



CHESTER AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REVIEW
2008



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Charity Number 511406
District Scout Centre
Weston Grove
CHESTER CH2 1QJ

AWARDS

Many congratulations to those who received awards during 2008:

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

CB (Military Division) – Major General The Duke of Westminster KG OBE TD DL (District President), late The Queen's Own Yeomanry, Territorial Army MBE - Yvonne Harding (Scout Leader, 1st Christleton) for services to healthcare and to the community in North East Wales. Yvonne is Head of Nursing at the North East Wales NHS Trust.

AWARDS FOR SERVICE MADE BY THE CHIEF SCOUT

Silver Acorn

Geoff Taylor, District Chaplain (and a former District Commissioner and County Commissioner)

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Hilary Clarke, 5th Blacon

Honorary Scouter

Peter Whitby, 18th Chester

Chief Scout's Service Awards

50 Years

David King, Secretary, District Fellowship

40 Years

David Lloyd, 1st Upton by Chester

30 Years

Ken Barton, District Fellowship

Christine Birchall, District Fellowship

Hilary Clarke, 5th Blacon

Terry Coe, 18th Chester

Dave Evans, DCSL

Keith Harding, District Adviser and Cestrian

June Hughes, District Vice President and DCSL

Susan Jones, 18th Chester

Trevor Jones, District Adviser and 40th Chester

Iain McIntyre, ADC

Hazel Petch, District Adviser

Michael Shobbrook, District Member

Peter Whitby, District Fellowship

Jean Wilson, District Fellowship

Rex Wilson, District Fellowship

25 Years

Wayne Challinor, 8th Chester

John McDowell, 1st Malpas

Nicholas Oates, 1st Tarporley

Mike Taylor, Dewa Explorer Scouts

Andrew Williams, 1st Tarporley

20 Years

Garrick Barton, Maverick ESU

Arthur Brighton, District Adviser and Cestrian

Jan Devine, 1st Farndon

Robin Ford, 1st Tarporley

Ian Harrison, 1st Tarporley

Pam Jones, District Explorer Scout Administrator and 40th Chester

Nicholas Oates, 1st Tarporley

John Riley, Chairman, District Fellowship

Michael Thomson, 1st Christleton

Joanne Turner, District Chair

Gary Warburton, District Member and 40th Chester

Alan Wilding, ADC and 1st Saltney

15 Years

George Coward, 18th Chester

10 Years

Mark Gray, 1st Upton by Chester

Russell Price, DSNL and 40th Chester

Philippa Wood, 1st Guilden Sutton

5 Years

Kieran Anthony, 1st Tarporley

Charlotte Churchill, District Instructor and Scout Shop Treasurer

Matthew Crompton, 1st Saltney

Kelly Jones, 40th Chester

Murray Luckas, 1st Tarporley

Edward Parker, 1st Tarporley

Steve Shone, 42nd Chester

Annie Sinclair, 40th Chester

Reza Rahmani-Torkaman, 1st Guilden Sutton



COMPLETION OF ADULT TRAINING

WOOD BADGE

David Bull, District Commissioner

Mark Gray, Scout Leader, 1st Upton by Chester

Richard Johnson, Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)

Russell Price, Assistant Scout Leader, 40th Chester

Reza Rahmani-Torkaman, Cub Scout Leader, 1st Guilden Sutton

John Wolfendale, Group Scout Leader, 1st Upton by Chester

Tom Woodworth, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Malpas

FROM THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Chester District continued its growth in numbers during 2008 -growth that continues. But numbers aren't everything and we are continuing to try to drive up the quality of the service we provide to young people and their families.

An action plan was prepared during the year to address the most important issues. This will evolve into a wider plan for the District – a Development sub-Committee was set up during the year to help with this.

