

Chester & North Wales CTC
CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru
Secretary's Annual Report October 2016

Introduction

Although this is called the 'Secretary's Report' it is drawn together from documents submitted by volunteers spread over a large geographical area. The report includes updates from the informal groups, events run by C&NW CTC, the Link magazine, the website, Right to Ride, the work of the Committee and the plans for next year.

Sadly during the year several members passed away:

Trevor Hargreaves died in September. He had been a CTC member since 1948 and was active in the old DA being the club treasure in the 1970's and later a member of the 'Friends of the DA'.

He is fondly remembered by club members as "a thorough gentleman".

We offer condolences to his friends and family and to the friends and family of other members who passed away during the year; they will be sadly missed.

On a happier note we give congratulations to Mike Cross who was Highly Commended at the National Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2015-16 for the huge amount of work he does for the Club and for cyclists.

Informal Group Reports

Ynys Môn (Anglesey)

The Ynys Môn group still exists and goes out from Llanfairpwll on the first Sunday and third Sunday in the month starting from the Post Office at 10 am. Our rides mainly occur on Anglesey and can be from about thirty miles to about fifty miles in length. Usually we go to Gaerwen and have coffee in the Stermat cafe while deciding where to go. If the weather is excellent we may cross the Britannia Bridge to Gwynedd and the usual route is along Lôn Eifi on

We have participated in the Cheshire runs during the summer. One person took part in the Treasure Hunt from Trefnant, with 1 person riding the Vets 100. One member attended the Welsh Rally at Llanymddyfri. Three members went to the York Rally in June. Six members went to the Birthday Rides and the President's Ride. Three members attempted the 1st Corwen to Llanuwchllyn run, with six members completing the October Audax from Corwen to Llanuwchllyn.

Chester CTC (Sue Booth)

2106 started with the usual New Year's day meet but after this the weather deteriorated for our first Sunday ride up the Wirral. The sun has since come out I am pleased to say and we have had our usual variety of history, explorations, fancy dress and adventures, meeting a variety of wildlife and other animals on our travels. We have included car assist which has opened up the gateways to West Wales and Shropshire.

Sunday's attendance varies from two to fifteen, regardless of the weather; and Wednesday evenings have a similar unpredictable turn up. We have continued with monthly social meet ups for Wednesday evenings through the Winter, which keeps us ticking over. However, we still struggle to have much of a presence at C&NW events.

2016 marked the 85th anniversary of Chester CTC, in one form or another, and I plan to locate photos from the very early days to put on the blog soon.

Chester Fabulous Ladies (part of Chester CTC) (Sue Booth)

Chester Fab Ladies, now in our eighth year, have visited over 50 different cafes in our 10-15 mile radius of Chester, we are truly blessed! We had our Ladies weekend to Leominster, amongst cider farms and apple blossom, a most wonderful sight. In July we again hosted two #Womens100; an international event promoted by Rapha cycle clothing. They had moved the date, so we held two on consecutive Sunday's; and for a little variety we wore red white and blue in June to help celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

The power of social media came into play as I had a tweet in May inviting me to be 'lead bike' for the Chester 'Race for Life' held at the Racecourse. It was an early start, but a jolly event, and I was able to make it to the Town Hall in time for our Sunday ride too!

CTC Eryri Thursday Cycling Group (Doreen Lindsey)

The group has had a good year despite the fact that this year it always seems to be raining on a Thursday. The rides have been going up to 30 miles now instead of 25 miles as originally intended. On average we have between 8 & 12 riders out on the rides with usually a majority of women, most members are retired

We have a published programme of rides for alternate Thursdays some, of our ladies are also organising a 'more challenging' ride once a month, they love the hills! Our Saturday Group meets on the first & third Saturday of the month to have an easy ride out to different venues for coffee & back

We have had two camping trips this year one on the Llyn Peninsula & a very successful one recently on Anglesey. Members have ridden the Cycling UK Tri vets 100, the Bob Clift 50, The Presidents ride & other events.

Mold Informals (Tony Wilkins)

The group have had approximately 30 rides during the year . We continue without a formal rides list and destinations and routes are decided by one of our regular leaders who will provide basic route details a day or two before the ride takes place. Whilst we normally ride on the first and third Sundays of the month, opportunities have been taken to offer additional rides on an ad hoc basis.

