

THIS IS THE INTRODUCTION TO THE IST S.W.C. STORY

The history of the International and National Scout Movement is well documented by professional bodies but the development of Scouting at local level is often neglected and rarely gets into print. The Andrews at Crewe is we believe a very special Group and its main landmarks provide an interesting story which hope fully when read will encourage future generations of members to move forward with a sense of pride and a desire to uphold some well tried and tested traditions.

Before launching into this chronological catalogue of landmarks it is worth mentioning how it has been compiled:

In 1970 it was decided to try and gather together all available photographs, logs and record books which were scattered (some in our Headquarters , many at the homes of individuals) and to display them in the form of an Exhibition which would be open to the local community . It was hoped that this would not only attract past members but also raise the profile of the Group and encourage more families to get involved in local Scouting,

The event was a great success and many who attended recounted their own memories of times spent in the local Scout organisation As a result even more records and photographs were acquired together with souvenirs and memorabilia . It is this information which provides the basis of this document at least up until 1970

From 1970 onwards an attempt has been made to keep the records in a manageable state but the increased availability of cameras and other recording devices has resulted in an over supply of data and consequently there has had to be a thinning out process and the creation of separate files covering camps ,expeditions and other competitive events. By doing this it is hoped that future generations will be able to compare their own experiences with those of their pre-decessors by having a fairly easy reference system.

The system adopted for the documentation of the major events is based on a geographic division of the U.K. into 12 areas. Within each section are filed records of campsites used by the Andrew's over the years together with an outline of the camp program balance sheets and in some cases menus. These are in alphabetic and date order. So much for the mechanics now for the" nitty gritty.

HOW ST. ANDREWS GOT STARTED

There is a framed Charter in the H.Q. which records the fact that St. Andrews Scout Troop was officially re-cognised by the Scout Association H.Q. and given the title 3rd Crewe on the 26th September 1916

The first Scout Troop to be registered in Crewe was that belonging to Christ Church which was the Mother Church of St Andrew's. In those days Christ Church provided the clergy for St Andrew's which was classified as a Mission Church and no doubt many of the founder boys and leaders who set up the Troop came from the Bible Classes and Boys Clubs which were already in place at St Andrews.

Because of the First World War (1914-1918) two Curates H. G. Davies and N. Hughes were conducting services and looking after pastoral matters. They were very involved with the setting up of the Scout Troop.

It is unclear when the Cub Pack was set up but 1916 was the year in which the Cub section was established nationally and it may be that the Andrews were quick to take the initiative to offer the younger boys to share in this new venture

1917 Rev W. C. Mahon was appointed the first Priest in Charge of St Andrews Parish and was keen to keep Scouting firmly established in the Parish.

The first official Scout Master was (it is alleged,) a man named Willie Wright. He was a keen First Aider and because he had relations in the army he was also obsessed with getting the lads to march military fashion which they found amusing and would mimic his orders as they paraded around the parish hall with scout poles representing rifles.

There are also many recollections of boxing matches being staged in the early days in the basement of Christ Church Parish Hall. Football was also high on the agenda and there are records of the Andrews being a formidable team. Another favorite pursuit was that of jousting, apparently Broom handles were used for lances and wicker shopping baskets provided head protection. This suggests Health and Safety and Child Protection measures were unheard of. Church Parades were a regular feature and things really brightened up when the Senior Members acquired a set of brass band instruments and drums. After lots of practice they got into a routine of marching accompanied by the band the whole length of Bedford St. On their way to church 1920 a man named Jo Shaw who was a Scout Leader at Christ Church came to St. Andrews and really made a big impression on the lads and other leaders. Jo was one of the first people to complete his training at Gilwell Park the Scouting Movements MECCA and he was familiar with all the up to date Scouting practices.

1920 The first Jamboree was held at Olympia but there is no record of anyone attending from St Andrews

1922 Rev Maitland Wood replaced Rev W.C.Mahon he too was interested in Scouting and spent a lot of his personal wealth on the Troop. Up to this time the Scouts had worn Brown coloured neckerchieves but he thought these drab and bought everyone a gold scarf which we still wear today.

1924 Rev Maitland Wood ordered a fleet of charabangs from a Crewe firm called Gibsons to take the Scouts on a weeks camp at Tenby. He also payed for the hire of Marquees which were erected onsite at Tenby by a firm called Langdons, what an experience for working class lads who were living in a period of extreme poverty.

As a result of Rev Maitland Woods influence the standard of Scouting rose even higher and many boys were achieving 1st class and some even became Kings Scouts , the highest award possible at the time.

This mans influence also resulted in many boys becoming choristers and altar servers; strengthening the bond between Church Scouting and the community.

