



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 5th 2019

NANTWICH CIVIC HALL

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

April 5th 2019

- 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 6th April 2018
- 5 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018
- 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 World Scout Jamboree 24
- 12 The District Commissioner
- 13 The County Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2018/2019

<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 <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> <p>District Executive Committee Ex-officio Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Network Scout Commissioner District Youth Commissioner</p> <p>Elected Members Mr A Whalley (to 2019) Mr M Bennion (to 2020) Mr A Collett (to 2020) Mr J Barlow (to 2023) Ms P Wood (to 2023) Ms A Green (to 2020)</p> <p>Nominated Members Mr M Rowe Mrs C Hamlyn Mr T Clarke Ms D Blurton</p> <p>Co-opted Members Mr C Shore Camp Site Chair</p> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>	Chairperson	Mr R Chaplow	Treasurer	Mr R Bennett	Secretary	Mr J Bennett	<p>District Commissioner Mr I Potts</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Commissioner Ms I Shaw</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Administrator Mr J Wedgwood</p> <p>District Young Leader Unit Manager Ms D Blurton</p> <p>District Scout Network Commissioner Mr W Swain</p> <p>District Youth Commissioners Miss C Grasmeder Miss H Faulkner</p> <p>Assistant District Commissioners <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> <p>Local Training Manager Adult Training Vacant</p> <p>Chair Appointments Sub Committee Ms J Wilkinson</p> <p>District Scouters Mr A Collett, Mrs M Cox, Mr B Westwood, Mrs J Shore, Mr C Spicer, Mrs A Bourke, Mrs M Norbury.</p> <p>District Advisers <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Archery</td> <td>Ms D Blurton</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>Mrs R Edwards</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swimming</td> <td>Mrs J Jones</td> </tr> </table> </p> <p>District Chaplain Vacant</p> <p>County Scout Council Members 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	Archery	Ms D Blurton	Mountaineering	Vacant	Shooting	Mr A Brookes	Sailing	Mr I Brown	Canoeing	Mr A Sutton	DOE Scheme	Mrs R Edwards	Swimming	Mrs J Jones
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South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 6th April 2018 Willaston Masonic Hall

1.0 Welcome

The District Commissioner, Ian Potts, took the Chair. There were 42 members and 2 guests present.

Ian opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, particularly the Assistant County Commissioner (Development) John Duley and his wife Jane. The County Commissioner sent his apologies having had to cancel his attendance at short notice for family reasons.

Ian announced that his nomination for District Chair was Dane Chaplow. Dane then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. He began by asking those present to take a moment to reflect on those members and supporters of South West Cheshire Scout Council who had "Gone Home" since the 2017 AGM: Eileen Thompson, Ray Saint, Audrey Evanson, Lesley Roberts, Sheen Sambrook and Joan Edmeades

2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mel and Doug Dunn, Kerry Brown, Ally Green, Teresa Shaw, Jill Taylor, Mike Lightfoot, Brian and Janet Jones, Chris and Kath Titley.

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 6th April 2017

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2017 was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the Chair to all contributors for their efforts during the past year.

Appointments

The report was accepted and no questions raised.

Secretary

Nothing to add to the report, no questions were raised.

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Beavers

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane asked for his thanks be conveyed to all Beaver leaders for their work.

Cub Scouts

Again, no questions were raised by the attendees and Dane asked for thanks to be passed to all Cub Leaders for their work.

Scouts

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

Explorer and Network

Nothing to add to the reports which were accepted. Comments were made on the excellent year enjoyed by Explorers

Milldale

Carl thanked everyone for their input and support, a lot of hard work on the site had been achieved.

Dane also thanked the Milldale team for their efforts and commented favourably on the state of the site.

District Camp

Andrew Ticehurst was thanked in his absence by Dane for his work as Camp Chief to organise and run a highly successful camp. Carl commented on an excellent event.

Activities

Sailing

The report was accepted Carl commented on the successful taster sessions run during the year.

Canoeing

The report was accepted, Rob commented on the success of the canoe camp on Anglesey.

Shooting

Dane commented on the excellent report detailing the many successes of the Shooting team and young people.

Swimming

The report was accepted, Dane thanked Janet and Brian for their continuing work with the swimming section.

Scout Shop

The report was accepted, Dane thanked everyone involved in the shop for the excellent work they continue to do and made a plea for additional adult support to work in the shop.

