



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 6th 2018

MASONIC HALL WILLASTON

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

April 6th 2018

- 1 Welcome by the DC
- 2 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman
- 3 Apologies for absence
- 4 Minutes of previous AGM held on 7th April 2017
- 5 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017
- 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
- 11 Approval of Amendment to the District Constitution.
- 12 The District Commissioner
- 13 The County Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2016/2017

<p>Life President Mr P F Taylor</p> <p>President Vacant</p> <p>Vice Presidents Mr R Ellwood, Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford</p> <p>Office Holders</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chairperson</td> <td>Mr R Chaplow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Mr R Bennett</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Mr J Bennett</td> </tr> </table> <p>District Executive Committee</p> <p>Ex-officio</p> <p>Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Network Scout Commissioner District Youth Commissioner</p> <p>Elected Members</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Mr A Whalley</td> <td>(to 2019)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr M Bennion</td> <td>(to 2020)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr A Collett</td> <td>(to 2020)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miss S Fearn</td> <td>(to 2018)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr A Steele</td> <td>(to 2018)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms A Green</td> <td>(to 2020)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Nominated Members</p> <p>Mr M Rowe Mrs F Mahon Mr T Clarke Ms D Blurton</p> <p>Co-opted Members</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Mr C Shore</td> <td>Camp Site Chair</td> </tr> </table> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>	Chairperson	Mr R Chaplow	Treasurer	Mr R Bennett	Secretary	Mr J Bennett	Mr A Whalley	(to 2019)	Mr M Bennion	(to 2020)	Mr A Collett	(to 2020)	Miss S Fearn	(to 2018)	Mr A Steele	(to 2018)	Ms A Green	(to 2020)	Mr C Shore	Camp Site Chair	<p>District Commissioner Mr I Potts</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Commissioner Ms I Shaw</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Administrator John Wedgwood</p> <p>District Young Leader Unit Manager. Di Blurton</p> <p>District Scout Network Commissioner Mr W Swain</p> <p>District Youth Commissioner Miss C Grasmeder Miss H Faulkner</p> <p>Assistant District Commissioners</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Beaver Scouts</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beaver Scouts</td> <td>Mrs M Dunn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cub Scouts</td> <td>Mrs G Bracey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cub Scouts</td> <td>Mr R Bracey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scouts</td> <td>Mr R Galloway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scouts</td> <td>Mrs L Grasmeder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Activities</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Duties</td> <td>Mr M Bennion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Development</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAS Manager</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> </table> <p>Local Training Manager</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Adult Training</td> <td>Mr D Brough</td> </tr> </table> <p>Chair Appointments Sub Committee Ms J Wilkinson</p> <p><u>District Scouters</u> 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></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Archery</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mountaineering</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shooting</td> <td>Mr A Brookes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sailing</td> <td>Mr I Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canoeing</td> <td>Mr A Sutton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DOE Scheme</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swimming</td> <td>Mrs J Jones</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>District Chaplain</u> Vacant</p> <p><u>County Scout Council Members</u> Mr R Bracey, Mr J Whittingham</p>	Beaver Scouts	Vacant	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	Adult Training	Mr D Brough	Archery	Vacant	Mountaineering	Vacant	Shooting	Mr A Brookes	Sailing	Mr I Brown	Canoeing	Mr A Sutton	DOE Scheme	Vacant	Swimming	Mrs J Jones
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South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 7th April 2017 Nantwich Civic Hall

1.0 Welcome

The District President, Peter Taylor, took the Chair. There were 40 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 Brian Garner and Shaun Williams. 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 Craig Chaplow, Stephanie Fearn, Andy and Helen Collett. Mel Dunn, Peter and Marilyn Norbury, David Allman, Gill Evanson, Claire Watson, Will Swain, Seamus and Helen Cronin.

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 7th April 2016

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2016 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

The report was accepted and no questions raised.

Secretary

Nothing to add to the report.

Beavers

The report was accepted, Peter thanked Donna Whalley for all her work over 10 years as ADC Beavers.

Cub Scouts

The report was accepted, Roger and Gaynor Bracey offered their thanks for the support received during the Cub Scout Centenary Year. Peter thanked both ADCs for the entitative they had provided.

