

**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT  
COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**APRIL 25th 2014**

**CIVIC HALL NANTWICH**

## **AGENDA**

### **Annual General Meeting South West Cheshire Scout Council April 25th 2014**

- 1 Welcome by the President.
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of previous AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
- 4 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2013
- 5 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman.
- 6 Election of District Secretary.
- 7 Election of District Treasurer.
- 8 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee.
- 9 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee.
- 10 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council.
- 11 Appointment of Auditor.
- 12 The District Commissioner
- 13 The County Commissioner.
- 14 AOB

## DISTRICT OFFICERS 2013/2014

### President

Mr P F Taylor

### Vice Presidents

Mr R Ellwood Mr P Kent Mr R Stafford

### Office Holders

Chairperson Mrs J Selley  
Treasurer Mr M Sowerby  
Secretary Mr J Bennett

### District Executive Committee

#### Ex-officio

Chairperson  
Treasurer  
Secretary

District Commissioner

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

#### Elected Members

Mr A Whalley (to 2016)  
Mr J Briscoe (to 2015)  
Mr S Barber (to 2016)  
Mr D Scott (to 2013)

#### Nominated Members

Mrs M Dunn Beaver Scouts  
Mr T Owen Cub Scouts  
Mr T Clarke Scouts  
Mr J Hewer Explorer Scouts  
Mr S Cronin Scout Active Support

#### Co-opted Members

Mr M Bennion

**District Commissioner** Mr I Sowerby

**District Explorer Scout Commissioner** Vacant

### Assistant District Commissioners

Beaver Scouts Mrs D Whalley  
Cub Scouts Mrs M Norbury  
Scouts Mr R Galloway  
Scouts Mrs I Shaw  
Activities Mr R Cave  
General Duties Mr M Bennion  
Development support Mr D Scott  
SAS Manager Miss D Blurton

### Local Training Manager

Adult Training Vacant

### Chair Appointments Sub Committee

Mrs C Whittingham

### District Scouters

Miss D Blurton Mr A Collett Ms M Cox Mr A Dimelow  
Mrs J Shore Mr K Whalley Mrs A Bourke

### District Advisers

Archery Mr A Wood  
Mountaineering Mr A Wood  
Shooting Mr A Brookes  
Sailing Mr A Wood  
Canoeing Mr A Sutton  
DOE Scheme Mr D Stonier

**District Chaplain** Father B Baker

### **County Scout Council Members**

Mr R Bracey Other position Vacant

**Honorary Auditor** Mr K Knight

**Registered Charity No: 506895**

**Scout Association Registered No: 10808**

**Minutes of District Annual General Meeting**  
**Held 25th April 2013 at South Cheshire College**

**1.0 Welcome**

The District President, Peter Taylor, took the Chair. There were 43 members and 1 guest present.

The President opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, particularly the Deputy County Commissioner Val Thomason.

**2.0 Apologies**

Graham Phillips, John and Chris Whittingham, Gill Evanson, Alan Dimelow, Paul Boskett, leaders from 28<sup>th</sup> SWC.

**3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

Accepted as a true record.

**4.0 Reports**

*The Annual District Report for 2012* was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment, the President congratulated the report contributors for their efforts during the year. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the president to all contributors for their efforts during the year. In particular he referred to the work at Milldale and the provision of power to the site

*Financial Report* – Mark Sowerby gave a clear explanation of all the significant aspects. The District continues to be strong financially. There were no questions/comments from the meeting. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed, seconded and passed by the meeting.

The President thanked Mark for his continued efforts and once again commented that the accounts were displayed in a way that was easy to follow.

*Scout Shop:* - Sylvia Sowerby thanked all helpers and customers who had supported the Shop during the year but stressed additional help is still needed to keep it running smoothly.

**5.0 DC's Nomination for District Chair**

Joanne Selley was nominated and confirmed as District Chairman, she then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**6.0 Election of District Secretary**

John Bennett was nominated, seconded and confirmed as District Secretary

## **7.0 Election of District Treasurer**

Mark Sowerby had expressed a wish to stand down, a possible replacement has been identified and Mark agreed to continue in the post until the end of this financial year.

## **8.0 Election of Two Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee.**

Andy Whalley and Steve Barber were returned unopposed to serve on the executive until the AGM in 2016.