Watson's Wanderers (David Matthews)

This has been a year of change for the Wanderers as our "President for Life" Harry Watson is no longer leading the rides.--although he still rides to meet us at the cafe stops. Harry is 88 years young on Nov 5th this year and has slowed down to such an extent that he is now only on his bike 5 days per week (aiming for a mere 5000 miles this year) whilst pushing wife Celia in a wheelchair the other 2 days (annual mileage 400 miles).

Dave Robertson is now leading most of the rides, with other Wanderers filling the breach when he is away. We have several new riders joining us which has had a refreshing effect on the group.

We continue to meet on Tuesday mornings at Christleton and ride approximately 20 miles to coffee and a further 30 miles for those taking in the lunch stop. The pace of rides has significantly increased this year, though there is always a slower option ride for those inclined. Numbers tend to be between 5 and 15 riders, the latter being our preferred maximum.

The list of ride leaders has recently been submitted to Head Office via Lowri Evans to accommodate the above changes.

Watson's Wanderers are in rude good health and we look forward to another successful year in 2017.

Wednesday Riders (Brian Lowe)

The number of listed regular riders is currently 51 with 43 of them, I would say as being regularly to reasonably active. Although these figures are slightly down on last year I would describe these numbers as healthy for an Informal Group. We have had quite a few riders who have rode with us a few times but have not stayed the course but I am not so sure whether it is that we are too fast or too slow.

Rides generally have been well attended with participants exceeding 20 in number on occasions. Leaders were frequently presented with the problem of having to manage such numbers, well in excess of Cycling UK's recommended numbers for a group ride.

We have lost a few experienced leaders for various reasons but a number of regular riders who have attended the Leaders Workshops have volunteered to be registered as leaders for next year.

Although many pubs are obviously under pressure from a business point of view we have generally been able to ride to the venues scheduled on the rides list with the exception of a few who temporarily or perhaps permanently seem to have ceased trading or offering suitable fayre. Amongst the failed venues were the Peal o' Bells in Holt and the Calverly Arms in Handley.

Of the longer and demanding rides Alan's annual ride to Dyserth went down well again and drew water to most riders' eyes. Colin's ride to Carrog was enjoyed by those who were brave to turn out in spite of less than ideal weather. The rides committee will consider the suitability of Sleaf Airfield as a future venue as John F, one of our most experienced leaders deemed the B5476 the only road in and out, as being unsafe for group riding. In retrospect his replacement ride to Whitchurch was a very adequate substitute.

There was a proposal at our recent annual meeting to categorise the types of ride more accurately so that riders know in advance just how demanding the ride is likely to be as is the practice with many other groups. The Rides committee will consider the proposed ride redefinitions. In addition there was a proposal that we should have more car assisted rides, enabling new pastures to be explored, and that some less demanding rides suitable for beginners would be welcomed by some.

Wrexham Reivers

The rides are well attended (up to 35 riders) and having two rides led rides usually to different venues has worked well on the whole. The group continues start from the Espresso Cafe, Gwersyllt which give a sociable meeting point and has rides ranging from a few miles to 100. As usual members have ridden in many of the Chester & N Wales CTC events, attended the CTC Welsh Festival in Llandoverly and completed Audax events in all kinds of weather. There have also been trips to Spain, for holidays or training camps depending on the style of cycling. Congratulations to Paul Mills for his 1st place in the Tourist Competition in 2015, Terry Davies for coming 2nd, and to Dave Statham who was once again a member of the winning team. Thanks are due once to all of the members of the group who have contributed to a successful year with many memorable rides.

Member Group Report from Two Mills CTC (*summarised from the Two Mills CTC Secretary's Report to their AGM Janet Gregory*)

The committee met formally on 3 occasions during the year. Brian Joyce has attended Chester and North Wales CTC committee meetings. Two Mills again gave £200 towards our presence on Chester and North Wales website. David Collinson has kindly written reports to help promote our Sunday cycle rides which Glennys Hammond has uploaded.

