

Chester & North Wales CTC
CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru
Secretary's Annual Report October 2017

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, a few are mentioned below:

John Pegum who had been a founder member of C&NW CTC passed away at the age of 100. He had been involved with the Club for many years and was the recipient of the President's Trophy in 2015. Uniquely amongst our members, he was awarded the French *Legion d'Honneur* because he was one of the Allied troops who landed in France on D-Day in 1944.

Mike 'the trike' Roberts who rode regularly with the Wrexham Reivers, was a contributor of articles to the Link and volunteer at events including the Hill Climb died in November. Many Club members attended the service at the crematorium.

John Redman who had been a regular rider with the Mold Informals and a cycle instructor in Flintshire died in the spring.

Martin Brooks who was a keen cyclist and the Link editor died suddenly in the summer. He had moved to Spain in 2016 but still continued to edit the Link. He was a familiar face at many of the C&NW CTC rides and events. Many of his cycling friends attended a memorial in July.

Peter Barnes joined the Wednesday Section (now Riders) in its early days over 30 years ago. He was a loyal member and for many years was its Rides Secretary. He also rode with the Ledsham Section (Two Mills). He continued to cycle until well into his 80s.

Larry Dixon from Birkenhead rode with the Two Mills and the Wednesday groups for over twenty years. He was an adventurous cyclist, sleeping in abandoned farm buildings on solo cycling trips in remote mountain areas.

We offer condolences to their 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 Roy Spilsbury, John Mather, Richard Keating, Chris Compton and Dave Woods for being winning the Campaign of the Year category at the Big Bike Celebration 2017 and then going on to being presented with the Arthur Moss Trophy. The nomination was for their work regarding the A487 Caernarfon by Pass and safe access for walkers and cyclists.

1. Informal Group Reports

Ynys Môn (Anglesey)

The Ynys Môn group still exists and goes out from Llanfrynach on the first Sunday and the 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 Efi on usually having coffee in Caernarfon.

We have participated in the following activities during this year:

The first activity was the 50k reliability ride organised by Two Mills in which 5 of us took part. The second activity was the Bob Clift Cheshire Cycleway 50 from Waverton in which 3 took part. The third activity was the York rally visited by 4 of us with 1 going to the Sunday service at Narburn Parish Church.

The Bala Parade from Corwen to Llanuwchllyn was successfully completed by 3 members. The Vets 100 was successfully completed by 3 members with the run starting and finishing at Duddon. The CTC Cymru Welsh Festival was only attended by one member who completed one off road ride to the

mast at the top of the mountain, also the treasure hunt and map reading competitions, an organised ride to St Asaph, and a ride to Llangollen which involved climbing the Horseshoe Pass on the way back. Three members enjoyed the Birthday Rides held at the Firemens College near Moreton in Marsh. Four members participated in the President's Ride from Prestatyn to Cefn Meiriadog. One member did the hill climb held near Llysfasi followed by the freewheel at Graigfechan followed by the get together in the Three Pigeons. The last activity we participated in was the Bala Mini Bash from Corwen to Llanuwchllyn.

Six members started the ride with 4 members successfully completing the run. Although we are only a small club we seem to have more members taking part in some of the activities than much bigger clubs even though the age of our members is rather advanced. We have 6 members with 5 riding regularly.

Chester CTC including Chester Fabulous Ladies (Sue Booth)

Our year started as usual on New Year's Day, with a contingent heading out from Christleton Pond. It was very wet, but the route was enjoyed by visiting friends and the usual welcome at Churton. We continued through the year with two Sunday rides a month, and social evenings once a month on a Wednesday, looking forward to the summer evening rides, which start in April.

Our usual meeting place outside Chester Town Hall (by the elephant) was this year also the place frequented by waiting Deliveroo cyclists, but we were unable to entice them out for an evening ride. The Pied Bull, our Wednesday summer evening home for the last few years, had started a pub quiz on a Wednesday, so we re-located to the newly opened Bull and Stirrup, with lots of space and food for the peckish up till 23:00!

We hosted the Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides in June, which was well attended and well received again; this year I procured medals for the riders, alongside the hand-drawn bespoke certificates.

The ladies rides continue to grow and welcome new riders. Our weekend away this year enjoyed glorious sunshine at Kirkby Stephen, with different riding groups setting off and enjoying the hills in all directions.