## **9.0 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee.**

Beavers: Mark Castle

Cubs: Tim Owen

Scouts: Tim Clark

Explorers: Jason Hewer

SAS: Seamus Cronin

## **10.0 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council.**

Roger Bracey was willing to continue this role and was accepted. There was no nominee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> post.

## **11.0 Appointment of Auditor.**

Keith Knight was re-appointed as the District's Auditor and he is willing to continue.

## **12.0 District Commissioner**

- Ian thanked all adult support in the District for another fantastic year.
- He reported a record number of Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Scout's Awards
- The Scout Shop had sold 18,900 badges in 2012
- We had enjoyed a fantastic year undertaking the Cheshire Challenge
- The training report reflected the work that Debbie Phillips has done.
- Waiting lists continue to be a problem and are not decreasing.
- Ian looked forward to another successful year in 2013..

## **13.0 Deputy County Commissioner**

Val congratulated the District on a great year' scouting.

- She reported that we have 9632 young people in Scouting in Cheshire along

with 1810 leaders.

- Scouting is the biggest provider for youth in the county.
- Waiting lists across the county are increasing. Nationally there are 34,000 young people waiting to join the movement.
- She referred to the number of young people gaining their Queens Scout Award.
- She also referred to the number of camp sites in the county and that an adventure playground for the young has been proposed to East Cheshire Council to be built in Tatton Park. There would be a knock on effect for the Tatton camp site with provision of mains power to the site sometime in 2015.
- Val outlined forthcoming major projects and events:
- Work continues nationally on Compass the new database for membership. Everyone needs to check Backpack to ensure the validity of their own details.
- She commented that SWC have got the Permit Training Scheme right. There is further information on the county web site and courses can be booked on line.
- Bear Grylls is due to visit the county 11/12<sup>th</sup> May.
- There will be a stand at Cheshire Show and anyone able to help should contact Cathy Bland
- The County AGM is at Knutsford Academy on 25<sup>th</sup> June.
- There will not be a County Scout Sunday this coming year

Val then presented a number of growth certificates and was thanked by the Chair.

**14.0** Finally a number of awards were presented:

Medals of Merit were presented to Doris Newbrook and Mark Sowerby

A 30 year Long Service Award was presented to Doris Newbrook

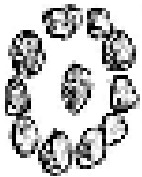
A 25 year Long Service Award was presented to Andy Whalley.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

## **DISTRICT SECRETARY REPORT**

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2013. Work continues with Groups on the District Development Plan and a District Major Incident Plan. The Executive has worked on supporting the reduction of the district waiting list.

Submission of the accounts and the report to the Charity Commission was completed on schedule.



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths during 2013 of a number of former stalwarts of Scouting in South West Cheshire including:

Alan George	Scout Active Support
Rick Edmeades	Scout Active Support
Richard Green	36th South West Cheshire
Alan Roberts	38th South West Cheshire

**John Bennett (District Secretary)**

## **DISTRICT APPOINTMENT SECRETARY REPORT**

### **Appointments Team**

2014 has again been a busy year for the Appointments Team. The Appointments Committee met 13 times and approved 65 new leaders / assistants, 34 changes of appointments and 16 appointment renewals. The District also received over 126 application forms from people wishing to be occasional helpers which is very encouraging as some of these have already gone on to become leaders.

I would like to say a big thank you to all members of the Appointments Team for their continued support, the benefits of the larger team have allowed us to spread the load and respond to unforeseen peaks in applications and reduce the time from initial application to appointment

All Leaders & GSL's are responsible for maintaining their details onto "My Backpack", the HQ database, so please also let us know of any changes in your group so we can also update the District Directory to keep the 2 systems in sync. In 2014 "My Backpack" will be replaced by "Project Compass" the new HQ database which continues to be free of charge and offers much more functionality than the current system, keep an eye on the district website for information on this

Just a reminder that all details relating to the appointments process and forms are available on the District website.

**Christine Whittingham (Appointments Sub Committee Chair)**

#### **CENSUS RETURN 2014**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Groups</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Beaver</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>409</b>
<b>Cub</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>514</b>
<b>Scout</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>403</b>
<b>Explorer</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>1480</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>1687</b>	<b>1801</b>



## **BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT**

This year we kicked off with another bumper number of 110 Beavers gaining their Chief Scout Bronze award! I would like to say a massive well done to those Beavers and a huge Thank You to their leaders for helping to get them that award. They all enjoyed the video presentation of the past year too.

