

**WE'RE GOING PLACES
WANT TO COME
ALONG?**

**CHESTER SCOUTS
ANNUAL
REVIEW 2011**



CHESTER AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Registered Charity Number 511406

ANNUAL REVIEW 2011



We are pleased to present our annual review for 2011. There has, once again, been great progress, despite the continual challenge of attracting more adult volunteers and, of course, the economic conditions which have prevailed for the past few years. The review gives a taste of some of our activities in the calendar year 2011. We hope you enjoy it!

Our efforts as a District Executive and District Team are concentrated on providing a strong support structure for our twenty Groups and six Explorer Scout Units. Proud as we are of all that has been achieved, we aim also to look to the future, helping to make sure that the Scout Movement is still relevant to the young people of today and in the coming years. This is the purpose of our Action Plan, which, as has become customary, was published during the year.

Thanks to all our volunteers and supporters for all they have done and will continue to do. With the transition to a new District Commissioner in 2012, the future looks bright for Scouting in Chester and District, as we keep the faith and try to change the world!

David Bull, District Commissioner 2007-12

Joanne Turner, District Chair, 2006-12, District Commissioner 2012

Dave Evans, Deputy District Commissioner

Iain McIntyre, Deputy District Commissioner

BEAVER SCOUTS

District Beaver Scout Leaders: Jason Clarke, Bev Hall and Joanna Taylor



Once again, large numbers of Beavers enjoyed the IT Badge activity at the District Scout Centre



A large party of Beavers from all over Chester and District visited the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, gaining their Experimenter badge in the process



The Beeston Hike organised by 1st Sandstone was also open to other Groups and several took up the opportunity, raising money through sponsorship for Children on the Edge. The Hike is set to become an annual event



The District Beaver Challenge in November was won by the 5th Blacon (Holy Trinity)

Seven Beaver sleep-overs were held and 1st Sandstone clocked up our first camp for Beaver Scouts (the rules were recently changed to allow these activities)

CUB SCOUTS

District Cub Scout Leaders: Sue Clifford, Vicki Courtney, Alex Davies, David M Evans, June Hughes, Christine Owens and Helen Shone



The District Craft Competition was won by the 1st Malpas Cubs and they represented Chester at the County Craft Competition, which was won by Warrington West



The Totem Pole Competition was held at Forest Camp with a hike and skills bases for tracking, tent pitching, backwoods cooking and first aid. The winners were 1st Malpas



Nine Cub Packs enjoyed weekend camps during the year



The District Swimming Gala was held in October and was won jointly by the 42nd Chester Monday Pack and 18th Chester (St Mary's) Maclaren Pack

A team comprising Cubs from 18th Chester (St Mary's), 42nd Chester, 1st Guilden Sutton, 1st Malpas and 1st Farndon represented the District at the County Cub and Scout Swimming Gala

SCOUTS

District Scout Leaders: David Broady, Martin Formstone, Mark Gray and John McDowell



The District Ten Pin Bowling competition is rapidly becoming a fixture in the calendar. The winners in 2011 were the 40th Chester



Many Troops took part in the Cheshire Hike

Nineteen Scout camps were held during 2011



Scouts from Chester took part in the Race the Dragon Competition on the River Dee, a spectacular event using the dragon boats which are based at the Riverside Centre



A team comprising Scouts from 1st Sandstone, 1st Saltney (St Mark's) and 1st Malpas represented the District at the County Cub and Scout Swimming Gala

Alan Wilding, Assistant District Commissioner (Section Support)

EXPLORER SCOUTS



A group of Explorers (one fifth of our membership) took part in an excellent summer expedition to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre, where they enjoyed alpine activities and the opportunity to experience the global atmosphere at the centre with its campers from all over the world

Twenty other camps were enjoyed by members of the Explorer Scout Units during 2011



Training for our Young Leaders continued; residential opportunities were offered and there were regular evenings providing briefings and ideas for our Young Leaders, who do so much to support Scouting in our Groups



Activity increased around the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Queen's Scout Award, with larger numbers of Explorers taking part and achieving their awards



The Speaker's Reception at the House of Commons is a feature of the Explorer year; as always, Chester was well represented and were supported by our Member of Parliament and District Vice President, Stephen Mosley MP

Simon Ashton, District Explorer Scout Commissioner

COUNTY PRESENTATIONS

Two special ceremonies were held on 2011: one for the Chief Scout's Gold Award holders, the other for holders of the Chief Scout's Diamond and Platinum Awards and the Queen's Scout Award. The District was well represented at both. Well done!



