Chester and North Wales Group

 The Chester and North Wales Group covers a large territory, from the leafy suburbs of the Wirral and Chester to the mountains and moorland of Snowdonia. From the quiet lanes of Cheshire to the North Wales Coastal Path and the magic of Anglesey.

 The origins of the Group started with the decision in 1935 of the Chester Section of the Merseyside District Association (DA) to form a new DA covering Chester and all North Wales. After many committee meetings and discussions an application was made to CTC Headquarters, and the inaugural meeting was held on Sunday August 27th.1939. The formation of the new DA was sanctioned by CTC on 4th November 1939, and the first AGM held on 14th January 1940.

 However, history stepped in, and within a week of the inaugural meeting, the world was at war and 5 of the founding members were drafted into the services. Their war service stories included some being taken prisoner of war (and escaping), landing at Pegasus Bridge and cycling on a folding bike to look for a jeep, and even cycling in Egypt whilst on leave from the 8th Army.

 Sadly, some of those who went away did not return. However, those who were left behind, especially wives, girlfriends and the men not yet eligible for service kept the DA going, supported each other and even produced a simple Newsletter. This was on very thin paper, about the size of a current A3 sheet, printed in a very small font, but nontheless very welcome

 At the end of the War, times were hard, cycle parts were hard to obtain and families were learning to reunite and to rebuild there lives. Although there was still an interest in cycling, it was not at the forefront of everyone’s mind and the turn out for rides became very low for the next fifteen years.

 During the 1960s, interest was regained and more riders started to join. However, the original group around Chester had weakened and the centre of activity and leadership moved first to the Flint Section and then to the Crewe area, before finally returning to Chester during the 1970s. Since then the DA has gone from strength to strength. The original membership of 50 has now expanded to some 1500. It is difficult to make a direct comparison because of changes in types of Membership and DA boundaries.

 In the late 70s and during the 80s, in addition to the normal location – based groups, two more Sections arose, the Family section and the Wednesday Section were started to cater for particular needs of encouraging young parents and families in the former, and to give easy riding to the retired members. Eventually anoth group was formed: the Fabulous Ladies for women only.

 There were great changes in 2008, when the CTC Constitution changed. The DA became a Parent Group, and the sections became Informal Groups, whilst the Two Mills Group became its own Member Group. There are now six informal Groups as part of the Parent Group, all entitled to send delegates to the Group Committee Meetings.

Some Statistics.

Since the founding of the Chester and North Wales DA / Group there have been

8 Presidents

14 Secretaries

11 Treasurers

24 Members in receipt of a Certificate of Merit

8 Volunteer of the Year Awards (individuals)

1 Group Volunteer of the Year Award

Events

The Group organises events throughout the year including

Veterans 100

Cheshire Cycleway

Audaxes

Spring Tourist Trial (now run by the Two Mills Section)

Magazine

The Group has a continuous history of Magazines and Newsletters that chart the history and involvement of it’s members. There is also a Web Site that has been in operation for over 10 years.