeated by bouts of hayfever and/or the heat and

took advantage of the sag wagon for the last 25 miles. I know that some participants were completing a 100-miler for the first time and others were posting new PB's for the distance, thanks to good conditions and (maybe) a bit of friendly competition that seemed to develop between certain groups. I'd just remind folk that it's never intended as a race and the ride leader should be permitted to slow things down, if necessary.



Images: Dave Matthews presenting certificates & trophies to Alf Houghton oldest e-bike rider (left) and Mike Barr oldest male rider (right) and Fiona Chynoweth (below)



There were a few punctures along the way that I am aware of, but nobody had to call on the sag wagon for mechanical failures. That's the third year running that I've escaped having to do roadside fixes or recoveries. Long may it continue and thanks for turning up with your bikes in a good state of repair.

There were the usual compliments about the quality of the catering and the support received from our volunteers, for which I am always grateful.

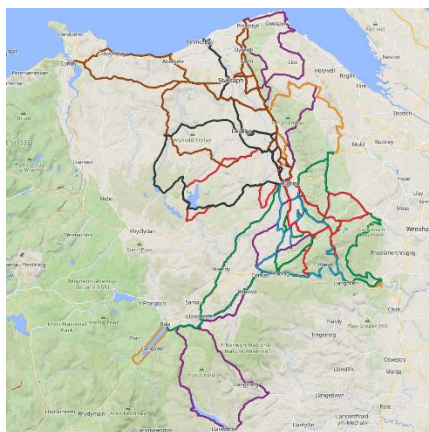
Thanks again for participating and I look forward to, in all likelihood, seeing many of you again on 4th July 2027.



CTC Cymru Welsh Festival of Cycling 2026 Report

Images Gwenda Owen, Anne Lawther, Steve Larwood, Ben Larwood & Jonathan Challis

The CTC Cymru Welsh Festival of Cycling returned to Ruthin Rugby Club again this year. People started arriving and booking in from early afternoon on Thursday 23rd July with



plenty of volunteers on hand to greet them, complete registration, hand out tea, coffee & biscuits, direct to camping pitches and give out information about the routes & event.

Friday saw the first official day of festival rides, with groups heading off for Conwy, Llyn Brenig, Corwen and other destinations. On Saturday many of the riders set off in small groups on their choice of route from the 22 on offer,

however others took part in some of the festival competitions. The Audaxes were held on the Sunday and the final rides were on the Monday.





There was a very good turnout for the treasure hunt with 22 riders out on the course; the route was less than 17 miles, however some had cycled considerably further by the time they had doubled back to look for missed clues. The Sugarplum Tea Rooms in Rhewl provided a great venue for morning coffee (or lunch) and somehow managed cater for everyone during a busy season. By early afternoon entrants were returning to the Rugby Club for their sheets to be marked; marking was very harsh as calibre of the competitors was higher, with several past winners in the field.





There was a special, surprise prize for the Pritchard's family team of Steve, Angela & Ella who had the only junior rider taking part in the event. There were 14 riders in the main team competition (7 pairs) with 1st place going to local riders Clare & Phil Bennett Lloyd with 32¾ (the strict marking was down to quarter points!), Clive & Lesley Durbin were second on 31 points and another local team of Ros Frith & Lesley Lee were 3rd on 28¾.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 st | Clare & Phil Bennett Lloyd |
| 2 nd | Clive & Lesley Durbin |
| 3 rd | Ros Frith & Lesley Lee |
| 4 th | Iris & Eddie Foweather |
| 5 th | Helen & Des James |
| 6 th | Ant Simmons & Peter Dilworth |
| 7 th | Chris & Amanda Seater |



There was a very close competition for the individual prize; Andy Barber had his first win with 30½ points, Ben Larwood was 2nd on 30 points and Steve Larwood 3rd on 29½ points with Mick Loughran 4th and Ian Bulmer 5th.



Those with energy left over headed out for the hill climb event; 9 riders competed with several taking part for the 1st time and a good turnout of C&NW CTC riders.



Ben Larwood was 1st in 9 minutes 53 seconds improving on last years' time, Steve Larwood was 2nd and 1st Vet in 12.02 and Phil Evans was 3rd and 2nd Vet in 10.52. Elwyn Jones was 4th and 1st Super Vet at 13.20, Ella Pritchard was 5th, 1st Junior and 1st Lady 13.46. Chris Seater was 6th, Ant Simmons 7th (2nd Super vet), Amanda Seater was 2nd lady & Fiona Jones was 3rd lady.



1st HC



1st Lady HC & FW



2nd HC



3rd HC





After a brief recovery riders went on to the Freewheeling with the field spread over about 100 metres. 11 competed and Chris Seater was 1st with Steve Pritchard 2nd (1st rider on an e-bike) and Ella Pritchard 3rd and 1st Lady. Riders then rode back to the Rugby Club for calculation of results and the presentation.