Scouts

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Peter thanked Lise and Rob for their hard work during the year.

Explorer and Network

Nothing to add to the reports which were accepted.

Milldale

Carl commented on a very good year at the site and thanked everyone for their input to enable a lot of hard work to be completed.

Peter expressed his thanks to the camp site team and congratulated them on their excellent work.

Gang Show

The report was accepted, the President commented on the success of the 2016 show and that everyone involved should be congratulated for their efforts.

Activities

Sailing

The report was accepted Carl commented that sailing was under way again, but more help is still needed. One hundred and fifty youngsters from the district had taken part in taster sessions.

Canoeing

The report was accepted, no questions were raised.

Shooting

Peter commented on high degree of success that the team had brought to SWC and that shooting is going from strength to strength.

Swimming

Janet Jones commented that year on year the section continues to do very well. The report was accepted.

Scout Shop

The DC made a further plea for help in the shop on Tuesdays and Fridays. Volunteers are needed to work on a rota basis. The report was accepted.

Financial Report

Chris Titley presented the accounts for 2016 and explained the change in format in setting them out. He commented that full details were available if anyone wished to see them. He thanked the ADCs for presenting their accounts for the various activities they had run.

5.0 DC's Nomination for District Chair

Ian nominated Richard (Dane) Chaplow as the chair of South West Cheshire Scout Council. At this point took over as chair of the AGM

6.0 Election of District Secretary

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

7.0 Election of District Treasurer

Richard Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Treasurer. Peter thanked Chris Titley for his work as treasurer over the previous two years.

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

There were three vacancies for elected members, only one nomination – Alison Green. Mike Bennion and Andy Collett were both eligible to stand for a further three years. Alison, Mike and Andy were 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: Mark Rowe

Cubs: Fiona Mahon

Scouts: Tim Clark

Explorers & Young Leaders: 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 District Commissioner

Ian Potts started by saying that focus should not be on challenges he has faced over the last three years but on the achievements within the district.

11.2

Ian then presented a Medal of Merit to Tim Owen and referred to a similar award to Dave Allman who could not be present. He presented a Wood Badge to Ingrid

Shaw. He also congratulated Mike Bennion on the award of a Silver Wolf and Rob Galloway and Barry Westwood for the Bar to the Silver Acorn.

12.0 County Commissioner

Graham began by presenting a number of Growth Award certificates to groups and the District and offered his congratulations to all.

12.1 He then referred to the World War 1 Boy Scouts ambulance which had been recreated by Gerald Newbrook. This has been a fantastic achievement and one which has been recognised by Buckingham Palace who have allowed it to be named Princess Elizabeth.

12.2 Graham then went on to list some of the highlights of the year.

- He started with the Cub Centenary and congratulated them for maintaining the momentum of celebrations for the twelve months.
- Graham then referred to the Beavers 30th anniversary and congratulated Donna Whalley for her 10 years as ADC Beavers.
- You Shape has progressed during the year and You Shape in a Box is going very well.
- He mentioned the impact on the community of a Million Hands. This is something which Scouting has always done but it now has a brand name.
- Graham stated that there are around 8,000 young carers in Cheshire and Scouting is now involved with them.
- It had been a pleasure to present Mike Bennion with his Silver Wolf.
- The county AGM will be held in SWC in June.
- Freemasons in Cheshire have donated £50,000 to Scouting in the county. This has been allocated:
 - £30,000 for the refurbishment of Lake View at Forest Camp
 - £10,000 for development and
 - £10,000 for those young people who cannot afford activities.
- Chamboree will take place in 2018 and the County Youth Forum is actively involved in the activity planning.
- The process for applications to be a leader for the 2019 WSJ contingent (in America) had been announced today. The size of the Cheshire contingent is due to be announced shortly
- The national announcement of the census figures is due next week and is expected to show a further growth. Cheshire will show an overall 8% growth with youth sections showing an overall growth of 2%. There has been a 7% growth in leaders and 78% in GSLs but there is concern that there has been a drop in the numbers of scouts.
- SWC is the largest district in the county with approaching 2,000 members. Growth is due to the way groups present the programme and he congratulated ADCs for the way activities are presented in SWC
- Graham thanked the DC for all his work and the number of challenges he has faced reflects the size of SWC.

