



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 7th 2017

CIVIC HALL NANTWICH

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

April 7th 2017

- 1 Welcome by the President
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of previous AGM held on 8th April 2016
- 4 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016
- 5 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman
- 6 Approval of District Secretary
- 7 Approval 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
- 12 The District Commissioner
- 13 The County Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2016/2017

<p>President Mr P F Taylor</p> <p>Vice Presidents Mr R Ellwood, Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford</p> <p>Office Holders Chairperson Mr R Chaplow Treasurer Mr R Bennett Secretary Mr J Bennett</p> <p>District Executive Committee Ex-officio Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Network Scout Commissioner</p> <p>Elected Members Mr A Whalley (to 2019) Mr M Bennion (to 2017) Mr A Collett (to 2017) Miss S Fearn (to 2018) Mr A Steele (to 2018)</p> <p>Nominated Members Mrs C Watson Beaver Scouts Mrs F Mahon Cub Scouts Mr T Clarke Scouts Vacant Explorer Scouts Ms D Blurton SAS</p> <p>Co-opted Members Mr C Shore Camp Site Chair</p> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>	<p>District Commissioner Mr I Potts</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Commissioner Ms I Shaw</p> <p>District Scout Network Commissioner Mr W Swain</p> <p>Assistant District Commissioners Beaver Scouts Mrs D Whalley Beaver Scouts Mrs M Dunn Cub Scouts Mrs G Bracey Cub Scouts Mr R Bracey Scouts Mr R Galloway Scouts Mrs L Grasmeder Activities Vacant General Duties Mr M Bennion Development Vacant SAS Manager Vacant</p> <p>Local Training Manager Adult Training Mr D Brough</p> <p>Chair Appointments Sub Committee Ms J Wilkinson</p> <p><u>District Scouters</u> Miss D Blurton, Mr A Collett, Mrs M Cox Mr B Westwood, Mrs J Shore, Mr C Spicer, Mrs A Bourke, Mrs M Norbury.</p> <p><u>District Advisers</u> Archery Vacant Mountaineering Vacant Shooting Mr A Brookes Sailing Mr I Brown Canoeing Mr A Sutton DOE Scheme Vacant Swimming Mrs J Jones</p> <p><u>District Chaplain</u> Vacant</p> <p><u>County Scout Council Members</u> Mr R Bracey, Mr J Whittingham</p>
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South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 8th April 2016 Nantwich Civic Hall

1.0 Welcome

The District President, Peter Taylor, took the Chair. There were 36 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 since the last AGM of Margaret Crossley, Brian Dodd, Doris Newbrook, Keith Burrows, Kath Garner and Joyce Dawson. 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 Di Blurton, Stephanie Fearn, Will Swain, Dane Chaplow, Roy Chetwood, John Wedgwood, Mike Bennion, Lise Grasmeder, Mike Lightfoot, Seamus and Helen Cronin.

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 25th April 2015

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2015 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.

Appointments

Jen commented on the drop in numbers of people applying for leader warrants.

Secretary

Nothing to add to the report.

Beavers

Peter welcomed Mel Dunn as the second ADC Beavers. The only comment over and above the Beaver section report was the need for more leaders in the Beaver colonies.

Cub Scouts

Roger Bracey added that Cubs had attended a very enjoyable Film Camp (District Camp) and he asked for the section's thanks to the organisers be recorded.

Scouts

Rob Galloway thanked Lise Grasmeder for taking on the second ADC Scout role and commented that a district of the size of SWC needed two ADCs in each section.

Explorer and Network

Nothing to add to the report.

Milldale

Nothing to add to the report other than to express disappointment over the lack of support that Chard Spicer was getting in attempting to run a young leaders team at Milldale.

Gerald Newbrook asked that those involved with Milldale be congratulated on the work that they were doing.

Barry Westwood made a plea that all those using Milldale should observe the Country Code. He commented on the litter being left on site, general behaviour and standards and a failure to lock the gate.

Activities

Sailing

The report was accepted and there was an appeal for help for people to come forward to be trained as instructors.

Canoeing

A similar request for new instructors was made in respect of canoeing.

Archery

The issues surrounding the new permit requirements for archery were explained and accepted. Courses are now being run to enable instructors to gain the new permit.

Shooting

The report was accepted, Peter asked that the strengths and successes of the District shooting team be recognised.

Swimming

Janet Jones commented on the Swimming Section report and stated that the club has now moved to the new pool at the Lifestyle Centre. The water depth is less

than the 'old baths' and this does cause some problems with some badge work. She advised that there were now three young instructors in the team.

Scout Shop

The DC commented on the report and stated that badge/uniform sales were holding up but some of the other items were not selling as well. There is a need for a shop manager and younger people to join the team. He also commented on the need to look at all options to bring processes into the 21st century.

