

Chester and North Wales CTC CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru Annual Report October 2013

Introduction

Chester & N Wales CTC members have once again had a busy year with members riding as part of their local groups and as well as travelling further afield. This report includes sections on the local groups, events run by Chester & N Wales CTC, the Link magazine, the website, right to ride, membership, and development as well as plans for next year.

Sadly several members have died during the year, four of the long standing members of the club that passed away were:

Pam Cross who was very active with C&NW CTC and the Wednesday Riders as an organiser, route setter and ride leader amongst many other roles. Pat Brown an experienced touring cyclist who rode in both the UK and abroad and completed 33 Vets 100 events as well as being a founder member of the Vale of Clwyd section. Eunice Mawson who assisted with the duties of Treasurer for several years & who was ready with a smile serving refreshments at CTC events as well as having led many CTC Tours. Brian Pendlebury a founder member of the Ledsham section (now the Two Mills Group), was Rights Officer, organised the Vets 100 for several years

So few words are not sufficient to do justice to these members; full obituaries were published on the Link. We offer our condolences to friends and families.

On a brighter note congratulations are due to Dorothy Clift who has been presented with the President's Cup for the work she has done for C&NW CTC over many years. Also to Roy Spilsbury who was speechless to be presented with a Certificate of Merit for his campaigning work over many years. Peter Williams was named as the CTC Volunteer of the Year for the North West area in recognition of his Right to Right work and Lowri Evans was the CTC Volunteer for Wales & also gained the Arthur Moss Trophy as National CTC Volunteer of the Year.

Janet Gregory has taken up her post as CTC National Council from 1st January 2013. She is representing members across the North West together with Welna Bowden who has been re-elected.

If there are omissions in this report it may be because most members prefer riding their bicycles to producing end of year reports (the secretary included!)

Group reports:

Informal Group Reports

Anglesey – Ynys Môn

The Ynys Môn n Anglesey group still consists of 5 members and still rides out the 1st and 3rd Sunday in the month throughout the year provided the weather is acceptable and the riders are not away taking part in parent group or CTC organised rides.

All 5 successfully rode the 2 mills tour from the Eureka café, attended the Birthday Ride at Yrifi d d started the Cheshire Cycleway 50. Four members went to Barmouth camping for 2 nights and going over Barmouth bridge then cycling from Morfa Mawddach to Dolgellau on the old railway line (now a cycle way). Four also rode the vets 100 and the Presidents ride. Two members attended the Gwyl Seiclo Cymru at Rhuthun and the same number rode the Bala Parade and the Bala Bash.

1 member completed the Tour de Mon 75 miles, 135 km audax from Broken Cross, 50km audax from Old Ma's near Tattenhall.

I believe the above is quite an achievement, and although small in number of members we are well represented in the organised events.

Chester Touring and Mountain Bike Club

It started as it does for all the clubs on New Year's Day, with eleven of us meeting at Christleton Pond in the sunshine. Rides continued through the year, visiting Gladstone's Library in February and the nuclear secret bunker in May for elevenses, and many other destinations through the year. Sue booth

even bravely led a ride in early July (the same day as the Vets Hundred and Liverpool-Chester ride) when two of us headed to the Halkyns on a very hot and sunny day.

The Fab Ladies have enjoyed our fifth year, celebrating with a picnic lunch at the Cheshire Cat in June. We also cycled from Holyhead to Chester as our weekend away in April. We have continued with two levels of ride each month, sometimes splitting into three groups. Numbers turning up are now consistently in the twenty plus mark. We continue to use Facebook (over one hundred and twenty members) offering us a method of keeping in touch between rides, sharing photos, publicising events and even organising other impromptu rides when the weather looks good. There are also occasional tweets via twitter which has nearly fifty followers. Some of the ladies are regular riders with the Sunday and Wednesday evening rides.

Wednesday evening rides from May to Aug have also been very successful, also offering two levels of ride (or more if we have the leaders), welcoming new faces and regular Wednesday riders. Again, numbers have been in the twenties which is marvellous for Chester! It was a long summer with many superb sunsets.

Dave "Shorts" McWilliams chaperoned sixteen riders around the one hundred mile Bob Clift memorial Cheshire Cycleway ride. Mostly it was on the rain, although that gave way to a tremendous headwind for the return leg. All arrived safely at the institute in the evening. Many thanks to Hazel and Dorothy for organising it for many years, and good luck to the new co-ordinators (Brian Lowe & Alan Oldfield).