I was asked again to support the Chester Race for Life in July, two of us from the ladies were lead bikes – which involved riding round the 5k course in front of the runners, then going around again to sweep up and encourage the tail end.

Most notable is the new club top, which was many months in the making, sporting the Eastgate Clock, one of Chester's most famous landmarks. (A full report with photos is also available)

CTC Eryri Thursday Cycling Group (Doreen Lindsey)

Although we are a relatively small strictly social group of mainly retired ladies & a few men, we have an organised ride on three Thursdays a month the rides start at 10.30am & finish usually by 4pm, we always have a café lunch stop usually of 10 & 16 riders

We do not ride in August & December mainly because of the busy lanes & cafes

Several of us have ridden the Chester & N.Wales vets 100 & other events

The group has had camping trips this year one in the spring at Hells Mouth Bay on the Lleyn Peninsular & one in October at Aberdyfi these two/three days away are proving very popular

Some members are now enjoying taking themselves off on cycle tours of the local area & abroad

The Saturday Easy Riders group meets on two Saturdays a month for a short ride out for coffee. People on electric assist bikes are welcome to ride with us.

Mold Informals (Tony Wilkins)

2017 has been a year of ups and downs. Illness and injury has dogged the members, coinciding with work commitments meaning we have not ridden as a group as often as we would have liked. Individuals have continued to ride and taken trips touring abroad. The group still has a strong undercurrent! It is not all doom and gloom and as things improve for individuals, so they will do so for the section.

A special mention must go to Tony Small who despite his own health worries is a mainstay of the Informals, regularly organising rides and encouraging people to ride.

Watson's Wanderers (David Matthews)

The group continues to evolve; our "President for Life" Harry Watson is finally slowing down a little as he approaches his 89th birthday in November. However, we still meet up with him at various café stops due to Harry's careful use of train and bike.

Routine ride leadership has now been taken over by Dave Robertson and we thank him for planning, publicising, organising and leading the Wanderers.

We have finally entered the digital 21st century with a website and details of forthcoming rides, which go out variously into Cheshire, Shropshire and Wales.

Meeting place is still at the Plough in Christleton---10:00 sharp every Tuesday morning. You can expect to find between 10 and 15 riders most weeks. Some of us tend to ride out to the morning coffee break (at approx. 20 miles) and then return home---but a sizeable majority continue onwards to lunch and an all day ride of between 50 and 70 miles. Pace of the rides is fairly brisk in the pack, so the more advanced (in years) riders have the option of making their own, more sedate, way to the meeting points.

Overall, the Wanderers are in good health and show no signs of slowing down or becoming moribund---in fact quite the opposite.

Wednesday Riders (Chris Smith)

The riders email circulation list has grown during the year and now includes 81 addresses, some of which represent couples so some 87 riders in total. This includes; some people who are no longer able to ride with us, some who only have chance occasionally, and some who aspire to in future! It is a considerable increase from 51 last year.

A number of new leaders have been added to our list during the year and we now have 28 registered leaders – a very healthy number although this does include leaders with physical restrictions. Only a very small number are able and willing to lead at short notice, so despite this high number it is sometimes difficult to find sufficient leaders each week.

This year's rides list included an increased number of summer car assist rides in North Wales and these have been well received. The 2018 list will include a car assist ride in February to give members opportunity to ride a little further away from home.

16 people from Wednesday Riders and Two Mills groups went to Gran Canaria in February and enjoyed some winter sunshine. 5 Wednesday Riders went to Capel Curig for three days in September.

In addition to the listed rides there have also been many easier rides from Two Mills arranged on an impromptu basis. An attempt was made at running a Friday informal group without rides list, but this was only was little attended and has not taken place during the summer.

Turn out has been good almost every week with the highest being 30 although not all of these people took part in the riding! Groups regularly need to be broken into smaller groups on the road and use of electronic navigation is encouraged to assist additional group leaders who volunteer to help on the day.

The major problem faced by the rides secretary is the number of times leaders find, often just before their ride that they cannot ride that day. Additional early reminder emails are now being used to try and reduce this. There has been some discussion about the standard of leading in the group and we hope C&NW will make more leader training available this year.