Financial Report

Chris Titley presented the accounts for 2015 and explained the change in format in setting them out. He commented that full details were available if anyone wished to see them.

He answered a number of questions from the floor regarding the accounts. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed, seconded and carried the President thanked Chris for his work.

5.0 DC's Nomination for District Chair

Ian told the meeting that Jo Selley had indicated that she was stepping down as chair as of this AGM after five years in the post. Ian asked that the minutes recorded the thanks for everything that she had done in that time and that a huge thanks was owed to her. There was no nomination for a replacement at this stage.

6.0 Election of District Secretary

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

7.0 Election of District Treasurer

Chris Titley was nominated and confirmed as District Treasurer.

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

There were two vacancies for elected members, only one nomination – Andy Whalley had been received. Andy was duly elected to the District Executive Committee.

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: Claire Watson

Cubs: Fiona Mahon

Scouts: Tim Clark

Explorers: TBC

SAS: Di Blurton

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

Roger Bracey and John Whittingham were both willing to continue in this role, the meeting agreed to this.

11.0 World Scout Jamboree Japan 2015

Ocea Birtles, Harriet Faulkner and Lucy Everall gave an audio visual presentation of their experiences at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi City, Japan.

Peter thanked them for their input.

12.0 District Commissioner

Ian Potts started by asking what have we done in SWC during 2015. His answer was 'a huge amount', much of which is described in the activity reports. In particular he mentioned the very successful District Camp and asked for his thanks to Tice and the team to be recorded.

12.1 Ian also covered the following topics

- District Youth Forum; none groups were represented at the first meeting, he felt that it was a good start with open and honest feedback.
- Thanks to everyone in the District Team and the support given over the last year.
- He also thanked the leaders of all groups in the district for the quality programme they have delivered.
- Scouting in SWC is a fantastic opportunity to develop Young Leaders.
- The new programme is bedding in.
- Some groups are struggling and this is reflected in the census data.
- There is a need to get to grips with the waiting lists.
- He referred to challenges ahead in 2016 including the roll out of a new district email facility and a refreshed web site

12.2 He mentioned a meritorious award to Ashley Beech, a Scout with 26th SWC and the award to Katrina Fearn of the Bar to the Meritorious Award.

12.3 Finally, Ian thanked everyone for the support he has received.

13.0 County Commissioner

Graham began by presenting 13 Growth Award certificates to 12 groups and the District.

13.1 He congratulated the three members of the Cheshire Jamboree Contingent and commented that they had done a very good job.

13.2 He then spoke about the census figures and highlighted:

- The county figures mirror those nationally for growth
- There are some 10,000 young people and 2500 leaders in Cheshire
- Cheshire is in the top 10 counties for membership numbers

- SWC is the largest district in the county.

13.3 Looking ahead Graham mentioned a number of topics:

- SWC is a very successful district, yes there are challenges but this is about success.
- Nationally the movement has seen 13 years of growth.
- He mentioned 'Million Hands' which is about Scouting being actively involved in supporting our own communities.
- 2016 is a big year for Cubs as they celebrate their centenary with many activities arranged across the county.
- Beavers celebrate their 30th anniversary and again there is a wealth of activities available.
- Cheshire Hike had 265 teams taking part. There will be a training session for leaders prior to the 2017 event. The aim is to encourage those groups who do not normally take part to do so.
- Compass is being relaunched and by the coming weekend all training records completed since Compass went off line will have been loaded on to the system. As a result, a raft of Wood Badges have been awarded.
- A water and land activity day will be held at Tatton again this year.
- A lot of lessons were learned during the 2015 Winter Camp and these will be incorporated in the 2016 event.
- A major move for Network from a county to district responsibility has taken place, this has resulted in an increase in membership.
- He spoke about the county camp sites and the introduction of tented villages at Tatton and Forest along with the appointment of two activity instructors at the sites.
- Simon Appleton has been appointed the full time Development Officer and his role is aimed and adult recruitment.

13.4 Finally, Graham thanked Ian Potts for all his hard work in 2015, he commented that the role of DC is the hardest role in Scouting but the most rewarding.

14.0 AOB

No issues raised.

The meeting closed at 21.30

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. May 2016

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2016. Submission of the annual census return was completed on time. The district accounts and the report to the Charity Commission were also completed on schedule.

The DC, District Secretary and Appointments Secretary have carried out a lengthy piece of work to review the district directory and to validate its contents against the membership database. The District Secretary has also developed and maintains a full database of all email addresses for members of SWC.