1924 Bishop Paget of Chester came to St. Andrews to conduct a Confirmation Service, His motor car failed on the Nantwich Rd. as it climbed the Mill Bank, The Scouts who were providing a Guard of Honour to welcome him collected ropes and hurried to the Mill Bank to haul the Bishop's car to Bedford St, To show his gratitude the Bishop honoured the Troop by allowing them to wear his emblem on their uniforms (A White Cross on a Scarlet Shield) together with a special name tag BISHOP OF CHESTERS OWN

The Church was obviously very committed to its Scouts and expected its leaders to encourage the boys to follow Christian principals by attending Sunday worship especially as many were choristers and servers .There were occasional altercations when the Scouts held camps at major Church Festivals and relationships got a bit strained when this kept happening.

1926 the first Vicar Rev C. G. Richardson came to St. Andrews and was persuaded by the P.C.C. to try and restrict Scout membership to boys who were practicing Anglicans. This created a very unhappy situation as many boys were from other denominations which didn't have their own Scout Troop , As a result there was a split and in 1930 two of the Senior Leaders Joe Shaw and Geoff Vernon who had been a tremendous asset to St. Andrew's were very much opposed to this idea .They stuck to the Scouting principle that the Scouting Brotherhood is open to everyone irrespective of colour class or creed and so they formed a separate independent Troop which they called 18th Crewe (Nobody's Own) to contrast with St Andrews (Bishop of Chester's Own.)

Fortunately for the Andrew`s four loyal members of the Church took up the challenge to keep things alive. They were William Percy Judd a Great Western Railway engine driver Sammy Ollier, Alf Sutton and Harry Dean

It was at this time that Bishop Paget made another visit to St Andrew`s to lay the Foundation Stone for the new brick built Church which still stands on the South West corner of the junction where Sherwin St. joins Bedford St.

1932 Geoff Vernon returned to the Andrew`s and gradually the Scout Troop got back into shape and by 1937 the troop had 10 King Scouts.

1937 was the 30th anniversary of the founding of Scouting and it was celebrated with a World Jamboree at Vaglesland in Holland All 10 Kings Scouts from St. Andrew`s attended.

To show their support the Managers of Crewe Works, where most of these lads were serving their apprenticeships presented them with a steel plaque, showing the famous Coronation Scot Locomotive which had been built at Crewe in time for the Coronation of King George the VI.

They proudly hung this plaque on their campsite gateway throughout the Jamboree

1937 was also a very influential year as all scouts in Crewe were taken to the Odeon Cinema to see a film entitled "THE GANG`S ALL HERE" This was about Ralph Readers famous London Gang Show and lead to the formation of a district team of dedicated workers who went on to produce their own local show here in Crewe . The Andrews also caught the show business " Bug "and were soon putting on a local performances which they called " CRACKERS.

1939 saw the outbreak of World War II and once again things slowed down as many of the very active leaders were called up to serve their country

Percy Judd was made Group Scout Master, Peter Gunning Scout Master and Harry Dean Cubmaster (They were exempt from Military Service because their occupations were necessary to keep armaments and supplies moving to the front line troops

1941 on the 8th January the founder of Scouting Baden Powell died

1941 Despite the War there are records of the Troop going to camp at Brynbach in this year

During the War Years Scouting training emphasis was concentrated on SERVICE. Many Soldiers Sailors and Airmen passed through Crewe station and teams of Scouts would do voluntary work providing cups of tea cutting sandwiches and

folding blankets as many of these servicemen had to spend the night on the station waiting for their forward connections.

Because many men had to leave their families for the war effort Scouts would also visit the elderly to carry out shopping duties gardening and chopping sticks for fire lighting.

1944 Scouts undertook more voluntary work but this time to earn money for those who were suffering hardships following the war. This cash was donated to a rehabilitation fund for the establishment of a Radium Clinic.

1944 Camps were held at:

Brynbach

Kibbleston

Howbeck

1946 Rev Richardson retired and after an inter-regnum Rev William Wyatt Wilson was appointed.

1946 Rev W.W. Wilson was inducted Vicar of St Andrew's on the 12th of July – on the same evening he visited the Group, was invested, and made Group Scout Master

1946 Jack Whitehead was appointed and invested as Rover Scout Leader.

1946 the Group celebrated its 30th Anniversary on the 20th September

1947 Summer Camp was at Portmadoc

1947 Because of increasing membership the Scout Troop was divided into two sections;-;

Juniors aged 11-15 (Three Patrols Owls, Falcons and Eagles)

Seniors aged 15-18 (Two Patrols Mitchell and Stephenson)

1947 Two of our Scouts Johnny Howes and Peter Garnett went to the World Jamboree at Mondialde –la –Paix

1947 A Log Book entry records a joint meeting between Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts who all agreed to work together to present a Troop Show the first after the war to be staged in the Parish Hall on the 29th and 30th January 1948

In this same log there is mention of two members of the Rover Crew acquiring tickets to attend a Rally at the Victoria Hall Hanley to commemorate the retirement of Ronald Copeland a man who donated lots of money and land to the

Scout Movement in Staffordshire The guests included Lord Baden Powell (son of the Founder), the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire and the Lord Mayor of Stoke on Trent

The lads felt highly honored as they sat in the balcony only fifteen seats away from the Lord Mayor himself.

