



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 24th 2015

CIVIC HALL NANTWICH

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

April 24th 2015

- 1 Welcome by the President
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of previous AGM held on 25th April 2014
- 4 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2014
- 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 District Constitution
- 10 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee
- 11 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council
- 12 The District Commissioner
- 13 The County Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2014/2015

President

Mr P F Taylor

Vice Presidents

Mr R Ellwood, Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford

Office Holders

Chairperson Mrs J Selley
Treasurer Mr C Titley
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 M Bennion (to 2017)
Mr A Collett (to 2017)

Nominated Members

Mrs M Dunn Beaver Scouts
Mr T Owen Cub Scouts
Mr T Clarke Scouts
Mr W Swain Explorer Scouts
Ms D Blurton Scout Active Support

Co-opted Members

Mr C Shore
Mr R Cave

Registered Charity No: 506895

Scout Association Registered No: 10808

District Commissioner Mr I Potts

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Ms I Shaw

Assistant District Commissioners

Beaver Scouts Mrs D Whalley
Cub Scouts Mrs G Bracey
Cub Scouts Mr R Bracey
Scouts Mr R Galloway
Activities Mr R Cave
General Duties Mr M Bennion
Development Vacant
SAS Manager Miss D Blurton
District Explorer Scout
Administrator Mr J Wedgewood

Local Training Managers

Adult Training Mr D Selley
Mr D Brough

Chair Appointments Sub Committee

Vacant

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

District Chaplain Father B Baker

County Scout Council Members

Mr R Bracey, Mr J Whittingham

South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 25th April 2014 at Nantwich Civic Hall

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 County Commissioner Graham Phillips.

Peter referred to the deaths in 2013 of Alan Roberts, Alan George, Richard Green and Rick Edmeades and latterly in 2014 of Paul Boskett. He asked the meeting for a moment's reflection to remember those who had given so much to Scouting in South West Cheshire.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Jackie and Carl Shore, Marilyn and Peter Norbury, Helen and Seamus Cronin, Mel Dunn, Tracey Shaw, Doug Selley and David Brough.

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 25th April 2013

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2013 was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the President to all contributors for their effort during the year.

In particular he thanked Carl Shore and his team for the 2013 District Camp and also for the team involved in organising and running a District Hike at very short notice when Cheshire Hike was cancelled.

Peter also thanked those involved in Milldale, in particular the service team, for their continued hard work on the site, which he noted was looking very well.

Janet Jones commented on the Swimming Section report and said that 2013 had been a difficult year to manage with a number of special needs members requiring additional instructors. She asked for anyone with a Life Saving qualification to consider helping with the swimming.

It was noted that there are now two Explorers who are pistol shooters and members of the Great Britain squad.

Peter thanked the climbing and archery instructors for their continued hard work and also Jane Wood and Di Burton for co-ordinating the activity instructors. Similarly he thanked all involved in canoeing and kayaking.

Scout Shop: Peter commented on how great an asset the Scout Shop was to the District. He thanked Sylvia Sowerby for all her hard work over many years.

Sylvia was standing down at this AGM.

Financial Report: Mark Sowerby gave a clear explanation of all significant aspects. The District continues to be strong financially. One member asked about creditors shown on the balance sheet. Mark explained that this was money owed for the recently completed project to provide electricity to Milldale. Mark also explained the apparent anomaly between receipts for the World Scout Jamboree and the expenditure on the event.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting and the President thanked Mark for his work for the District over many years.

5.0 DC's Nomination for District Chair

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

Before continuing the meeting she noted that the President had recently celebrated his 90th birthday and his wife would shortly celebrate the same milestone. As a mark of the thanks from the District for their continued commitment Jo made presentations to Peter and Peggy.

6.0 Election of District Secretary

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

7.0 Election of District Treasurer

Mark Sowerby had expressed a wish to stand down; Chris Titley had offered to take over this role. There were no other nominations and Chris was duly confirmed as the District Treasurer.