- Graham is issuing a challenge to all DCs to recruit more GSLs. In SWC there are 11 groups out of 24 that do not have a GSL. The challenge is to reduce that by half. The GSL is an integral part of the DCs team in developing Scouting and the group structure.
- Graham mentioned the challenges which HS2 will present to Scouting in the district with the additional housing and the knock needs for additional groups.
- Finally, Graham said that he was hugely impressed with everything we have achieved in SWC.

13.0 AOB

Dane then thanked the County Commissioner and said that although we do not normally take AOB at the AGM tonight there was an exception. Peter Taylor the district president had indicated that he felt that it was time to hand over the reins to another person.

The district executive had considered this and had suggested that given his exceptional service to SWC he should be made a Life President. This was put to meeting and received unanimous approval.

Dane spoke briefly about Peter's roles and achievements in scouting and by way of appreciation he presented Peter with a small token of the district's appreciation and presented Peg with a bouquet of flowers.

The meeting closed at 21.45

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. April 2017

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2017. 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 Executive, which supported the highly successful 2016 Gang Show, has approved a Business Case for a show in 2018 which will be the 80th anniversary of Crewe Gang Show. The District Executive supported the hugely successful 2017 District Camp, along with upgrades to the district email system. Work is under way to upgrade the district web site. In addition, the District Executive is providing a "Bridging Loan" to the Milldale camp site for ongoing development work. Grants have been obtained for this work but will not be paid until completion.

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

Silver Wolf

Mike Bennion

Bar to Silver Acorn

Barry Westwood

Rob Galloway

Bar to the Award for Merit

Jen Wilkinson

Andrew Whalley

Award for Merit

Sylvia Sowerby

Andrew Ticehurst

John Wedgwood

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Jonathan Brookes



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths during 2017 of a number of former stalwarts of Scouting in South West Cheshire including:

Eileen Thompson, Ray Saint, Audrey Evanson,
 Lesley Roberts, Sheena Sambrook, Joan Edmeades

CENSUS RETURN 2018							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Groups	22	23	24	25	24	24	23
Beaver	357	363	409	432	404	416	429
Cub	436	440	514	492	466	480	497
Scout	369	401	403	428	453	400	412
Explorer	136	156	155	123	103	118	104
Network						27	105
Adults	305	327	320	335	414	500	564
Total	1603	1687	1801	1810	1840	1941	2111

John Bennett
District Secretary

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

There were 5 (7)* meetings of the Appointments Sub-Committee in 2017, where 28 (41) new Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders and Section Assistants were appointed, and also 9 (15) changes of role / additional roles were approved.

A total of 178 (246) DBS checks were requested and processed for the prospective new Leaders plus Group and District Occasional Helpers.

There were no major District events during 2017 which would have required additional helpers to be processed.

*Figures in brackets are for 2016

We are often asked why it takes so long for some prospective new Leaders to be invited in for interview after their forms are submitted. The Appointments process requires a DBS to be carried out and 2 references to be received before a candidate can be interviewed. GSLs and Commissioners can help to speed the process by checking that forms are completed fully with the correct role being applied for, correct details particularly phone numbers and email addresses and by telling their candidates to ask their referees to respond quickly to the email request for a reference from the Appointments Secretary. Time and time again it is the references that we are waiting for, and a lot of time has to be spent chasing missing information or references.

We have recruited and trained an additional 3 Committee members during 2017, and they are all now taking an active part in the interview and approval process.

Thanks to all current and recently-retired Committee members for their contribution to this important part of the appointments process.

Jen Wilkinson
Appointments Sub Committee Chair

Tim Owen
Appointments Secretary

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2017 started with our annual Beaver Challenge in February. It was held at the end of half term and this unfortunately resulted in just 4 colonies attending. Despite this the event went well with the 1st and 17th taking joint first place. The 1st went onto represent SWC at the County Beaver Challenge but did not win on this occasion.