The Executive supported the highly successful 2016 Gang Show and has approved a Business Case for a Show in 2018 which will be the 80th anniversary of Crewe Gang Show. The District Executive is also supporting the 2017 District Camp along with upgrades to the district email system and web site.

The executive was pleased to note the following awards presented in South West Cheshire including:

Award for Merit – Tim Owen

Award for Merit – Donna Whalley

Bar to the Award for Merit – David Allman



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths during 2016 of a number of former stalwarts of Scouting in South West Cheshire including:

Brian Garner

Shaun Williams

John Bennett
District Secretary

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Appointments Committee met on 7 (8)* occasions in 2015 and approved 41 (38) new Section Leaders / Assistant Leaders. It also approved 15 (14) changes of role / additional roles.

246 (141) DBS checks were requested and processed for new District and Group Occasional Helpers plus those needed to renew an appointment. This is an increase of more than 100 checks compared to the previous year, due to the need for additional volunteers for Gang Show, Beaver family camp and District Cub camp.

*Figures in brackets are for 2016

Renewals of appointment were not formally approved by the Committee in 2016. Now that Compass is back up and running, and (hopefully) Leaders will have checked that their details are correct we can begin to implement our process for the renewal of appointments.

The Appointments Committee still consists of 12 members, 3 of which must be present for each interview. This may be the first contact that prospective new Leaders have with members of Scouting outside the Group that they have agreed to join and it is important that we as a Committee represent the mix of ages within Scouting and are welcoming and approachable to our candidates. We would like to recruit a few new younger members to our team to ease the pressure on the existing Committee.

We thank our current Committee members for their continued support in this very important role within our District.

Jen Wilkinson
Appointments Sub Committee Chair

Tim Owen
Appointments Secretary

CENSUS RETURN 2017							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Groups	21	22	23	24	25	24	24
Beaver	273	357	363	409	432	404	416
Cub	411	436	440	514	492	466	480
Scout	394	369	401	403	428	453	400
Explorer	114	136	156	155	123	103	118
Network							27
Adults	288	305	327	320	335	414	500
Total	1480	1603	1687	1801	1810	1840	1941

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

Our special 30th Birthday year kicked off with an amazing result of 142 Beaver Bronze Awards gained in the previous year. The certificate presentation evening was held at South Cheshire College at the beginning of March.

Our annual Beaver Challenge saw 7 Colonies represented, Beavers had activities such as 'Feely bags', throwing beaver shaped bean bags into a bucket, guessing smells of items, knowing their Scout badges, ping pong game & flags. Everyone did very well; it was won by 17th SWC. The 26th SWC went on to represent our district at the County Challenge, they did well, but a Colony from Frodsham won that time.

In April, for the second time in SWC history, we had 23 Beavers in our Gang Show. They had been practicing hard since January, 'The Ugly Bug Ball' and 'I Wanna Be Like You' was sung and danced brilliantly and they all looked amazing in their costumes. I look forward to 2018.

We held our 4th bi-annual District Beaver Family camp at Milldale, in June, and combined our 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' theme with 30th Anniversary celebrations. We had over 370 people – Beavers, Siblings, Parents and Adults in attendance. We kicked off with our usual Teddy Bears picnic and throughout the weekend provided a wide range of activities for all ages from Grass Karting and Laser Tag through to Pond Dipping, Monkey Bridge, Slippery Pole and Inflatables; alongside more traditional activities like Backwoods Cooking, Archery and Climbing. The table top fair and camp fire on the Saturday evening was equally popular. We had a special service during Beaver Scouts Own on Sunday morning in celebration of Father's Day. The weekend

was a great success thanks to all involved including the Milldale wardens and Family Camp Planning team, all Scouting and non-Scouting member helpers and particularly the Explorers who did a fantastic job. Feedback reviews from Parents and Beavers were positive with recognition that the camp was organized and well run, that there was a good range of activities on offer and that younger children were also catered for; one Beaver commented that the camp was 'epic'. Finally, a particular thanks to Explorer Scout, Christian Hough who did an excellent job in the filming of the camp.

County Scout Sunday was organised and run by SWC in 2016. There was a great turnout and the weather was reasonably kind to us. The service was very good and everyone enjoyed it, particularly the look forwards/look backwards part.

In July we held 'Swympic' again. This was a very successful event SWC held in the Olympic year. All sections involved in lots of water games for swimmers and non-swimmers alike with lots of teamwork involved. It was well attended by Beavers who didn't seem to notice the cold wind! The lovely BBQ food & badge for taking part made up for it.

After our usual break for the Summer, we came back in September, for our District sports Day at South Cheshire College. We had 10 Colonies represented, so this involved race heats and finals. Races included, flat race, bean bag, dressing up, javelin, egg & spoon and mini marathon. All the Beavers were well behaved and had a great time, lots of medals won. The 9th SWC won overall and the 35th SWC won the Tug of War.