Due to Mark and Ian Sowerby standing down as District Officers new signatories to both bank accounts are required. The meeting agreed that the following be the new signatures on the RBS and NS&I bank accounts:

Christopher Titley (District Treasurer)

John Bennett (District Secretary)

Joanne Selley (District Chairperson)

Ian Potts (District Commissioner)

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

Des Scott had completed six years as an elected member and stood down at the AGM. Des was thanked for his input to the executive. There were two vacancies for elected members and one for and 18 to 25 year old elected member. Mike Bennion and Andy Collett had been nominated for election and the meeting approved their appointment. There were no nominations for the 18 to 25 year old vacancy and the chair asked members to consider this and hopefully identify a suitable candidate.

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

Ian Potts nominated the following:

Beavers: Mel Dunn
Cubs: Tim Owen
Scouts: Tim Clark
Explorers: Will Swain
SAS: Di Blurton

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

Roger Bracey was willing to continue in this role this was accepted. John Whittingham offered to take the second position, the meeting agreed to this.

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

Reports were received from both the outgoing and incoming DCs

Ian Sowerby:

- Ian presented Roger Bracey with the Medal of Merit.
- He referred to the continued growth within South West with an increase in groups to 25. He reported 10 new Beaver colonies, 5 new Cub packs and 10 new Scout troops.
- He was particularly pleased to announce two new Queen Scouts in the District: Jake Griffin and James Bracey.
- The District was now providing an excellent range of scouting activities.
- It had been a true honour to be DC and he thanked everyone for their support and hoped that support would now be given to Ian Potts.
- He made specific reference to the support given to him by Mike Bennion and John Whittingham.
- Final thanks went to his wife Sylvia for her support and her work as his unofficial PA.

Ian Potts:

- He was taking over as DC of a thriving District, the question now is how to build on this with the challenges that lay ahead. Ian's aim is to have the District ready to meet those challenges.
- Ian wants Scouting to be fun, for young persons and leaders alike.

13.0 County Commissioner

- Graham apologised for not being able to personally present 2013 growth certificates. He listed those groups that had achieved growth and promised that certificates would follow in due course.
- He reported nine years of growth across Cheshire with the biggest increase being in 2013. We now have some 10,000 young persons in the County and 2,000 Adults.
- He said that it was doubtful if we could ever eliminate the waiting lists for Scouts.
- South West Cheshire had the largest District growth in 2013 with growth in every section.
- There is an issue in the District with GSL coverage and the challenge now is to improve this.
- There is concern that the Movement is starting to lose Beavers at 8 years of age when they are eligible to move to Cubs but choose not to.
- Graham referred to the need to maintain the progress through Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Scout Awards and it was great news to hear of two new Queens Scouts - we must provide the opportunity for our young people to achieve this.
- Graham then spoke about Vision 2018 which is about to be launched and how the Movement is focused on delivering this.
 - The vision is that we become a youth based Movement with the youth making the decisions.
 - The County Youth Forum is starting to deliver benefits and the focus now will be on all sections running their own forums.
 - The young people will take responsibility for their journey through Scouting.
 - One aspect of Vision 2018 is greater Community Involvement and one where the community is the beneficiary and not the group.
- He mentioned a number of current national work streams including DBS (the old CRB), IT, Executive Committee training and Compass.
- Graham outlined the programme for Chamboree and reminded everyone that early payment booking was still available. Adult support for Chamboree was still needed.
- He mentioned County Scout Sunday and the Cheshire Show. The County AGM is on 24th June at Astra Zeneca in Macclesfield. The guest speaker will be Matt Hyde the Chief Executive of the Scout Association.
- Finally Graham spoke of the service given by Ian Sowerby, at the time of the AGM Ian had completed 47 years and 1 month in Scouting, starting as an ASL in Nottingham. He has made a significant impact on Scouting both at District and County levels. The DC role is one of the hardest in Scouting but it is really rewarding. Graham acknowledged the role that a

partner plays in supporting a DC or CC and he passed his grateful thanks to Sylvia. Finally, he thanked Mark for his years of service as District Treasurer.

14.0 AOB

The President spoke to echo the words of the County Commissioner on the retirement of Sylvia, Ian and Mark and made a presentation to each.

Jo also recorded her thanks for their work and commitment.

The meeting closed at 21.05 hrs.

John Bennett
District Secretary
South West Cheshire Scouts
May 2014

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2014. During the year the District Constitution and those of the various sub committees were reviewed and amended to bring them in line with current standards within POR.