Eryri Cycling Group

The Eryri Group is still surviving, it has been a difficult year even with the much better summer. Members have ridden the 50 mile event in April & two successfully completed the Triennial Vets 100 miles. Members also attended the Cymru Festival of Cycling held at Ruthin in July.

The Group's problem is trying to get support for a regular rides programme, more volunteer leaders are needed. Hopefully with the surge in interest in cycling now things will pick up and we look forward to more activities in 2014.

Mold Informals

Mold Informals continues to survive with a regular membership of 7 riders although the average turn out is three riders.

Over the year we have enjoyed several rides to our favourite destinations – Corwen, Ruthin and Denbigh with lots of climbing included. Favourite coffee stops this year have been the Willows Cafe and the Sugar Plum Tearooms.

Our Annual Adventure Ride involved a train journey from Caernarfon to Rhydd-ddu, then exploring Beddgelert & Lon Eifion. There were six riders and the day was enjoyed by all despite the heavy rain. We have had enquires from two potential riders – neither of whom turned up.

Come back Dave Hill; all is forgiven!

Watson's Wanderers

Watson's Wanderers report 2013. Harry continues to lead out the Wanderers every Tuesday from the Plough at Christleton. Numbers vary from 5 to 25 depending on time of year and weather. Ride length is anything up to 110 miles.

Sad to report that Mike Wilkinson, deputy leader, came off his bike this year which resulted in a broken pelvis. Regrettably, we may not see Mike on a ride again, so thanks for all the rides and friendship over the years Mike.

Harry is 85 years young in two days time after the AGM---we all wish him a very happy birthday and many cycling miles yet to come.

Wednesday Riders

The Annual Christmas lunch was held at our usual venue of Trafford Hall. Needless to say, the event was blighted by the absence of Pam Cross the historical organiser of this event. With Mike Cross' support for the event to proceed, as Pam would have wanted, John Ferguson stepped up to the plate to finalise arrangements and ensure the event's continuity. Some 49 members attended the lunch, and proceeds from the lottery enabled a donation of £90 to be made to St John's Hospice.

Our 30th Birthday was celebrated on March 6th with a lunch at the Grange in Thornton Hough which 60 regular riders past and present attended. Mike Cross was presented with a paper weight in recognition

of his support for the Group and a letter from Gordon Seabright thanking him for his support of cycling activities in general. Ada and George Lewis were presented with chocolates and bubbly in celebration of their golden wedding anniversary. The event was organised by that stalwart contributor to our activities, John Ferguson. A big "chapeau" to John.

A full programme of winter and summer rides has been well supported. Memorable rides include Alan Oldfield's ride to Dyserth which was both interesting and demanding by group standards. Graham and Jane Turner's ride to Sleaf airfield combined with a splendid car assist option from Whittington Castle, led jointly by Ruth Hockney and Julian Tweed was also very memorable and especially well attended. Wednesday Riders have supported and participated in local events including the Merseyside Spring T.T, Bob Clift Memorial Rides, Bert Bailey Vets 100, CTC Birthday Rides, Welsh Festival of Cycling and Brenig Bash and Momma's Leafy Lanes, the latter two of which were both shorter distance audaxes. Having reported declining numbers last year, there has been somewhat of a renaissance with 6 new faces joining the ranks and so far staying the course. May it continue.

And a final thanks to all our volunteers, leaders and the tea makers, whose commitment helps to maintain the momentum of the group.

Wrexham Reivers

The Reivers have continued to meet from 9.00 the Espresso Cafe, Gwersyllt on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month with the rides starting at 9.30. Many of the riders meet at the same venue on the remaining Saturdays and on Tuesdays to ride as the Cafe Hoppers. The number of riders has been increasing, sometimes there are 25 riders and the group has split regularly to allow for the different speeds preferred by the riders. As usual members have ridden in many of the Chester & N Wales CTC events. This year many took an active role helping with the Welsh Festival in Ruthin. There was the usual holiday (training camp?) in the spring and people have completed Audax events (ranging from 50km up to 400km) in all kinds of weather. Congratulations to Peter Dilworth for his win in the Tourist Competition, and to Martin Thompson & Andy Polakowski who also scored high points and were members of the winning team. Thanks are due once again to all of the members of the group who have contributed to a successful year with many memorable rides.