Sylvia Sowerby commented on this need and the lack of help that had resulted in previous request for help. Dane explained what had been done to date and this prompted a discussion on what further steps could be taken to promote volunteers for the shop. Suggestions from the floor included the use of Facebook and a letter to all parents in the district. The DC undertook to prepare a letter to all parents which would also explain the importance of the revenue from the shop and the knock on effect on subs and capitation.

5.0 Financial Report

A spreadsheet detailing the accounts for 2017 was circulated, no questions were raised, the World Scout Jamboree costs and the payment system was explained. The DC spoke about the payment made to the District by the Scout Shop and its importance to the District budget.

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.

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

Alistair Steele and Stephanie Fearn were both due to stand down at this AGM. Pip Wood and Jamie Barlow had been nominated to serve on the District Executive and the meeting approved their nominations. Dane thanked Alistair and Stephanie for their service and contribution to the Executive.

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: Cheryl Hamlyn

Scouts: Tim Clark

Explorers & Young Leaders: Diane 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 Amendment to the District Constitution

The secretary advised the meeting that the Executive had proposed an amendment to the constitution to create a position of Deputy Chair. The rationale for this amendment was explained and the proposal was unanimously accepted. The secretary to amend the constitution accordingly.

12.0 District Commissioner

12.1 Ian Potts started by thanking everyone for the huge amount of work that had been done during the year and he went on to highlight particular areas:

- An excellent district camp with good input from the Youth Forum
- Support from the district had been given to a number of groups.
- There had been over 20 applicants for ten places on the 2019 World Scout Jamboree. The standard of applicants was very high, the successful candidates now have to raise £50,000.
- Ian is looking forward to big plans for the future of Milldale starting with two shooting and archery shelters due for completion in the coming months.
- There are challenges ahead for the Scout Shop, in staffing and on line competition.
- A small team is looking at the effects of GDPR and is developing a strategy to roll out across the district.
- He referred to the forthcoming Gang Show and the promotion of the event.

12.2 Ian then referred to a number of awards then had been achieved in the preceding twelve months including:

Five Queen's Scout Awards

Silver Acorns for John Bennett, Gerald Newbrook, Marilyn Norbury and Graham Shaw.

Bar to the Award for Merit to Jen Wilkinson and Andy Whalley

Award for Merit to Sylvia Sowerby and John Wedgwood.

He then presented a Wood Badge to Andy Evans, a 25 year service award to John Whittingham and a 30 year service award to Andy Whalley

Ian concluded by thanking the District Executive for their input during 2017.

13.0 Assistant County Commissioner Development

13.1 John Duley began by presenting a Wood Badge to Ian Potts, this was followed by a number of Growth Award certificates to groups and the District and offered his congratulations to all.

- 13.2** John then said that the results of the 2018 census would show that once again South West Cheshire to be the largest district in Cheshire. It is expected that Cheshire will be high up the table of growth nationally. South West Cheshire is delivering a quality product and this is reflected in the growth in membership.
- 13.3** John then talked about Development and some of the challenges the County faces:
- The role of development is generally associated with growth but part of the role is also to support those groups who have needs and struggle to grow. A whole range of tools have been developed to assist such groups.
 - Waiting lists are an issue, as soon as they start to reduce success breeds success and the lists increase again.
 - 50% of new leaders have come through the group structure and young leader programme. These are our future.
 - In terms of population growth this has been low in the county but there is now pressure for this growth to increase. The challenge will be the lack of groups in the development areas and where they do exist they are already full.
- 13.4** John is supported in his role by a full time youth development worker and a part time assistant from Youth United. He would welcome the support of anyone who has an interest in this type of work.
- 13.5** John finished by thanking Ian for his work in making the district the success it is and he thanked everyone present.

The meeting closed at 21.30

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. April 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2018. 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 a highly successful 2018 Gang Show, has approved a Business Case for a show in 2020.

Work has continued to provide access to the district email system for those with a district role. A new district web site went live at the end of 2018 <https://swcscouts.org.uk/>

The executive was pleased to note the following awards presented during 2018 in South West Cheshire including:

Silver Acorn

John Bennett
Marilyn Norbury

Gerald Newbrook
Graham Shaw

Award for Merit

Joan Hollinshead
Kate Williams

Irene Tomlinson

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Jonathan Brookes

Queens Scout Award

Ocea Birtles
Andrew Evans
James Smith

Bethany Edwards
Rachel Joyce

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Appointments sub-committee met on 5 occasions during 2018 and approved the appointments of 21 new Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders and Section Assistants to 13 of our Groups. They also approved 3 changes of role and 2 additional roles. A total of 318 DBS checks were requested and processed.