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 2014 of a number of former stalwarts of Scouting in South West Cheshire including:

Paul Boskett

John Whalley

Steve Bloor

Andrew Wood

Flo Swallow

John Bennett

District Secretary

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

Appointments Team

2015 has again been a busy year for the Appointments Team. The Appointments Committee met 8 times and approved 49 new leaders / assistants, 20 changes of appointments and 30 appointment renewals. The District also processed 227 CRB forms from people either wishing to be occasional helpers or renewing, which is very encouraging as some of these have already gone on to become leaders. Unfortunately at the end of 2014, 51 leaders left our District so despite all our work we are 2 leaders less than at the end of 2013. Leader retention is clearly an issue!

I would like to say a big thank you to all members of the Appointments Team for their continued support and to those who stepped in at the 11th hour to cover unforeseen circumstances.

During 2014 we have seen many changes following the introduction of Compass and the new DBS system. This delayed the process of DBS applications and we are all coming to terms with the new processes involved.

Once Compass is fully live all leaders will now be able to register new helpers and leaders on Compass and carry out their DBS ID checks on line. The Appointments Team will pick up the leader applications entered and continue with the rest of the existing appointments process. The Appointments team will complete the whole process for District Appointments. To assist the groups who do not have internet access or computers the District has invested in a mobile internet connection which can be used at the Scout Headquarters by appointment. The 1st SWC Group have also loaned us 2 computers, which can be used for this work – many thanks for this. It is now more important than ever that all Leaders & GSL's maintain their group/section mandatory details on Compass.

Please note there are now only two forms – one young person and one for adults, the DBS system is paperless.

Christine Whittingham
Appointments Sub Committee Chair

CENSUS RETURN 2015

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Groups	21	21	22	23	24	25
Beaver	259	273	357	363	409	432
Cub	407	411	436	440	514	492
Scout	392	394	369	401	403	428
Explorer	109	114	136	156	155	123
Adults	281	288	305	327	320	335
Total	1448	1480	1603	1687	1801	1810

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

We kicked off 2014 with 11 Colonies taking part in the SWC District Beaver Challenge held at 26th Willaston's HQ. The Beavers were asked to undertake a variety of challenges as part of their team of 6, from guessing sounds, flavours of crisps, smells, building the highest tower out of cocktail sticks and mini marshmallows to naming famous people from pictures and naming badges and different county's flags! They all did extremely well and both leaders and children had a fun afternoon. The winners were 5th Elworth. They went on to represent SWC at the County Beaver challenge where they had another great day of fun but unfortunately didn't come back with the trophy.

An incredible 128 Beavers achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award in 2013. They were all invited to attend our annual Certificate presentation evening at South Cheshire College on 5th March. Well done to all those Beaver scouts for their hard work in achieving their Award, with support from their leaders.

Beavers were allowed to participate in Crewe Gang Show for the first time ever this year, there were over 20, but they filled the stage with their amazing dancing and great big voices. They did a brilliant job and brought the house down every night to rapturous applause and cheering. Hopefully numbers will increase for Gang Show 2016 and those Beavers who were cast in 2014 will go on to perform as Cubs in 2016.

In June we held our District Beaver Family camp. We were staggered by the numbers this year, with nearly 500 people (in 2012 we had nearly 250)! We had to find more activities, some last minute, to put on. Again the weather was kind to us. Activities included birds of prey, the new assault course, climbing wall, archery, water rockets, backwoods cooking, the hugely popular slippery slope, grass carts, inflatables & craft tent, plus our Teddy Bear's picnic. We had doughnuts & choc ices delivered this year to have after our BBQ tea with lots of activities run by Colony Leaders, ending the day with a campfire full of fun, laughter and silly actions! A brilliant weekend, enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone that helped support me in doing it, I really couldn't have done it without you. Particular thanks to Diane & Ingrid, my utterly brilliant camp co-organisers.

In August there was Chamboree, Beavers were invited to go for the day and had huge fun with plenty of activities to keep them amused, including a Circus! Even the horrendous downpours couldn't 'dampen' spirits and lots of Beavers (and even some leaders) went home with big smiles and great memories of Chamboree 2014.

Sports day was held in September in South Cheshire College's huge sports hall (due to very disappointing and unpredictable weather in previous years). Seven colonies

took part and everyone did their best. Lots of medals were handed out at the closing ceremony. There was a fiercely fought battle for the Tug O' War trophy, which the 17th won. The overall Sports Day trophy was again won by 38th Cavaliers, by 2 points! Well done to them.