Our Christmas event this year started with a Nativity performed by the Beavers from 22nd SWC followed by Christmas carols. A round robin of party games, food & craft ending in a visit to see the great man himself, Santa. This was a brilliant afternoon and the huge smiles on the children's (and some leaders) faces said it all. A brilliant and enjoyable end to a very busy and fun packed year.

So as you can see we have been extremely busy again this year. We have also seen a new activity at our District campsite, Milldale, Pond dipping. The campsite team have worked really hard and the Beavers certainly enjoyed using it at their Family camp in June, as well as Colonies that have used it again since. The raised beds there have also been used by colonies and some have seen the fruits of their labours.

Finally, on a more personal note, most people know that I am stepping down in this, my 10th year as ADC Beavers for SWC, and leave it in the capable hands of Mel Dunn. I have had the best time being ADC Beavers for SWC and have been proud and honoured to do the role to the best of my ability.

Many thanks

Donna Whalley

Mel Dunn ADC Beavers

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2016 was certainly an action-packed Cubs Centenary Year with many County and District Events!

The District Annual Craft competition was held earlier than usual on the 23rd January because of the large number of events programmed for the year. Seven packs, the 1st, 7th, 14th, 17th, 23rd, 26th and 38th, battled it out with some truly amazing ideas for a Cubs' Centenary Theme Park. It was a very difficult competition to judge but in the end the panel chose 1st SWC as worthy winners and they went forward to represent South West Cheshire in the County Competition hosted by Warrington, which was based on an outdoor theme. Our thanks go to the 17th for once more hosting our District event. Our congratulations again go to the 1st as they became County Champions and were awarded the County Craft Competition Trophy during the County Centenary Camp in May.

Saturday 6th February saw the first of the Centenary celebration events with the Regional trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, attended by 2 of our packs, who reported having a fabulous, if cold, day!

In March, Chief Scout's Silver Award Certificates were presented to 75 Cubs at South Cheshire College in Crewe. The following packs (number of awards in brackets) were represented: 1st (2), 3rd (1), 5th (6), 10th (2), 12th (3), 14th (3), 16th (8), 17th (6), 18th (4), 23rd (7), 26th (9), 28th (9), 38th (4) and 39th (10). This was a lower number of Silver Awards compared with the previous year, mainly due to changes in award criteria. Well done to the youngsters and their Leaders for all the hard work that has gone into achieving this, the highest award for Cubs. We were delighted to welcome the Regional Commissioner who came to the awards evening to present the Gallantry Award to a former Cub (now a Scout) from the 26th SWC who helped save his family from a house fire.

Seven packs, 1st, 7th, 10th, 14th, 16th, 23rd, and 38th made up the contingent for the County Centenary Camp at Capesthorpe Hall on the second weekend in May. The Cubs and Leaders all reported having a very enjoyable weekend visiting the different activities run by each District in the County. The evenings were also packed with activities including a disco and opening ceremony.

The next month saw the annual Fun Run, on 24th June. Nine packs attended; these were the 1st, 7th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 26th, 28th, 38th and 39th, with the 39th becoming the new Trophy holders with 2nd place going to the 38th and third to the 7th. After the run everyone was invited to stay behind for refreshments and enjoy the early summer evening, getting to know each other.

Many Cubs and Leaders also attended and took part in County Scout Sunday at Chester Cathedral on 26th June.

The highlight of the Centenary Year was the District Centenary Cub Camp over the weekend 23rd - 25th September, when 15 packs camped for the weekend and one joined us on the Sunday. The Cubs enjoyed a range of scouting activities on the Saturday, collecting points as they completed activities whilst joining in a range of Party Games organised by the packs in the evening. This was followed by a showing of the new Jungle Book Film in the evening. Since the camp clashed with our usual date for Cub Sports we combined the two together, so Sunday morning was taken up with sports including a new Archery event. The 35th were the 2016 Champions, with the 39th coming second and the 26th third. We were pleased to have a visit from Edward Timpson and he kindly planted a commemorative tree (a sweet chestnut) as a reminder of the centenary camp.

The 2016 Cubs' Swimming Gala, on Saturday 15th October, was the first to be held at the New Lifestyle Centre in Crewe. The winners were the 39th with second place taken by the 1st and third by the 23rd.

The final District event of the year was a visit to the Foxfield Steam Railway at Blythe Bridge as part of the Christmas Celebrations. With so many Cubs and Leaders wanting to attend, we had to split the District up and have two different journeys! Everyone met Father Christmas and the Cubs came home with a present; Leaders having had a glass of sherry and a mince pie!

