

**365 DAYS
OF ADVENTURE
FOR CHESTER SCOUTS
HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED!**



ANNUAL REVIEW 2012

Chester and District Scout Council

Registered Charity Number 511406



CHESTER AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Registered Charity Number 511406

ANNUAL REVIEW 2012



We are pleased to present our annual review for 2012.

As always, we have a great story to tell – we are proud of all that our members have done and thank all our volunteers and supporters for all they have done and will continue to do. The future continues to look bright for Scouting in Chester and District.

Come and join the adventure!

Joanne Turner, District Commissioner

Neil Thornton, District Chair

Dave Evans, Deputy District Commissioner

Iain McIntyre, Deputy District Commissioner

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

President:

His Grace the Duke of Westminster KG CB CVO OBE TD CD DL

Honorary Vice Presidents:

Rt Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Chester

Rt Rev The Bishop of Chester

Stephen Mosley MP

Vice Presidents:

Terry Collier

June Hughes

Eric Plenderleath MA

Peter Slater

Dolores Whitton

John Ebo

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Chester and District Scout Council

58 Weston Grove

Upton

Chester CH2 1QJ

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CHESTER AND DISTRICT IN NUMBERS

SERVING YOUNG PEOPLE

Hours of voluntary youth work provided by all our volunteers

3,600

Number of nights of camps and other overnight activities

130

Number of activities regularly provided for our members

100

Number of people in the audience for our Gang Show at the Vanbrugh Theatre at the King's School

1,314



SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Number of adult volunteers working regularly with our members

248

Number of parents and other occasional helpers supporting Scouting

307

Hours devoted by adult volunteers to their personal training, provided free of charge

225

BEAVER SCOUTS



A new Beaver Colony opened at Tarvin after a break of over ten years



Three Colonies took part in the District Beaver Challenge at Holy Trinity, Blacon. The winners were 18th Chester. The winning team were invited to a toy testing evening at Debenhams at the end of the evening the toys they had tested were donated to Claire House Children's Hospice.

All Colonies from the District were able to take part in the information technology weekend at the District Centre



Fifty Beavers from six Colonies enjoyed Olympuss, an Olympic-themed Fun Day at Forest Camp - activities on offer included bell boating, water zorbing, archery, climbing, inflatable assault course, backwoods cooking, bush craft, go karts, dance fitness, decorative knotting, crate stacking, face painting, Diwali Lights and many more. A Beaver from the 18th Chester won a bike for correctly completing the road safety quiz



Seventy Beavers from eight colonies enjoyed a day at RAF Cosford, completing their Air Activities badge – and there were plenty of opportunities to visit Chester Zoo

CUB SCOUTS



The Craft Competition was hosted by the Cestrian Group, with an Olympics theme. The winners were 42nd Chester

Chief Scout's Silver Award recipients enjoyed an evening of ten pin bowling in May

The District Swimming Gala was won by 1st Waverton

157 Cubs from ten Packs enjoyed a day at RAF Cosford Air Museum, completing their Air Activities Badge



78 younger Cubs from eight Packs enjoyed Olympuss, an Olympic-themed Fun Day at Forest Camp



Activities on offer included bell boating, water zorbing, archery, climbing, inflatable assault course, backwoods cooking, bush craft, go karts, dance fitness, decorative knotting, crate stacking, face painting, Diwali Lights and many more



Six Packs had older Cubs at Born Survivor, a survival themed event at Forest Camp where they did skinning and gutting, backwoods cooking, survival skills, penny stoves, rafting, climbing, zip wire archery and rifle shooting

SCOUTS



Scouts took part in activities on the Dee, including kayaking and dragon boating

The District Ten Pin Bowling competition was won by 1st Guilden Sutton



Jamboree on the Air – an annual amateur radio event for Scouts – was marked by a station operated by the Cestrian Group at Vicar's Cross

Chester and District Scouts won the County Swimming Gala



Chief Scout's Gold Award holders were recognised at a special ceremony in Warrington for all Districts in Cheshire