CTC Two Mills (Wirral)

CTC Two Mills is a recognised member group; the postcode areas cover the whole of Wirral including Neston, Ellesmere Port and parts of Chester. There are also individual members outside of those boundaries.

The rides committee came up with a venue for almost every week. The good news is that there are many new faces riding regularly with us. Sadly, some of our most experienced and popular leaders such as Annabel Dickson, Barbara Smith, Bob and Jill Witton have decided to call it a day. Their successors are amongst us but perhaps still a little shy to give it a try!

Our women's group, the Bicycle Belles, have cycled every month except for that snow bound weekend in March. Average monthly attendance has been 18 including 2 newcomers. The Belles are now on Facebook thanks to Sonia Oldershaw.

The Tuesday Evening Cyclists (affiliated to CTC) continue to be a very popular group that we help to support, leading rides every week from early May until the end of August.

The Early Season Tourist Trial is the main riding event that this group organises and our largest source of cash income. Unfortunately, this year it coincided with unseasonal bad weather and had to be cancelled. Janet Gregory and Andy Bloomfield are only just coming out of the refund experience! Our annual picnic ride was held early in September. It went very well under a change of management and venue. Sylvia and Brian Joyce catered admirably for the 40 guests. Other social events have been organised for us by Barbara Smith including a lunch in March at the Cheshire Cat in Christleton, and, an evening meal in April at the Hooton Arms.

Congratulations are due to Peter Williams who was awarded CTC Volunteer of the Year for the North West, presented at the national dinner held in May at Guisborough, North Yorkshire. Two Mills members have joined in: CTC Birthday Rides held at Yarnfield, Staffordshire; Welsh Festival of Cycling, Ruthin; Semaine Federale at Nantes in France; Wild Wales Challenge ride; Bert Bailey Vets 100; Merseyside CTC Tourist Trial; local audax rides from Eureka café at Two Mills Old Mission Gateshead, and Corwen; President's Ride from Prestatyn.

Our group has had a regular input into Chester and North Wales CTC committee meetings, the Link magazine and website. Brian and Sylvia Joyce have established a weekly ebuletin very much in their own style that keeps Two Mills people up to date. We now have pages on the national CTC website. Volunteers from this group have promoted cycling and CTC at a variety of local events including: Wirral Bikeathon, Liverpool Chester bike ride, West Kirby Eco Fest, official opening of Neston to Deeside Greenway.

Thanks are due to the active volunteers who are leaving formal roles especially our Chair, Bob Witton. Hopefully, we can encourage others to come forward to ensure the continued success of the group.

Events 2013

New Year's Day Meets

Thanks are due once again to Arthur Miller who organised the lunch at McCleans Pub in Pentre and Harry Watson who arranged the lunch at the Carden Arms in Tilston. There were over 50 members at the Tilston venue where David Ackerley presented the Tourist Trophies to Peter Dilworth and Lowri Evans who had gained the most points in the Tourist Competition.

1st Aid Evening at Alf Jones Cycles

On Thursday 14th March an audience of 20 slightly apprehensive cyclists gathered in Alf Jones' Cycles coffee shop for a presentation by Steve Evans SRPara, MCPara. Steve Evans is a cyclist and also a paramedic training manager. After realising the lack of first aid skills amongst cyclist he set to work researching cycling injuries and then produced a cycling specific presentation.

The evening passed rapidly with an interesting and entertaining presentation; even those who had been dragged along unwillingly were very glad they had come. One of the comments was 'if I have an accident I hope that the riders with me have been on this course'.

Thanks are due to Steve Evans for the presentation and to Alf Jones Cycles for allowing the free use of their coffee shop as a venue.

The Spring Tourist Trial 24th March 2013

This popular event attracted almost 200 entries but, unfortunately, had to be cancelled at short notice due to heavy snow that weekend. Organisers from the Two Mills group worked extremely hard to ensure that everyone was informed of the cancellation, negotiated with the caterer and hall bookings and arranged refunds for all of the entrants who requested them. The event still returned a healthy surplus for the club. Arrangements have begun for next year. We have identified a new venue at Farndon which has better facilities and allows us to run the course pretty much as it was from that one centre. We are also planning to introduce electronic registration and payment, again to ease the administrative burden given the large numbers who enter.