The Chief Scouts Bronze Award Ceremony was held at South Cheshire College at the beginning of March. The evening was well attended, and an enjoyable evening was had by all. I am pleased to report that 117 Beavers had gained their award in the previous year.

Six Colonies from SWC attended the County Beaver Faith day at Chester Cathedral in March. There were 120 Beavers in attendance from across the County. It was most enjoyable and informative day. The beavers enjoyed dressing up as monks and those that attended gained their Faith badge.

14 Beaver Sections / 153 Beavers attended the Biennial District Camp held at Milldale in May. This is an extremely popular event with Beavers having the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities with other sections. Very positive feedback was received from leaders, parents and beavers alike. Huge thanks to all involved in making this much welcomed event happen.

District Camp

"He had an amazing time at camp! I asked him yesterday if he'd missed his iPad, and he said, 'No, there was too much to do'. That is the best compliment a seven-year-old boy can give - ever!
Thank you all for the weekend."

For the first time in many years we held our District Sports Day outdoors at Milldale. The event was altered to include a Family Fun Day theme and extended to include activities for the whole day. A combination of traditional track and field events e.g. sprint, bean bag, sack, Tug o War and new events e.g. basketball shoot, and welly throw took place in the morning. A duck race was held prior to lunch and in the afternoon beavers, parents and siblings had the opportunity to try other activities on offer at Milldale e.g. Slippery Slope, Grass Karts, Karting. We were blessed with amazing weather and the event proved to be a great success. 12 groups, 103 Beavers, 67 Siblings and 122 parents attended.

Thanks to all involved particularly Carl Shore and the Milldale Team, Amy Hayhurst, and Gary Merrill, also, to the beaver leaders for supporting the event and helping to run the activities in the afternoon.

Beaver Sports & Family Fun Day

'Parents said it was nice to see what their children were doing at Milldale, and in Scouting'

In September Donna Whalley kindly organised a SWC Beaver District Trip to Gulliver's World. Unfortunately, only two colonies attending. The low turnout may be explained

by the close proximity to the summer holiday break. We plan to run this event earlier if the opportunity is available next year.

Some Beaver Colonies attended the Remembrance Service / Parade in November in Crewe Town Centre. In addition, a number of colonies attended individual services / parades in their local area.

Finally, our eventful year ended with our biennial Christmas trip to Amerton Farm in Staffordshire in early December. This is another popular event with 12 Colonies / 135 Beavers attending. Beavers enjoyed a tractor and trailer ride, a train ride to visit Santa in Lapland and to see Reindeers Dancer and Prancer in the North Pole. Time in the indoor play barn was welcome respite from what was a damp and drizzly day. The weather did not dampen spirits and a great day was had by all.

Overall this has proved to be a successful year with a lot of positive feedback received. My thanks to Donna Whalley for her support and for stepping in when needed. To all the Beaver Leaders, Assistant Beaver Leaders, and Adult Helpers for their commitment and time to scouting and its members.



BEAVER SPORTS & FAMILY FUN DAY – JULY 2017



AMERTON FARM – DECEMBER 2017

Mel Dunn
ADC Beavers

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

Perhaps thankfully, 2017 was a quieter year compared with the non-stop celebrations of the Cubs' Centenary the year before! We still held several events during the year and these are described in detail below.

We held meetings for Cub Scout Leaders on four occasions during the year in January, March, May and October with an average attendance of 9 pack representatives. The number of meetings per year has been reduced from six to four because of falling attendances.

The District annual Craft Competition was held on the 11th February at a new venue – 1st SWC (The Andrews) HQ. Seven packs, the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 14th, 17th, 38th and 41st competed to build a time machine interior and a diorama of their landing ground. Lots of inventive solutions emerged and, again, the task of the judges was not an easy one. The 17th SWC team were declared the winners and they went forward to represent South West Cheshire in the County Competition hosted this year by ourselves at Milldale.