Thanks go to Ruthin Rugby Club and particularly Sarah for the fantastic welcome and superb meals. Huge thank you to all of the many volunteers that made the event possible.

Save the date: Thursday 22nd July to Tuesday 27th July 2027



The Clwydian 200k & Y Dyffryn Clwyd 100k Sunday 26th July

Organiser Graham Hines

Images Chris Seater



2 challenging rides were organised during the CTC Cymru Welsh Festival by Graham Hines. In the past the rides have been run from Corwen, however the routes were adapted to start from Ruthin. Riders set off from Ruthin Rugby Club on the Sunday morning with several of them doing their first Audax event. Although the day was mainly dry in Ruthin, many had wet conditions for part of the ride, and some lost GPS navigation in the hillier sections (which was an additional challenge!).



The Clwydian 200k - 8 riders completed the ride including one who was a C&NW CTC member.

Y Dyffryn Clwyd 130K – 9 riders completed the route. The route had been adapted this year due to a road closure in Bettws GG so had

more main road on the return leg than in previous years.

Congratulations to all of the riders. Thanks to Graham Hines & all of the volunteers.

C&NW CTC events for the rest of 2026

Sat 5 th September 2026	Momma Audax Events C&NW CTC Momma Audax Events 2026 Cycling UK	John Gallager mentor Brandon Edgely
Saturday 19 th September 2026	Barmouth Boulevard 200K & 120k Brenig Bach & Bala Mini Bash 60k starting from Corwen C&NW CTC Corwen Audax events September 2026 Cycling UK	Graham Hines
Sat 3rd October	Hill Climb & Freewheel – from Llanbenwch C&NW CTC Hill Climb & Freewheeling Competitions 2026 Cycling UK	Lowri Evans
Sunday 18 th October 2026	President's Ride & Lunch Walk Mill start, Tilston Lunch Chester & N Wales CTC President's Ride 2026 Cycling UK	C&NW CTC President



Ann Taylor Obituary (1938-2026)

President of Chester and North Wales DA of CTC (2000 – 2005)

Images supplied by Katy Taylor

Mum was born before the war in 1938. She grew up in Birmingham, and as little girl used her bike as a mode of transport to get to school, giving her younger sister a lift on the back and dropping her off at primary school on the way, usually remembering to give her a lift back too!

After school, Mum went to Aston tech to do a Chemistry related degree that included time in industry. At Aston she joined the Rucksack Club, a walking club run by “some Colin Taylor fella from London” (aka my Dad!) who introduced her to the joys of mountain climbing, which she loved. What she didn’t realise initially was that he was a mad keen cyclist masquerading as a walker!



Her time in industry included working in Lancaster for 6 months at a plastics factory – her first time living away from home. Dad by this time had gone to Thailand for a year but managed to organise a lightweight bike for her. She thought this was the most amazing thing and went cycling for miles on her own, for hours on end, much to the worry of her land lady! When Dad came back she was a convert to cycling.

Mum & Dad married in 1962 in Birmingham and first lived in Walsall, joining the Walsall section of the Cyclists Touring Club. They loved the Black country humour & Mum started drinking beer! They would cycle from morning to evening, finishing with afternoon tea and then the pub, laughing all the way. Mum and Dad

fitted right in – just as mad as the rest of them – although we’ve been told even the Walsall section were shocked by the party trick of Dad riding his bike with Mum on his shoulders!



In the mid 60s they moved to the Wirral, due to Dad getting a job at Liverpool Polytechnic, and had us kids (myself and my sister). Cycling became a family affair – as



kids we progressed from a sidecar, to a kiddy seat, then a tandem before finally graduating to our own single bikes.

In 1973 Dad saw a British Council job advertised for a Chemistry Lecturer at Chiang Mai university Thailand and persuaded Mum that the whole family should live out there for 2 years (73-75). Of course their cycling adventures continued, including an ill thought-out ride from Chiang

Mai to Chiang Rai, where in the 1970s the road deteriorated into unrideable rutted dirt. They ended up in the back of a tuk-tuk!

Once back in the UK, on the Wirral, cycling became the major focus and together with other cycling families in the area Mum & Dad were founder members of the Ledsham Family Section of the CTC. It started quite casually with “Cycling Tortoise” tops and then over the years morphed into the more serious Two Mills section. In order to recruit new members to the section, Mum started the Tuesday evening rides in the summer, leaving from Hadlow Road station, Willaston. These were a great success and expanded to multiple rides going out. They are still going strong today – known as TEC (Tuesday Evening Cyclists) leaving from the Wirral Rugby Club (Thornton Common Road).