Wrexham Reivers (Lowri Evans)

The number of riders attending the Espresso Cafe at Gwersyllt varies from week to week; at times there are only a handful but up to 35 riders can meet at the start so the rides list plans for 2 rides but there are often informal rides as well. Members have taken part in many of the Chester & N Wales CTC events, attended the CTC Welsh Festival at Ruthin, and completed Audax events in all kinds of weather. Congratulations to Paul Mills for his 1st place in the Tourist Competition in 2016, Terry Davies for coming 2nd, and to Steve Larwood who was 4th and in the team for the first time. Congratulations also to Emily Larwood on her success in the Junior Women's events at the Welsh National Track Championships. Thanks are due once again to all of the members of the group who have contributed to a successful year with many memorable rides, and particularly the ride leaders who have guided the group.

2. Member Group Report from Two Mills CTC (Janet Gregory)

CTC Two Mills (Wirral) is a recognised member group of Cycling UK. Our members live mainly in Wirral including Neston and Ellesmere Port.

Highlights of the year include:

- Our women's group, the Wirral Bicycle Belles, continue to meet every month on Saturday morning at Port Sunlight for short, introductory rides. As part of Cycling UK Women's Festival of Cycling, Belles

volunteers partnered with others from Breeze and Cycling Projects to lead nearly 100 women around the Wirral Circular Trail on Saturday 29th July.

- The Early Season Tourist Trial took place on Sunday 9th April starting/finish at Farndon Sports and Social Club. Once again, we attracted more than 200 participants who gave us very positive feedback on the arrangements for the day.
- Big success story has been introduction of our group own jersey. Members have featured wearing Two Mills strip in both 'Cycle' and the weekly enews, 'Cycleclips'.
- Fifteen members enjoyed a cycle tour in Gran Canaria early February which was something different from our regular programme of weekly Sunday rides.
- In July, Group Secretary, Janet Gregory, was nominated as part of Cycling UK celebration of 100 women in cycling

3. Events 2017

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 and an enjoyable meal. David Ackerley presented the C&NW CTC Tourist Competition Trophies for 2016; the Gentleman's trophy went to Paul Mills for the 2nd time, the Lady's Trophy Lowri Evans. Thanks are due to Dave Matthews for arranging an excellent social start to the year.

22nd April 2017 Eureka Audax Events (Dave Matthews)

Eureka Excursion 215km 33 riders (4 from C& N.W CTC) started out at 08:00 to enjoy the early morning sunshine and windless conditions. The ride went well although there were issues with riders getting lost due to road closures (the level crossing near Pulford after 17K, the new Manchester to M6 by-pass at 155km around Tatton Park and a new water main through Rostherne). In spite of the road issues, all the riders except one DNF arrived safely back at the Eureka café in times varying from 8h 28m to 13h 03m.

Tea in Prospect 135km This ride proved very popular this year with 50 riders (4 from C&N.W CTC) braving the long hill to the Prospect Tea Rooms above Llangollen. There were similar problems to the 200km ride at Pulford level crossing and 2 riders DNF due to getting lost in the lanes and ending up in Wrexham. There was glorious weather up at the Tea Rooms and many riders stayed a while to enjoy the excellent fare and magnificent views over Cheshire.

Times varied from 06h 24m to 10h 20m. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves on this excellent day out.

Two Mills Twirl 68k 11 riders (2 from C&N.W CTC and 1 from Chester Fab. Ladies) embarked on this short ride to Cleopatra's in Holt. The same problems were encountered at the Pulford level crossing but everyone arrived safely at Holt and then back at Eureka Café.

Many thanks to the people who helped to make these events such a success---Margaret Matthews; Graham and Vicky Payne and especially to Anne Peek and her staff at Eureka café for remaining ever cheerful and helpful through a 13 hour day.

28th May 2017 Treasure Hunt (Liz and Peter Conway)

Seven people turned up Lady Heyes Cafe & Craft Centre and set off at various times, most having a welcome coffee before tackling the questions and route directions. All returned in good time and nobody had a problem finding their way back.

Sue Booth gained the highest score and was the individual winner, Paul Mills was second and then Terry Davies. There were only four points between the 1st 2nd and 3rd prize winners and Brian Walsh came a respectable fourth overall. The More family, Sylvia and Robin and their son Nick rode as a team and won that class.

Thanks to Lady Heyes for acting as venue for the event, and Michael Cross (C&NW CTC president) for presenting the prizes, and Liz and Peter Conway who organised the event.

20th May 2017 Berwyns and Panorama Prospect Audax Rides (Dave Matthews)

The weather at the start was glorious but the sunshine degenerated into heavy showers around the Prospect Tea Rooms, but then cleared up for the rest of the day.