In March, Chief Scout's Silver Award Certificates were presented to 70 Cubs at South Cheshire College in Crewe. The following packs (number of awards in brackets) were represented: 1st (5), WH (2), 3rd (6), 5th (1), 7th (5), 12th (2), 14th (3), 15th (4), 16th (10), 17th (7), 18th (3), 23rd (2), 26th (9), 28th (3), 39th (4) and 41st (4). The number of Silver Awards was very slightly less than the previous year, but this is not a cause for concern. Well done to the youngsters and their Leaders for all the hard work that has gone into achieving this, the highest award for Cubs.

As mentioned previously, the District hosted the County Craft Competition at Milldale campsite on 25th March (this was because 1st SWC won the County competition in 2016 and the winning District act as host for the next year). Unfortunately, the team from the 17th representing South West Cheshire did not win this year, so the 2018 District competition winners will have to travel further afield!

The month of April saw the District Camp take place (also with a time travelling theme!); many packs attended and all who went enjoyed the event. Many thanks to the District team who organised and ran this event.

Cubs from four packs attended the Faith Badge day run by County at Chester Cathedral on 13th May. Cubs and Leaders attended and took part in County Scout Sunday at Chester Cathedral on 11th June.

Our annual Fun Run took place at Milldale on 30th June. Eleven packs attended; these were the 1st, 7th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 35th (S), 38th, 39th and 41st. The 38th became the new Trophy holders with 2nd place going to the 39th and third place to the 16th. After the run everyone was invited to stay behind for refreshments

and enjoy the early summer evening, getting to know each other.

The annual Cub Sports was held on 24th September at Milldale, a change in venue and with a different format to the events which we have held previously at the Cumberland sports centre in Crewe.

Some of the activities were aligned with the requirements for the Cubs' Athletics Activity Badge and everyone who took part contributed to their team's score. Seven packs attended; these were the 7th, 12th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 35th (S) and 38th. The winners were the 16th; 35th (S) were runners up and the 38th were placed third.

The 2017 Cubs' Swimming Gala was held at the Crewe Lifestyle Centre on Saturday 14th October. Nine packs took part: 1st, 3rd, 7th, 16th, 23rd, 26th (M&W), 38th and 39th. The winners were the 1st, the 7th were placed second and the 23rd were third. This was the last gala organised by Janet and Brian Jones – so a big thank you to them for their hard work over the years.

The final District event of the year was a Cubs Christmas Party, held on 9th December at a new venue – the Crewe Engineering & Design UTC on West Street. The staff at Crewe UTC were very helpful and made us most welcome – 70 Cubs from six packs attended – the 1st, WH, 7th, 10th, 23rd and 26th. The Cubs enjoyed party games, food and drink and a short Nativity service conducted by Rev. Lynn Cullens from St. Andrew's church in Crewe. The collection taken amounted to some £77 and this was donated to MacMillan Cancer Support – the Cubs voted for the charity of their choice. Once again we would personally like to thank our hard working District Cub Scout Leaders who give us a great deal of help and support and without whom none of our Cub events would happen.

Also thank you to all the District Cub pack Leaders for their continuing support and enthusiasm in the year that has continued to see an increase in the number of packs taking part in activities.

Gaynor and Roger Bracey
ADC Cubs

SCOUT SECTION REPORT

Scout activities got off to an early start in 2017 with a meeting of the District Youth Forum to help reps prepare for You Shape month in February. Other topics included promotion of District activities and recruitment of new Forum members. The Forum met again in May with the first half of the evening devoted to Abseiling, rafting and other activities, before reviewing District camp and discussions on retention between sections and recommendations for Monopoly Live.

As usual Cheshire Hike training rather monopolised leader time and troop programmes in the early months, but we were rewarded with reasonable weather for the Hike itself and all SWC teams acquitted themselves well.

After a year's gap the District Leaders week-end was revived at Patshull campsite in early March. Participants divided to review potential places for troops and units to visit, including the National Memorial Arboretum, Cosford air museum and the Severn Valley Railway, before embarking on the traditional 'Black tie' Dinner. Sunday saw practical training whittling whistles (with varying degrees of success – but plenty of entertainment, and only minimal injury)!

"Time Travelling" at another brilliant District Camp proved to be one of the highlights of the year for many of our Scouts – many thanks go to the team who put on another great and popular event.