We also supported the World Scout Jamboree contingent going to Japan, who sold refreshments & sweets to the Beavers & their families and raised £75.00. Great result all round.

This year's Christmas event was a Christmas party at South Cheshire College. 11 Colonies of 135 Beavers plus approx. 20 leaders/helpers all had a great time of Carol singing followed by team games and party games, but most important of all was a visit from Father Christmas to receive a present before home time. £100 was donated to Leighton hospital's Children's Ward with surplus money.

We also had more new Colonies - 14th Weston & 7th Millfields opened their doors to Beavers and are doing well. We have had quite a few new leaders come through this year too, this is always great news as leaders are always very difficult to obtain and keep!

We have had a very busy year and with the new badge system coming out 2015 will be another challenging but enjoyable and worthwhile year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Beaver leaders and their Assistants and helpers for all their hard work, support and time that they give to the Beavers of SWC, they are truly magnificent and deserve a huge B R A V O.

Thank you all.

Donna Whalley
ADC Beavers

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

As usual the Craft Competition was our first event of the year, held on Saturday 15th February, and the winning pack came from 1st SWC. The challenge was based on the theme of 'Space Tourism'. The teams were required to build a Space travel centre for Manchester, a flight vehicle and a holiday moon base.

We are very pleased to report that the team from the 1st then went on to win the County Craft Competition as the SW Cheshire representatives and our district will be hosting the competition at Bunbury HQ on the 7th March 2015.

The Silver Award was achieved by 100 Cubs from the following packs – 1st, Wilson House, 9th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 28th, 35th R, 38th and 39th and the usual certificate presentation took place on Wednesday 5th March at South Cheshire College. This was an increase of 22 Silver Awards on the previous year.

We held the annual Cubs' Fun Run on the evening of 27th June. Seven packs attended from the 1st, 6th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 38th and 39th. The 39th held on to the Trophy for another year and everyone was invited to bring a picnic and enjoy the early summer evening.

The District Cub Leaders did a great job supporting our Annual Sports event on a very sunny Sunday on the last weekend in September. Eight packs attended the fantastic event with the Cubs competing in the flat race, obstacle, long jump, throwing the cricket ball and tug-of-war. The winners' trophy went to the 39th, with the 23rd coming second and the 16th third. We now have a 3rd place trophy once again, thanks to a generous donation from the 39th. However, the whereabouts of the original trophy still remains a mystery.

This year, we reverted back to the usual format of a Cubs-only swimming Gala, which was held on Saturday 4th October. The following packs competed: 1st, 12th, 16th, 23rd, 26th, and 39th, with the winner's trophy going to the 39th, second place to the 1st and third place and the most improved pack to the 23rd. The change in registering the teams prior to the event made the gala run very smoothly and was considered a success by all who attended.

The Cubs' Christmas Party was booked for Saturday 13th December, at South Cheshire College. This year the party was based around sport and Christmas craft activities and of course Christmas food too. The take up from the packs was tremendous with 120 cubs plus leaders indicating they wanted to come. Sadly due to circumstances at the College they could not honour the commitment and so we had to cancel the event at very short notice.

We would like to thank all the District Cub Leaders and everyone else who has helped for their support in our first year as ADCs and also the Cub leaders for making us welcome at their pack nights. In the coming year we are hoping that more packs will become involved in and enjoy our District Cub activities.

Gaynor and Roger Bracey
ADC Cubs

SCOUT REPORT

It has been another busy year for our Scout Section, but the successes have been sadly dampened by the premature loss of 3 prominent Leaders who were all still playing a very active role in District events.

The year started with our second Scout Leaders' Away-Weekend, this year held at Cornell Scout Centre in Snowdonia. With access only by way of a long steep and narrow road we were grateful for no major snowfall, but the heavy rain, wind and sleet tested the endurance and route finding of the hardier leaders on a Terrain 1 walk on the Saturday.

These away-week-ends are proving a valuable opportunity for leaders to 'network', by sharing and exchanging programme ideas, discussing problems, completing training, and trying new activities, all in a comfortable environment with minimal distractions. The 'Black Tie' Dinner on Saturday evening gave rise to some memorable outfits (and excellent 5 course meal) – it also resulted in setting off the fire alarm at 2am when candles were blown out...

