

## Leisure Ride Report for 2024

We understand the leisure ride program, has been, for those who have taken part, to everyone's approval and enjoyment, judging by some of the feedback we have received. We (your leisure ride subcommittee and I) like to keep it as varied as possible and even though there are plenty of routes, in this area, it is necessary to use many familiar ways out of and into Chippenham. Should there be a preference to roam more widely, it would be possible to pick more remote starting/finishing locations.

The rides we undertook in the New Forest were a good example, enjoyed by the members who took part. More like this can readily be organised. All we need to know is where you would like to go.

There have been 144 Club rides put on this year which includes the Audax series. If anyone partook in each of the rides, they would have ridden 6471 miles, although it would have been necessary to run the alternative routes on a separate day. This is because when we had a challenge ride, we also arranged an alternative route for those who did not wish, or did not have time to ride the challenge. We will do the same for the coming year.

The Club Calendar is now made up with rides through the Christmas and New Year period. We look forward to seeing lots of Members on these rides.

### Audax Series

Our Club Audax Series was as popular as ever with all the rides well attended. 192 people started at least one of the Audax rides. We had another increase in the number of distance achievement medals earned this year, to 25, which will be presented at the club's annual Awards Night in the New Year. It was great to see some members pushing their distance award up from the previous year to silver and even gold in a few cases. Results can be seen at <https://www.chippenhamwheelers.org/audax-series-2024-final-results-medals/>

Fletcher's Flapjack Open Audax in March went smoothly once again, despite unexpected light snowfall the day before. The event simply wouldn't be possible without the generous help of our amazing volunteers. Next year will see the 25th edition of this much loved event. Charity donations collected at the Flapjack were down but the event made a good profit so the committee agreed to round up the donations to a total contribution of £500 to Doorway charity pot.

Dates for the 2025 Audax series are now in the club calendar and we will again look to introduce some new route variations to keep the series challenging and fun.

I'm please to report, that Sheni will continue with organising the Audax series.

Turning now to 2025, we will plan much of the same, but we also plan to go further afield with one or two ventures to France. A small group of interested Members has been put together to plan the venture. The first ride will depart Chippenham on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June riding to Portsmouth to catch the ferry to Cherbourg at 23:15. This is not the only way to join the rides in France. You may prefer to transport your bicycle to Portsmouth, parking up before getting on the ferry or even taking your car over to France. The venture is open to riders and non-riders. The return will be on, this time the 23:30 departure from Cherbourg, on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. This will give us four (4) whole days to explore the lanes and byways of Brittany. The place we have selected to stay is the Manoir de Savigny, just South of Valognes and there are plenty of routes shown on “Ride with GPS” to satisfy everyone.

The Manoir de Savigny, is 25km from the port of Cherbourg, where we would land.

Should this be a success, then we will put in motion a similar venture in September, around the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend (13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>). A message will go out on the Club chat Facebook page, the “French Cycling Trip” WhatsApp group and the Club Calendar, before the end of the month with all the details, of when, where we intend to stay and what you will need to do to join the venture. Twenty-one (21) members signed up to the WhatsApp page registering their interest, so hopefully if you cannot join the June venture, the September run will be of interest.

So happy and safe cycling in 2025.