Teams from the 3rd and 26th represented SWC at the Lord Derby competition – but sadly there was no further interest to generate the need for a District Eliminator event. Lack of training time and poor understanding of what's involved seem to be the main problems, as the Scouts who do take part always have a great day of varied activities which pass off a whole host of Challenge badge requirements.

Thanks go to Doug Leech for running a Water Safety Management Programme (WSMP) renewal course, allowing leaders to continue to take their Scouts swimming in lakes, rivers and the sea. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest to run a full course but hopefully more leaders will take up the opportunity in 2018 as so many scouts really enjoy wild swimming.

Other Water activities remain extremely popular and thanks go to the Sailing and Kayaking teams for providing the opportunities. There is a desperate need for more adults to gain permits for both these activities as it was not possible to offer Sailing tasters for Scouts and only very limited Kayak badge courses. The good news is that several YLs have gained Permits in the last couple of years, offering hope for the future.

Thanks to the generosity of Phil & Jane Edwards we were able to run our advanced Kayak camp on Anglesey again. Although numbers remained small they enjoyed four intense days on the sea and gained a huge amount of experience that we can't offer on our local lakes.

Thanks also go to all the other District teams that continue to offer brilliant activities for our Scouts – including the Swimming Club, Archery, Shooting (the Waterloo camp being a particular highlight) and Climbing.

Since 2011 Monopoly Live has been one of the premier District events we offer the Scout Section. Taking place every 2 years its popularity grows each time we run it. It was originally conceived by Crewe & Nantwich Lions – but this year they were unable to help due to other commitments. Thankfully we had enough volunteers to enable it to run as a purely Scout event, but to the usual similar pattern. Scouts camped on Queens Park and the teams cycled down the Greenway to play Monopoly around the streets of Nantwich. Despite rather more rain than we had become used to, all teams returned safely and for the first time an Explorer team managed to take the Trophy.

The traditional raft race completed the week-end on Sunday morning. The rafts proved not to have reached quite the usual standard (perhaps due to the dark and rain whilst they were built) resulting in rather more entertainment and some wetter scouts than previous races!

We are grateful to Wilson House for running JOTA and JOTI and again inviting Scouts from all other Troops to join them. Although take up is surprisingly small, those that do take part always enjoy and gain a lot from this unique event.

Our Scout Swimming Gala marked the end of an era with Janet & Brian Jones stepping down after organising it for more years than most in the District can remember! Our special thanks go to them for all they have done for so long to promote swimming in the District.

The County “Celebrating Success” day rounded off events for the year and congratulations go to the 39 Scouts who achieved their Chief Scout's Gold Award. Although numbers were a little higher than in 2016, recipients came from a smaller number of Troops – mainly the larger Troops with strong leadership teams. It is also significant that recipients were mainly restricted to Troops using OSM to track progress (though there is some concern that its use can result in badge requirements being passed off just for attending a meeting – rather than reaching the required standard. Care is needed!)

The Promise Challenge has a huge potential for Scouts to do something that really showcases their abilities – but in practise we saw a wide range of achievements from keeping their room tidy to a 60 mile cycle ride and cooking for their family for 10 weeks.

Congratulations also go to the Young Leaders who gained their gaining their “Belt Buckle” whilst helping Troop leadership teams.

Running an exciting and active programme for the Scout Section requires a huge commitment in both time and skills on the part of all leaders and other helpers – we continue to owe a huge debt to all of them for providing last memories for all our Scouts.

Robert Galloway
Lise Grasmeder
ADC Scouts

EXPLORER REPORT

We still have five Active Explorer Units and one Young Leader Unit. Our census figures have now been confirmed and we have declared a total of 69 explorers with 35 being Young leaders not with an explorer unit. A slight drop in Explorer numbers from last year but an increase in Young Leaders.

We have struggled with leaders and numbers at Shipton ESU for some time but fortunately we have relaunched and relocated back to Sandbach and with additional leaders recruited the unit is looking healthy again.