We then held our Annual Beaver Challenge, we had several bases including feely bags, crisp tasting, sounds & around the world? All the Beavers did very well and the 17<sup>th</sup> were the winners. They then went on to represent the District at the County Challenge. They did very well but on this occasion Warrington West Beavers were the winners.

We had our District Group 'Dino' camp with 155 Beavers 'camping' with their groups, under canvas for the very first time at a District Group camp.

There were lots of activities put on including the 'Dragon Snapper', climbing, archery, making a sweetie 'Kebabasaurus', this was very popular with all ages (and some leaders too), the slippery slope and they loved going on the new assault course.

The following weekend 13 Colonies; consisting of 120+ Beavers & 40+ leaders went to The Heath Conference centre for a day of activities but mainly to get a glimpse of our Chief Scout, Bear Grylls.

He flew in by helicopter and walked around, firstly for a photo call with the competition winners then chatting & signing everything from books to uniform! I don't know who was more excited to see him, the leaders or the children? There were also activities for the Beavers to take part in after he left to visit the other sections on his 'Bear in the Air' project.

After the summer break we had our Annual Sports Day, this year it had to be postponed again due to the bad weather in June, we went to South Cheshire College and had a great time, 7 Colonies took part and had a fabulous time. The 38<sup>th</sup> Cavaliers won the overall trophy with 35<sup>th</sup> winning the Tug of War for the second time.

The Scouts from Jamboree 2015 were also there raising money for their cause selling drinks & sweets.

In October a few Colonies joined with Beavers from around the County, at Chester Cathedral to attain their Faith badge. They dressed up as monks for a guided tour around the beautiful Cathedral, learnt about the 'Good Samaritan' and were given the Faith badge at the end for their efforts.

Once again we had a brilliant turn out from the Beaver sections for Remembrance parade and they behaved respectfully and brilliantly as usual..

December saw 11 Colonies of 129 Beavers, 38 leaders & 1 ADC Beavers on 3 coaches, on a visit to Amerton Farm in Stafford. We had a good look around the

Farm, looking at the animals, enjoying the wares from both the on-site Bakery & sweet shop, then a great time in the massive playbarn (where we ate our sandwiches & the leaders enjoyed a coffee) followed by the highlight of the visit; a ride on their train which stopped halfway round where Father Christmas came and chatted to all the children & leaders, issuing all the children with a present and the leaders with a mince pie & a cheeky sherry!!

The feedback from staff from the sweet shop & bakery were at how well behaved they all were and well mannered. This was great to hear, the Beavers were a credit to this District and their leaders.

This was a brilliant way to round up a very exciting and busy year.

This year also saw 3 new Beaver Colonies open, 14<sup>th</sup> Weston opened in September, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Colony for both 38<sup>th</sup> Nantwich (Cavaliers), 26<sup>th</sup> Willaston, these are all doing well and I look forward to seeing them at District events next year. This takes us up to 26 Beaver Colonies!!

Next year looks like another busy one too with District Beaver Family camp, Beavers in Gang show for the first time ever will be 'Riding Along on a Crest of a Wave' after being Oompa Lumpas; and more Colonies opening, so watch this space.....

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive well done & thank you to all the Beaver leaders, Assistant Beaver leaders & helpers for their support and commitment because without them we simply couldn't be the best that we are.

Thank you

**Donna Whalley ADC Beavers**

## **CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT**

I stood down as ADC in June 2013 so this year's report brings together individual reports from myself and District Scouters who have run events during the last twelve months. To start with it is very pleasing to be able say that during the year 6th SWC pack reopened and 26th opened a second pack.

As usual the Craft Competition was the first event of the year which was won by 17th SWC their challenge, on a theme of 'The Garden', was to make a window box, a scarecrow and a collage of a butterfly.

The Silver Award was achieved by 64 cubs who came from the following packs – 1st, 9th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 35th R, 38th and 39th and the usual certificate presentation took place at South Cheshire College.

The weekend of 3rd – 5th May saw a really good number of cub packs attend the District Dino Camp. The highlight for the leaders being the new parking procedures which were so streamlined they made being involved with dropping off and picking up actually enjoyable!

We held the annual Fun Run on the evening of 21st June. The 39th held on to the Trophy for another year and everyone enjoyed hot dogs and burgers afterwards.