Work we have been doing includes:

- a wide range of activities to support Groups: the District Team continues to provide a many activities, from the Beaver Scout treasure hunt and IT days, the Cub Scout swimming and craft competitions, through Cheshire Hike for Scouts to a canoe cruise on the Wye for Explorer Scouts
- delivering many adult training modules at the District Scout Centre: in the last two months of 2008, twenty eight Leaders took part. Looking forward, it's gratifying to note that in the first five months of 2009 more than 120 took part in a wider selection of Modules
- increasing the number of Training Advisers
- supporting the setting up of the Hollyoaks Scout Network
- re-emphasising the Young Leader Scheme for Explorer Scouts
- appointing an Assistant District Commissioner (Activities) to develop our support for specialist activities
- extending the reach of the District Scout Shop
- setting a budget for the coming year

We still have many challenges:

- finding Group Scout Leaders where there are vacancies
- encouraging co-education
- establishing successful District forums for members
- marketing the Scout Fellowship
- improving our governance – appointing key officers of the District Executive Committee
- improving our public and media profile

There have been many great events during the year and this Review gives an account of them. I would mention just a couple:

The new Scout Network – not surprisingly called the Hollyoaks Network – got going and is already proving its willingness to be fully involved in the District as well as more widely. The Network got under way after taking part in Chester University's Freshers' Fair, where useful contacts were made.

Our Gang Show performed superbly in the 52nd production. The show is a great way of providing an opportunity for creative activities in Scouting.

The District continues to look for ways of supporting our Groups – so that we can bring the everyday adventure of Scouting to more and more young people. Many thanks to all our supporters as we head towards our centenary in 2010!

David Bull
District Commissioner

FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIR

Congratulations and thanks to all involved in providing another year of service to the community in Chester!

Members of the District Executive Committee bring their special skills to the many business issues which must be covered: trusteeship, property, finance and budgeting. Warmest thanks to them all – to those who are stepping down from the Committee, farewell and welcome to those who are elected or nominated to the Committee for the coming year.

We gain so much from the efforts of the Scout Shop team: many thanks to Roger Hewitt, Charlotte Churchill and Sandra Taker for all their work, supported so well by the rota of volunteer staff. As well as showing a good financial return, the Shop provides a great service to our Groups and parents.

The partnership between the supporters of Scouting and those who provide activities and personal development in our Groups and Units is the secret of success – I look forward to another year of effective partnership.

Joanne Turner
District Chair

BEAVER SCOUTS

2008 has now gone: how time flies when you are having fun, in a big adventure! The year really started with a bang!

With the new programme material available to use from early February and the challenge to work towards new challenge and activity badges, made the year more fun packed. Twelve months on, I think this new programme material and ideas have been a welcome addition to our planning for the great adventure.

Beavers from around the District were presented with their Bronze Chief Scout's Award in March to an audience of excited Leaders, parents, and Scouts from all Sections, an award for their hard work through the year.

We were all parading with pride in the annual St. George's parade through Chester to the Cathedral for our annual service to celebrate St George's Day. After the service we were all invited to the 8th Chester headquarters for a well-attended barbecue.



In May, Beavers from the District earned their Information Technology (stage 1) badge at an organised event at the District HQ. Beavers had to achieve various IT tasks to earn the badge.

"Shiver me timbers"!! Find me treasure; this was the challenge in July: Beavers met in at the 42nd. And had to follow a trail that lead to the treasure, this trail took them to the Northgate pond where we enjoyed time running around, and trying not to go in the water!!

As I close this brief report, I am thinking about what an important part the leaders play in all of our adventure. I know there must be nights when you think, oh! Not

Beavers, but we are doing something right: we have full Colonies and a waiting list of 55 wanting to join.



Without leaders none of this would be possible, but leaders couldn't really function without help and support from the parents, whether this is with helping on a rota or the day-to-day discipline of the colony.

I would like to thank all the leaders, parents and anybody I might have missed, for all the hard work to make the greatest adventure possible, SCOUTING.

I have been privileged to work with Groups and new Leaders, through the year, and I wish them every success for the years ahead with their Beaver Scouting.

To you all THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart!