This report comes with an apology from the District Appointments Secretary for any delay in processing applications. This is due to the fact that he was trying to fulfil the duties of his multiple roles within his Group, our District and County.

Please can GSLs and Commissioners ensure that all Adult Information Forms are completed fully and correctly for all new appointments and changes of role? Often there is missing information – frequently the role being applied for – and this means that someone has to chase for that information before the appointments process can start. And if a prospective new Leader does not hear about their interview date it is likely that we are waiting for references to come in.

It could also save us time if you have sent an application form for a prospective Leader, but they leave before they have been able to be interviewed, that you let us know so we can remove them from our list.

Thanks to all committee members for their contribution to the interview part of the appointment process. Most candidates report that they feel welcomed during their interview, which is important if we want them to enjoy their Scouting.

Jen Wilkinson
Appointments Sub Committee Chair

Tim Owen
Appointments Secretary

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2018 commenced with the County Beaver Faith Day in February at Chester Cathedral with a small number of colonies attending. This is an annual event which culminates in the Beavers achieving their Faith activity badge.

The **Beaver Challenge** held early March saw several colonies compete against each other on several activities to test their practical and thinking skills; also, their ability to work together in teams. The challenge was won by beavers at the 17th.



**17th SWC District
Challenge
Winners**

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 99 Beavers had gained their award during 2017.

15 Beaver Colonies / over 525 Beaver, Siblings, Parents and Leaders attended the Biennial **District Family Camp** held at Milldale in June. This was an extremely popular event and all who attended had a great time. All enjoyed a wide range of activities in beautiful surroundings and the sun shined throughout the weekend. Huge thanks to all involved in making this much welcomed event such a great success. Thanks to youth forum members for their part in shaping the programme.

Family Camp 2018

We didn't know what to expect but the whole weekend was just fabulous, not just within our group camp, but also across the full site of activities. We couldn't believe how much there was to do, (things have certainly moved on from my cub scout camping days)

Family Camp 2018

38th had a wonderful time at camp. One of my beavers was very dubious about the idea before the event but now he's a convert to camping and another sobbed when he realised it was over! I call that a success

In August Beavers from the 16th took part in the **County Chamboree**. 9 Beavers camped over and made memories to remember. In September we held an indoor **Sports Day** event at South Cheshire College. 10 colonies took part in a range of sports / team events including sprints, sack race, egg and spoon race, relay and more. As always, the tug-of-war was particularly popular. Most beavers received a medal / certificate and the winner's trophy went to the 35th Riverbank colony.

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

Finally, our year was rounded off with a trip to see the **Christmas lanterns at Chester Zoo**. This was the first time attending as a District and it did not disappoint for Beavers or Leaders.



It was magical afternoon / evening with an array of mesmerising light displays on show. We even had snow and a visit from Santa and his reindeers. It was so popular we plan to make this a biennial event.

Overall this has proved to be another successful year with a lot of positive feedback received from Parents, Helpers and of course the Beavers themselves. Huge thanks to all the Beaver Leaders, Assistant Beaver Leaders, Young Leaders and Adult Helpers for their commitment and time to scouting and its members.



The 28th SWC Beavers at Chester Zoo Lanterns

**Mel Dunn
ADC Beavers**

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2018 was a relatively normal year for Cubs activities and as usual we held several District led events which are described in detail below.

We held meetings for Cub Scout Leaders on four occasions during the year in February, May, September and November with an average attendance of 8 pack representatives.

The District annual Craft Competition was held on the 3rd February at 1st SWC HQ. Seven packs, the 1st, 7th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, and 35th (Somers) competed to construct a futuristic railway station and train (with HS2 in mind). There were many innovative and artistic solutions and once again, the task of the judges was not easy. The 35th SWC (Somers) team were declared the winners and they went forward to represent South West Cheshire in the County Competition.

In March, Chief Scout's Silver Award Certificates were presented to 69 Cubs (43 of whom attended the evening) at Cheshire College (South and West) in Crewe. Fifteen packs (number of awards in brackets) were represented: 1st (10), 3rd (5), 7th (4), 12th (3), 14th (4), 16th (3), 17th (4), 18th (2), 22nd (4), 23rd (6), 26th (7), 28th (3), 35th (3), 38th (6) and 39th (6). The number of Silver Awards was very slightly above the previous year. Well done to the youngsters and their Leaders for all the hard work that has gone into achieving this, the highest award for Cubs.