On Friday 16th December at 1916, many Cubs around the District renewed their promises with their packs at special parties or other events arranged by their Leaders. After this action packed centenary year, we would personally like to thank our hard working District Cub Scout Leaders, working tirelessly in the background, without whom none of the above would happen.

Also thank you to all the District Cub Pack Leaders for their continuing support and enthusiasm in a year that has continued to see an increase in the number of packs taking part in activities and being represented at District Cub Scout Meetings, without this support it would not be possible to run the District events, and the Cub Pack leaders for making us welcome at our visits to their pack nights.

Gaynor and Roger Bracey
ADC Cubs

SCOUT REPORT

For many Troops the early months of the year were dominated by Cheshire Hike practise and rehearsals for our District Gang Show. Despite it being the special 50th anniversary celebration of the hike, entries were down a little and all sections were not fully subscribed on the day. The refreshed training programme makes the Expedition Challenge compulsory for Chief Scout's Gold so we need to find a way to re-enthuse our Scouts in the fun & challenge of hiking. Appallingly wet and muddy conditions at the Junior base camp will be remembered with some dread by all the adults who helped run it – the Scouts themselves should be congratulated on managing stoically!

The Gang Show provided another wonderful selection of fun and entertainment to the usual high standard and was enjoyed by those who took part as well as those who came to watch. The rehearsal time and high level of commitment of participants are, of course, vital to its success – but this does mean that Scouts from Troops who meet on rehearsal nights (an increasing number) do miss out on around 3 months of their normal Scout programme. With the much intensified level of content and lack of 'choice' in the new programme, we need to monitor the effect of these absences on Chief Scouts Gold achievement.

Unfortunately, we were only able to field one team to represent S.W.C in the Lord Derby competition – they did well but narrowly missed out on going forward to the Regional Final. Taking part in this competition completes a high number of requirements for the new Challenge Awards and those taking part always have fun – so it would be good to increase participation to the point where we also need a District competition to choose the teams going forward to County.

2016 was South West Cheshire's turn to lead the County Parade at Chester and organise the Cathedral service. Advice to make the event more enjoyable and attractive to Scouts was sought from our new Youth Forum and several of their suggestions implemented, including a special hymn written for the occasion adapted from a well know camp fire song. The drums from the Gang Show augmented another song and altogether around 50 young people from all Sections took an active part in the service, including readings and prayers read to a very high standard. Thanks go to all who helped especially Reverend Dr Michael Leyden who led the service for us.

The Headquarters "A Million Hands" initiative has had a mixed response. Some Troops have successfully chosen topics and taken part in projects that have made a big impact on our local community, but others have struggled, with some of the recommended 'guest speakers' offering little more than fund-raising as a way to contribute.

Exciting activities always lie at the heart of the Scout programme and we are lucky to have so much on offer within our District. Kayak tasters remain popular, as do the full training courses for BCU and Scout badges. Unfortunately, due to instructor availability only 2 could be offered (both in early summer – before the tasters enthused a lot more

Scouts to want to take part). More advantage needs to be taken of the Activity Permit scheme – achieving a permit is not as difficult as some think, and 2 leaders and 2 Explorers are to be congratulated on gaining permits during an evening's assessment at Warrington.

Our annual District Kayak camp on Anglesey was another success – although numbers tend to be small, those who took part (some quite young) are to be congratulated on amazing progress. This year we achieved a 'first' by paddling all the way around 'Puffin Island' (no puffins seen, but lots of seals playing all around us!)

The return of sailing was extremely welcome and thanks go to the instructors for getting it restarted. Hopefully they will be able to re-start 'taster' sessions for Scouts this year – as some were put off applying for the full 'Learn to Sail' course without the chance to try it first.

Provision of Shooting, archery, climbing and other activities at Milldale ensure there is no excuse for Scouts not achieving their Adventure Challenge easily.

To help mark another Olympic year, "Swympic" (**South West Cheshire's Olympic** swimming challenge) was revived at the Nantwich outdoor brine pool on a Friday evening in July. Non-stop fun activity races kept all Sections rushing in and out of the water, before warm drinks and hot dogs to finish.

The usual Swimming Gala took place later in the year – the first to be held at the new Lifestyle centre. A reasonable number of Troops took part, but we would like to try modifying the format a little to make it more appealing and challenging for the Troops who seldom take part – taking advantage of the opportunity now that we are no longer constrained by the old County Gala rules.

Our new District Youth Forum met twice during the year, with representatives from 12 of our 22 Troops. All showed a high level of participation and gave us constructive suggestions for County Parade, Swympic, Milldale and District camp amongst other things. The sessions were facilitated by our DC, Scout ADCs and DESC – but we need to find a keen Youth Commissioner to take the Forums forward and realise their full potential.