Five Troops had younger Scouts at Born Survivor, a survival themed event at Forest Camp where they did skinning and gutting, backwoods cooking, survival skills, penny stoves, rafting, climbing, zip wire archery and rifle shooting

EXPLORER SCOUTS



Explorers and leaders took part in a River Dee cruise, camping along the way



Dewa Explorers visited Lundy Island for the second time, exploring that unique setting in the Bristol Channel



Every year, the Speaker of the House of Commons hosts a reception for Scouts in his apartments at the Palace of Westminster – Chester were well represented once again, accompanied by our Member of Parliament (and honorary Vice President) Stephen Mosley MP



The Riverside Centre on the river in Chester was used for regular paddle sports events, by kind permission of Queen's Park High School

SUPPORT FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Even more adult volunteers are completing their training and achieving the Wood Badge, thanks to those who give their time to support training, especially our Training Advisers, Richard Johnson, the Local Training Manager and Dave Evans, Deputy District Commissioner

We continue to run First Response training courses, so that our adult volunteers receive up to date advice on first aid techniques. We continue to provide this training free of charge, with a small team of trainers – many thanks to Charly Hillier, Richard Johnson and Dave Evans

The Appointments Advisory Committee members may only be seen once by our volunteers but they provide a very important role within the District. Our thanks to them and to Arthur Brighton, our Appointments Administrator

Dave Evans was committed during the year to supporting Nights Away Advisers at national workshops and playing a small part in helping leaders to provide residential experiences for young people. He and Iain McIntyre continued to support our own team of District Nights Away Advisers

ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR SCOUTING IN CHESTER AND DISTRICT

All our major District events were supported by members of our Active Support Units – our thanks to all members of the Units!

Highlights were the District Camp. The Carol Service and, of course, the Gang Show

We were delighted that members of our Active Support Units received awards for their service during the year

DISTRICT CAMP



350 campers and 100 Beaver Scouts enjoyed the year's District Camp at the Eaton Estate, with a royal Jubilee theme. Thanks and well done to all the campers and visitors



Thanks to Iain McIntyre and Charlotte and Roger Hewitt and their teams for all they did to make the Camp happen, with all the usual challenges and with the threat of bad weather

We are very grateful to our President, the Duke of Westminster, for allowing us to use land on the Eaton Estate as has been the case for many years

DISTRICT EVENTS

DISTRICT AWARDS PRESENTATION

On Mothering Sunday 2012, we assembled at St Columba's Church (with their kind permission) for our annual awards presentation. The awards were presented by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Eleanor Johnson. Other guests included our MP, Stephen Mosley.

This year we presented more certificates to our members than in any other year, a total of 168 to members from 14 Scout Groups and Explorer Units, made up of:

- 58 Chief Scout's Bronze awards
- 68 Chief Scout's Silver awards
- 30 Chief Scout's Gold Awards
- 8 Chief Scout's Platinum Awards
- 1 Queen Scout's Award
- 1 Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

ST GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE

Despite a bit of rain, the attendance at our annual St George's Day service was excellent. Thanks to all those members who came to share their commitment to Scouting by re-affirming their Promises and to enjoy a fast-paced service and some refreshments and activities on the Dean's Field afterwards. Our Explorers also enjoyed bell boating on the river after the service. We were joined by the Sheriff of the City of Chester and our Vice Presidents and many parents and friends.

GANG SHOW 56TH PRODUCTION



The 56th production of our Gang Show played to large and appreciative houses at the Vanbrugh Theatre at the King's School.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Show such a success: the Gang, the production and technical support teams, our musicians, Gang Show patrons and other supporters. Grateful thanks to the King's School for allowing us the use of their fine theatre. The Show did us all proud; on to the next show!