Cubs and Leaders attended and took part in County Scout Sunday at Chester Cathedral on 10th June.

Chamboree 2018 was attended by 6 packs during the first weekend of the event at the end of July and participated in the various activity zones provided. Unfortunately, the weather on Sunday was extremely wet and so the special activities for Cubs provided by Districts were a washout. Cubs from 3rd SWC won the Subcamp Bunting Competition (Mutiny Bay subcamp) and received a special Subcamp Scarf signed by Bear Grylls as their prize.

Our annual Fun Run and Cub Sports took place at Milldale on 22nd September. This single event combined the two which are normally held on separate dates. This was because of the inclusion of Chamboree in the 2018 programme. 64 Cubs from eight packs attended; these were the 3rd, 7th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 23rd, 35th and 38th. The Fun Run was won by the 7th, with second place going to the 35th and third to the 15th. The 12th became the new Cub Sports Trophy holders with second place going to the 35th and third place to the 16th. The Tug-of-War was won by the 35th, the 7th were placed second and the 15th third.

Some of the Cub Sports activities were aligned with the requirements for the Cubs'

Athletics Activity Badge and everyone who took part contributed to their team's score.

The 2018 Cubs' Swimming Gala was held at the Crewe Lifestyle Centre on Saturday 27th October. Attendance was down on previous years – probably due to a clash with school half-term holidays. Eight packs took part: 1st, 7th, 14th, 16th, 23rd, 26th, 38th and 39th. The winners were the 38th, the 7th were placed second and the 23rd were third (both for the second year running). The 26th won the Enhancement trophy. Well done to all 29 Cubs who participated.

The final District event of the year was the Cubs Christmas Journey, held on 8th December at Milldale. 57 Cubs from seven packs attended – the 1st, 3rd, 16th, 26th, 28th, 38th and 41st. The Cubs enjoyed a journey around the campsite with games and craft activities plus a trail of “donkey facts” (no live donkey this time unfortunately) and letters to collect that spelt out the location of a special visitor (many thanks to Nigel Davenport for obliging!). The afternoon concluded with hot dogs and refreshments followed by a short Nativity service conducted once again by Rev. Lynn Cullens from St. Andrew's church in Crewe. The collection taken amounted to £84 and this was donated to The Children's' Society.

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

County camps featured highly in the Scout programme this year – several Troops braved the cold & wet to take part in Winter Camp at Forest (which gets bigger each year) and rather more Scouts joined together at Tabley for Chamboree 2018. Technical gremlins at the Opening Ceremony and an hour spent in torrential rain awaiting the arrival of Bear Grylls on Sunday, didn't exactly get Chamboree off to a flying start, but thankfully spirits rose as the weather improved and Scouts enjoyed an action packed week on the great variety of activity bases. Scuba Diving was one of the most popular, with many scouts trying it for the first time.

Other District run camps included a new Survival camp for older Scouts & Explorers. Participants had to survive a lengthy hike to Milldale, a night under basic shelters, and 'backwoods' cooking their own meals over wood fires.

Our annual Kayak camp had to be re-arranged at the (very) last minute when high winds and storms on Anglesey threatened to curtail all attempts to get near the sea. Instead we camped locally at Weston and managed kayak trips on the River Weaver at Winsford, the Dee at Chester, the Weaver (at Nantwich this time, including some great Seal launches), and finally a rather cool and breezy day on Bala lake. Great progress was made by all who took part.

The Waterloo shooting camp is another brilliant 'activity camp' – our shooting team put on a good & varied competition programme which is greatly enjoyed by all who take part. Unfortunately relatively few Troops from S.W.Cheshire take up the offer, so many of our scouts miss out.

Thanks go to all the District teams who have organised the more specialised activities for our Scout, with Archery, Shooting, Climbing, Sailing and Kayaking all being available. Unfortunately, the water activities in particular had to be restricted due to severe shortages of Instructors & Permit Holders – which is a shame as they can be very popular with many Scouts. If you (or anyone you know) has any experience and would like to help, please get in touch – achieving an Activity Permit is not as hard as you may imagine!

Two new District events were offered this year:

In February Steve (Sonic) Bullock ran a Stage 3 Emergency Aid course. Training was interspersed with some realistic 'incidents' including a car accident with multiple casualties. This could be one of the most important badges a Scout achieves (literally life-saving) and it was a pity that more Troops did not take up the offer of places.