Richard Johnson
Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)

CUB SCOUTS

In January 1st Upton hosted the annual District Craft Competition. The theme of which was flight and the Cubs made an aeroplane, helicopter and decorated a helium balloon. Cestrian Centurion were the winners.

In February thirteen Cubs and six leaders went to the Founders Day Service at Westminster Abbey. After a picnic lunch in St James Park we went to the London Transport Museum followed by Dinner at Pizza Hut.

In March we hosted the County Craft Competition at the 18th Chester Scout HQ

In April about twenty cubs enjoyed an afternoon with Cheshire Jets they had 1 ½

hours' coaching followed by an opportunity to question the players before watching them play the Scottish Rocks.



In May we held a District Cub Camp at Gladstone Scout Camp in Hawarden. Five Cub Packs enjoyed an Olympic themed camp with a range of activities including Abseiling, Shooting, Go-karting, Crafts, Tracking, Blindfold Trail and a Camp fire on the Saturday; Mini Olympics and a Cub Scouts' Own on the Sunday.

In July Cubs from Chester attended the County Cub Fun Days at Forest Camp. Activities on offer included Bell Boating, Archery, Rifle Shooting, Aerial Runway, Assault Course, Low Ropes Course, Crafts and Climbing.

October was a busy month as was held our District Swimming Gala at the Kings School Pool at which 1st Malpas were the winners. From the results of the Gala the team was chosen for the County Gala in November and Cubs from Malpas, Saltney, Guilden Sutton, 18th Chester and 48th Chester made up this team which came third at the County Gala in Warrington.



October also saw the Totem Pole Scouting

Skills Competition held at 1st Farndon where the Cubs skills at Mapping, Tracking, Cycle Safety, Saints, Codes, Home Safety, Knotting, First Aid, Simple Circuits and Kim's Game. 1st Malpas were presented with the Totem Pole which has been lovingly restored thanks to Geoff Taylor.

In November, six Cubs visited the Lifeboat Station in Hoylake to present the collection from the Carol Service in 2007. They were given a tour of the Station and the Lifeboat.

In December we held our Carol Service at United Reformed Church Hoole. The service told the Christmas Story from the Animals perspective and we were joined by animals and their keepers from Capricorn Animal Sanctuary who received gifts of food and money during the service.

Alan Wilding
Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

CHESHIRE HIKE

Congratulations to all who took part in very challenging circumstances in 2008! The final day, when the Hike ended in Knutsford, was bitterly cold and snowing hard but all our participants fared well.

1st Ashton and Manley, 1st Farndon, 1st Malpas, 1st Tarporley, 1st Upton, 18th Chester, 40th Chester, 42nd Chester, Farndon ESU, Renegades ESU and Wolf ESU all participated - well done to all.



The District trophies were earned by:

Junior - James Falcus and Alex Thornton (40th Chester). James and Alex deserve extra congratulations on winning the Brian Kershaw trophy for the team, from any District, who achieved the best result from

those who had not taken part in the Cheshire Hike before.

Intermediate - Sam Humberstone and Liam Crabtree (1st Tarporley)

Senior - Lauren Jehanecollo and Gemma Smith (1st Farndon)

Senior Plus - Marcus Adam and Jack Hopkinson (18th Chester)

Charly Hillier
Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts)

EXPLORER SCOUTS

2008 has been a good one for Explorer Scouting in Chester.

Members of the six explorer groups located widely round the Chester District have enjoyed access to a wide range of activities.

The young people assisted by the Explorer leadership teams of leaders continued to work towards both Scouting and Duke of Edinburgh award schemes.

In April over 40 members took part in the annual St George's day Bell boat race and barbecue.

Over the May bank holiday 14 young people helped 4 leaders to safely navigate a three-day open canoe expedition on the River Wye. The young people were self contained and sleeping under improvised bivouac shelters. The highlight of the trip being safely negotiating the infamous Symonds Yat rapid, well nearly safely for the pair from Malpas who decided that canoeing down was a little tame so swimming it was a more interesting option.