The route in and out of Cheshire has been revised for this year, back to the year 2000 model, which gives a more rural experience than the 2016 model -this revised route received many favourable comments and is to be retained in future.

Tour of the Berwyns 210Km; 3100m climbing The 75 entries for this event, resulted in 65 starters on the day. All riders returned safely but 2 were out of time. We discovered one person, who had not entered, riding on someone else's entry (and we suspect others). Not all audax UK entry forms consistently state that entries are non transferrable as well as non refundable. This is to be corrected ASAP, not least for insurance and emergency contact purposes.

Prospect Panorama 135Km; 1000m of climbing There were 46 entries for this event with 35 starters all but one of whom returned safely . 3 were declared as members of C&NW CTC. This relatively new event takes the long climb from Johnstown 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. We now have a relocated café stop here in the Castle Bstr of dl o wng t he de nise of t he nost d g c M k Bar, haven on many rides over the last 20 years or more. Unfortunately there was a fairly serious accident an "out of control" mountain biker rounded a blind bend and collided head on with one of our riders travelling in the opposite direction. Accident reports were sent to Audax UK and Cycling UK.

Apart from the accident, a very successful set of events in which returning riders said how much they enjoyed the day out. It is intended to repeat these rides in 2018 on Saturday 19th May.

Many thanks to Margaret Matthews for all of her help at the start, finish and control, and also to Willington Hall, the Prospect Tea Rooms and the Castle Bistro.

25th June Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways (Sue Booth)

This year saw the 31st Bob Clift Cheshire Cycleway Rides. On the 100 mile event 84 riders set off (from original 92 booked) there were 104 on the fifty mile route. A new fob system for booking in replaced the cards and this worked well.

Great Budworth: Welna Bowden checked in the 100's at their first check point. Armed with a flag, riders were duly welcomed, and cakes distributed by the cafe staff. Hatchmere: Carriers Arms - 50 milers at their first stop managed not to see Stuart waving his flag, and went straight for the Danish Pastries! Bollington Institute: 100 mile second stop for bacon or egg baps. Mike Cross presided over the arrivals. Hassell Green: John and Nicky left HQ after early duties there, and headed to the Salt Lines car park also with a flag, which was invaluable to the riders to find this hidden but well earned and needed refreshment stop. Definitely a two person job!

Eaton: first the 50 milers for beans on toast, then the 100 milers for cake.

187 riders made it back against increasing headwinds, all finished by 5:30 pm. Only one lady got lost after 30 miles so called for a lift home from her husband.

Mike Green, at 25, from Chester was the youngest rider on the 100 miles events; he was presented with the Jim Skelding trophy. Many thanks to my volunteers at the venues around the course, my helpers at those controls; John Mawson for checking out the courses and planning the route, Charlie my right hand man (literally) booking people in and chief certificate writer, Nicky for shopping and rescuing the certificate situation, all my tea makers and helpers at base, and to my long suffering family who, despite losing me to admin, emails and excel worksheets, still create useful gadgets and help out on the day. Finally thanks to the riders who enter, turn up and ride, all returning with smiles on their faces!

2nd July Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans 100

Once again a determined group of riders gathered at Duddon War Memorial Hall ready tackle the 100 mile ride. Laurie Mason (the event organiser) had ensured that there were plenty of refreshment stops during the ride; tea and biscuits at the start, elevenses with Danish pastries, lunch, afternoon tea, a drinks stop and then tea and biscuits at the finish. Unlike other events all riders must be over 50 and riders set off in groups with a ride leader. Mike Cross presented the certificates and trophies; Brian Bathgate had the trophy for the oldest rider and Doreen Lindsey for the senior lady rider.

Thanks to Laurie and all of the volunteers for a well organised event that was enjoyed by all of the riders.

There was a good turnout in spite of a rather damp and overcast day; everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day. This is my second year organising these events and coupled with the 5 years' experience organising the autumn set I am at last beginning to relax and enjoy.

15th July Corwen Audax events (Vicky Payne)

Barmouth Boulevard 200k

Eighteen started this hilly event out of a field of twenty registered to take part. Seventeen finished; the DNF abandoned at the first control realising that his damaged hamstring was just not up to it. There was one declared Chester and North Wales rider and one tandem. The weather had been wet but warm and like last year there was mist on Bwlch Y Groes. Riders came from all over the UK namely Clydebank, Huddersfield, Manchester and Leyland.