Mum also wrote amusing articles about cycling for various publications. This included a



regular column in the Chester Chronicle, designed to encourage people to take up cycling, including a series of beginner rides you could do yourself with her instructions.

Mum was the secretary of the Ledsham/Two Mills CTC Section for around 10 years, and in 1997 she spoke at the CTC National Dinner in Chester



when she received a CTC Certificate of Merit from Chris Boardman for her contributions to the club. From 2000 she became the president of the Chester and North Wales District Association of the CTC, a role she held for 6 years.

Mum also organised multiple cycle tours with various groups in different parts of Europe, including cycling up many of the famous Tour de France climbs, including the Col du



Galibier, Alpe D'Huez, Mont Ventoux, Col du Tourmalet and Col d'Aubisque. One of the tours went over the Sierra Nevada via the climb of the Pico Veleta, the highest road in Europe at 3394m AND included descending the unsurfaced, rocky 'other side' on touring bikes! And all this included coming back from a leg injury, where a car reversed into her in the carpark of the local Willaston pharmacy, of all places!

Meanwhile both of us kids moved to Australia. Mum was sad for a moment until she realised the opportunity for holidays & further adventures over there. Of course Mum and Dad came over with their bikes and went touring in Tasmania, Snowy Mountains, Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia – made the most. They also came over for the Sydney Olympics which they embraced wholeheartedly, getting to see loads of events, especially cycling.

Everything changed in 2004 when Dad had a bike accident and suffered a brain injury. This was a very hard time but Mum, practical as ever, made a new life for herself pursuing interests through the U3A that were compatible with caring for Dad (walking, country dancing, table tennis etc). Sadly all-day rides were no longer an option so cycling had to take a back seat. Despite this she always had such fond memories of all the cycling adventures and reminisced about them a lot. Her favourite climbs were the Col d'Aubisque and the Col du Galibier and her face would light up describing the spectacular scenery and feeling of elation she got from those climbs. Something that I completely relate to.



Although in 2007 Mum got breast cancer she recovered so quickly that we had almost forgotten she ever had it – she was embracing life & enjoying all of her activities. Roll on to 2023 and sadly the breast cancer returned in her bones. She battled this for 3 years in a very positive way, constantly pushing herself to stay active.

She passed away on the 25th June 2026 at home with her family. It was quick and the suffering was mercifully short, as she would have wanted. I'm sure you agree that her contribution to the cycling community was significant and she has left a big legacy behind.

Katy Taylor (Daughter)

Chester & North Wales CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru (C&NW CTC)

Contacts and Club information page

The Link Y Ddolen is the magazine and newsletter for Chester & North Wales CTC. For many years it was available by subscription as a printed magazine. Times have changed and it is now being produced to be read on line.

C&NW CTC part of Cycling UK

C&NW CTC is part of Cycling UK; it is a Member Group. Cycling UK members in the following postcodes are automatically members of C&NW CTC:



All of the LL and CH postcodes plus WA6 and CW6 (some of these overlap with other member groups) Cycling UK members living outside the allocated post codes can also opt to be members. Cycling UK member can ride with any of the C&NW CTC groups – please let them know in advance if you are intending to ride. Non-members can do up to 3

rides before joining Cycling UK.

Information about joining Cycling UK can be found here [Join Cycling UK today | Cycling UK](#)

Currently there offer to refer a friend which gives a discount to new members & a lock to members making the referral [Refer a friend | Cycling UK](#)

The local groups currently riding are:

Chester CTC - Sunday rides & Wednesday evening rides in the summer – Contact Sue Booth [Sue Booth](#)



Fab Ladies – once a month on Saturday mornings from Chester – Contact Sue Booth
Watson's Wanderers – every Tuesday morning from Christleton Pond near Chester
 Contact Allan Samuel [Allan Samuel](#)
Wrexham Reivers – Saturdays from Gwersyllt – Contact Lowri Evans [Lowri Evans](#)

The C&NW CTC page on the Cycling UK website can be found using this link:
<https://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/chester-and-north-wales-ctc-caer-gogledd-cymru>

The C&NW CTC website address is <https://ctcchesterandnwales.org.uk/>

The C&NW CTC Facebook page is:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/chesterandnwalesctc/?locale=en_GB

Club officials email links:

Chairman	David Matthews
Secretary	Lowri Evans
Treasurer	Paul Kerr
Publicity Officer	Paul Mills
Safeguarding Officer	Laurie Mason

For a full list please see the website page <https://ctcchesterandnwales.org.uk/contacts/>

Club Kit



Club kit is ordered when there appears to be enough interest to generate a bulk order (as this gets discounted prices). Items offered usually include:

- full zip summer long sleeved shirt
- full zip summer short sleeved shirt
- Light weight training jackets
- Gilets
- Winter jackets

All items are made to order.

If you want to buy club kit please contact the club secretary