Diane Blurton led a team who put on the Annual Sports event on a sunny Sunday at the end of September. Eight packs attended the fantastic event with the cubs competing in the flat race, obstacle, long jump, throwing the ball, and many more. The 39th SWC were the winners and they also went onto win the Tug of war Trophy.

In October a joint Cub and Scout Gala was held. The winners of the cub section Trophy were 16th SWC and they also won the enhancement trophy. The other packs taking part were 1st, 12th, 17th, 23rd, 26th and 39th. This event as usual was organised by Janet Jones and her very able team.

On 7th December, 95 Cubs and Leaders boarded the Santa Special at Foxfield Railway near Blythe Bridge in Staffordshire. This event was organised by Avril Bourke and Mary Cox. As the train puffed through the Staffordshire countryside at a leisurely pace as the cubs were offered juice and chocolate and encouraged to sing Christmas songs. Father Christmas made his way through the carriages and by the time the train returned to the station everyone had seen him and many had already opened their presents. The cubs were excited but well behaved and all seemed to enjoy the trip.

During the second half of the year Katrina Fearn has been responsible for electronic communications between County, District and the Cub Packs, with her help and that of the other Scouters already mentioned the District has kept running well awaiting the take over of our new ADCs Gaynor and Roger Bracey in a few months time.

**Marilyn Norbury Former ADC Cubs**

## **SCOUT SECTION REPORT**

After the frenetic 2012 Cheshire Challenge activity, 2013 promised to be a quieter year with just a sprinkling of District and County events' leaving more time for normal Troop camps and activities.

The atrocious winter meant that Cheshire Hike teams got used to coping with wet and cold conditions – it was therefore disappointing that conditions on the routes and base camps caused the Hike to be cancelled just a couple of weeks before the event. Despite the tight timescale, our District team rose to the Challenge and organised a District Hike along almost identical lines, complete with full Cheshire Hike distances, extra legs, check points and base camp. We were rewarded with a dry and sunny week-end (although with an extremely cold night which froze the leader's gas supply on base camp....). Almost all 22 teams completed their Section distances and earned their Expedition Challenge and Hiker badges. Special thanks go to all who helped put it all together at such short notice.

Our District highlight of 2013 was always going to be "Dino Camp" and thanks go to Carl Shore and his team for arranging another memorable District camp which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was also good to see more Troops taking up the option of camping over on the Sunday night – this proved a good way to wind down after the pace of the preceding 2 days, and they were rewarded with a warm dry evening spent relaxing around camp fires.

The dates of Dino Camp were already fixed when our Chief Scout decided to visit Cheshire, so the "Bear in the Air" event took place on the following week-end. Despite that, 84 of our Scouts and 115 Cubs joined the County event at Tatton Park. Unfortunately after all the 'hype' it proved a slight anti-climax, with only fleeting glimpses of Bear Grylls, an inaudible PA system and insufficient activities to cope with the numbers attending. Nevertheless it was a special event which will live in the memories of those who came. Luckily the excellent food provided by the Wilson House catering team made up for a lot and thanks go to all who helped.

High winds and tides unfortunately caused the cancellation of both the Dragon Boat 'Winter Chiller' and the 'Race the Dragon' taster event. Consequently it proved difficult to recruit paddlers for the County Championships in May. However a few of us joined forces with Alderley District and we won the 'Mixed team' trophy. Congratulations to all who took part.

Regrettably the leader from Warrington who has organised all the County Dragon Boat events for the past few years has stepped down and a replacement has not yet been found. To ensure that our Scouts can continue to enjoy this exciting activity we are looking for volunteers to train as a 'Helm'.

Our District Sailing and Kayaking/Canoeing and climbing teams continue to provide high quality training and tasters sessions which our Scouts always enjoy. Those who successfully gained their Scout canoeing badges were rewarded with opportunities

for river expeditions and a 4 night kayaking camp on Anglesey where we explored parts of the coastline and the rapids under 4-mile bridge.

Ability to swim is essential for most water activities and thanks go to our District swimming team for continuing the Thursday evening Swimming Club through the winter. It was good to see an increased number of Troops taking part in our District Gala too.