CHESHIRE HIKE



Well done to all those who took part in the annual Cheshire Hike! The winners from Chester and District were:

- Juniors: Chloe Crossley and Philippa Lane - 1st Malpas
- Inters: Kierin McDonald and William Menzies - 48th Chester (St. Columba's)
- Seniors: Tom Crump and Oliver Cornforth - Farndon ESU
- Senior Plus: Josh Diamond and Jessica Taylor - Farndon ESU



But it's not just about the winners: all those who took part had a great Scouting activity and did their best. Well done! Thanks also to the leaders and parents who made the activity possible

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The District Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of that appointment and to provide support for Scout Groups and Explorer Scout Units in the District. More information is contained in the District's governing documents: the Royal Charter, which gives authority to the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association, and the District Constitution (last updated in 2010).

Members of the Committee and trustees of the charity during 2012 were:

District Chair

Joanne Turner (until May 2012)
Neil Thornton (from May 2012)

District Commissioner

David Bull (until May 2012)
Joanne Turner (from May 2012)

District Secretary: Lotte Moores (from May 2012)

District Treasurer: Mark Moores (from May 2012)

District Explorer Scout Commissioner: Simon Ashton

Elected members

David Bull (from May 2012)
Ron Jackson
Pam Jones (until May 2012)
Sandra Taker
Joanna Taylor (from May 2012)
Gary Warburton

Members nominated by the District Commissioner

Richard Clarke
David M Evans
John Lambert
John Wolfendale

Advice and Consultation

The principal adviser to the Committee is the District Commissioner, with her team. We are also advised by the Committee's officers and a number of sub-Committees, appointed annually, whose Chairs normally attend meetings of the Committee in a non-voting capacity (unless they are also members of the Committee itself). A representative of the Explorer Scout Section, Simon Ebo, was invited to attend all our meetings.

Professional advice is secured when needed – none was used during 2012.

Finances

We regularly monitor the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the District obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements.

Finances in the current economic climate are always a challenge. Despite this, we continue to raise funds by a variety of means:

- Our membership fee, which is currently being increased by a modest amount

- Investments in the Short Term Investment service of the Scout Association (where income is very low)
- Investment in the Charity Aid Foundation's 90 Day Notice Account, bringing in significantly more interest than many other vehicles on offer (although this is now being reviewed against other opportunities that have presented themselves)
- Fundraising carried out by our Fundraising sub-Committee, in particular our involvement with the Lions Club event on Bonfire Night and, this year, a very successful fundraiser, Casino Royale, at the St Mary's Centre
- Hiring-out of the District Scout Centre
- Our Scout Shop, managed by Vicky Taker

Risk Management

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include two signatories for all payments and insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Reserves

In order to manage our business risks, we have resolved to maintain sufficient reserves (currently £ 80,000) to meet such contingencies as:

- District property – unbudgeted repairs etc
- Properties administered for dormant Groups – repairs etc
- Finance to active Groups
- Development opportunities not covered by the annual budget
- Programme opportunities
- Unforeseen operating costs
- Matched funding/start-up costs for projects
- Loss of income

The Committee's Work in 2012

During the year, Pam Jones stepped down as a trustee and Hilary Jones as our minutes secretary – special thanks to them for all their efforts. We were fortunate that Lotte and Mark Moores joined us as District Secretary and Treasurer respectively as well as two other new trustees.

We have met regularly in order to review and direct the business affairs of the District. Our thanks to all our members for taking on these additional duties.

Work has continued on the maintenance and repair of the District's two properties: the District Scout Centre and the District Stores.

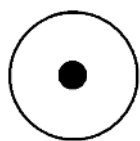
The maintenance work was completed early in the year under review on the 1st Tarvin headquarters, for which the District was responsible until the Group was re-established. We are pleased to note that this took place during 2012.

Communications are maintained through a weekly eUPDATE and the web site. Plans were put in hand for a review of the web site and a re-launch in 2013.