The year continued Explorer Scouts enjoying a range of summer camps. Groups took part

in international camps in the UK or went on expeditions to France other groups took part in a wide range of camping activities.

The year ended with units taking part in winter camps and surviving on the coldest weekends of the worst winter in 20 years.

Young leader training has been a success this year with two training events organised.

Alan Reay
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

SCOUT NETWORK

Networking in Chester this year has taken off in a big way. On July 4th 2008 an open invitation to all those of Network age was passed out to Chester District to kick start the aptly named 'Hollyoaks Network'. Chester has had an amazing response to the Network group being set up, not just from potential members, but from Groups in the District.

The summer of 2008 started off with a bang by hosting the first Hollyoaks Network investiture camp. We had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, and introduced some new standing Network traditions. The investiture ceremony was situated on the round pool jetty at Forest Camp, Sandiway, lit only by five flaming torches, each Network member had to take hold of the flaming torch and recite the Scout Promise.



Since the investiture camp at the end of the summer we have been involved in a number of different activities both within the district and in our own programme. We have held our own 80's themed murder mystery evening in our District head quarters, won a pub quiz, had a great Christmas party, and held a casino night.

Our proudest achievement to date was being asked to run the first ever Chester Gang

Show camp, which was hugely enjoyable for everyone attending and we have heard nothing but praise from the production team.



Nick Hirst
Chairman, Hollyoaks Scout Network

DISTRICT SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

2008 has once more been an enjoyable and successful year for Fellowship. We have had a varied programme of meetings during the year including presentations on "200 years of boat building" by Geoff Taylor and "Memories of the Jamboree" by Hilary Roberts assisted by two of our Explorers.

We also enjoyed several social events with a cheese and wine evening to start the year, 10 pin Bowling, a "Body Shop" evening, a barbecue with Ken Barton, two quiz nights, crown green bowling arranged by David King, a Sunday Walk around the brick making heritage community sculpture trail at Buckley followed by lunch and finally our annual Christmas dinner.



Members of the Fellowship were also kept busy helping Scouting in Chester and District both at Group and District levels. We provided help at St George's Day Parade with marshalling, flag marshalling, setting up the cathedral with service sheets and arranging

the collection. Many members were again involved with Gang Show at the Kings School, gang members, backstage, front of house and catering for the gang on Saturday afternoon. At the District Cub camp we had several members attending providing staff catering and helping out with their own Groups during the weekend. We also provided refreshments for several District events including Awards Day, the AGM and the Cubs Treasure Hunt when we also helped with marshalling. Some members also helped to represent the District at Remembrance Day.

We again held our AGM at the "Bickerton Poacher" followed by a game of skittles. David King, Christine Birchall and me being re-elected as Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman.

I am pleased to report that Fellowship is still very active and providing help to the District as well as having a varied social programme.

I would like to thank all of our members, particularly our Secretary and Treasurer, David King and Christine Birchall for all their help and support over the year.

John Riley
Chairman, District Scout Fellowship

CHESTER GANG SHOW

Of all the shows in recent years, this one presented the greatest challenge. The previous production was difficult as it had followed a two year break and had to be something exceptional because 2007 was the centenary year of Scouting. However, with the demise of the Gateway Theatre, we were faced with the question of not only what to put on the stage in 2008 but on which stage and where, at a price we could afford.

Having contacted four schools and received offers from two of them, on the basis of the facilities available, by July 2007 we had decided on a move to the King's School. In the event, this was a very good decision and with the help and support of the school management, the transition from a professional theatre was achieved. To the uninitiated, running a show in a school hall might be expected to be far less complicated than in a theatre. However, previously installed facilities such as sound and lighting systems, extra curtain tracks, dressing rooms, intercom, an orchestra pit and even a licensed bar had to be either constructed or

supplied. In the event, the stage and technical teams coped magnificently.