Our second Monopoly Live event took place in October (organised in conjunction with Crewe & Nantwich Lions). We again camped in Queen's Park but this time Scout and Explorer teams cycled to Nantwich along the new 'Greenway' cycle track before spending the day searching for Monopoly sites around the town. Congratulations to team 'Radical' from the 35<sup>th</sup> SWC who won after earning £12,760 (Monopoly pounds!)

In the current economic conditions, the cost of Scouting camps and activities can often cause difficulties. The "Up and Under Foundation" are a local charity with a special fund dedicated to helping Scouts who could not otherwise afford to take part, and we are very grateful to them for sponsoring several of our Scouts this year. In return 2 SWC Scouts took part in the Foundation Ride cycle challenge (one completing the 100km route) whilst others helped to organise the refreshments at the end of the event.

The Chief Scout's Gold Awards saw our District record broken yet again, with 53 Scouts achieving at least 8 of the Challenge badges, including some from one of our newer Troops for the first time. Most joined the ADCs for our Review session; they related everything they had achieved with great enthusiasm and demonstrated the high standard of Scouting on offer in SW Cheshire.

Congratulations are due to the 4 Scouts who were selected to represent SWC at the 2015 World Jamboree in Japan, and we wish them well in their team building and fund raising activities in the coming months.

**Robert Galloway ADC Scouts**

## **MILLDALE CAMPSITE ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

After a really wet start to the year we still managed to complete a lot of jobs on site with a lot of help from Leaders and scouts.

Carl Shore headed up a team of volunteers to construct a new Assault course. As many of you know this is two identical courses side by side so that teams can compete with one another. This has proved a great asset to the site and has been put to a lot of use already; so, we have decided to extend it even further this year. As part of this we also installed a new base for the aerial runway in the same area. The place we have used in the past is no longer available due to bank erosion. As part of the same build we have set up crate stacking using climbing harnesses and tree climbing using blocks attached to the tree. Both of these have been quite popular as well.

The climbing maze is another asset that keeps growing in size and has proved very popular with young and old alike.

A big thank you to everyone that has helped to build them.

Some of the more general jobs undertaken were: 250 tons of stone laid down the track and part of the car park, a new hard standing base on the shooting range for the marquee to stand on, 150mtrs. of drain pipe laid across the camping field. 15 horse chestnut trees were removed due to disease, the abseiling wall was refaced and the frame creosoted, to name but a few.

The big item was the switch on of the power to the site at the end of September. After 26 years we finally have real lights in the toilets. This has made a big difference to the site we can now use the Tyler Barn in the winter months for indoor activities and this has already been put to good use.

The shooting climbing and archery teams were put to the test with more young people wanting to have a go in the evenings. A big thank you to all the leaders and helpers that turned up week after week to help run these sessions for the groups.

Camper numbers were up slightly again last year and a lot more evening users were on the site as well. Would leaders please remember to book in if they are going out for the evening so that we can monitor who is on site.

Camper numbers were boosted by District camp with over 1000 Beavers Cubs Scouts Explorers and Leaders on site. This was the biggest District camp since the Millennium Camp. Unfortunately it was touch and go at one stage whether or not the camp went ahead due to the water logged condition of the site. But just in time it started to dry out and the weekend was a great success thanks to Carl and his team.

There are lots more things I could say, but without the continued support of the small service team the site would not be in the excellent condition it is now. Special thanks to all of them for their continued support and efforts in giving up their Sunday

mornings and turning out mid-week to keep things in check. Also, a big thank you to all the Wardens for giving their weekends to man the site and the camp site committee for managing the running of Milldale.

**Mike Bennion Campsite Chairman**

**Milldale Site Use 2013**

Month	DA		EA		Camps		
	Number	People	Number	People	Number	People	Nights
January	1	0	1	12	1	7	7
February	0	0	1	24	1	0	0
March	4	124	2	21	6	75	117
April	2	30	4	90	3	40	60
May	2	92	10	179	7	1186	1769
June	4	33	30	805	6	217	373
July	9	366	37	749	9	196	564
August	1	28	1	25	5	49	82
September	4	75	4	128	11	288	486
October	3	25	8	123	4	54	81
November	1	8	4	63	2	26	42
December	1	10	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>2219</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2138</b>	<b>3581</b>

	In District	Non District
<b>Nights</b>	<b>2339</b>	<b>1242</b>

DA – Day Activity

EA – Evening Activity

## **ACTIVITY REPORTS**

### **SWIMMING**

I am pleased to report our club continues with the same enthusiasm, and our numbers of swimmers has increased this year.