Subsequent feedback was very positive and it is hoped that other leaders will avail themselves of the opportunities offered in future years.

The early months were dominated by Cheshire Hike training (special congratulations to the Intermediate team from the 35th who were County Champions) and Gang Show rehearsals, which resulted in another impressive and memorable show in early May.

Jamboree-on-the-Trail (JOTT) has been running for 16 years, but 2014 was the first time that SWC has taken part. It is an international event held on the second week-end in May – which in 2014 fell just after the Gang Show (which limited numbers as some potential participants were still recovering) but 22 Scouts from 4 Groups took part.

Almost any kind of 'Trail' is acceptable and we wanted to make it sufficiently different from the usual Cheshire hike type routes. A relatively easy route in the hills of the Peak District was agreed with an optional extra leg into Terrain 1 taking in Shining Tor. Unfortunately the weather was more suitable for January than May, and the walkers were met with driving rain and wind when they left the Cat & Fiddle at the start. Thankfully the rain abated for most of the walk and a few intrepid (mad?) Scouts actually swam at the lunch stop at 3 Shires Head. The event concluded with a barbecue at Gradbach campsite with the option of camping overnight – when torrential rain returned, testing tent durability to the limit (one leader was seen baling

out her tent the following morning). Despite the conditions, morale remained very high and we hope to enter teams again.

Thanks are due to our District Sailing and Kayak/Canoe teams for organising the usual taster and training sessions which are always so enjoyed by many of our Scouts; these were supplemented in 2014 by a successful climbing badge course run on the walls at South Cheshire College and the crags of Teggs Nose and Windgather Rocks. Our usual advanced kayaking week-end on the coastal waters around Anglesey was enjoyed by a small number who significantly enhanced their paddling skills.

A problem that seems to have been growing in recent years is the length of time for Troops to get fully back 'up to speed' after the summer holidays. This was at least partly responsible for only 1 Scout and 1 Explorer team entering the revived camping competition at the end of September. A similar fate befell the PL Training week-end that took place earlier in the month (intended to support PLs and Troops for the competition camp). However 7 PLs from 2 Troops did take advantage of the training offered and turned it into a successful 'pilot' event.

Thankfully the Swimming Gala attracted more Scouts (& Troops) than for some years – helped by additional 'fun' races supplementing the traditional Gala races.

Special thanks to all our leaders who have continued to provide high quality programmes for our Scouts (especially those who have also helped to run District events). The tales told by the Scouts who achieve their Chief Scout's Gold Award and attend our DC/ADC Review sessions bear testimony to the dedication and invention of their leaders. We didn't quite achieve the 2013 record number of Gold Awards, but 34 Scouts from 13 Troops is still impressive.

Finally, 2014 was the year when Paintball was legalised as a Scout activity – thanks go to Nic Ticehurst for bravely organising an extremely successful inaugural District takeover of our local Paintball centre.

Robert Galloway
ADC Scouts

EXPLORER REPORT

As you are all aware the Explorer Units have been running without a DESC for sometime. Having only taken over as DESC in November 2014 I can only say that the new year started with trepidation on the one hand but also anticipation that 2015 will be a good year for the Explorer and Young Leader Units.

We have six Explorer units and one Young Leader unit. At present we have 93 Explorers registered on Compass and on last year's census we had 155 Explorers. Sadly we said goodbye to Steve & Tracy Barber, Leaders at Shipton ESU who unfortunately had to stand down from their roles however we welcome a new team who, with their enthusiasm, we hope will carry on the good work.

Reports obtained from the units have proven that an excellent well balanced program is being run with a varied list of activities from Climbing, Kayaking, Coracles, Go Karting, Skiing, paint balling, caving.

Explorers have taken part in fundraising activities from bag packing to tree collecting.

Camps were held at Gradbach, Beaudesert & Church Lawton. Explorers also assisted at Beaver Family Camp and the Scout Patrol Leaders' camp.

We had Explorers enter Cheshire Hike and all did extremely well and completed.

We have Explorers that are members of the SWC Shooting team and are competing regularly in shooting activities. Some are also members of the Junior GB Team. Several Explorers attended the National Shooting Competition at Bisley in October and came away with personal medals as well as team trophies.