Eureka Audax Events 6th April

230k Eureka Excursion: took in controls at Ellesmere, Bunbury, Astbury and Wilmslow. All credit to the hardy 18 riders who set off into a chilly morning and a convoluted initial route through Chester as the Saltney Ferry bridge was officially shut for works on the parapet. Only one rider packed out on the road due to a snapped cable---the other 17 returned a little chilled but unflinching in good humour. 6 of the riders are from our C&NW CTC---and especial congratulations to the Treasurer who successfully rode this long route as his inaugural Audax ride.

116k Two Mills Tour: This was the most popular ride with 45 riders following the Excursion out to Bangor on Dee and then returning via Malpas, Bunbury and a stiff climb above Delamere Forest. For various reasons, only 27 starters returned in time to have their ride validated. 10 of the successful riders were from C&NW CTC.

70k Two Mills Twirl: 28 riders set off on this route, following the other two rides to Borrass whence a left turn enabled a fast descent to Hildegard's Cafe in Holt. The weather had warmed up a little by this time and a number of riders partook of Hildegard's excellent fare whilst sat outside in the sun---definitely a first in 2013. All riders returned safely and within the time limits.

Many thanks to volunteers Peter Williams, Graham Turner and Andy Whitgreave and especially to Anne Peek for allowing us to use Eureka cafe as a base and her unflinching cheerfulness and assistance

during a very long day. Thanks also to David Matthews for organising this new series of successful events.

Ladies Weekend 2013 - Holyhead to Chester following Route 5. This was a popular weekend held in April. We made our way to Holyhead on the Friday; finally gathering in the Paddlers Return for tea. Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny, and we all set off together. Morning coffee was in a splendid station café at Llanerchymedd lunch by Bangor Rer; afternoon tea in Abergwyngregan and finally all assembling for evening meal in Conway, at a lovely Italian. Sunday was not quite as sunny, with a threat of rain. After the long coastal stretch we split so some followed the coast road, avoiding the hills, and nine of us made our way to the Druid near Lloc for lunch. Then it rained!

Audax Rides from Corwen June 8th

First thing to say is we were very lucky with the weather. Warm and sunny with light winds was perfect for a great day out.

Barmouth Boulevard 200k; 3500m ascent---small entry for the original, very difficult version climbing to Cross Foxes Inn after Dinas Mawddwy, with one rider from C&NW CTC successfully completing the course in 11h 30min.

10 riders entered the mega difficult Vyrnwy Variant from Dinas Mawddwy taking in the hard side of the Bwlch y Groes after 150k of very hilly route and then the Northern Hirnant from Lake Vyrnwy. Times varied from 9 hours to 13h 15min. All commented that this is a fantastic ride and deserves to be widely known.

Brenig Bach 107k; 2000m ascent over 40 riders rode this Graham Mills classic. The entry included one tandem which successfully navigated the steep and narrow, hilly route. 7 riders from C&NW CTC took part. Everyone had a great day out and I have had much feedback as to the quality and enjoyment of the route.

Bala Parade 60k a super day out for around 25 riders. Great service from the pub at Llanuwchllyn. 7 riders from C&NW CTC took part including two vets whose combined age was well over 140 years.

Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides 23rd June

Even with the new no entries on the line policy there were still plenty of riders; 37 entered & complete the 100 mile ride, 84 of the 85 riders completed the 50 mile event whilst 12 rode 25 mile loop. The weather was rather inclement with strong westerly winds making the last 40 miles of the 100 mile event more of a challenge than usual. The new lunch stop at Bollington Community Centre was a great success & the other traditional caterers did us proud. The Jim Skelding Trophy for the youngest rider to complete the 100 mile event was won by Nosheen Daley (nee Farooq) & presented by Mike Cross. Thanks are due to all the volunteers and particularly to the organisers Dorothy Clift & Hazel MacDougal who are stepping down after organising the rides for many years.

Report of The Tri-Ennial Veterans' 100.

On a gloriously sunny morning 101 riders out of 117 entrants turned up at Duddon War Memorial Village Hall to begin their ride to Overton for 11ses. We had riders from Lancaster, Hull, Wolverhampton, the Potteries and Glasgow as well as our C&NW CTC members. One rider retired at Overton as he concluded that he wasn't fit enough to complete the course.