I would like to appeal to our members if they know of any adults in their groups who are C.R.B. cleared and

who have time and swimming skills to give us some help as some weeks we really struggle. Our young instructors are progressing nicely, and many staged badges have been gained.

We have two Galas booked for this year:

Cubs.....Saturday 4th October

Scouts.....Saturday 11th October 2014.

I would like to say a big thank you to all our instructors for their dedication every week, SWC District for their support and also Crewe swimming pool for their support.

**Janet Jones Swimming Advisor**

### **SHOOTING**

The District Shooting Activity Team (SAT) has worked hard throughout 2013 to provide shooting activities ranging from taster sessions to training teams to represent Cheshire County. Approximately 50 days of various shooting sessions were organised and a small but active team was kept very busy.

The year started by fundraising for the SAT with the Christmas tree collection. Liphook postal competition was then underway with regular sessions held as well as training the Intercounty shooting team and running Master at Arms and taster sessions.

The Cheshire shooting team (all from the district) won the pistol and rifle team events at the Intercounty shooting competition as well as the overall event and Tom Warren won the best junior medal.

It was back to the beginning in May with a successful activity base at the Prehistoric camp which had about 750 people (or 75 had 10 goes each) tried their hand at shooting, most for the first time. Regular days were then held at Milldale and a district competition was held in July with over 40 entrants.

The team helped support Milldale to run sessions for groups visiting the camp, both



from within the district and further afield.

In September the SAT took a group of over 14's to Bisley for full-bore shooting at 300m on Saturday, followed by Scout Shoot on Sunday. Two trophies were won at the event but more importantly everyone had a great time. Shooting cowboy pistols with black powder results in noise, smoke, flames, smells and some very big smiles on the faces of scouts and explorers!

The National Championships were held in October and the Andrews won the first and second places in the junior Connaught competition with Shipton ESU achieving 6th place in the senior event.

The team ran training sessions for YPS instructors and also helped groups from out of district to run events at Tatton Park

As always, with any scouting activity, it is down to a small number of leaders and helpers putting a lot of time into providing these activities and my thanks go to everyone who has helped through the year.

**Andrew Brookes (District Shooting Advisor)**

## **ARCHERY and CLIMBING**

There were 25 archery sessions and 33 climbing sessions held at Milldale during the course of 2013.

The abseiling wall was refaced and two new climbing activities introduced: Tree Climbing and Crate Stacking.

A number of climbing leaders have been trained to operate the new activities which are becoming increasingly popular.

**Andy Collett**

## **CANOEING/KAYAKING**

2013 saw canoeing continue to be a popular activity. The team provided 15 taster sessions at Brereton giving cub, scout and explorer sections an evening of fun activities introducing them to the sport.

Three flat water training weekends were available to individual scout, explorer or leaders progressing them towards their BCU 1 and 2 stars or the Paddlepower passport and discoverer awards. 21 awards were gained throughout the year.

For those holding the appropriate awards, trips to more exciting water were laid on which this year included 3 river trips, an overnight expedition and a sea paddling weekend.

In all 294 people took part in Canoeing activities over the year and we currently have around 20 active qualified instructors. I'd like to thank the 20 for the time they dedicate to the team, without them none of the above would be possible.

With the recently added 'time on water' staged activity badge, hopefully water activities within SWC will continue to grow in 2014.

## **Rob Cave ADC Activities**

## **SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT**

On behalf of the shop I can report we had another busy year in 2013. Sales of Scouting uniform was helped with the opening of further sections at three existing groups plus the start of another new group in our District. We also continue to welcome customers from other Districts who by making purchases from us, help their groups with the Rebate Scheme which we've run now for several years. We are very thankful to have a core of volunteers from Guiding as well as Scouting who give their time freely to make the shop a viable contribution to the District.

It is now time for me to take a step back so have relinquished my role as Treasurer, which I took on temporarily over 13 years ago, to Michelle Hitchen and also as Scouting goods buyer to Janet Fallon, our existing Badge Secretary, thank you to them both. I have enjoyed my main roles but it is for someone else now to take up dealing with the essential tasks needed to continue with the success of this valuable asset for the benefit of both Scouting & Guiding.

We are appealing to anyone who in one way or another can give some time to take on this worthwhile role in supporting our District.

**Sylvia Sowerby**