Keith Harding, a veteran of many shows as a Gang performer, volunteered as the new producer on our voyage of discovery. His task was complicated by the fact that we were obliged to perform during February half term (unlike previously) and many families have other holidays and activities at that time and are not available to come and see the Gang Show or even to join the Gang as performers.

Nevertheless, in spite of all pit-falls and problems, when the first night arrived, the production team had wrought their magic, everyone had (nearly) learned their lines, the Cubs were tuned to concert pitch and our sponsors and patrons had helped to bridge the financial gap. A final surge in tickets yielded a surplus of income over expenses and (in the best traditions of the theatre), "the show went on".



The lessons learned in 2008 by all (including hardened campaigners with years of service) bore fruit many times over in February 2009. But that is another story.

Ged Roose
Chairman, Gang Show Business sub-Committee

ANNUAL AWARDS DAY

Each time in the past that the District has made a special event to present award certificates to our members, has always been at the Town Hall (Why is it called a Town Hall, when we live in a City?), and always in an evening. This year we could not hold the event there, due to the Town Hall being under refurbishment. Also from conducting a review of the previous year, it was decided to try an afternoon.

We chose Cheshire View, at Christleton, as the venue, and although the size of the main room was smaller than the Town Hall, it was very suitable. Due to a goodly number of youth members gaining the awards, the support of the Leaders and parents, we found ourselves searching for any spare chairs as we could. Indeed we ended up with standing room only.



Eighty-eight members received a certificate to acknowledge their achievements, and both the Lord Mayor of Chester and the Bishop of Chester presented them. We all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon.

We must thank the Lord Mayor, the Bishop and also the Freemasons who own the hall.

ST GEORGE'S DAY

Our annual parade and service to celebrate our Patron Saint takes place on the nearest Sunday to 23 April each year. This event gives us all the opportunity to let the general public know that we are Scouts; we are here and still going strong. It also gives every one of us the space and tranquillity to reflect on what Scouting is all about, and what our Promise means. This is the event where we all stand up and renew that Promise, and pledge again "to do our best".

This year was no exception with about 450 Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, and Leaders marching through the Streets of our City to the Cathedral



The parade was supported by two bands, whose music helped to keep order to our marching. The Cathedral staff helped us with the service, for which we are grateful.

We always use the Castle Square to start and finish our parade, and the County Council allow us to use it free of charge. We also receive support from the police, who have to close roads to allow us to march through our City.

I would like to place on record our thanks to Cheshire County Council (now replaced, of course, by Cheshire West and Chester Council), the Police, the City of Chester Band and Warrington Phoenix Drum and Trumpet Corps and the staff of the Cathedral for all their support.

Iain McIntyre
Assistant District Commissioner (Youth Programme and Events)



SCOUTING IN CHESTER AND DISTRICT

We serve the community in many locations in Chester and its surroundings and are currently planning to re-establish a Group in Tarvin to serve the eastern, rural part of the District.

Ashton Hayes: 1 st Ashton and Manley
Bickerton (also serving Tattenhall): 1 st Sandstone
Blacon: 5 th Blacon (Holy Trinity)
Christleton: 1 st Christleton
Farndon: 1 st Farndon Farndon Explorer Scouts
Guilden Sutton: 1 st Guilden Sutton
Hoole: 42 nd Chester
Huntington: 40 th Chester
Malpas: 1 st Malpas Garrison Explorer Scouts
Newton: 48 th Chester (St Columba's)
Saltney: 1 st Saltney (St Mark's)
Saughall: 1 st Saughall
Sealand Road/Canalside: 8 th Chester
Tarporley: 1 st Tarporley Maverick Explorer Scouts
Tilston: 1 st Tilston
Upton: 1st Upton-by-Chester District Scout Centre Hollyoaks Scout Network Wolf Explorer Scouts
Vicars Cross and Mickle Trafford: Cestrian Dewa Explorer Scouts
Waverton: 1 st Waverton
Westminster Park and Handbridge: 18 th Chester (St Mary's) Renegades Explorer Scouts