The rides committee drafted the weekly rides programme; new members brought different ideas including John Ferguson with a treasure hunt.

Our women's group, the Wirral Bicycle Belles, meet every month on Saturday morning at Port Sunlight for short, introductory rides. We do our best to encourage newcomers to join Cycling UK and signpost them to activities organised by the wider group – with some successes.

The Early Season Tourist Trial took place on Sunday 20th March starting/finish at Farndon Sports and Social Club. The weather was perfect for 213 riders who all completed either the 50 mile or 50km course. There was a good mix of ages including several under 18's and plenty of women, some of whom were newcomers and brave enough to ride solo.

There was a cycle tour of Hadrian's Cycleway – 184 miles over four days west coast to east using Sustrans NCN 72. Two Mills members have taken part in: Cheshire Cycleway Rides; CTC Birthday Rides held at Framlingham in Suffolk; la Semaine Federale Internationale de cyclotourisme held at Dijon; Wild Wales Challenge ride; Bert Bailey Vets 100; local audax rides from Eureka café at Two Mills Old Mason Gateshead and Corwen Presidents ride from Wink Mill, Waverton to lunch at Tilston Memorial Hall; Hill Climb and Freewheel competition.

Janet Gregory attended Cycling UK second annual Get Together and volunteers awards held 8th October in central Manchester.

Volunteers from this group have helped promote cycling and Cycling UK at a variety of local events. Peter Williams attends meetings of Chester Cycle Campaign and the Active Travel Forum hosted by Wirral Council.

Our group's financial situation remains healthy.

Events 2016

New Year's Day Meets

About 50 people turned up at the White Horse in Churton for the traditional New Year's Day meet. There was a warm welcome & once the issues had been sorted with the vegetarian option everyone enjoyed their meal. Mike Cross presented the C&NW CTC Tourist Competition Trophies for 2015; the Gentleman's trophy went to Paul Mills for the 1st time, the Lady's Trophy Lowri Evans. Mike Cross also presented Harry Watson with a special certificate in recognition of his many years as a ride leader for Watson's Wanderers. Thanks are due to Dave Matthews for arranging an excellent social start to the year.

23rd April 2016 Eureka Audax Events

The events enjoyed good weather; a dry, mostly sunny day (albeit with headwinds after High Legh for the 200k riders).

Eureka Excursion 215Km There were approximately 60 entries with 42 starters on the day. There were 2 DNFs due to mechanical problems; 40 riders returned safely in times varying from 08:57 (chapeau!) to 13:15 by a team from Liverpool Century Club. 9 riders were declared as members of C&NW CTC which is a pleasant increase in numbers riding the long event.

Tea in Prospect 135KM There were 53 entries for this event with 44 starters. This route which is proving increasingly popular, in spite of (because of?) the long climb from Ruabon up to the beautifully situated Prospect Tea Rooms above Llangollen. 3 riders DNF for various reasons; 41 riders returned safely of which 10 were declared as members of C&NW CTC.

Two Mills Twirl 68km 31 entries leading to 23 starters and finishers (all who started successfully completed the ride). 4 of the riders were declared as members of C&NW CTC. All in all a very successful and safe set of events in which returning riders said how much they enjoyed the day out. Many thanks to Anne and Holly Peek and staff at Eureka Cafe for dispensing tea, cake, support and cheerfulness through a long 13 hour day. Also to Andy Whitgreave for invaluable help with the brevet cards and to Glennys Hammond, Graham and Vicky Payne with the car parking. Thanks to Dave Matthews for organising the events once again.

30th April 2016 Map Reading & Treasure Hunt (CTC Cymru)

At 9am the skies were grey, the rain was pouring down in Trefnant, but by 9.30 when the first riders were allowed to start the Treasure Hunt it had stopped raining. The variable weather was a feature of the day; Andy Polakowski delayed due to snow on his ride to the event.

Eventually 15 people set off and it was good to see two juniors riding as part of 'Team Thomas'. Steve Larwood won the Treasure Hunt, Michael Gilbert moved up a place from last year to be second, and Terry Davies was a close third.

The both teams in the team competition scored well. 'Team Thomas' who won had the advantage of a larger number of team members, (and youthful enthusiasm?) both of the juniors enjoyed the event.