In November we ran a PL / APL Training course (the first for a couple of decades) – take up was good and we narrowly avoided having to turn scouts away. The weekend included both leadership theory and practical activities (including organising and cooking a 3 course meal for over 50). The PLs were also given help to plan an activity for their own Patrols / Troops, and we look forward to reports of these when they happen.

All our 'usual' events took place as normal: 38 teams entered Cheshire Hike (special mention to the Junior team from the 38th who won the County and Brian Kershaw trophies); Our Gang Show was another great success at the Lyceum; most Troops (regrettably not all) had representatives attending the District Youth Forum; and the Swimming Gala (under new organising team) went off well, with the "free swim" at the end proving especially popular!

Thanks go to Wilson House for inviting Scouts from all Troops to join them over the JOTA / JOTI week-end and also to Bob Binner for organising a Paintball session which was also much enjoyed by those who went.

50 Scouts from South West Cheshire achieved their Chief Scout's Gold Award during the year – a very commendable increase on 2017, now that the 'new' training programme has finally settled down. All due to excellent programmes, activities and camps run by our many dedicated leaders – our thanks go to all of them.

Robert Galloway
Lise Grasmeder
ADC Scouts

EXPLORER REPORT

We have five Active Explorer Units and one Young Leader Unit. Drake & Mallory have now have waiting lists as they are full to capacity. Young people wishing to join an Explorer unit are being encouraged to attend one of the other units until they can get into a Unit of their choice. Our census figures have now been confirmed and we have declared a total of 116 explorers 87 Explorers are in units. 58 are Young Leaders and 29 are Young Leaders only.

We had 1 Platinum, 2 Diamond, 8 Young Leader Belt buckles and 3 Queen Scout Awards presented at the awards ceremony at Parr Hall in November. An improvement on last year.

In October we held our first link survival camp at Milldale. Thirty six young people attended and enjoyed the overnight camp. This is to encourage a better link between Scouts & Explorers and the Leaders. We are hoping to hold this biennially giving a link between the two sections.

Units have held very successful summer & winter camps with many units taking part in outdoor activities including dry slope skiing, caving and go-karting as part of their programs.

Some units have helped and attended fund raising events to help charities like St Luke's Hospice.

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

A district trip to attend Gillwell 24 in July is being organised and we are hoping to have a good turnout.

SW Cheshire have been allocated thirty six places and four leader places for Eurojam

2020 to be held in Poland. We are hoping for a good response as this is a great opportunity to experience an international camp.

Ingrid Shaw
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

SCOUT NETWORK REPORT

In 2018 Express Network took part in Crewe Gang Show's 80th anniversary show, attended the Network Festival, had a day trip to Alton Towers and held our 7th annual winter camp at Bickerton Hill Campsite. Encouraging members who have turned 18 and moved up from explorers to participate in Network events is proving difficult with college / university, work, other Scouting / family commitments and the cost of camps & activities being the reasons given. Two fantastic camps are coming up, the National Network Gathering & Network festival and we have 1 member attending Gathering with Chester Network but no other takers so far.



Will Swain
District Scout Network Commissioner

DISTRICT YOUTH FORUM

The past year in the role of district youth commissioner has been successful overall. We planned and ran 2 youth forum events with a great turnout. During the youth forum event in February 2018, the forum planned an activity for the district beaver family camp that successfully collected feedback from beavers and parents. We are pleased that at these events we managed to increase explorer turnout from 2017. However, we feel that there are a few areas that we can improve. In 2019 we would like to hold more youth forum events that will have a greater turnout of explorers and

network. We would also like to see the youth forum being more influential in district events and decisions.

Over the course of the next year the district youth forum will take on a project to plan a district YouShape event that will take place in February 2020. We will run 4 district youth forum events and 2 social events over the coming year where the youth forum will work towards this project:

Youth forum day 27th April

Youth forum BBQ 29th June (Social)

Youth forum breakfast 14th September

Youth forum afternoon 30th November

Youth forum Christmas 14th or 15th December (Social)

In order for this project to be successful we will need to get a team of district leaders to help us to deliver the event. We would really appreciate any support that you can give to us to make this event happen. If you are interested in helping with this project can you please let us know, we will value any time you can give no matter how small.

Harriet Faulkner

Caroline Grasmeder

District Youth Commissioners

MILLDALE CAMPSITE REPORT

Milldale has had a successful year, much of the work has been centred around the purchase and erection of the Shooting and Archery shelters. It has taken an enormous amount of effort both in planning and physical work to get the two shelters completed and my thanks go to all involved in this tremendous effort. These were part funded by a Cheshire East Leader Rural Development grant. Laura Smith officially opened the buildings in September along with a representative from the Rural Development grant team during an open day where several groups visited the site to look at the facilities that are available at the campsite.