From Overton, in increasing heat, all made their way to Llandrinio for another high quality lunch for which this event is famous. The catering this year was in the hands of Kelly Brown, the granddaughter of our previous caterer, Mrs Olive Evans who retired at the end of last year at the young age of 78. Mrs Evans was presented with a framed certificate and a pot plant by our President, Mike Cross. All good things come to an end, and eventually all got back to Duddon for the presentation of certificates. Harry "The Bike" Watson, as the oldest rider to complete the ride, again won the Gil Tirrell Trophy. There were two punctures that I heard of, but thankfully no serious injuries or accidents. Many riders commented to me on the high quality of the food.

Finally let me pay tribute to the volunteers, 17 in all, without whose sterling efforts the ride would not have taken place. They have all been thanked; it's a sobering thought, but without volunteers we would have no club worth mentioning, and certainly no rides like this, so if you are asked to help in future, give it a go.

The 2014 Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans' 100 will be held on Sunday 13th July over the same course.

President's Ride & Lunch

This event took place in Wales on 29th September this year, starting and finishing at the Nova Centre, Prestatyn. There were two rides, one slightly longer and hillier than the other - both very enjoyable. At the wonderful buffet lunch served at the award-winning Neuadd Owen Hall, Cefn Meiriadog, C&NW President Mike Cross awarded the President's Trophy to Dorothy Clift in recognition of her work for the club, particularly for planning and organising the Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides over many years (assisted by Hazel McDougall). Unfortunately, Dorothy was not able to attend the lunch but received the trophy from Mike later in the week at her home. In addition, Roy Spilsbury was surprised and delighted to be presented with the CTC Certificate of Merit for his achievements in support of cycling in North Wales - far too many to list here.

Momma Audax Rides from Old Ma's, Tattenhall

The total entry for all 3 rides this year was over 100, but a dire weather forecast for gale force winds and severe rainstorms caused half the entrants to scratch---a shame as the weather was not quite as bad as forecast. The wind did live up to expectations and rain was experienced in the Welsh hills, so well done those riders who persevered through the difficult conditions.

Pistyll Packing Momma 209k; 3400m ascent. Route went to Chirk and on to Pistyll Rhaeadr waterfall, Lake Vyrnwy, Bala, the Shelf and Llanfynydd before a stiff return over Hope Mountain. The climbs after Chirk are steep and concentrated, so this ride gave a very tough day out!

Momma's Mountain Views 137k; 2000m ascent. Shared a start and finish with Pistyll Packing Momma but climbed over the big ridge behind Chirk Castle before descending steeply through Vivod to Llangollen. The route then went to the Panorama prior to traversing left to the 1 in 4 ascent of the Old Horseshoe Pass, which in turn leads to a breathless arrival at the Ponderosa cafe. The ride continued to Llanarmon yn Ial where the ride joins the 200k route above the Shelf.

Momma's Leafy Lanes 50k was a flat route designed as an easy introduction to audax riding. Many thanks to Dave Matthews who organised the group of Audax events.

Llysfasi Hill Climb and Freewheel Competitions 5th October 2013

Hill Climb Competition

There were 13 competitors this year. The overall winner and 1st Vet was Steve Larwood with a time of 7.28. Ian Mason was 2nd 8.1 and Graham Arnold was 3rd in 8.34. Dave Statham in 7th place was the 1st SuperVet and Lowri Evans was 1st Lady.

Freewheel Competition

There were 15 competitors in a very closely fought competition. Peter Dilworth retained his title closely followed by Dave Statham and Roy Bunnell. Diana Clarke had a convincing win to gain the Ladies title.

The prizes were presented by Mike Cross the Chester & N Wales President, and many people stayed for a meal at the Three Pigeons. Thanks are due to all competitors, and to everyone who helped with the organisation and running of the event.

Corwen Audax series 19th October 2013

These events started from the Manor Craft Centre in Corwen which opened at 7.30 am especially for these events. The day was dry to begin with light winds but would eventually give way to torrential downpours. Thankfully it was fairly mild.

Bala Mini Bash 60k The Bala Mini Bash attracted 32 riders twelve of whom were Chester and N Wales members. They all left at 9 and arrived back in good spirits well before 2pm. There were several couples on this event and also one family which included the youngest rider on the event an eleven year old.