Young Leaders are going from strength to strength under the guidance and leadership of our District Young Leader, Leader, Diane Blurton and assistant Stephanie Fearn. Regular Module courses are being run and all Young Leaders are encouraged to attend. With the recent appointment of the District Youth Commissioners we are hoping for a better response for volunteers to join the District Youth Forum we are endeavouring to encourage the Explorers to take an active interest.

The Explorers enjoyed the District camp with the same format giving the Explorers off site activities and a special evening exclusively tailored for them.

The joint Scouts/Explorer Monopoly Live event was another great success even though we were unlucky with the weather this time. Units have held very successful summer & winter camps with many units taking part in outdoor activities as part of their programmes.

A joint district Scout/Explorer camp is planned to be held at the beginning of October this will take the format of a survival camp. We are hoping for a good response from both the older scouts and explorers. If it proves to be a success we will endeavour to hold one every other year. This will be a great opportunity for linking the Scouts with the Explorers.

We had 1 Platinum, 2 Diamond, 8 Young Leader Belt buckles and 2 Queen Scout Awards 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.

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.

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Ingrid Shaw
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

SCOUT NETWORK REPORT

We continue to look to recruit new members within the district, there over 100 members in the district in the 18 to 25 year age range, however the vast majority of these are either at university or busy as leaders at their own group. As explorers reach their eighteenth birthday we work to encourage them to join us on events.

Four members of Express attended The Cheshire Network Ball in March. This black-tie event was run by Mersey Weaver district in order to raise funds for their explorer units.

The National Network Gathering 2017 took place at Great Tower Scout Activity Centre, Newby Bridge, Cumbria over the Easter weekend. Two Express members attended this year's event and camped alongside 15 others from Warrington West who we often attend events with. Over the four nights of camping we went hiking in the lake district, golfing in Bowness, kept a campfire going for the five days as well as socialising with Network member from across the UK.

Four members of Express attended The Network Festival 2017 which was held at Rough Close Campsite, Coventry June 30th – July 2nd. This included a new member who has recently moved from Hampshire to Crewe and is very active in Scouting as well as enthusiastic about attending future Network events.

On the second weekend of December we held our 6th annual Winter Camp at Bickerton Hill Campsite. For the first time in 6 years it snowed during our camp which made for some interesting walks in the area as you can see from the photos below.



Will Swain
District Scout Network Commissioner

MILLDALE CAMPSITE REPORT

Milldale has had a successful year with several projects being completed and the successful grant application from the Rural Development Programme to purchase a tractor and two activity shelters for the site. The grant will cover 65% of the total project cost. The tractor was delivered to site in January 2018 and the shelters will be completed prior to the final grant payment due in September 2018.

We continue to be financially sound, however cashflow will be tight over the next 12 months with the payment due out for the tractor and activity shelters before we can be reimbursed.

The camp chapel has had additional drainage and a new fence as well as repairs to the altar. Work has continued on the management of the woodland and 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 of the woodland and helping with the removal of some trees.

The site hosted another successful District Camp that has enabled us to add a new aerial runway, extend the high ropes course and add the pedal carts to the list of activities.

Looking forward, we have started a project to put an accommodation block on the site, this is in the early stages but progressing.

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.

Carl Shore.

Milldale Campsite Chairman.

MILLDALE CAMP SITE USEAGE 2017

Month	DA		EA		Camps		
	Number	People	Number	People	Number	People	Nights
January	2	33	0	0	0	0	0
February	3	108	1	24	2	53	90
March	3	70	10	218	5	40	30
April	5	40	8	134	3	742	1251
May	3	104	20	373	5	68	135
June	6	321	44	826	13	281	447
July	9	430	37	835	11	110	133
August	5	197	7	81	3	27	61
September	6	234	20	373	5	67	89
October	2	36	15	343	5	75	84
November	6	170	9	158	3	16	16
December	1	17	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	51	1760	171	3365	56	1479	2336

DISTRICT CAMP 2017

154 beavers, 211 cubs, 158 scouts, 29 explorers and 154 leaders had a wonderful weekend at the 2017 Time Travellers District Camp.

The organising team supported by the campsite committee and a team of volunteers outdid themselves with plenty of new activities adding to the legacy left by District Camps over the last 10+ years.