GANG SHOW

The 55th production, this time at the Catholic High School, provided high quality entertainment as always!



Keith Harding, Producer

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

Nine Explorer Scouts from Chester and District represented us at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, as part of the Units made up of Scouts from Cheshire – they had the time of their lives!



CHESHIRE HIKE

Well done to those who won our Chester trophies and to all those who took part in the annual Cheshire Hike!



Charly Hillier, Assistant District Commissioner (Activities)

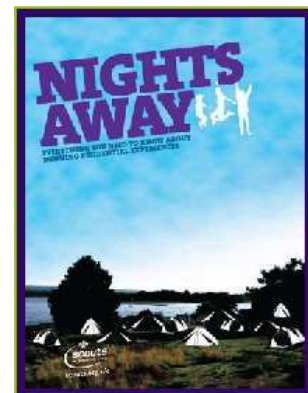
ACTIVE SUPPORT



- The Active Support Units continue to provide support for all that we do. But it's not all work, they find the time for social activity too, with visits, talks, cheese and wine evenings and much more.
- Active Support members have been as active as their name suggests, throughout the year, from the Gang Show to the District Carol Service. We couldn't function without them
- Something out of the ordinary this year was a request to facilitate two meetings in Chester of national groups who support our links with South East Europe and with the Arab region

John Riley, District Active Support Manager

ADULT SUPPORT



- Our Local Training Manager, Richard Johnson, continues to work hard to encourage completion of training and to support the team of Training Advisers
- More than one hundred training modules were attended by volunteers from the District, in Chester and elsewhere
- Fourteen Wood Badges, marking the completion of training for the role currently held, were gained
- A review of District meetings was begun, aiming to make them as useful as possible and to contribute to on-going learning
- A special record card for recording on-going learning was introduced

- Additional District Nights Away Advisers were appointed
- Dave E Evans has been heavily involved in a Headquarters project offering support to District Nights Away Advisers nationally
- We issued eight Nights Away Permits, enabling adult volunteers to lead residential experiences, usually camps
- We also issued five new activity permits, issued when adults are assessed as competent to lead specialist activities

Dave Evans, Deputy District Commissioner (Adult Support)

DISTRICT EVENTS

The major events this year have been:



- Presentation of Chief Scout's Awards certificates by the Lord Mayor at Chester Guildhall
- St George's day celebrations in the Dean's Field at Chester Cathedral
- District and County Annual Meetings, both in Chester
- County Scout Sunday (in the rain!) with the Jamboree Units parading together and the Baden-Powell Giant (made as part of the Chester the Giant City project) looking on



- Sponsored Walk (raising more than £3,000)
- Remembrance Sunday at Chester Cathedral (and around the District)
- District Carol Service at St John's (definitely in the bleak midwinter!)

Iain McIntyre, Deputy District Commissioner (Youth Programme and Events)
Roger Hewitt, Assistant District Commissioner (Event Support)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The District Executive Committee is the trustee body for the District Scout Council. They have met frequently in order to review and direct the business affairs of the District. Our thanks to them for taking on these additional duties. During the year, Jayne Maloney and Mike Hillier stepped down as District Secretary and District Treasurer respectively – special thanks to them for all their work.