1948 As planned Crackers was presented on the 29th and 30th January nearly every one in the group having a part to play according to their ability

1948 By this time Scouting was getting back to normality after the intervention of the war Leaders who had been away on active service were anxious to resume their pre war roles. No doubt there

would have been a bit of banter as those who had held things together were now expected to step down. However as usual the Andrew's pulled together for the good of the gang and things moved on.

In April the Scout Shop in Hanley staged an Exhibition of Modern Camping Equipment which was becoming available after the war years. . They hired our Headquarters for this and many lads had to sleep in the hall to maintain security. It proved to be a great stimulus and many purchases were made..

1948 Spring Camp was at Clun Shropshire a new venue acquired through a relative of Mervin Vaughan The weather was horrendous and our new white Icelandic tents which had been purchased at the Exhibition leaked so much that we were forced to take refuge in the farm granary

1948 The main camp of the year was at Beaudesert Cannock

1948 The Troop entered the District Camping Competition at Howbeck

1948 A joint magazine was compiled with our Guides and Rangers called "THE ANDREW'S GOSSIP"

1948 In December many of our members were invited to join the district cast in a grand musical show called JOYRIDE which was staged in the Crewe Town Hall. No doubt their talent had been spotted when they were performing at the Andrews earlier in the year.

1949 saw the introduction of Bob-a-Job week whereby every one was encouraged to go out and do fund raising for at least one shilling (5p in modern cash)

1949 A great year for camping with weekends at Wrinehill, Betley, Wybunbury, Howbeck, Kibblestone, Barthomley ,Clun and Summer Camps at Portmadoc and Llandulas

1950 The camping bug was well and truly caught with visits to Church Stretton, Kibblestone, Austerson, Brynbach, Clun and Howbeck

Summer Camp was at Plymouth

1951 was the year of the 7th World Jamboree which was held in Austria at Bad Ischl – again no record of anyone attending from the Andrews

1951 The pattern of camping was now getting well established

Easter at Barthomley

Whitsuntide at Austerson

Summer Weeks camp at St Ives Cornwall (Lelant Downs)

1952 Easter camp again at Barthomley

Whitsuntide camp at Brynbach

Summer Camp at Tal-y-Bont Harlech for some of the lads. The rest made an Historic Group Landmark while at Deal in Kent for Summer Camp. Whilst messing around on the beach the lads unearth a cannon off an 18th century East Indian Merchant ship. This created newspaper headlines and the cannon is still on display at the Deal campsite

1952 Another presentation of the now famous CRACKERS this time 73 members on stage

1953 Many lads involved in the district presentation of JOYRIDE

1954 Keeping up the traditional our now famous local show called Crackers was again staged and involved 68 members

1955 Easter Camp Beaudesert

Whitsuntide Camp Sommerford Hall Congleton

Summer Camp Guernsey

September Camp Alvaston

Special visit to Chester to see the Chief Scout

1955/ 1956 New Years Eve Hike /Camp to Dovedale

May Hike to Beeston Castle/ Bickerton

Whitsuntide Camp was at Sommerford Hall

Summer Camp was on Anglessey at Red Wharf Bay

1956 Jack Whitehead and Leonard Hill (Chippy) take over the Rover Crew

1956 The Group Celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a Grand Reunion

1957 Easter Hike is from Grindleford to Leek

July Hike to Hough Common a favourite location for practicing Backwoods Cooking.

Summer Camp was to Lyme Regis (Pinhay)

8 lads are chosen to go to the Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield (Held to celebrate Lord Baden Powell's 100th Birthday Anniveresary Lord Rowallan was the Chief Scout at this time.

September camp was at Austerson

1958 Summer Camp was at Jersey (Channel Islands) at St. Brelade The gang took part in The Battle of Flowers and won 4th place(with a prize of £10)by constructing a carnival float which they christened Felix the Cat

1958-1964 the group made regular trips to the Dr. Barnadoes Home at Chester taking with them Christmas Gifts for the children and supplying all the food for a party which the leaders organized .