After many years we have had two Explorers obtain their Queen Scout Award and these were presented at the presentation afternoon in January at Manley Mere. Congratulations to both recipients for a fantastic achievement receiving the highest award in scouting.

We are looking forward to the District Film Camp where the organizing team has arranged something a bit different for the Explorers by giving them off site activities as well as their usual role in helping on the bases.

Ingrid Shaw
DESC

MILLDALE CAMPSITE ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Milldale has had another successful year financially and in terms of campers.

The main work has been around securing a grant to refurbish the toilet block. The refurbishment started in October and has taken slightly longer than expected however this is now complete. Thanks to Ian Brown who has assisted with the quotes, parts and refurbishment.

A new archery range has been created and the main car park has been extended. Thanks to Andrew Brooks for all the groundwork that he has completed.

Thanks to Rob Cave who arranged for Cheshire East Highways, Ringway Jacobs and the surfacing firm Eurovia to re-lay the 350-metre track through the camp site. They provided materials, labour and plant equipment free of charge.

We now have an indoor shooting range in the barn and a defibrillator on site.

Work has continued on the management of the woodland. This will be on going for some time to come with so many trees falling and trees that need thinning and trimming. My thanks to Chard Spicer and the young wardens that turn up almost every Sunday - they are a great asset to the site and undertake all sorts of jobs, learning new skills and having some fun at the same time. If you have any scouts that might be interested in joining them please get in touch with any member of the Campsite team. Chard has also been bringing students from Reaseheath College on a Tuesday - they have been managing the woodland and areas around the top car parks.

The camp chapel has had extensive work to improve the drainage and thanks to Barry Westwood and his team, they have replaced the majority of the bridges as well as doing all the jobs that “just happen” during the week. Thanks must also go to the rest of the “Sunday Morning” Team and duty wardens that between them cover most weekends throughout the year.

Thanks to Andy Collett we now have a new bank account and we are pleased to have Dave Hollinshead as the new bookings secretary.

If anyone would like to help out as a duty warden then please ask myself or another member of the campsite committee for more information. We are always in need of more help.

Carl Shore
Campsite Chairman

Milldale Site Use 2014

Month	DA		EA		Camps		
	Number	People	Number	People	Number	People	Nights
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	1	5	2	58	0	0	0
March	1	0	3	72	7	77	104
April	7	105	3	65	3	58	100
May	4	126	15	263	10	300	501
June	5	283	40	821	8	622	755
July	10	154	33	861	14	239	358
August	4	118	2	17	3	20	94
September	5	141	11	213	7	148	279
October	4	99	8	187	8	51	53
November	5	131	6	151	3	56	70
December	4	42	3	16	1	1	0
Totals	50	1204	126	2724	64	1572	2314

Nights	In District	Non District
		1638

DA – Day Activity

EA – Evening Activity

Milldale Activities

The range of activities at Milldale continues to grow.

Tree Climbing and Crate Stacking continue to grow in popularity, while the climbing and abseiling wall remains as in demand as ever. Last year we tied just over 900 people to the end of a rope and sent them to dizzying heights! New harnesses and ropes have been bought to replace end of life equipment. New instructors have been trained and assessed as competent to lead and supervise climbing activities. 2015 will see the wall receive an overhaul with the metalwork and wood-work being treated to ensure longevity. Thanks go to Jane Wood for coordinating the instructors to cover the activity and the instructors themselves for repeatedly supporting and never tiring of driving people up the wall, or tree, or crates!

We've turned more people into Robin Hood, than we've put in a harness though. A massive 1066 people took part in one of the archery sessions last year! Archery and Shooting (see separate shooting report) are proving to be so popular that the site has to adapt to cope! A new range is being built to allow archery and shooting activities to take place simultaneously. Andy Bradbury has been busy maintaining and renewing the equipment, whilst Di Blurton has ensured all these sessions are

covered by instructors. Thanks to both for their, mostly unseen, efforts along with the instructors who have manned the activity. We received a slight knock back over the winter when the marquee used as a shelter on the range took flight, but the shooting, archery and campsite teams are working together to ensure a suitable phoenix rises from the place where the tent once stood.

Look out in 2015 for Tomahawk throwing... no, please do watch out for it!