Mike Gilbert retained his map reading title with a clear win; Steve Larwood rode hard to come in second place. Paul Mills was 3rd having selected a similar route to the east whilst Sue Booth was 4th having headed west.

Thanks to the Crossroads Cafe Trefnant for acting as the venue for the event, Glennys Hammond for her help with the scores and for the event photography, and Mike Cross (C&NW CTC President) for presenting the prizes. Thanks are also due to all of the riders who supported the event!

21st May 2016 Berwyns Rides Audax Rides

The weather was not too kind to us ---but could have been a lot worse! .

Tour of the Berwyns 205Km; 3100m climbing There were approximately 70 entries for this event, which whittled down to 44 starters on the day - probably caused by riders not liking the weather forecast. All riders returned safely in times varying from 08:00 (chapeau! again to Ray Robinson) to 12:45 (1 hour inside time limit) by a team representing C&NW CTC. 4 riders were declared as members of C&NW CTC.

Prospect Panorama 135Km; 1000m of climbing This brand new event takes the long climb from Ruabon up to the beautifully situated Prospect Tea Rooms above Llangollen, exactly as for the 200k, but then short cuts back from the Panorama via Sun Trevor to Chirk. The route has been revised from the previous 130k Llangollen Panorama as it is felt that the steep climb up through Vivod was over severe compared with the rest of the route.

There were 25 entries for this event with 17 starters all of whom returned safely. 6 were declared as members of C&NW CTC.

All in all a very successful and safe set of events in which returning riders said how much they enjoyed the day out. .

Many thanks to Margaret Matthews and the staff at Willington Hall for operating the start and finish through a long 13 hour day. Also to John and Carol Pardoe of Seamons CC for assistance at Willington Hall and manning the control at Prospect Tea Rooms

26th June Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways (Sue Booth)

This year, the 30th anniversary of the event, was a significant success, thanks to social media and on line entries. Over 200 riders registered for the two rides, more than I think we have had in the past - I have set myself a high bar! Very few dropped out before the day and a handful did not show on the day, so we sent 83 riders off by 8:45 to do the 100 miles; and 113 riders set off for the 50 miles between 9:30 and 10:30. This year's camper van stop at Hassell Green was manned by my husband and daughter, with early arriving riders helping to set up the gazebo!. Congratulations to Ben Larwood, from Garth near Wrexham, and Mike Cross presented him with The Jim Skelding Trophy for the youngest rider to complete the 100 mile course. Many thanks to the small army of regular volunteers that not only make this happen, but know how it should be run, invaluable for a first timer like me!

10th July Triennial Veterans 100

71 cyclists were set off from Duddon Village Hall by Mike Cross the C&NW CTC President. The riders were lead round in groups by local volunteers. As always there were excellent refreshments at all of the stops. The oldest male rider was Frank Savage (84) and the oldest lady rider Doreen Lindsay (79) of C&NW CTC. As it was a Triennial year the certificates were produced by National Office and there were some complaints about the fact that they weren't signed by Paul Tuohy and didn't include the rides ages; however this didn't spoil what was a marvellous event. Thanks to Laurie Mason, his family and all of the volunteers.

16th July Corwen Audax events

This was the first year that Vicky Payne had run the event (she had taken over from David Matthews the previous organiser). As has happened several times in the past the weather was rather wet at times. 21 started the 200K Barmouth Boulevard with 20 successfully completing the ride; 27 started the 100K Brenig Bach with 23 finishing; 8 started the 60K Bala Parade with 5 completing the event in the time (all of the non-completers were accounted for). In spite of the weather riders had a good day out, & thanks are due to Vicky and Graham Payne for organising the event.

3rd September "Momma" Audax Rides Report

Once again we were unlucky with the weather which remained wet, cold and windy into the afternoon. There were a large number of DNS due to the bad weather, so well done to those riders who turned up and persevered in the cold and wet!

Pistyll Packing Momma 209km; 3500m ascent

A tough ride made worse by the conditions. 17 finishers (no DNF) with John Wilkie being the sole C&NW CTC representative.