The number of Scouts achieving Chief Scout's Gold fell significantly to just 23. Whilst that was partly due to the major 'push' to get Scouts to complete under the old requirements in 2015, it will not be until 2017 that we see the full impact of the refreshed programme. Whilst the general raising of the standard, together with the teamwork, leadership and personal commitment aspects are all welcome, the significant increase in the total work required (by both Scouts and Leaders) remains a concern.

As always, my thanks go to all Leaders and helpers who run both the weekly meetings for all our Troops as well as the multitude of other activities at Group and District level.

Robert Galloway
Lise Grasmeder
ADC Scouts

EXPLORER REPORT

We are currently running with 5 Active Explorer units 1 dormant Explorer Unit and 1 Young Leader Unit. Our census figures have now been confirmed and we have declared a total of 88 explorers with units and 33 young leaders.

We have had poor response as to volunteers for the District Youth Forum but we are endeavouring to encourage the Explorers to take an active interest.

The Explorers are looking forward to another District camp with the new format giving the Explorers off site activities and a special evening exclusively tailored for them.

Units have held very successful summer & winter camps with many units taking part in outdoor activities as part of their programs.

We had 4 Platinum, 1 Diamond and 1 Young Leader Belt presented at the awards ceremony at Parr Hall in November. An improvement on last year.

We have held quarterly ESL meetings throughout the year with most of the Units being represented.

A joint district Scout/Explorer camp was planned to be held at the end of October but unfortunately due to poor response this was shelved. We hope to try again this year. Three units held their own summer camps. We had several Explorers attend the winter camp at Forest in January and reported that they had had a great time. Eight Explorers are attending the County International camp planned for August 2017. Plans are also underway for a joint Scouts/Explorer Monopoly Live event later in the year. Camping in Queens Park Crewe and then cycling to Nantwich for the event followed by a disco in the evening and raft race on the Lake on the Sunday.

The explorers have been encouraged during Youth Shape month to plan, design and implement their own programme and experiences and this is not only for the month but ongoing.

We have struggled with the leadership team at Mallory ESU for the past eighteen months and have been running with the support of DESC, DESA, Scout Leaders and

parent helpers. Fortunately, we now have an ESL and have just appointed an AESL. Other units are also struggling with lack of Leaders which is putting added pressure on the existing leaders.

After many years of doing an excellent job our YL Leader Bob Cave has stood down but fortunately we have a replacement in Diane Blurton who has already run a first module course with good attendance and excellent feedback from the YL's.

Ingrid Shaw
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

SCOUT NETWORK REPORT

Over the past twelve months South West Cheshire Scout Network has held several local events in order to encourage new members to join. These events included a bowling evening, afternoon cooking at Milldale, winter camp at Bickerton Hill Campsite and a walk at Delamere Forest. We have also attended two national Network camps: The Network Festival in June at Rough Close, Coventry and Intense in September at Woodhouse Park Scout Activity Centre in Bristol.

Over the next twelve months we plan to continue recruiting new members by holding more local events as well as attending national events. We currently have two events planned which are helping at District Camp 2017 and going to the National Network Gathering over the Easter weekend

Will Swain
District Scout Network Commissioner

MILLDALE CAMPSITE REPORT

Milldale has had a successful year with several developments and projects being completed.

SWC Groups camped 1603 nights in 2016, down from 2736 in 2015 but this was to be expected as we had a district camp in 2015. Nights camped by out-of-district groups has increased to 808 from 655 in the previous year. We continue to be financially sound, but have a number of large capital expenditure items planned for the coming year of which some will require external funding. Other planned major purchases like the grass cutter replacement have had monies accrued over the last few years in readiness.

Emergency repairs were completed to the bridge at the far end of the field to stop it being undercut and washed away by the stream. This large project involved two full

weekends of work and was completed by a number of volunteers from the district and the campsite team. This was only possible with the support from key members of the campsite team in the organisation and planning of this project; a job well done! Other groundwork has been completed including new drainage for the main carpark.

Planning permission has been obtained for the addition of two activity shelters, one on the shooting range (replacing the old Marque) and the other on the new archery range; we are now in the process of fund-raising the build costs.

The backwoods cooking area has been enhanced with the addition of 4 fire pits and a small shelter. The shelter will house a pizza oven post district camp. The grass cart track and some of the assault course obstacles have also been refurbished.

Work has continued on the management of the woodland. This will be ongoing for some time to come and is very resource intensive. Chard has been organising students from Reaseheath College to assist managing areas the woodland and helping with the removal of some trees.