Clwyd Gate 138k There were 27 starters including one recumbent trike for this event which includes the iconic climb of the Horseshoe Pass. Three Chester and N Wales members participated. The times ranged from 7 hours 15 mins to 10 hours 50 mins and some riders were very wet when they got back.

Clwydian 200k The Clwydian once again attracted an elite field of experienced audaxers with only

one non audax member in the starting line up of 13 which included two Chester and North Wales CTC members. The first rider to finish arrived back in Corwen at 6pm and the last arrived at 9.15pm. Thanks to Vicky Payne and her family for all of the hard work involved in running the event.

Club Communications

Website

John and Glennys Hammond have once again edited and managed the C&NW website. John is the webmaster who deals with the technical side of the site and Glennys edits and sorts the content. The website has been regularly updated with club events, reports, photos and news items. Visitors to the website have increased over the year. There were 49,197 page views for year ending 30/9/13, a 9.26% increase on the previous year; 2% of these were new visitors to the website. The most visited pages were News, Events, and Two Mills pages although visits to most pages have increased. There was a surge in visits on 22nd March 2013. This surge was probably caused by the cancellation of the 'Spring 50 Early Reliability Ride' due to severe weather conditions. There is a big increase in the use of the Android browser, followed by the Safari App (iPhone), and a decrease in the use of Internet Explorer. There is clearly a movement away from home computers to mobile devices. Further comparisons of website statistics, which are extensive and complex, can be supplied if they are of particular interest.

Thanks are due to Glennys and John for their hard work in ensuring that members can gain so much information about rides and events.

Link Editor's Report by David Ackerley

The year ending 30th September 2013

1). For many years the list of subscribers and their details have been kept on an ancient computer programme designed for Windows 95. It enabled the Editor to print address labels and keep track of the subscription status of readers very easily. It had some shortcomings, not least of which was the fact that it covered a calendar year, not the Club's year of October to September. This meant that the figures relating to TL's finances produced by me very rarely, if ever, agreed with those produced by our Treasurer. Additionally, the programme could not cope with the advent of some subscribers opting for the E version of TL as there is no possibility of storing such information on it. As a result earlier this year I made up a database of my own which included all the info about subscribers in one place. In August '13 my computer finally gave up the ghost and the operating system, Windows 7, on my new one proved to be too advanced for the ancient subscriber programme I inherited. This seemed to be a suitable time to adopt a more convenient database and to arrange for TL's year to coincide with the Club's; accordingly Colin and I agreed that from 1st October 2013 both TL's and the Club's financial years would be the same.

This decision is not without a minor problem. Subscribers have paid for TL until the end of this calendar year, but the December issue, already paid for, and normally the last one in TL's financial year, will now be the first one of the new financial year. Consequently when I send out the renewal notices I shall ask for £7.50 for **the remaining 3/4 of the TL's year, 2013-14**. Renewals for 2014-15 will revert to £10. This will be explained to all subscribers in the renewal form and will also appear in the Christmas issue of TL.

2). As most people know, I shall cease to be the Editor at the end of this year. If a new Editor is appointed before the Christmas issue is posted to subscribers, it will contain his/her contact details, thus enabling subscription forms and fees to be sent to him/her. This is the straightforward scenario.

On the other hand if a new Editor has not been appointed by the time the Christmas issue is sent out subscribers can continue to send their forms and fees to me and I will pass the forms and cheques on when a new Editor is appointed. However, unpalatable though it is, the possibility exists that we may not find a new Editor and therefore the magazine will cease to be published. If this is the case the subs will need to be returned to their owners. To avoid the Treasurer having to write out a large number of cheques for £7.50, he suggests that the **cheques are not cashed** until a new Editor is appointed. If after a suitable time has elapsed without a new Editor being in place, it is decided by the Committee that the cheques should be returned, I will undertake to post them back to the subscribers. Cheques will have to be made out by the Treasurer to those subscribers who pay by either SO, Bank Transfer or cash (Currently 17).