Brenig Bach 100K

Graham and I were fortunate to ride this prior to the event in glorious sunshine. It is a very hard event but the scenery is stunning and as it is quite remote there is very little traffic. The returning riders reported that there was a wedding on at the chapel in Cwmpanner and another in Llansannan so there was more traffic than usual. There were fifteen finishers out of twenty four starters. There was one abandonment and the other eight finished out of time (it was very windy on the Moors). Six were declared Chester and North Wales members. We had riders from as far away as Pembrokeshire, Northants, Stoke on Trent, Telford and Derby.

Bala Parade 60K

Fifteen started out of eighteen registered to ride. There were 5 declared Chester and North Wales riders. Again people had travelled a fair distance to enter this event with three coming from Market Drayton, one from Leyland and another from Chorley not forgetting the usual contingent from Anglesey.

Next year's event will be the same weekend. Thanks to all the controls especially Sandra at the Manor Craft Centre and Ian at the Royal Oak for all their assistance on the day. And lastly Graham not only for his invaluable help on the day but his support all year round.

2nd September "Momma" Audax Rides Report

It was a great relief to have good, fine weather after the storms and the tail end of hurricanes experienced in previous years.

Pistyll Packing Momma 209km; 3400m A tough ride but thoroughly enjoyed by all the riders who experienced dry conditions and could see the beautiful views for once. All 36 riders completed the route. Mark Walsh and John Wilkie were the two riders from C&NW CTC

Momma's Mountain Views 137km; 2000m ascent

Still a tough ride with three very steep climbs between Chirk and Ponderosa Café in and up the Old Horseshoe Pass---and then steeply up Hope Mountain out of Llanfynydd.

The event was a CUK challenge ride this year. Riders received a musette and water bottle at the start and a certificate and rather elegant medal at the finish. So, for a £6- entry fee riders received all the foregoing, free parking, a free mug of tea or coffee and the audax route and validation. How's that for value? All 24 riders completed the route in time; 11 riders were registered as C&NW CTC.

Momma's Leafy Lanes 57km

A very pleasant day out with two family groups taking part; special congratulations to Gabriel Rees age 7yr 10 months who completed the ride within time, along with his father.

4 riders were registered as C&NW CTC.

Judging by feedback in the café everyone had a thoroughly good day out and were impressed by the quality and scenery of the routes.

Next year the rides are on again on Saturday September 1st with a brand new info control at Harthill (200 and 130km) to ensure that no one gets confused leaving Tattenhall.

Thanks to Brian and his wife "Old Ma" for their support; also to all the cafes and controls for their help and especially to Margaret Matthews for handing out Brevet cards at the start.

24th September 2017 Presidents Ride and Lunch

34 people booked to attend the President's ride and lunch. Riders gathered in good weather at Prestatyn for a cuppa and a photo shoot before taking the longer or shorter route to Cefn Meiriadog. Once again there was a lovely meal prepared at the village hall. Mike Cross presented the President's Trophy to Vicky Payne in recognition of her work for the Club including organising many Audax events. Thanks go to Mike Cross for organising the rides and meal.

30th Sept 2017 Hill Climb & Freewheel events (Lowri Evans)

It was great to see that members had come from a wide spread of the C&NW CTC area to support the event. Thirteen people attempted the hill climb with an age gap of over 60 years between the youngest and oldest competitors. Ben Hughes recorded the fastest time for the 3rd year in a row and was presented with the hill climb cup with Steve Jones once again second place. Emily Larwood came 3rd and was also 1st Lady rider and 1st Junior. Steve Larwood was 1st Veteran, Ken McDonald was first Super Vet, Lowri Evans was first Lady Vet and Roy Spilsbury had the prize for 'mega Vet'. 15 people competed in the Freewheeling Competition. 1st place went to Mike Gilbert, 2nd was Roy Bunnell for Two Mills, with Paul Mills and Graham Gadd tied in third. Kath Morris was 5th and first lady and Emily Larwood was first Junior. Thanks to the many volunteers: Pete Dilworth, Gerry Machell, Christine Matthews Lumb, Peter & Gwynneth Jones, Dave Statham and Glennys Hammond. Thanks also to Three Pigeons at Graigfechan where riders enjoyed excellent food after the prize giving and Coleg Llysfasi for the start venue. Parking donations were given to this year's College charity NSPCC.