Momma's Mountain Views 137km; 2000m climbing

No views, just murk and mist. 22 riders set out---16 finished the ride successfully with 6 DNF. (No accidents---just fed up with the conditions by the time they got to Chirk). 3 finishers were declared as C&NW CTC; David Bennett, Terry Davies and Paul Mills. Well done to all those who persevered to the finish.

Momma's Leafy Lanes 50k; flat

A wet day out on this relatively easy ride. 9 riders started and finished; the 3 C&NW CTC riders were Phil Blackman, Glennys Hammond and Dave Statham.

Well done to all for riding on such a challenging day. Special thanks go to the staff at Old Ma's, Margaret Matthews (handing out brevet cards at start) and Glennys Hammond (car park and photos)

25th September 2016 Presidents Ride and Lunch

The event was a great success with over 40 riders attending the event. Many riders got wet riding to the start, however the weather brightened up in time for the photo call and riders dried out on their ride to lunch at Tilston. The ride was attended by Paul Tuohy (Cycling UK CEO) and his wife Wendy who rode the event on a tandem. During the day they both made the most of the opportunity to chat to local members.

Mrs Harvey and her team provided an excellent lunch in the Tilston Memorial Hall. Mike Cross gave a short speech and presented the Presidents Cup to Reg Waud. Reg Waud was surprised and delighted by the award for his work.

Thanks are due to Mike Cross for his excellent organisation of the event and to John Ferguson for checking the routes.

Following the event there was publicity for C&NW CTC with an item in News Clips and a piece in the news Page of the Cycling UK website; both mentioned how much Paul Tuohy had enjoyed the event.

1st October 2016 Hill Climb & Freewheel events

In spite of the wet forecast there were 14 brave souls ready to tackle the hill climb; fortunately the weather dried up just as the hill climb commenced. The fastest rider was Ben Hughes (not a CTC member), with Steve Jones in second place for the second year. It was great to see Emily Larwood, one of our junior riders in 3rd place & the 1st Lady rider up the hill. 15 people competed in the Freewheeling Competition. 1st place went to Dave Statham, 2nd was John Wilkie and last year's winner Roy Bunnell was 3rd. Thanks to Peter & Irene Dilworth and Mike (the Trike) Roberts for acting as starters & time keepers for the event, and the Three Pigeons at Graigfechan where riders enjoyed excellent food after the prize giving.

Thanks to Coleg Llysfasi for the start venue;£10 was raised as parking donations for the Air Ambulance.

Corwen Audax Events 15th October 2016 (Vicky Payne)

The Clwydian 212K 3200m of climbing

Twenty four cyclists left on this demanding route in light drizzle and twenty one finished in dry but windy conditions Three had abandoned near Mold : one due to a mechanical issue and two because they were not convinced the weather would improve. Times varied from 10h39 to the full value rider who clocked in at 10.06pm two minutes before the cut off in a time of 14h.06. There were riders from Hastings, Southampton, West Yorkshire, and Atherton Manchester as well as more local riders. There were two declared Chester and North Wales CTC members and one Two Mills member. The riders were very complimentary about the route and waxed lyrical about the scenery.

The Clwyd Gate 138K 2250m of climbing

There were twenty seven starters on this route and twenty six finished. One abandoned at Pensarn after struggling with a bad leg. The weather was again wet at the start but improved over the day. I heard it was quite misty on the Horseshoe Pass which some found a blessing as the full climb was hidden from view. Times varied from 7h20 to 9h51. There was a good turnout from the Midlands as usual and four declared Chester and North Wales CTC members.

The Bala Mini Bash 60k

There was an excellent turn out of thirty on this ride which I was pleased to see as I was considering dropping it after the disappointing field of seven in the equivalent event in July. I now realise that a lot of people enjoy this ride because of the autumn colours although the punctures from hedge trimmings are not so welcome. Times ranged from 2h29 to 4h38 and ages ranged from 12 to over 80. The C&NW CTC Ynys Mô n corti ngert was at full strength and in fine fettle.

Thanks to Vicky Payne the organiser, and Graham Payne her chief assistant for the excellent events.