Numerous volunteers continue to support the site during the weekend and week days working on a variety of projects from widening and refurbishing the path through the woods for wheelchair access, pruning trees, mowing grass to installing a new tap by the backwoods cooking area; there are always jobs to do suiting anyone's skill level and for anyone that likes playing with big toys; we landscaped the archery and shooting range with a big digger and dumper truck. The campsite team has also run a number of activity training days, covering archery, shooting, climbing and pizza ovens.

We continue to be financially sound, maintaining a positive cashflow throughout the year. This was helped by a bridging loan provided by the District during the activity shelter project as the grant funding was paid in arrears, the loan was fully repaid in December 2018. All the camp fees were reviewed in December 2018 and it has been agreed to keep all the SWC group camping fees the same for a further year. Work on a new invoicing system has been completed, on the first phase all bookings for 2019 will go through this new automated invoicing system. Phase 2 will enable leaders to put there booking directly into the system via a web interface this is due to be completed later in 2019.

Looking forward, we have full plans and planning permission for an accommodation block on the site; the estimated cost is around £300k so it's not going to be an overnight project but our goal for this year is to secure funding for the project.

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 2019

Month	DA		EA		Camps		
	Number	People	Number	People	Number	People	Nights
January	4	49	0	0	0	0	0
February	3	36	3	60	2	32	52
March	7	75	7	162	3	28	28
April	3	35	4	78	4	49	49
May	2	16	25	508	4	193	335
June	6	401	35	746	11	891	1172
July	5	520	41	855	13	203	387
August	3	61	1	40	3	60	183
September	1	50	10	174	11	193	308
October	4	68	4	96	9	125	182
November	2	32	5	156	3	36	45
December	2	97	1	18	1	5	10
Totals	42	1440	136	2893	64	1815	2751

SAILING

The Sailing team organised 2 taster days and an RYA Stage course over two weekends again this year through Winsford flash sailing club. Both tasters and the course were well attended with a total of 151 young people experiencing sailing and passing various stages of the RYA syllabus. Thanks to all the helpers and supporters for their hard work and commitment.

The Sailing Team

SWIMMING

Our swimming club continues with great enthusiasm, with cubs, scouts and explorers from many groups within South West learning to swim and gaining their staged badges. We also have many scouts and explorer scouts working on their different stages of lifesaving award. After all their hard work many are gaining employment with the different pools within our district.

Two successful galas have been held this year Cubs & Scouts reports are in the section reports. We now appeal urgently for help due to loss of leaders over the next few weeks. We would welcome any parent who has a child at the club swimming and has a current DBS to help supervise also any leaders in the District who could help please do so. I would like to thank all our dedicated instructors for their time and skills they give, also I would like to thank Southwest Cheshire District and Crewe Pool staff for the support they give to our club.

Janet Jones Swimming Adviser

CANOEING and KAYAKING.

6 dedicated taster sessions were undertaken during 2018 by the following groups: 39th SWC, 16th SWC (2 Sessions), 1st SWC (2 Sessions), 30th SWC. A total of 106 members taking part.

During 2019 there are once again 6 dedicated taster sessions that can be booked by any group of Cubs, Scouts or Explorers. 2 sessions are already booked in with 3 other groups already expressing an interest in taking a session. If you would like a session, please be quick as 2019 once again promises to be a busy year. A priority waiting list is maintained for any group unable to secure one of this year's sessions.

Flat-water weekend training courses were delivered in June and July 2018 which saw a further 19 scouts receive coaching and skills training towards their water activities badges.

A canoe camp also took place in August 2018 which gave the opportunity for the more experienced scouts to sample paddling in a faster moving water environment.

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 with coaching please contact Rob Galloway.

Tony Sutton
District Canoeing Advisor

DISTRICT SHOOTING REPORT

The District shooting activity team has carried on with a full range of activities through 2018 with our even smaller team being kept very busy throughout the year.

The team has an excellent record of success, both in training scouts to shoot and respect firearms and in terms of results at national competitions. From the person who first shoots a rifle and thinks 'that was ok' to those who start on a journey to represent their country the District shooting team provides support.

Approximately fifty-one shooting sessions were held at Milldale over the year, starting with taster sessions for complete beginners and moving to training the best shooters within scouting to take part in national events. As well as this about eight sessions were held at different locations including the National Indoor Shooting Centre at Aldersley and at Bisley.