Corwen Audax Events 14th October 2017 (Vicky Payne)

There was an exceptional turnout of eighty eight riders from a field of one hundred and six entrants for these events. The weather was mainly dry and very warm but there was fair wind which would become a problem for Clwydian and Clwyd Gate riders returning over the moors. The main worry for these events was a damaged cattle grid which Graham & I had discovered about three weeks prior to the event on one of our route checking rides; a clear warning was given to all riders as I was anxious that everyone affected knew about it before they set off. Thankfully the mangled bodies and bikes of my nightmares did not materialise!

The Clwydian 212K Twenty three hardy souls departed on this epic ride; all completed the ride. There were two declared Chester and North Wales members. There was a tandem pair from Macclesfield who had ridden over the day before, having completed this 200K they were then riding home through the night.

Clwyd Gate 138K There were thirty five starters on this ride with thirty completing the event. There were six declared Chester and North Wales members. Those who did not finishers in fact all got to the end but had either missed controls or infos by mistake or design apart from one who arrived back about an hour after the start with a mechanical problem.

The Bala Mini Bash 60K There were thirty starters and twenty seven finishers. The DNF's were all accounted for and there were five declared Chester and North Wales members. Ages ranged from thirteen to over eighty.

Everything went well and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves which is always pleasing. As in previous years there were entrants from all the country not just the local area. I will be running these events again same time next year. And it just remains for me to thank everyone who took part, all the controls for their excellent service and lastly my husband Graham who was amazing as usual.

4. Club Communications

Website (Glennys Hammond - October 2017)

- a) The Chester and North Wales CTC website has been updated regularly throughout the year with details and entry forms for 2017 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 due to a software change has not yet been addressed due to pressures of time.
- b) Changes requested by Committee members and organisers have been incorporated. Further Menu categories have been made including changes due to the renaming of CTC to CYCLING UK.
- c) As agreed, previous editions of The Link up to Spring 2017 are available for members to download. Due to the sad loss of C&NW CTC Link Editor Martin Brooks, the last edition of the Link he produced (Spring 2017) has been posted without waiting for the next Edition to be published by our new Link Editor. All links to the new Links Editor have been incorporated in the website.
- d) Committee Meeting Minutes up to 1st June 2017 have been posted on the Documents page. They are posted only once they have been approved by the Committee at the following meeting.
- e) News items have included a variety of topics from ongoing road works to alerts for members to enter events and access photos, Club documents, and other items of interest.
- f) Comparable statistics from October 2016-September 2017 show that overall visits to the site were down to just below 15000 visits compared to September 2015 - October 2016 which were just over 16000 visits. The use of desktops has decreased slightly but there is a continuing trend towards the use of

tablets and mobile phones. Statistics about site usage are readily available from the Webmaster or Website Editor on request.

- g) Renewal of the website domain name and hosting has not increased this year. They are due for payment in early November. Total cost will be £87.10 including VAT.

Facebook & work of the Publicity Officer (Mark Jones)

I'm continuing to administrate the CTC Facebook group and our Facebook page.

The Group is fairly active and has regular posts from certain members who post photos of their rides and advertise upcoming rides. The Group has 363 members - members have to apply to join and John Ferguson and I can decide whether we allow people to join. My criteria is fairly simple - do the people applying have any connection with cycling or any pictures of them cycling? If not I'm pretty wary about allowing them to join as I don't want members to be bombarded with items which are irrelevant to our group.

The Page has 292 likes. I'd like to increase this and use the page to 'advertise' events, rides meets and linked events and try to keep the group to pictures of rides tips on cycling - and any other social interaction.

Basically the Page is the notice board and the Group is the chat we have in the cafe!

I will aim to be a bit more proactive in promoting the Facebook set up in the Link next issue.

5. Link (Janet Jones)

Following Martin Brooks' untimely death, Janet Jones has taken over as Link Editor. Colin Bell and Tony Swannick are still taking care of administration, payments and subscriptions. Janet's first edition, Winter 2017, was posted out in October 2017 to 100 subscribers (more may be sent out soon as additional subscriptions are received) the next edition is planned for February/March 2018. The Link is currently £10 for three copies.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted copy for the last edition, please keep sending it in, also let Janet know if there is anything else you would like to see in the Link and don't forget to subscribe!

