



CTC Coventry - [www.coventryctc.org.uk](http://www.coventryctc.org.uk)

## **CTC Coventry**

### **AGM 2020 – Chairman's Review**

This year has been the busiest I can ever remember for the Club, largely because we have been working towards the Centenary of CTC Coventry next year. It also goes without saying that this year has been significantly affected by the covid-19 virus: on the negative side it caused the cancellation of all our plans for tours, in particular Mallorca which would have been very well supported. On the positive side, after a slow start our programme of Sunday and Tuesday rides has bloomed with more riders than we have seen for many years.

On the retirement of George Riches as Secretary at the 2019 AGM Vicky Palethorpe was elected as his replacement. I know she was doubtful about her ability to follow in George's footsteps, but I would like to thank her for effectively and vigorously taking on the job. We have seen an injection of enthusiasm into the Club with the introduction of regular Rides Leaders' meetings and consolidating the Women's Group that she set up last year. We are now seeing our rides being supported by around 30% of women. Vicky has also made useful contacts with the Cycling UK headquarters and with the local and national press: because of this I believe our profile is steadily being raised in the public eye.

The Centenary Sub-committee has been working hard for two years to ensure that next year's Centenary celebrations are a success. A tangible piece of evidence of this is the production of an excellent Commemorative Centenary Booklet which has been funded by the advertisements from local bike shops and cafés: thank you Paul Morton for managing the project and Mike Thomas for negotiating most of the advertising. We have also commissioned the manufacture of enamelled lapel badges and cycling jerseys, which have proved to be popular and are being worn on our rides.

The Coventry Transport Museum is presenting a dynamic Cycling Exhibition from January to June next year. We have been working with them by providing archive material and we will be leading a series of monthly rides from the Transport Museum: thank you Mike Thomas for planning the rides and also to our leaders who will be implementing the plan. One of these rides on 11<sup>th</sup> April will incorporate a longer 50-mile ride to commemorate the inaugural ride of CTC Coventry in 1921.

By coincidence, next year is also the centenary of the opening of Coventry's War Memorial Park and centenary of the annual service at the Meriden Cyclists' War Memorial. The three centenaries will be marked on 16<sup>th</sup> May by a brief ceremony at the War Memorial Park, a cycle ride to Meriden, a service at the Cyclists' Memorial organised by Dave Hearn and a cycle ride to Fillongley for a special barbeque being organised by Mike Thomas. In July, the Friends of the War Memorial Park are holding a commemorative display in the park: Vicky Palethorpe is co-ordinating our contribution to the display.

There is a 100-mile ride planned for the beginning of June using our Tri-vets route to Warmington, Little Wolford and Charlecote and a 100-km challenge ride in September to Long Itchington, Badby and Clifton-upon-Dunsmore. These events are being organised by Dave Hearn and Bob Tinley: we will need a full complement of riding group leaders and catering teams to run the watering holes. It had been intended that these rides would attract a large entry field, including riders from outside of CTC Coventry: hopefully, these events will still go ahead, but the number of entrants may have to be curtailed.

Interspersed with all this activity we have a number of tours planned in a variety of formats to appeal to as wide an audience as we can: in April we have the Mallorca package tour postponed from this year; in May Alan Jelley is organising a long weekend fixed centre tour to the South Downs; in June Mike Thomas is planning a moving on tour from York to Edinburgh and in July Vicky Palethorpe is organising a women's weekend tour in Worcestershire to coincide with the Women's Festival of Cycling.

Since last October we have been making a collection at all our rides for the West Midlands Air Ambulance Service. Paul Whitehead has been liaising with the Air Ambulance and we will be presenting them with a cheque at a Celebration Dinner to be held at Hearsall Golf Course in October. Mike Thomas is the organiser of the dinner, which will be a fitting tribute to the 100-years of the Club's existence and to the dedicated members who have kept the Club running throughout this period.

During this long period of preparation for the centenary year Alan Jelley has been working hard behind the scenes on the promotion of the Club. You will all know that we now have a first-class web site, which embraces all aspects of the club including an impressive archive that is being constantly added to. Not only has Alan been the principle designer and developer of the website, but he has taken a general project management role to ensure that all aspects of the individual projects outlined in this report are delivered at the right time.

In the past there was little financial activity in the Club, but since last year that has changed, starting with the big publicity effort at the HSBC Ring Road event. This year has seen jersey and lapel badge manufacture and sales, Air Ambulance collections and the production of the Commemorative Centenary Booklet. It has all made extra work for Keith Jeacock, our Treasurer, which has not been made any easier by his medical lockdown for a substantial part of the year.

To reiterate, a big thank you to all the people mentioned above and to all the committee, who have always been on hand to keep the Club running smoothly.