About 870 young people attended the different events, not including the number who took part in the shooting base at the competitions.

We have held three 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. This included the first ever target sprint leader training session held for British shooting.

We trained the Cheshire scouts shooting team again this year and won two of the three team trophies, missing out on the pistol trophy to Greater Manchester South again. This is the sixth year that Cheshire has won the event, with all but one of the team members being from SW Cheshire District.

The District shooting competition, held in June, has grown to over one hundred competitors. It would, however, be great to have more groups from SW Cheshire District attending this event as the junior team trophy was won again by a Warrington group. I think only two District groups camped this year!

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 top two places with the senior team competition, and first place in the junior, for the second year running. We also shot at Scout Shoot where the District team came second. Best shot under 14 years old at the event was Jess Barrance from the 30th SWC.

The District has four scouts and explorers who are members of the National Scout Rifle Club and six previous members of the District are now in various national squads including the Great Britain Junior Rifle Squad, English Small-bore Shooting Union, British Junior Pistol Squad and British Shooting Project Pistol. Abby Warren, a former 1st SWC member, represented Great Britain at the World Championships in Korea in 2018.

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 Show in June.

A more permanent structure for the outdoor range been put in place in 2019 thanks to the hard work of the Milldale Scout Camp team. This has added to the fantastic shooting facilities that are available for SWC scout groups. The facilities are some of the best in the country for scout shooting activities. The Milldale committee have been fantastic in supporting the shooting team in the provision of this activity in recent years.

This success doesn't happen by chance. We have a very active team who support shooting within the District, giving all members chance to participate in the sport, but this is a very small team. All involved within scouting know what happens when the pool of adult leaders for a group of activity shrinks sufficiently. It stops.

More help is needed to keep this activity successful and if any leaders, relations or friends would be interested in helping keep this very successful activity going please get in touch. More groups from the District are also needed to keep the activity vibrant. We have numerous individuals from groups attending the events and competitions, but very few groups themselves. Please make use of the expertise and equipment we have in place to provide scouts and explorers with the opportunities shooting can bring.

Andrew Brookes
District Shooting Advisor

GANG SHOW 2018

Overall the 2018 Crewe Gang Show was a phenomenal success producing “Standing Ouations” from virtually every member of the audience every night. The atmosphere generated by the audience every night was “electric” and this helped tremendously in motivating the cast and crew who produced 5 wonderful shows.

Comments received include:

“I really enjoyed the show last night, congratulations to the cast and the team supporting them it was a pleasure to be in the audience”.

“I think particular congratulations should go to your musical director, Graham Proctor and vocal coach, Liz Wood for the confidence in the cast to project the choral numbers, this was some of the most confident singing I have heard at a Gang Show for many years”.

“Well done to everybody”.

Graham Phillips

County Commissioner, Cheshire

“Alan and I thoroughly endorse what Graham said about the show. It was excellent with superb music and strong singing. You have some great talent in your cast. What a night, what a show!

Please pass on our congratulations.”

Val Thomason & husband Alan

Deputy County Commissioner, Cheshire

“We believe 100+ young people from South West Cheshire Scouts have had the time of their lives and walked out of the theatre on Saturday night with a confidence boost that perhaps they won’t get again in their lives”.

Crewe Gang Show Production Team

The 2018 Show carefully followed the guidelines given out by Scout Headquarters especially in relation to the numbers of Adults and numbers of Young People involved in the cast. Gang Shows now are primarily for Young People and we will continue to support this.

In total over 1700 tickets were sold for the 5 performances and although this did fall below our projected numbers we are confident that the quality of the 2018 show will help promote the 2020 show.

The Management Team met on 16 occasions in the 12 months leading up to the Show and the Marketing Team met 8 times. The Management Team have built an excellent relationship with the new Theatre Director – Adam Knight himself an ex-Scout and this is set to continue.

Over 150 local businesses were approached directly by visit or via letter and or e-mail

for support for the Show as either a Show Sponsor or Partner plus the opportunity to advertise in the programme or sponsor one of the Show items. The response to this was very poor and The Marketing Team will look to formulate a different approach for the 2020 Show.

In view of the outstanding success of the 2018 Show a business plan and financial budget for a show in 2020 was presented to the December 2018 meeting of the District Executive and approved.