6. Right to Ride (Peter Williams)

A540 Two Mills junction

Most of you will know of the improvements that are being made at this junction by Balfour Beatty /Mott MacDonald contractors employed by Highway England. The cycling infrastructure being put in at the moment is costing over £500,000. I now want Cheshire West and Chester Council to compliment this work by reinstating the existing but overgrown paths on the A 540 dual carriageway from Neston up to Two Mills and to Woodbank. This is proving to be very difficult as CWaC have no money and they say that the strict criteria laid down by the DFT to LA's will not allow them to put in a bid for funding to the DFT for any sustainable monies available from the government. So, the battle continues.

Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaCC)

Communication has not improved and the promised Active Travel or Sustainable Transport Forum to be set up by the Public Health department has not taken place.

Hill Lane, Peckforton Hills, East Cheshire

Our application to change the definitive map to a Restrictive Byway is still in a queue. We are no 2 on the list for Cheshire East to look at our application.

Wirral Borough Council

They have secured over £3 million from STEP, the Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package, in schemes to help cyclists and other forms of sustainable transport from Birkenhead docks, (Wirral Waters), up the A 41 towards Hooton and many off road cycle paths are now in. This will eventually include junction 5 of the M 53 at Hooton.

Rossmore East Ellesmere Port

They have started building the houses on this new site, but as yet they have not started to put in the cycle/footpath under Rossmore East as promised.

Sutton Hall Farm Ledsham

This housing development is well under way and improvements to the junction of the Welsh Road A550 and the Ledsham road have taken place with new traffic lights and 200 metres of a new cycle/footpath on the A 550 up to Badgersrake Lane. At lot more could have been done here but the planers/developers are not interested. Hooton and Capenhurst stations are close by and a cycle/footpath route could have been put in to both stations.

Chester Cycling Campaign (CCC)

CCC continues to work hard in trying circumstances. Please log onto their web page and visit the autumn edition of Cycling Matters. They are at the moment trying to get the River Dee path to continue alongside the river from the Cop past the new development over the disused canal locks to the river Dee. Discussions are taking place with the developer Watkin Jones, The Canal and River Trust, CWaC itself and any other interested parties.

CCC are also commenting on the Wrexham Road development where 1500 homes are to be built. The proposed transport infrastructure is poor with little for cyclists. The CCC would like a new cycle/footbridge over the river.

Caernarfon By Pass

Congratulation to Roy Spilsbury and his dedicated team of campaigners for winning the best Campaign Award of the year. The award was presented to Roy and his team at the Cycling UK Big Bike Celebration held in Birmingham 2017. The team are working to ensure that the popular and scenic Lon Edition cycle path will remain safe and in use when the A487 Caernarfon & Bont Newydd bypass is constructed. This campaign action is still ongoing.

All the best to you Roy and team.

Right to Ride Representative. I was intending to give up this post but I will continue for another year in the hope I can persuade CWaC to find some funding to compliment the work now being done on the A 540.

7. Ride Leaders Training

In the July 2017 a rides leader's training course was organised by C&NW CTC near Chester. 6 people attended the course (5 nominated by C&NW CTC and 1 from Two Mills). The course was a mix of theory and practical training. It is hoped that good practice will be spread to the riding groups. Thanks to Mark Jones for taking over the organisation of the course.

Please note that guidance for ride leaders and all of the forms required are available on the Cycling UK website.

8. 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.

9. Report of the Awards Committee

The Committee communicated several times during the year and held one formal meeting.

a. President's Trophy Following discussions with the Committee Mike Cross awarded the President's Trophy to Vicky Payne. Vicky has organised two sets of Audax events from Corwen for the club for several years and has also served in the past on the C&NW CTC committee as welfare officer and registration officer. Special mention was made to Graham Payne for his work in supporting Vicky's events. She was surprised and delighted to receive the Trophy and was presented with it at the President's Rides and Annual Lunch held in Cefn Meiriadog on 24th September 2017.

b. Café of the Year The Pantri Bach Café, Pensarn won the competition. Votes from members increased substantially this year. The Certificate was presented to the delighted Manager and staff at the cafe on 22nd February by Mike Cross.

c. Volunteer of the Year (Best Campaign and Best Overall Winner) At the Cycling UK Big Bike Celebration held in Birmingham on 7th October Roy Spilsbury and the Goat Roundabout Campaign Group were placed 1st in the Best Campaign category. The group was also awarded Best Volunteer of the Year overall and were presented with the Arthur Moss Trophy. The Trophy is awarded in recognition of outstanding voluntary services to Cycling. Roy reminded us that the award is the result of a monumental effort involving several other interest groups. He is quoted that "the Minister may not rule in our favour with a bridge or underpass at the Goat, but by Jove we've put up a fight for simple sanity against an organised government team in opposition".

d. Tourist Competition 2016 At the New Year's Day meet, held at The White Horse, Churton, Lowri Evans was presented with the C&NW CTC Trophy for the highest placed C&NW CTC Lady rider in the CTC Tourist Competition. Paul was awarded the equivalent Trophy as the highest placed C&NW CTC Gentleman rider.