Rob Cave
ADC Activities

ACTIVITIES

CANOEING and KAYAKING

Canoeing continues to be a popular activity in SWC and once again the fleet of 6 canoes and 16 kayaks had a busy year. Last year 9 evening taster sessions gave a introduction to canoeing and kayaking to just under 180 cubs, scouts and explorers. These sessions, which are often the first experience of paddle sports the young people have, are designed to be fun, ensuring that the first time is an enjoyable one.

Those that want to take their paddling forward can attend a training weekend course. Last year 2 courses gave 40 scouts the chance to improve their personal paddling skills, working towards their BCU Paddlepower Passport and Discover Awards, under the skilful instruction of BCU qualified coaches.

Once a young person has gained their personal paddling awards, they are able to attend paddling trips and events. These events allow the young people to put their paddling into practice and experience more exciting paddling on more interesting water! In August four explorers, one scout and two leaders went to Anglesey for the weekend where they experienced sea paddling and the challenges that tidal water can deliver.

Dates for 2015 have already been released and places are filling up fast – so make sure you book your place quickly!

CLIMBING

The climbing courses that took place at the beginning of the year were a new concept for the district. Over the course of 8 Saturday mornings, training at South Cheshire College climbing wall, 48 scouts and explorers learned the theory and techniques they would need for the 2 assessment days on the crag at Windgather Rocks and Teggs Nose in the Peak District. The courses gave the scouts and explorers the experience of climbing in a natural environment and gave them the skills they need to be able to climb and abseil independently and gain their climbing activity badges. Similar courses in a slightly revised format are planned again for 2015.

Rob Cave

ADC Activities

SHOOTING

Teams from SWC attended and competed in local and national events with amazing success. The hard work in training has paid off once more with a 1st place at the Inter County shoot with a team made up primarily from the SWC squad. At Scout Shoot 18 SWC scouts competed bringing home 56 trophies including best team, best individual, best pair and best overall shooter. The Nationals at Bisley saw another impressive haul of trophies and medals being won by SWC - around 25% of the trophies were brought back to the district, whilst we made up only 5% of the shooters.

Closer to home the new indoor range at Milldale allowed taster sessions to take place whatever the weather. These were well received with numbers up on the previous year. Our very own shooting competition, the Revolutionary Competition, ran for the 2nd year. Numbers were up with more than half of the competition coming from outside of SWC. Everyone had a good time with the teams mixing well over the two-day event.

Fundraising has been successful with YPS courses being laid on for people within district and from further afield. The annual Christmas tree collection raised just under £1000 and we supported the Madeley fun day which raised a modest amount but supported Madeley Scouts. This has allowed us to purchase new and renew end of life stock with 7 new pistols and 4 rifles being purchased, we also contributed to the work to set up the indoor range at Milldale. The instructors and activity helpers that support shooting are invaluable and I thank each of them for the time that they give.

2015 will see more activities taking place at Milldale as we move away from the Crewe Rifle and Pistol Club. Grant applications have already been made for the purchase of further rifles.

Andrew Brookes
District Shooting Advisor

SWIMMING

Our Swimming Club continues with great enthusiasm, with a large number of groups supporting the club.

We held two successful galas. The Cub Gala was run as a straight gala and the Scout Gala had additional fun races between events. Both Galas were enjoyed by all Cubs and Scouts taking part.

We have two Galas booked for this season, Cub Scout Gala Saturday 10th October 2015 6pm to 9pm. Scout Gala Saturday 14th November 2015 6pm to 9pm.

I would like to thank all our dedicated instructors for the time and skills they give that makes our club the success that it is and to see our special needs Scouts now progressing through their staged Badges is fantastic. I would also like to thank S.W.C. Scout District and the Crewe Swimming Pool Staff for all the support they give to our Club.

Janet Jones
Swimming Adviser

GENERAL COMMENT

The success of this impressive list of activities is entirely due to the continued support from the qualified coaches and instructors who deliver them. A huge thank you must go from everyone in the district to everyone who gives up their free time to get involved in the planning and execution of the huge range of activities offered across South West Cheshire.

Thank you! And here's to a successfully 2015!