As a foot note a member of the Crewe Gang Show Crew has now taken up a job offer given to him by The Lyceum Theatre following his work on The Show. Nationally plans are in place to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Ralph Reader's first Gang Show with a national show to be held in a London theatre in 2022. A member of the Crewe Gang, Tom Bowden, has been selected to be a member of the organising team for that show.

Crewe Gang Show allows anyone from our District the experience of a lifetime they will never forget. It also:

Encourages and develops new skills; Teaches how to be part of a team / group;
Produces confidence and discipline; Showcases talent in all forms; Promotes Scouting at its best.

Craig Chaplow Producer Crewe Gang Show

Colin Germain Chair Crewe Gang Show Management Committee

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

The Scout and Guide Shop has had significant challenges again in the last 12 months with another decline in turnover. Despite the difficult trading conditions the shop again made a significant contribution to District Funds. We have invested in a much-needed redecoration for the Shop and changing rooms to spruce up the appearance and make a few repairs.

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.

Despite a number of appeals and approaches to individuals we have been unable to appoint a Shop Manager, something which has delayed attempts to review the workings of the Shop and transform it to make it fit for the 21st century.

Ian Potts

District Commissioner

South West Cheshire District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01/01/18	To	31/12/18
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Receipts and payments

	2018 £	2017 £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	59,843	55,860
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	49,749	48,198
Net membership subscriptions retained	10,094	7,662
Network	-	200
Scout Shop	-	14,000
Sub total	10,094	21,862
Activities		
Beavers	4,542	1,980
Cubs	500	1,427
Scouts	-	1,830
Explorers	-	2,707
Swimming	2,557	2,012
District events, activities, training and camps	545	-
Sub total	8,144	9,956
Fundraising (gross)		
World Scouting Jamboree	31,595	2,293
Other fundraising activities	5,800	1,600
Sub total	37,395	3,893
Other receipts		
Gang Show	2,150	900
10 th SWC	938	-
loan repaid by Milldale	15,000	-
Other	654	354
Sub total	18,742	1,254
Investment income		
Bank interest	287	363
Sub total	287	363
Total Gross Income	74,662	37,329
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	74,662	37,329

South West Cheshire District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	01/01/18	To	31/12/18

Receipts and payments

	2018	2017
	£	£
Payments		
Activities		
Beavers	2,573	4,655
Cubs	122	2,362
Scouts	75	2,061
Explorers	516	4,555
Young leaders	105	-
District youth forum	119	-
District events, activities, training and camps	896	574
Swimming	1,367	1,901
Sub total	5,772	16,107
District running costs		
Water and Sewerage	260	146
Electricity and Gas	1,632	1,125
Insurance	6,808	6,497
Repairs and Renewals	700	365
AGM and trustee expenses	780	506
MPLC (film licence)	629	611
Lottery licence	20	20
MiFi	130	125
Miscellaneous expenses	94	385
Sub total	11,054	9,781
Exceptional expenses		
Insurance claim paid to Milldale	2,784	-
Loan to Milldale	15,000	-
Gang Show	2,150	5,088
10 th SWC expenses	3,148	120
OSM	2,670	-
Sub total	25,752	5,208
Fundraising expenses		
Distributed proceeds of fundraising	2,160	2,722
World Scouting Jamboree instalments	23,510	4,580
Donations	1,050	2,225
Sub total	26,720	9,527
Total Gross Expenditure	69,299	40,623
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	69,299	40,623
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,364	- 3,294
Cash funds last year end	72,884	76,178
Cash funds this year end	78,248	72,884

Activity Accounts

Section	Receipts	Payments	Opening balance	Closing balance
Milldale	61,385	73,507	31,339	19,218
Canoe and Kayak	1,192	887	2,752	3,057
Sailing	1,864	1,306	4,403	4,961
Shooting	17,476	15,086	1,322	3,713
Explorers				
Scout Shop	43,246	34,975	8,789	17,059
Gang Show	22,045	22,128	4,275	4,129

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/12/18	31/12/17
	£	£
Cash funds		
RBS current account	32,140	12,063
NS&I investment account	46,107	60,821
Total cash funds	78,248	72,884
Other monetary assets		
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	3,000	3,840
Sub total	3,000	3,840
Non monetary assets for charity's own use (insured values)		
Land and buildings	150,749	150,749
Motor vehicles	26,499	6,999
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	57,734	57,734
Marine	40,116	40,116
Sub total	275,098	255,598
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	923	4,073
Sub total	923	4,073

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 4th March 2019 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature

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Print Name

	Chair
	Treasurer