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on their behalf:

Neil Thornton, District Chair
Lotte Moores, District Secretary

GONE HOME



We are sorry to record the names of members who have died during 2012, with our condolences to family and friends:

Dennis Burrows – 5th Blacon (Holy Trinity)

Dr Tim Dowson - Chester Gang Show

Hugh Gorton – former County Commissioner

Edie Harding – Chester Gang Show

AWARDS

Congratulation to our members who gained major awards during 2012:

QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD

Chris Arner - Wolf Explorer Scouts

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARD

Rich Ludden – Hollyoaks Scout Network

EXPLORER BELT

Luke Thornton – 40th Chester and Hollyoaks Scout Network

THE WOOD BADGE

Congratulations and many thanks to those adult volunteers who completed their training for their current role in the Movement during 2012:

Jamie Hillier – 1st Saltney (St Mark's)

Nicole Nijssen – 18th Chester (St Mary's)

Nick Hirst – 1st Christleton

Mark Turnbull – 1st Christleton

Judith Lathaen – 1st Guilden Sutton

Louise White – 1st Waverton

Murray Luckas – 1st Tarporley

Andrew Williams – 1st Tarporley

Andrew Newport – 1st Waverton

Matthew Williams – 1st Tarporley

AWARDS FOR SERVICE TO THE MOVEMENT 2012

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Sue Clifford – 1st Farndon and DCSL

Bar to the Award for Merit

Arthur Brighton - District Appointments Administrator and Cestrian Group

Nicholas Oates – 1st Tarporley

John Riley - Manager, District Fellowship ASU

Award for Merit

Cormac Bowell – 48th Chester (St Columba's)

Jason Clarke – 5th Blacon (Holy Trinity)

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Simon Ashton - DESC and Renegades ESU

David Broady - Cestrian Group and DSL

Susan Darlington – 1st Malpas

Gill Riley - Fellowship ASU

Karen Shearsmith – 42nd Chester

Sandra Taker - District Executive Committee

Gary Warburton – 40th Chester, District Executive Committee and Fellowship ASU

Chief Scout's Service Awards

50 years

Hilary Roberts - Fellowship ASU and County Chaplaincy Team

Ged Roose - Chairman, Gang Show Business sub-Committee

40 years

Hazel Petch - Chair, Appointments Advisory Committee

Jean Wilson - District Fellowship ASU

30 years

Ron Jackson – 1st Christleton, Treasurer, Gang Show and District Executive Committee

Penny Watson – 1st Tarporley

25 years

Mel Owen - Fellowship ASU

Gary Warburton - District Executive Committee and Fellowship ASU

20 years

Jenny Challinor – 8th Chester and District Fellowship ASU

15 years

Richard Johnson – 42nd Chester and Local Training Manager

10 Years

David Broady - Cestrian Group and DSL

Stephen Craddock – Garrison ESU

Allan Craig – Cestrian Group

Linda Dodd - Appointments Advisory Committee

Gill Riley - Fellowship ASU

David Seeney - Maverick ESU

Dawn Steaton – 8th Chester

Joanna Taylor – 1st Christleton and DBSL

5 years

Stephen Boden – 8th Chester

Vanessa Coates - Gang Show ASU

Alex Dalgano – 1st Guilden Sutton

Oliver Harding – 1st Christleton

Cat Hirst – 1st Christleton

Nick Hirst – 1st Christleton

Malcolm Koutson – 1st Waverton

Shelley MacIntosh – 1st Saughall

Andrew Newport – 1st Waverton

Tracey Patterson – 40th Chester

Michael Shearman - Farndon ESU

Dale Warburton – 40th Chester

Jane Whittingham – 1st Saughall

SCOUTING IN CHESTER AND DISTRICT 2012

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: Garrison Explorer Scouts
Newton: 48 th Chester (St Columba's)
Saltney: 1 st Saltney (St Mark's)
Saughall: 1 st Saughall
Sealand Road/Canal-side: 8 th Chester
Tarporley: 1 st Tarporley Maverick Explorer Scouts
Tarvin: 1 st Tarvin
Tilston: 1 st Tilston
Upton: 1 st Upton-by-Chester District Scout Centre and Scout Shop Hollyoaks Scout Network Wolf Explorer Scouts
Vicar's 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



MEMBERSHIP

	2012	% increase over 2011
Total for Chester	1,518	2.02
Total in Groups	1,328	0.07
Explorer Scouts	112	9.8
Number of Groups with growth in numbers	7	