Club Communications

Website

The website is managed by John Hammond (technical) and Glennys Hammond (content). The possible change to Stan Thomas as webmaster was discussed at the first C&NW CTC committee meeting after the 2015 AGM; it was decided to take up John and Glennys Hammond's kind offer to continue.

- a) The Chester and North Wales CTC website has been updated regularly throughout the year with details and entry forms for 2016 Events. Reports and photos have been added up to October this year as they have been made available. The issue of inaccessible photos in some past years' events is due to a software change and will be addressed.
- b) Changes requested by Committee members and organisers have been incorporated. Some other changes are in progress i.e. additional Menu categories and changes due to the renaming of CTC to CYCLING UK. These are in hand.
- c) As agreed, previous editions of The Link up to Spring 2016 are available for members to download and Committee Meeting Minutes have been posted on the Documents page once they have been approved by the Committee.
- d) News items have included a variety of topics from ongoing road works to alerts for members to enter events and other items of interest.
 - e) 2016 show that overall visits to the site remained fairly constant. Comparable statistics from October 2014-September 2015 and October 2015 show that the use desktops has increased slightly but there is a continuing trend towards the use of tablets and mobile phones.
- f) Statistics about site usage are readily available from the Webmaster or Web Editor on request.
- g) Renewal of the website domain name and hosting has increased slightly this year. They are due for payment in early November. Total cost will be £87.10 including VAT.

Facebook & work of the Publicity Officer

John Ferguson the Publicity Office has continued to oversee the Facebook page for C&NW CTC. Following the rebranding to Cycling UK new marketing materials have been received from National Office including banners (one English only, one bilingual), tee shirts to wear at publicity events. There are also business cards with the logo in both English & Welsh (stamped with C&NW CTC contact details). Currently there are no plans to drop the 'CTC' from the Club name, although 'part of Cycling UK' has been added to the name of the Facebook page for the sake of clarity. C&NW CTC has attended promotional events; including a stand in Denbigh at the start of the fourth stage of the Tour of Britain, and attendance at the Chester Cathedral event.

Link (Martin Brooks)

In spite of the editor having a hip replacement and a move to Spain, Martin Brooks has been able to edit three excellent editions of the Link. As this is now an international operation a team

has been set up to look after the UK end of the publication: Colin Bell and Tony Swannick taking care of the management of the administration/payments/subscriptions while Janet Jones is looking after the physical side with liaison with the printers. The September edition was the first issue that went out under the new team and all seems to have gone smoothly with lots of positive comment.

Due to increased costs (for the larger format & postage) the new subscription rate is £10 for 3 magazines. There is a spreadsheet of subscribers showing when the subscription was paid and the number of issues due, so those who still had issues left on the old rate of 4 for £10 will get all the issues they have paid for.

Please remember it is your magazine – please submit copy and remember to subscribe!

Right to Ride (Peter Williams)

Looking at my report for last year I could say the same things in fact I could re submit it and call it 2016; in other words not much has changed.

Communications with Cheshire West and Chester Council have not really improved. The Deputy Leader for CWaC did meet the Chester Cycling Campaign earlier in the year and promised that an Active Travel Forum would be set up by the Public Health Department. I chased this up in June with my local M P Justin Madders and he contacted the then CEO of CWaC (now retired), who eventually replied to say that a Sustainable Travel Forum was to be organised in which organisations like the Chester Cycling Campaign would be involved. So far nothing has materialised.

Communications with Wirral Borough Council are so much better and I attend their Active Travel Forums 3 or 4 times a year. Wirral is part of Merseyside and together with the other 5 Authorities they work very hard at obtaining money for Sustainable Transport Schemes which includes cycling.

A 540 Nothing to report.

Hill Lane, Peckforton Hills, East Cheshire.

Our application to change the definitive map to a Restrictive Byway is still in a queue. We are number 3 on their list. We have been waiting 5 years. This should secure us a right to cycle this path in the future.

Positives.

I should stop moaning so here is a list of cycling schemes/improvements that have started or will be completed on the back of Sustainable Transport Funding or 106 money from various developers. Note 106 money is put aside by the developer to improve facilities in the area and if we can I or whoever will try and get this spent on cycling.