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
- Investment in the Charity Aid Foundation's 90 Day Notice Account, bringing in significantly more interest than many other vehicles on offer
- The Sponsored Walk, the District's share from which was more than £1,000
- Ad hoc fundraising carried out by our Fundraising sub-Committee
- Sponsorship, this year from Tesco plc and the shop-fitting contractor at their new store in Weston Grove
- Our Scout Shop, managed by Vicky Taker



In order to manage our business risks, the Executive Committee has resolved to maintain sufficient reserves to meet such contingencies as:

- District property – repairs etc
- Properties administered for dormant Groups – repairs etc
- Finance to active Groups
- Development
- Programme
- Unforeseen operating costs
- Matched funding/start-up costs for projects
- Loss of income

Work has continued on the maintenance and repair of the District's two properties: the District Scout Centre and the District Stores. Dave M Evans has been appointed Manager of the Stores and is already getting to grips with the task.

In addition, maintenance work has been carried out on the 1st Tarvin headquarters for which the District is responsible until the Group is re-established, which we hope will be during 2012.

A survey of internal communications was carried out during the year. One result of that was the updated web site. We shall continue to use social media. We are also considering how we can make our District meetings as helpful as possible. The weekly eUPDATE was another consequence of the consultation. Some people said that they didn't want to receive too many emails. eUPDATE replaced all but the most urgent of our emails and comes out on Wednesday of each week. eUPDATE is downloadable from the District web site and paper copies are available at the District Centre.

Joanne Turner, District Chair
David Bull, Acting District Secretary

SCOUTING IN CHESTER AND DISTRICT IN 2011

We serve the community in many locations in Chester and its surroundings and are currently reviewing our development plan with the aim of increasing the availability of Scouting in areas of the highest demand.

| |
|--|
| Ashton Hayes: 1st Ashton and Manley |
| Bickerton (also serving Tattenhall): 1st Sandstone |
| Blacon: 5th Blacon (Holy Trinity) |
| Christleton: 1st Christleton |
| Farndon: 1st Farndon Farndon Explorer Scouts |
| Guilden Sutton: 1st Guilden Sutton |
| Hoole: 42nd Chester |
| Huntington: 40th Chester |
| Malpas: 1st Malpas Garrison Explorer Scouts |
| Newton: 48th Chester (St Columba's) |
| Saltney: 1st Saltney (St Mark's) |

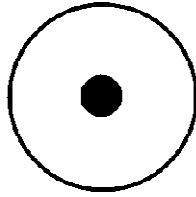
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|--|
| Saughall: 1st Saughall |
| Sealand Road/Canalside: 8th Chester |
| Tarporley: 1st Tarporley Maverick Explorer Scouts |
| Tarvin: 1 st Tarvin (due to be re-launched in 2012) |
| Tilston: 1st Tilston |
| Upton: 1st Upton-by-Chester District Scout Centre and Scout Shop Hollyoaks Scout Network Wolf Explorer Scouts |
| Vicars Cross and Mickle Trafford: Cestrian Dewa Explorer Scouts |
| Waverton: 1st Waverton |
| Westminster Park and Handbridge: 18th Chester (St Mary's) Renegades Explorer Scouts |

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

| | 2011 | % increase over 2010 |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total for Chester | 1,487 | 6.5 |
| Total in Groups | 1,327 | 5 |
| Explorer Scouts | 102 | 27.5 |
| Number of Groups with increased membership | 11 | |

John Lambert, Assistant District Commissioner (Development)

GONE HOME



We are sorry to record the death of Glyn Pickering, a former District Treasurer. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

Our condolences also to members of the District who lost loved ones during 2011, including:

Arthur Brighton, District Appointments Administrator

Pam and Trevor Jones and Charly Hillier, 40th Chester

Penny Watson, 1st Tarporley

Angela Williams, formerly District Secretary

SERVICE TO SCOUTING

Congratulations to those whose great service to the Movement was recognised during 2011:

