

The Wheatsheaf, Ness - 8th March 2017

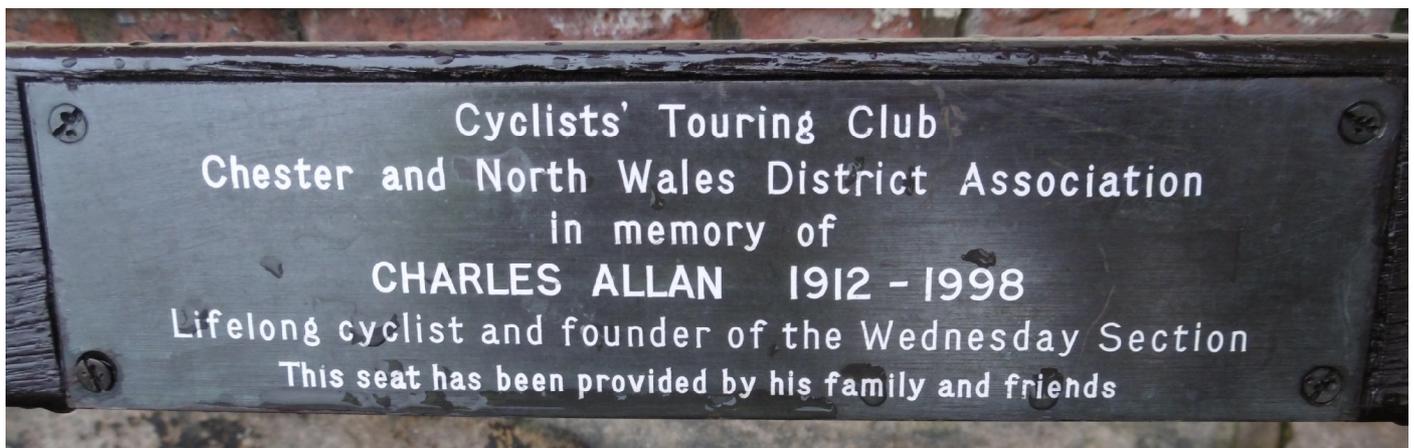


Today is "International Women's Day" (IWD) but our ride started with us all remembering someone of the other gender, a Mr. Charles Allan. For anyone who does not know Charles was the person who started the Wednesday Section of the Two Mills riders.

Mike C along with others placed some flowers on a memorial plaque to him on the bench at Hadlow Station in Willaston.



"At the annual Charles Allan Memorial Ride on Wednesday 8th March, the Wednesday Riders presented a plant to Mrs Jill Knock of the Friends of Hadlow Road Station in memory of Charles and to thank the Friends for their work on refurbishing the memorial seat presented by family and friends of Charles. Charles, who died in 1998 aged 86, founded this group back in 1983 when he was joined by the late Angus McCulloch after advertising for cycling companions at Eureka Cafe. Pictured with Jill Knock are Charlie Evans, Mike Cross, Chris Smith and Peter Williams." (Mike Cross)



The ride was to be led by Richard but he unfortunately sent in a sick note. Knowing the route and feeling well was John F who was willing to lead us to the Wheatsheaf in Ness, across the road from Mike C's home.



Another good weather report drew sixteen riders to the start, with another group of **Brian L Glennys**, and **big Pete**, making their own way. To get to **Eastham** we went through the 'missing link' where muddy conditions changed the colour of most of our bikes; it's always a pleasure to ride through **Eastham woods** with the **River Mersey** alongside the **Manchester Ship Canal**, and a panorama that **Charles Allan** would still recognise.

A bit more off road mud lay ahead on the **Lever's disused railway** from the river to **Port Sunlight**



soap factory. The only bit of climbing came next on the way to **Barnston** and **Pensby** - soon followed though with a nice downhill bit into **Lower Heswall**. We enjoyed the views over to **Wales** going down to **Parkgate** but then turned left heading to **Neston**. Alongside the roads there are masses of daffodils everywhere , but now we are getting wonderful crocus in purple and white - has purple anything to do with Lent? I give up!.

Ness may be smaller than its neighbour **Neston** but it has nicer gardens, with trees that have Neston them. **Bob and Jill** greeted us on arrival. Living close by they rode in a twelve mile circle to

the venue, also [George and Ada](#). On his electric bike our good friend Tony S offered Big Pete and Andy a test ride on his bike, and they both agreed it was great. Pete said "*I will make a space in my garage for one!*". The food was good and served quite quickly - I think we will be back.

The return route took in the [marshes](#) to [Deeside](#) and a bit of the [Greenway](#), but because many live on the [Wirral](#) they made their own way home.

A very enjoyable ride so thanks to [Charles Allen](#) for his great suggestion of a [Wednesday Section](#) and to [John F](#) for leading the ride around the [Wirral](#).

Also on this date:

1917 International Womens Day protest in St. Petersburg- the start of the revolution.

1952 Egypt re-opens the Suez Canal after the Suez crisis.

1965 The first U.S. Marines arrive in Vietnam 3,500.

1966 Nelsons Pillar in Dublin is blown up.

1971 Joe Frazier beats Mohammed Ali over 15 rounds.

1979 Phillips demonstrate the compact disc.

As my regular blog reader (who ever you are) knows that [Jane M](#), [Chris S](#) and [Dave](#) have taken part in bike rides to support the people of [Palestine](#). One courageous woman '[Rachel Corrie](#)' made the ultimate sacrifice giving her young life for her principles and beliefs in [Palestine](#). She should be remembered on this [International Women's Day](#), the 13th Anniversary this month. If I can also be so bold to suggest a list of women I have read about. It would take a long time to read books about them all, but one night when there might be nothing of interest on the box just look them up on [Wiki](#). [Rosa Parks](#), [Emmeline Pankhurst](#), [Emily Davison](#), [Annie Besant](#), [Eleanor Marx](#), [Ellen Wilkinson](#), [Eleanor Roosevelt](#), [Maya Angelou](#), [Sojourner Truth](#), [Mary Wollstonecraft](#), [Rosa Luxemburg](#), [Harriet Tubman](#), [Nelly Bly](#) and [Malala Yousafzai](#).



Rachel Corrie minutes before she was killed

(Photo from Chris Byrne)



'On the Thursday before our ride the path was blocked by a fallen tree (see photos above) Peter Williams (our Right to Ride officer) got in touch with Wirral Borough Council and they removed the tree by Monday. Peter also asked could they sweep the path. As you might be able to tell they swept it before the tree was removed so beyond the fallen tree the path still needs cleaning. Peter has been back in touch with the council asking them to complete the task. Peter works very hard behind the scenes to improve life and safety for cyclists on our roads and paths. We appreciate all the work he does on our behalf! (John Ferguson)'

Text by Chris Byrne with notes from John Ferguson and Mike Cross

Photos by John Ferguson