- 1) Wirral B C has continued to put in shared footpaths down the A 41 from Eastham to Birkenhead. I want to see this continued through junction 5 of the M 53 to Hooton.
- 2) Wirral B C is going to tarmac 1000 metres of the Circular Trail alongside the river Birket in Leasowe/Moreton.
- 3) Wirral Waters or Birkenhead Docks. A small section of a shared path has gone in at Beaufort Roads. We hope in time a proper cycle infrastructure will go through all of Wirral Waters.
- 4) Improvements for cyclists crossing the motoway M 53 at Clatterbridge are taking place
- 5) A 41 at Upton Chester. Surprise Surprise, late September 2016 from the Backford Dip all the way to Chester Zoo entrance and on the opposite side back to the garage on the corner of Liverpool Road; the path is being widened to be used as a shared path, courtesy of Chester Zoo and their new developments at the Zoo. I do not know much more than this, but if CWaC had a suitable forum we could have known about it.
- 6) A5117 from Dunkirk to the A 540. Again a surprise as Highway England put in a shared path in a grass verge from Powey Lane to the A 540.
- 7) Rossmore East Ellesmere Port. 280 houses are to be built and 106 money has been secured to create a shared path on the old railway line under Rossmore East. This will create a safe route from North Road up to Lyme Avenue in Ellesmere Port.

8) Sutton Hall Farm Ledsham. A 2000 new housing estate is being built by Redrow and part of the planning agreement is to improve the junction with the A 550 Welsh Road and Ledsham Road. This will include traffic lights and a cycle lane

9) Thanks to the Chester Cycling Campaign working with the developers and planners; the Northgate development should see a cycling infrastructure included. The refurbishment of Frodsham Street will allow for a contra flow for cyclists and the new bus terminus will have a cycle lane going past it up Gorse Stacks and George Street. The proposed new housing estate opposite the Kings school on the Wrexham Road is approaching the planning application stage and the CCC are hopeful of a safe cycle route into Chester and improvements to the Posthouse Junction of the A 55. Fingers crossed.

The above may look very positive, but it has taken a long time to reach this stage and some of the above schemes will take years to materialise.

Can I also praise Roy Spilsbury and Richard Keating who are Right to Ride Representatives in North Wales and currently doing battle with the Welsh Transport department over the proposals for Goat Roundabout on the A 487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass. They are also campaigning with regard to Active Travel plans. Roy Spilsbury has been continuing with his campaigning particularly in relation to Conwy Cob

I will continue as a Right to Ride Representative for another year in the Chester/Wirral area, but I would welcome someone taking over in a year's time.

Thanks to all of the Campaigners for their work on our behalf.

Ride Leaders

In the autumn of 2015 and also in 2016 CTC National Office organised Ride leader training events; the autumn event was held in Bangor and was well attended by leaders from our local groups. As these days had larger numbers of participants than the earlier courses there was no opportunity for a practical session. The guidance for ride leaders and all of the forms required have now been updated and are available on the Cycling UK website.

Currently Brian Lowe is liaising with National Office to find the cost of organising another ride leader training course for our members.

CTC Councillors

Welna Bowden and Gwenda Owen have continued to work hard for the club in their roles as National Councillors & Trustees and thanks are given to them for the work they have done. During the year the governance of the Club has changed with the National Council being replaced by the Board of Trustees, and the National Councillors becoming Trustees. Trustees will no longer be elected to serve a specific geographical area.

C&NW CTC Committee

The committee has met five times since last year's AGM. Committee members have been busy organising events, publicising the group, working with other organisations and campaigning. The Local Rules were submitted to National Office and approved.

Report of the Awards Committee

The Committee met twice during the year and discussed the usual items as follows:

1. Following discussions with the Committee Mike Cross awarded the President's Trophy to Reg Waud. Reg had skilfully restored the donated rare cast iron winged wheel to its former glory and in the past he was instrumental in designing a range of Club cycling kit. Reg was delighted to receive the Trophy and was presented with it at the President's Rides and Annual Lunch held at Tilston War Memorial Hall on 25th September 2016.
2. There were no recommendations for the Award of Certificate of Merit this year.
3. Categories for Volunteer of the Year Award have changed this year which caused some difficulties with the Committee's submission. A nomination for Volunteer of the Year was sent to National Office but was unsuccessful.