Bar to the Award for Merit



Keith Harding, GSL, Cestrian and Producer,
Chester Gang Show

Susan Jones, GSL, 18th Chester (St Mary's) and
Training Adviser

Award for Merit



Alan Reay, GSL, 1st Ashton and Manley

Michael Taylor, ESL, Dewa and District Nights
Away Adviser

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service



Reza Rahmani-Torkaman, GSL 1st Guilden
Sutton

Chief Scout's Service Awards

50 years



Peter Slater, Vice President and 1st Upton

30 years



Wayne Challinor, GSL, 8th Chester

Karan Warburton - District Appointments
Secretary

Malcolm White, District Member

Andrew Williams, ACSL, 1st Tarporley

25 years



Mike Thomson, Treasurer, 1st Christleton

20 years



Cormac Bowell, GSL, 48th Chester (St Columba's)

15 years



Vicki Courtney, ACSL, Cestrian

Bev Hall, BSL, 1st Christleton

Kath Kitchen, Training Adviser

Emily Taker, CSL, 1st Christleton

WOOD BADGES

Congratulations to adult volunteers who completed training for their roles in Scouting during 2011 and received the Wood Badge:

Simon Ashton, District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Cormac Bowell, GSL, 48th Chester (St Columba's)

Jason Clarke, BSL, 5th Blacon (Holy Trinity)

Dave Evans, Deputy District Commissioner

Martin Formstone. GSL, 42nd Chester

Carol Gorman, ABSL, 42nd Chester

Keith Harding, GSL, Cestrian

10 years



Tim Clarke, Sectional Assistant, 1st Malpas

5 years



Sonia Chavasse, BSL, 1st Tarporley

Chris Clowes, ACSL, Cestrian

Sarah Convey, Sectional Assistant, 48th Chester (St Columba's)

Sue Darlington, CSL, 1st Malpas

Mel Hall, District Fellowship Active Support Unit

Andrew Hardman, ASL, 1st Tarporley

Joan Hunt, ACSL, 8th Chester

Nicholas Mills, ACSL, 1st Tarporley

Wendy Woodman, ACSL, 1st Upton

Charly Hillier, Assistant District Commissioner (Activities)

Pam Holland, ASL, 1st Ashton and Manley

Iain McIntyre, Deputy District Commissioner

Jane Shortall, BSL, 18th Chester (St Mary's)

David Lithgow Smith, GSL and BSL, 1st Sandstone

Joanna Taylor, ABSL, 1st Christleton

Alan Wilding, Assistant District Commissioner (Section Support) and GSL, 1st Saltney (St Mark's)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SUB COMMITTEES – 2011/2012

District Chair: Joanne Turner (acting Treasurer from 31 August 2011)

District Commissioner: David Bull (acting Secretary from 14 April 2011)

District Secretary: Jayne Maloney (until 14 April 2011)

Minutes Secretary: Hilary Jones

District Treasurer: Mike Hillier (until 31 August 2011)

District Explorer Scout Commissioner: Simon Ashton

Elected members:

Ron Jackson
Pam Jones
Sandra Taker
Gary Warburton
Mike Hillier (resigned 31 August 2011)

Members nominated by the District

Commissioner:

John Lambert
John Wolfendale
Richard Clarke
David M Evans

Co-opted:

Member of Scout Network to be nominated by CSNL for Chester
Jayne Maloney (resigned 14 April 2011)

District Appointments Advisory Committee:

Chair: Hazel Petch
Secretary: Karan Warburton
Members:
Stephen Bonsall
Jean D'Arcy

Susan Churchill
Linda Dodd
Maureen Ivens
David King
Charlotte Churchill
Arthur Brighton
Rev David Sayle

District Development sub-Committee:

Chair: John Lambert
Secretary: To be appointed
Members: Nominations awaited

District Gang Show Business sub-Committee:

Chair: Gerald Roose
Vice Chair: Eric Plenderleath
Secretary: Pam Jones
Treasurer: Ron Jackson
Members:
Keith Harding
Peter Slater
June Hughes
Vicki Courtney
Bev Hall
Joanne Taylor

Fundraising sub-Committee:

Chair: Sandra Taker
Secretary: Mel Hall
Members:
Bev Hall

Buildings sub-Committee:

Chair: Gary Warburton
Members:
Iain McIntyre
Martin Formstone
Mike Hillier (resigned 31 August 2011)
David M Evans