This year we rehomed the archery range to a new location down the track, complete with netting. Created a pedal kart track and purchased 3 karts. Most impressively with some significant engineering skill from the team we implemented a permanent base for the aerial runway!

The pictures, videos and feedback say that we had a fantastic time with lots of smiling if not tired faces come Sunday evening.

None of this could be achieved without a solid team of committed people maintaining the campsite in peak condition and an additional team for planing and delivering the camp - My thanks goes to them all for whatever part was played in the running of another hugely successful camp.

Andrew Ticehurst
2017 Camp Chief

SAILING

We ran 2 taster days and an RYA Stage course over two weekends again this year. Both tasters and the course were well attended with scouts passing various stages of the syllabus. The new format is working well and its planned to run the same on 2018.

Thanks to all the helpers and supporters for their hard work and commitment.

The Sailing Team

CANOEING and KAYAKING.

There are 6 dedicated taster sessions that can be booked by any group of Cubs, Scouts or Explorers in 2018 and 2 groups are already on the wait list with priority booking. If you want to book up one of the remaining 4 sessions, please be quick as 2018 once again promises to be a busy year.

A flat-water weekend training courses was delivered in June 2017 which saw a further 14 scouts receive coaching and skills training towards their water activities badges.

A canoe camp to Anglesey took place in August 2017 which gave the opportunity for the more experience scouts to sample paddling in a fast-moving water environment, together with sea and surf conditions.

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 and if you are interested in helping coaching please contact Rob Galloway.

Tony Sutton

District Canoeing Advisor

DISTRICT SHOOTING REPORT

The district shooting activity team has completed another very busy year in 2017 with the small team being kept very busy throughout the year.

Approximately 55 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. As well as this about 12 sessions were held at different locations including Crewe Rifle and Pistol Club, the National Indoor Shooting Centre at Aldersley and at Bisley. These covered everything from taster sessions, the District Camp, the Waterloo shooting competition and training for various Scout shooting competitions.

Over 1000 young people attended the different events not including the number who took part in the shooting base at the District Camp.

We have held five YPS Tutor Training Courses over the year to instruct adults in running shooting sessions and these have been well supported, but mainly from out of district leaders and helpers.

Many shooters from the district 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 again. This is fifth 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 over one hundred competitors but it would be great to have more groups from the district attending this event as the junior team trophy was won by a Warrington group.

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 first and second best senior teams and the 1st place in the junior team competition. We also shot at Scout Shoot where the top team was 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 as well as one shooter who has been selected for the ESSU, British Junior Pistol Squad and British Shooting Project Pistol.

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 and a shooting stand at Cheshire.

A more permanent structure for the outdoor range is being put in place in 2018.

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 this is a very small team. More help is needed to keep this activity successful and more groups from the district are encouraged 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.

In 2017 the Scouts National Technical Advisor stated "South West Cheshire is currently the best location within Scouting for shooting"

Andrew Brookes
District Shooting Advisor

SWIMMING

Our Swimming Club continues with great enthusiasm with cubs and scouts from 13 groups plus two explorer units taking part to learn to swim and gain their swimming badges.

We held two successful Galas this season the Cub Gala was run as a straight swimming gala, the Scout Gala had additional fun races between events. Both Galas were swum in the true scouting spirit and enjoyed by all participants.

I would like to thank all our dedicated instructors for their time and skills they give that makes our club the success that it is for so many young swimmers to gain their staged badges.

Four young swimmers having passed their staged badges are now on their lifeguard training.

I would like to thank SWC District and the Crewe pool staff for the support they give to the club.

Janet Jones Swimming Adviser

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

In common with most of the retail sector the Scout and Guide Shop has seen significant challenges from on-line retailers, especially in relation to equipment and accessories. Despite difficult trading conditions the shop has again made a significant contribution to District Funds.

The small but dedicated team of Scouting and Guiding volunteers continues to ensure that the shop is successful and their work is much appreciated. We continue to appeal for volunteers to join the team and help out at the shop on either a Tuesday or Friday evening or to provide support in another role.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