The development of a new online booking and invoicing system is almost complete; the system is currently being tested and it's hoped it will be in operation for the end of April. This will enable users to manage their own bookings and save the time with automated invoicing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the campsite team and wardens for all their hard work over the past year. If you would like to get involved at the campsite, then please ask myself or a member of the campsite committee for more information. We are always in need of more help and not just to cut the grass.

Carl Shore
Milldale Campsite Chairman

Milldale Useage 2016

Month	DA		EA		Camps		
	Number	People	Number	People	Number	People	Nights
January	2	38	0	0	0	0	0
February	2	42	1	27	0	0	0
March	3	60	4	82	3	29	42
April	4	201	6	108	4	56	42
May	3	53	20	403	3	82	86
June	4	190	30	562	8	590	756
July	6	222	43	1011	15	251	547
August	6	147	1	9	3	49	90
September	3	112	12	208	5	358	689
October	3	55	8	157	3	80	122
November	2	32	7	191	2	27	37
December	2	35	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	40	1187	132	2758	46	1522	2411

CREWE GANG SHOW 2016

It never ceases to amaze me, just how many people put their, and their families, lives on hold for a mad week in May every two years. Of course, it is more than just a week for most people involved in the show. But, for one week, over 350 people (aged 6-93) live in each other's pockets, working together as a seamless team, to put on the biannual Crewe Gang Show. On behalf of the Gang Show Management and Production teams, I would like to thank each and every one of you that played your part in the success that was CGS 2016.

Of course, like any other activity in Scouting, the primary purpose of the show is to provide the opportunity for skill development and a Scouting experience for any member of South West Cheshire Scouts who wants to be involved in a major production in a professional theatre. Not for everyone in our movement is the rough and tumble of the outdoors, this is a prime example of the diversity Scouting offers for those with a more artistic temperament!

The show saw another increase in attendance figures, with 2,346 people buying tickets for the 2016 show, again hosted in the magnificent Crewe Lyceum Theatre. Cheering on the 135 cast member on the stage, visitors of note included the local and not so local groups, other visiting gang shows, the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, two local mayors, the Regional and County Commissioners, all with the same comments, of how great it was to see the youth of SWC at the forefront of every aspect of Crewe Gang Show.

Financially the show is on course to have made in excess of £4.500 this year, the biggest profit since the Millennium, which will ensure the future of the show for years to come, and ultimately the profits will be ploughed back into South West Cheshire Scouting.

So what next? Fasten your seatbelts folks, 2018 is 80th anniversary of Crewe Gang Show, the theatre is booked, save the dates 1st - 5th May 2018. Cast Recruitment details out soon....

Keep following us: www.crewegangshow.org or @crewegangshow or search for Crewe Gang Show on Facebook and Instagram.

Craig Chaplow
2016 Gang Show Producer

SAILING

Sailing was restarted this year running a number a taster days and an autumn course. We had 11 scouts attend the RYA course, passing various stages of the syllabus. The course was run over two weekend instead of the usual 4 Saturdays, this new format means instructors have to give up less weekends. This has been made possible because the sailing club are allowing use to sail during their Sunday racing. We filed two days of one-hour taster sessions across all sections.

The team are planning to run a similar program this season if we can attract addition help we hope to run a full program the following year.

Thanks to all the helpers and supporter for the hard work and commitment

The Sailing Team

CANOEING and KAYAKING.

Another busy year for the paddle sports section. Taster sessions continue to be popular with demand far outstripping supply. 7 taster sessions were quickly booked up and saw 141 cubs and scouts enjoying the evening sessions at Brereton which give them an experience of using both craft in a fun environment before a final fun session where the we just try to get them as wet as possible. The sessions are always well received and feedback is always positive. There is already a waiting list for the sessions that are yet to be planned for 2017, so it promises to be a good year once again.

2 weekend training where scouts work towards their British Canoe Union Awards saw a further 23 scouts receiving coaching and assessment from BCU coaches. 19 awards were gained over 2 weekends.

In other news, redundant / end of life equipment has been sold and a further canoe has been purchased, bringing the fleet up to 7, allowing the most efficient utilisation of the coaches. (1 coach – 6 boats).

As with every other report you've already read, none of the activities would be possible without the dedication of the coaches that supply these courses. My thanks as always goes to anyone who helps to make these courses happen.

Rob Cave
District Canoeing Advisor

SHOOTING.

The district shooting activity team has completed another very busy year in 2016. Forty two shooting sessions were held at Milldale over the year, ranging from complete beginners up to some of the best Scout shooters in the country taking part. These covered everything from taster sessions, the cub camp, the Waterloo shooting competition and training for various Scout shooting competitions.

We have held four YPS Tutor Training Courses over the year to instruct adults in running shooting sessions and these have been well supported.