- e. **Certificate of Merit.** There was one recommendation for the Award of Certificate of Merit this year. This has been approved by Cycling UK Awards Committee and will be announced at the C&NW AGM.
- f. **Roll of Honour.** C&NW CTC now has its own Roll of Honour which is displayed at formal Club occasions.

10. CTC Cymru

The Welsh Festival was held in Ruthin in July with about 100 people attending. Riders from almost all of the C&NW CTC groups took part in the Festival, and thanks are due to many of the Club's riders who helped with the organisation of the event. In addition to the usual rides and competitions there was a short ride on the Monday which was registered as part of the Cycling UK Women's Festival of Cycling. In July 2018 the Festival will be held at Ruthin Rugby Club once again.

11. Tourist Competition

The C&NW CTC team were the clear winners of the 2016 Tourist Competition with 424 points. The team members were Paul Mills, Terry Davies, Steve Larwood and Lowri Evans who attended the awards presentation in Birmingham at the Cycling UK Big Bike Celebration for the presentation of the awards. Paul Mills was overall winner (111 points) and also first veteran with Terry Davies (110 points) a close second. Lowri Evans was 3rd overall (also 1st Lady & 1st Lady Veteran), and Steve Larwood was 4th (95 points). Congratulations to the C&NW CTC riders who held all of the top 8 places! (5th Ifor Jones, 6th Ben Larwood, 7th John Wilkie, 8th Dave Statham). At the time of writing there have been very no provisional 2017 results; work is ongoing looking at the future of the competition.

12. C&NW CTC Club Shirts

Several members have requested that C&NW CTC updates the design of the club shirts and following the receipt of the bequest from Raymond Jackson (who used to ride with C&NW CTC) Glennys Hammond has kindly volunteered to develop a new design. The committee agreed that new kit would be a good idea; members will be updated on the design, sizing and prices as information becomes available.

13. 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	Chairman's New Year's Day meet White Horse Churton	David Matthews
Sat 21 st April	Eureka Audax Events (Choice of 3 distances)	Dave Matthews
Sat 19 th May	Tour of the Berwyns & Panorama Prospect Audaxes	Dave Matthews
<i>Sunday May TBC</i>	<i>C&NW CTC Map reading & Treasure Hunt</i>	<i>TBC</i>
<i>Sunday 10th June</i>	<i>Short Charity bike ride to coincide with Bike Week possibly in conjunction with Chester Cycling Campaign</i>	<i>TBC</i>
Sunday 17 th June	Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways (50 miles or 100miles)	Sue Booth & Chester Group
Sunday 1 st July	Bert Bailey Memorial Vets 100	Laurie Mason
Saturday 14 th July	Audax events: Barmouth Boulevard, Brenig Bach & Bala Parade	Vicky Payne
19 th to 23 rd July	Welsh Festival (4 days of rides)Ruthin	CTC Cymru
Saturday 1 st September	Momma Audax Rides (Choice of 3 distances)	Dave Matthews
	<i>Possibly additional set of rides to be added (as suggested by David Ackerley to be agreed)</i>	
<i>Sunday 23th September TBC</i>	Presidents lunch & presentation	C&NW CTC President
Saturday 29 th September	Hill Climb & Freewheel	Lowri Evans
Saturday 13 th October	Corwen Audax Events (Clwydian, Clwyd Gate, Bala Mini Bash)	Vicky Payne
Sunday 4 th November	CH&NW CTC AGM	C&NW CTC Sec

Events organised by other Cycling UK groups:

Sunday 25th March Two Mills Spring 50 organised by Janet Gregory.

Sunday 26th August TBC Wild Wales Challenge Merseyside CTC

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, Cycling UK trustees and the many others who have worked hard to ensure that there have been great events & interesting rides.

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

Lowri Evans