Rob Cave ADC Activities

CREWE GANG SHOW 2014

Venimus, Vidimus, Vicimus

We came, we saw, we conquered. This was how many people viewed the 2014 Crewe Gang Show, of which some highlights were:

- the first time the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe had ever seen a Beaver scout cast
- a new, contemporary feel with no 'old fashioned' tabs (curtains) coming in and out
- a Poi display team and
- an uplift of 1/5 on ticket sales from the 2012 show.

The show wasn't without its teething troubles, but with a strong cast of over 100, and some innovative ideas, rehearsals started in the autumn of 2013. With a break over the Christmas period and some last minute changes, come spring 2014 we were at full tilt, with two rehearsals a week soon becoming three. As we got into April and moved into the theatre, the real fun started.

Over the course of the run of the show we sold over 2000 tickets and sold more than 100 DVD's (one as far as Cornwall!), showing a fabulous 'public face of Scouting' to the people of South Cheshire. Together with the loyal support of families, friends and Scouters in the district, the audiences were boosted with both the local mayors, visiting Gang Shows from all over the country and Scout and Guide visitors from other parts of the county too - this created such a great atmosphere in the Lyceum auditorium. The amazing cast received standing ovations at 3 of the 5 performances. The show seemed to deliver both as an engaging Scouting activity for the members of this district (almost uniquely in local scouting - free at the point of access) and also as a great ambassador for scouting. To the production team's knowledge, we have at least four more 'warranted' adult scouters in the district as a result of external adult helpers getting involved in CGS 2014.

So, onwards... the Production team have 90% of the 2016 show written, the management team are busy and have booked **the Lyceum Theatre for 24-30th April 2016**, and the marketing team are flat out, targeting 2400 ticket sales for 2016, and aiming for the show to make a healthy profit again in the future to put back into Scouting in South West Cheshire.

Always wondered about being involved but not sure how? Drop me an email at craigchaplow@hotmail.com even if you don't fancy 'treading the boards', we have all sorts of roles available.

Thanks go to everyone involved in Crewe Gang Show - the cast and back room staff - all of whom worked unbelievably hard. I can never quite work out how it's possible

that so many people seem to manage putting normal life on hold for the run up to and the week of the show,

Please make a note of the 2016 dates above and come and join us.

Craig Chaplow

On behalf of CGS Production & Management teams

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

The shop has had another busy year and is the one district asset that continues to provide us with much needed funds. The core of volunteers that staff the shop, from both Guiding and Scouting, continue to offer much valued support in keeping this vital district asset afloat. Without them this would not be possible. The income from the shop helps to keep more substantial district capitation levies at bay, so please make good use of it.

There were steady sales in uniforms over the year and the 2014 Gang Show helped to boost these figures. As usual there was a big surge in September and October as groups return after their summer breaks; sales to out-of-district customers remain steady.

With Sylvia Sowerby stepping down at the end of 2013, there has been a period of adjustment in the shop with Michelle Hitchen taking over as treasurer and Janet Fallon taking on the role of Scouting goods buyer as well as continuing as Badge Secretary; the Shop Sub-Committee have stepped up too and have taken on more responsibilities. Thank you to them all. We are, however, about to say goodbye to Michelle, as she will be stepping down shortly, and take this opportunity to thank her for her work. We are in the process of appointing her replacement and they should be in position shortly.

The shop continues to offer a place for Scouts doing their Duke of Edinburgh Awards to carry out the required service element.

Recent illness amongst a number of shop staff volunteers has however highlighted just how vital their roles are and although things are returning to normal we are looking for help to increase the staff on the rota so that we can cover all eventualities. If you are able to give even a few hours a month we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Joanne Selley

District Accounts to 31st December 2014

Bank Balances

RBS Gold Account 19,175.66 (txd to current account 25/06/14)

RBS Current account at year end 5,482.25

NS&I 63,986.95

District Activities Balances

Milldale Campsite 8,570.28

Water 4,055.98

Shooting 869.69

Beavers 586.36

Cubs

Scouts 58.46

Explorers 13,613.10

Swimming 380.85 (from May 14)

Scout & Guide Shop

Current account 5,727.58

Turnover 43,208.96

Insurance Costs

HQ & Shop 1,126.43

50 no members cover 79.50

Milldale 3,125.78

Marine 1,172.15

District store 385.95

Total Insurance Costs 5,889.81