- 3). There are currently 142 paying subscribers and five organisations which get a complimentary copy. Of the paying subscribers 23 have elected to receive their copy by email.
- 4). Thanks to a donation of £1000 from the estate of the late Bob Clough, the finances are satisfactory at the moment and should remain so for 2 years or so, though this depends on how factors such as subscriber numbers, printing costs and postage alter.
- 5). I should like to thank all subscribers and contributors for their support during my period as Editor, and I am sure they will support my successor in the same way.

Development

Sue Booth has continued to act as development officer. After several years in the post Sue Booth has decided to step down from the role. Our thanks go to her for the work Sue has done over the last few years.

Right to Ride

a). Peter Williams Reports:

Two words can describe my/our past year. Joy and Frustration.

Joy: at the success of the Burton Marsh Cycling and Walking route 568, and its link routes to Deeside and Neston. There are hundreds of cyclists and walkers using the route each week. This now supports a new cafe along the route. More and more people are now cycling to work. My frustration is a few cyclists are being abusive to residents who live on Quayside, Little Neston on the link route.

Joy: at being awarded Right to Ride Volunteer for the North West at this year's CTC AGM at Gisborough.

Joy: at attending several outdoor events promoting cycling in our area for Sustrans and the Chester & North Wales CTC.

The weather was good at all the events and the Sustran's Smoothie Bike was enjoyed by young and old. Thank you to all those volunteers who helped out on these days. Janet Gregory organised quite a few of them. Bookings for next year's events are already coming in.

Frustration: that CWaC was not successful in their bid for funding from the Times Safety Campaign to make cycling safer on the A 540. CWaC's plans for shared use paths did not come up to the standards laid down. I am still campaigning to make improvements here, with a meeting set up for this week with CWaC's Highway officials and local councillors.

I continue to attend the monthly Chester Cycling Campaign meeting and Wirral Borough Council Cycle Forum 4 times a year. I am also going to the Leeds Annual Cycle Campaign Conference on the 5th October.

Joy: that the Curzon Park Footbridge in Chester was going to reopen last year. Frustration: when the embankment on the Curzon side of the river Dee slipped and we could not use the refurbished bridge. Fingers crossed the embankment will be strengthened soon and the bridge re opened.

Conflict on our shared use paths on our local Greenways, Canal towpaths and the Wirral Way gives me concern. I know there are problems with a minority of all users, but at a recent highway planning meeting in Wirral proposals for a shared off road footpath had a lot of opposition from local councillors and residents because of this conflict.

Future: Funding is the key to making progress on making cycling safer. More money is being made available through LSTF and the likes of the Times Campaign. 106 money: this is money put aside by a Developer having gained planning permission to promote or improve facilities in the local area.

Therefore it is important to make comments at the planning stage to any major planning applications.

b). Roy Spilsbury has also been very active as a Right to Ride Office in Wales. After many years of campaigning cycling is now allowed on Llandudno Promenade after a successful trial period. Even after this notable success Roy Spilsbury is not resting on his laurels but is continuing to campaign for safer cycling on many routes in N Wales.

CTC councillors

Welna Bowden and Janet Gregory represent the North West. Welna is a member of Operations, a subcommittee of CTC Council and Janet sits on the other one, Policy and Strategy. We have both attended those meetings regularly, each of which meet quarterly, and reported back to your local

committee. We are making every effort to attend the AGM's of the other member groups within our region – 12 currently registered. The big issues for national CTC business include brand refresh, marketing and membership strategies, launch of Road Justice campaign and a strong effort to shape the government's response to *Get Britain Cycling* report.

Chester & N Wales Committee

The committee has met five times since last year's AGM. Committee members have been organising events, publicising the group, working with other organisations and campaigning. Janet Gregory, Brian Lowe and Lowri Evans have attended and sent comments to the steering group meetings in London as member representatives discussing issues such as ride leader guidance, annual return documents and the member groups.

Report of the Awards Committee-2012-13.

The committee met five times with the following results:

- 1). Lowri Evans was awarded the trophy for the Volunteer of the Year for Wales as well National Volunteer of the Year, and Peter Williams won that for the North -West Volunteer of the Year.
- 2). The committee supported Mike Cross' decision to award the President's Trophy to Dorothy Clift.
- 3) In 2014 the Club will celebrate its 75th Anniversary, and it was agreed to consider the possibility of a special awards/s to deserving members or organisations who do not qualify for a Certificate of Merit/Commendation.