4. The Meadow Lea Farm Café proprietor was delighted to receive the Clubs Award of Café of the Year 2015. A certificate commemorating the Award was presented to the proprietor at the Café by Mike Cross on 3rd February 2016.
5. C&NW CTC now has its own Roll of Honour and is being displayed at formal Club occasions.
6. There were no Certificates of Commendation this year.
7. At the New Year's Day meet a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Harry Watson for his long-time leadership of Watson's Wanderers.

Winged Wheel

Following expert restoration by Reg Waud, and a considerable amount of work by the Winged Wheel Sub Committee and others the plaque is now on display at the Wirral Transport Museum. A formal loan agreement has been signed for a 10 year period. Photographs can be seen on the C&NW CTC website.

CTC Cymru

The Welsh Festival in Llandovery was a success in spite of some damp weather. There was a good turnout from C&NW CTC with riders from Ynys Môn and the Wexham Rovers taking part and helping to organise the event. In July 2017 the Festival will be held at Ruthin Rugby Club.

Tourist Competition

The C&NW CTC team were eventually confirmed as the clear winners of the 2015 Tourist Competition with 422 points, 290 points clear of their closest rivals. The team members were Paul Mills, Terry Davies, David Statham and Lowri Evans who then attended the awards presentation in Manchester at the Cycling UK Annual Members Get Together where the awards were presented. Paul Mills was overall winner (108 points) and also first veteran with Terry Davies (107 points) a close second. Lowri Evans was 3rd overall (also 1st Lady & 1st Lady Veteran), and Dave Statham was 4th (99 points). Congratulations to the C&NW CTC riders who held all of the top 9 places! (5th Sarah Hamill, 6th Martin Brooks, 7th Ifor Jones, 8th Steve Larwood, 9th Andy Polakowski). At the time of writing there have been very no provisional 2016 results.

Looking forward

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

1 st January	New Year's Day meet White Horse Churton	David Matthews
Sat 22 nd April	Eureka Audax Events (Choice of 3 distances)	Dave Matthews
Sat 20 th May	Tour of the Berwyns & Panorama Prospect Audaxes	Dave Matthews
Date to be decided	Ladies Weekend	Sue Booth
Sunday 11 th June	Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways (50 miles or 100miles)	Sue Booth & Chester Group
Sunday 2 nd July	Bert Bailey Memorial Veteran's 100	Laurie Mason
Saturday 15 th July	Audax events: Barmouth Boulevard, Brenig Bach & Bala Parade	Vicky Payne
<i>20th -25th July</i>	<i>Welsh Festival (4 days of rides)Ruthin</i>	<i>CTC Cymru</i>
Saturday 2 nd Sept	Momma Audax Rides (Choice of 3 distances)	Dave Matthews
Sunday 24 th Sept	Presidents lunch & presentation	C&NW CTC President
Saturday 7 th Oct	Hill Climb & Freewheel	Lowri Evans
Saturday 14 th October	Corwen Audax Events (Clwydian, Clwyd Gate, Bala Mini Bash)	Vicky Payne
Sunday 5 th November	CH&NW CTC AGM	C&NW CTC Sec

Events organised by other CTC groups:

Sunday 9th April Two Mills CTC Spring 50 organised by Janet Gregory.

Sunday 27th August Wild Wales Challenge Merseyside CTC and St Helens CTC (Provisional)

Thanks

Thank you to all who contributed to this report. More detailed event reports can be found on the C&NW CTC website and in the Link.

Thanks are due to all of the club's volunteers including the members of the Committee, event organisers, rides leaders, web editor, Link editor, tea makers, CTC Councillors and the many others who have worked hard to ensure that there have been great events & interesting rides.

Thanks are due to John Ferguson who is stepping down from the post of publicity officer; it is hope that he will continue to be an active member of the group. Thanks also to Arthur Miller who is now stepping down from the Awards Committee after many years of service; he has kindly agreed to continue in his role of C&NW CTC Archivist.

Finally the Secretary would like to thank all who have helped & supported her in the role during the year.