Many shooters from the district have just finished our postal competition and are currently looking to start the Liphook Postal Shooting Competition

We trained the Cheshire Scouts shooting team again this year and won all three team trophies. This is fourth year that Cheshire has won the event, with the team based in SW Cheshire district. The district shooting competition, held in June, has grown to nearly one hundred competitors but it would be great to have more groups from the district attending this event.

Two trips were undertaken to Bisley where SW Cheshire again showed how strong the shooting set up is within the district. At the National Championships we had the best senior team and the junior team came second. Adam Coleman was second overall. We also shot at Scout Shoot where the top three teams were from the district.

The district has ten scouts and explorers who are members of the National Scout Rifle Club and three previous members of the district scouts are now in the Great Britain Junior Rifle Squad.

We have continued to add to the equipment stock this year including more rifles and pistols as well as range equipment. Fund raising was carried out with Christmas tree collecting, a shooting stand at Cheshire Show and supporting Madeley Fun Day. A container was kindly donated to the shooting team by Milldale for storing the range equipment adjacent to the outdoor range and planning is being looked at for a more permanent solution for the marquee on the outdoor range.

This success doesn't happen by chance. We have a very active team who support shooting within the district, and give all members of the district chance to participate in the sport, but more help to keep this activity successful is needed, as well as more groups to make use of the expertise and equipment we have in place to provide scouts and explorers with the opportunities shooting with us can bring.

Andrew Brookes
District Shooting Advisor

SWIMMING

I am pleased to report our club continues with great enthusiasm with many Groups supporting, numbers vary week to week depending on school activities etc. but on the whole there has been a slight increase.

Activities held this year have been a SWIMPIC held a Nantwich outdoor pool in July, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers from many groups took part and all had a great fun entering as many races as they wished, some Youngsters didn't bother getting dried they just lined up for the next race. Thanks to the district team for putting on the food and drinks.

Two swimming galas were held:- October was the Cub Scouts :- November the Scouts, all races were keenly contested and all swimmers enjoyed themselves.

Galas have been booked for 2017
Saturday October 14th Cub Scouts
Saturday November 18th Scouts

Many of our young instructors who become of working age are finding employment at pools in and around our area, so a giant thankyou goes to our instructors who come weekly over the years to train the youngsters in the staged badges & lifesaving. My thanks also go to S.W.C District Scout Council and Crewe Lifestyle Centre for their continued support.

Janet Jones Swimming Adviser

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

Another challenging year for the Scout Shop, 2016 still saw the targeted budget achieved. Whilst sales of badges and uniform continued to be strong, sales of other items continued to decline. A concerted effort was made to sell old stock and innovative ways were found to do this. Thanks to the dedication of the small group of Scouting and Guiding volunteers the shop continues to be successful and provide a significant contribution to District funds.

We are appealing for anyone who can give some time to help out with the shop on either a Tuesday or Friday evening or in another supporting role and support this valuable District asset.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2016

(5/1/16) to (29/12/16)

			Surplus	Deficit
BALANCES				
NS&I	01/01/2016	£60,457.37		
	01/01/2017	£60,820.61	£363.24	
RBS	05/01/2016	£12,429.38		
	29/12/2016	£15,720.73	£3,291.35	
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE		
DISTRICT				
Capitation	£52,688.00	£47,058.00	£5,630.00	
Electricity		£1,489.10		
Water Rates		£169.92		
E/E		£91.74		
Scout Shop	£7,000.00		£7,000.00	
Reconciliation 2015	£194.66			
RBS	£90.00		£90.00	
INSURANCE				
Public Liability		£492.75		
Milldale		£3,264.47		
Tractors		£577.50		
Marine		£1,210.85		
Non-Members		£82.50		
HQ		£1,254.58		
BEAVERS				
Xmas party(2015)	£2,780.00	£2,344.50	£435.50	
Camp	£5,760.50	£5,461.23	£299.27	
Sports	£240.00	£196.03	£43.97	
Presentation Night		£212.00		
Camp Late payment	£47.00		£47.00	
CUBS				
Fun run	£301.47	£191.77	£109.70	
Centenary Camp	£5,322.00	£5,156.63	£165.37	
Xmas party(2015)	£156.00			
Santa Special	£1,830.00	£1,840.00		£10.00
SCOUTS				
Monopoly Live		£1,600.00		
SWYNPICS	£978.00	£810.11	£167.89	
Out door Challenge	£675.00	£605.40	£69.60	
EXPLORERS				
Total Unit amounts	£22,527.75	£11,574.81	£10,953.05	
Triathlon help	£350.00	£300.00	£50.00	
Mallory ESU	£200.00			
YOUNG LEADERS				
Expenses		£116.32		
YOUTH FORUM				