Our long-tem Archivist, Ken Brown, has retired from this post. Sincere thanks are due to him for his work in taking care of our records over many years. (In this respect, our posthumous thanks are due to Ken's late wife Pat who supported him in this task.)

As a result of a discussion by members of the Awards Committee regarding the safeguarding of our archives, it was felt that they would be better stored by professional archivists in the optimum conditions offered by the Cheshire Records Office. (They would be available there for all our members, as well as the general public, to consult.) It would also be another way of marking our 75th Anniversary in a fitting manner.

This proposal was agreed by the Committee and the archives are currently being prepared by Arthur Miller ready for them to be put into the care of the Record Office in Chester.

- 4).In recognition of her long service in catering for the Club's Veterans' 100 rides, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mrs Olive Evans by the President at lunch during the Tri-Veterans' 100.

CTC Cymru

The Welsh Festival was held in Ruthin for the second time and was well supported by our members; over 100 riders took part in the event. The Festival was very successful and had several days of fine weather. The event included a choice of lead rides every day; 2 off road rides, and a series of competitions (hill climb, freewheel, map reading & treasure hunt).

Thanks are due to everyone who helped with the event especially the many volunteer rides leaders and back markers. Next year's Welsh Festival is likely to be in Mid or South Wales at the end of July.

As Peter Brake, the current CTC Councillor for Wales is standing down there has been an election for the next CTC Councillor; congratulations to Gwenda Owen who was elected. Currently a study is being undertaken to look at the future direction & development of CTC Cymru.

Tourist Competition

Chester & N Wales won the Team Tourist Competition in 2012. The team members were Peter Dilworth, Andy Polakowski, Martin Thompson and Lowri Evans. The team went down to collect the award at the CTC National Dinner. For the first time ever a C&NW CTC rider won the overall individual title; Peter Dilworth was first overall and also first veteran. Lowri Evans was 1st in the Lady's category as well as 1st Lady veteran. Congratulations to the C&NW CTC riders once again.

Due to changes in the competition for 2013 there have been no results up dates during the year- but it is likely that the team will score well this year as there are several riders who expect to have a score in the 90's or higher. Peter Dilworth hopes to score the maximum of 112, Andy Polakowski should have 105, and Lowri Evans over 100 points. The fourth member of the team is likely to be Dave Statham, Ifor Jones or Darryl Porrino.

Looking Forward

2014 is the 75th anniversary of C&NW CTC so there are additional events planned. There is also:

- A photography competition
- A 75th logo competition
- Possibly a cook book with photos from the last 75 years

The calendar is already being prepared for next year; the proposed events are shown below:

1 st January	New Year's Day McLean's Pub	Arthur Miller
1 st January	New Year's Day Carden Arms	Harry Watson
TBC	1 st Aid Evening	Lowri Evans
13 th April	Spring 50 Tourist Trial	Janet Gregory
26 th April	Eureka Audax Events	David Matthews
	Ladies Weekend	Sue Booth
8 th June	75 year celebrations; Bickerton Rides 25, 50 & 75 miles & Tea	David Ackerley
22 nd June	Bob Clift Memorial Cycleways	Brian Lowe & Alan Oldfield
13 th July	Bert Bailey Memorial Veteran's 100	David Ackerley
19 th July	Audax Events; Barmouth Boulevard, Brenig Bach, & Bala Parade	David Matthews
24 th -29 th July	CTC Cymru Welsh Festival	CTC Cymru
9 th -10 th August	Control for 600k Audax at Christleton Scout Hut	David Matthews
21 st September	Momma Audax Rides	David Matthews
28 th September	Presidents Ride & Lunch	C&NW CTC President
4 th October	Llysfasi Hill Climb & Freewheel	Lowri Evans
18 th October	Corwen Audax Events (Clwydian, Clwyd Gate, Bala Mini Bash)	Vicky Payne
2 nd November	C&NW CTC AGM	Sec C&NW CTC

As the Welsh Festival is likely to be in Mid or South Wales, there will probably be a CTC Cymru Map Reading & Treasure Hunt Competition in the C&NW CTC area in spring 2014.

Thanks

Thanks are due to all of the members who have supported events either by taking part, volunteering to help or by running the events. This is also true of all of the volunteers within the groups and on the Committee who work hard to ensure the continued running of the Club. I would like to give particular thanks to those who have helped me as secretary throughout the year.