1959 The Easter Hike was over the Berwynds

The Scout troop entered and won the District Camping Competition at Sandiway

The winning team was Mike Hirst, Graham Pickford, Adrian Quinlan, Andrew Heath and Melvin Keeling

Summer Camp was at Plympton

Some lads managed a trip to Luxembourg in July

Yet another presentation of the famous Crackers in which 60 members were involved

1960 (see the Annual Report for details of the various activities and camps which were held)

1961 Another professional staging in the parish hall of the famous "CRACKERS" involving 60 members

1964 Once again the Andrew's win the Camping Competition at Sandiway

1965 is a very memorable year .The P.C.C. had built a new permanent Parish Hall in 19xx allowing the Scouts to take over the old Tin Church building for their meetings. The P.C.C.obviously thought this a better arrangement than allowing

them to use the new facilities but in fairness the new parish hall was booked solid most nights by other organizations and they did allow the Scouts to use the parish hall toilet facilities.. The Tin Church had been erected in 19xx and was becoming structurally dangerous. In addition there were complaints from the neighbours that there was evidence of rats and consequently a Group Committee decision was made to look for a replacement building.

The following balance sheet for March 1966 illustrates how the committee went about completing this task. Once the shell had been erected the whole of the fitting out was done by leaders and group committee members and parents. During the period that the construction was taking place each section met in the Bowling Pavillion at the Earl of Crewe by kind permission of the Landlord Gerald Bricker who was obviously very sympathetic to Scouting.

1965 Another landmark was also taking place further down Bedford St, after years of fundraising the temporary wooden partitioning at the West End of the Church was replaced by a permanent matching brick extension which included a new Baptistry and Choir Vestry.

On the 8th May the Bishops of Chester and Stockport came to perform the consecration Ceremony. This was a great achievement for Canon Wilson who had served the parish for over 20 years especially as he was to retire the following year.

1965 also saw a fairly revolutionary change to the Scouting image The traditional Short trousers and wide brimmed hats gave way to the introduction of long trousers and the introduction of green berets for Scouts. Senior Scouts were to be phased out and were to be replaced by a new Venture Scout section catering for lads between the ages of 15 to 20.

1966 September was the 50th anniversary of the Group's formation and was as usual celebrated with a grand reunion We received a letter of congratulations from the Bishop of Chester

1966 Saw the arrival of a new Parish Priest Rev John Scott Gaisford. Fortunately for the Scouts he had a sound Scouting background and got involved from the word go taking out a Cub Leaders warrant and attending weekly meetings and investitures in the other sections whenever he could

1967The Scout troop was struggling for Leaders as Albert Siddons had a career promotion and moved to the south of England.. Malcolm Kelly the Assistant Scout Leader had also gone to college for training as a minister.

This meant that the GSL had to step in and fill the breach which of course he did very professionally and persuaded one of the forward looking members of the Group Committee to help out This mans name was John Roberts (an Income Tax

Inspector J who new a thing or two about organization so it wasn't long before the troop was again running at full strength.

1968 Although Rover Crews and Senior Scout sections had ceased to exist at the Andrews for some time they were officially discontinued nationwide in 1968 and replaced with a new Venture Scout Section for those aged 16 -20 . The Leadership fell to a man named Harold Dimelow but despite all his efforts the unit had lots of teething problems getting off the ground.

1969 The Scout troop was running at full strength and it was my turn to take a share in the Leadership in order to take up all those cubs who were awaiting a placement.

The Group sponsored another party at Chester for the children in Dr Barnado's Home and persuaded a local artist to stage an Exhibition to raise funds to purchase more camping equipment for the increased membership.

The Troop joined in the District Hike to Minera in the Spring and followed this up with their Own hike to Alderley Edge which incorporated a swim in the River Bollin.

1970 A local Photographer named Graham Mountford organized a photo course and everyone succeeded in producing a print in a makeshift dark room in the parish hall.

Pancake night was another hilarious event with more batter on the ceiling than in the pan.

A full report of these events is included in the Troop Times which was relaunched on 31stMarch.

In May the troop had a weekend camp at Sommerford Hall where Scouting Skills were honed in readiness for the patrol camps which were to follow.

Summer Camp was at Kibblestone.

An Autumn Fayre took place in September and a Grand Jumble Sale in November.

The Christmas Treat was a visit to the Theatre to see a pantomime.

1971 We repeated the Photographic Course and spent a lot of time building and testing bicycles to enter in the District Cyclo Cross Competition.

We took part in the District Hike to xxxxxxxx

We were visited by the Mayor of Crewe Councillor Syd Bayman who said he had been a member of the group as a boy . He inspected the group and presented many of the lads with proficiency badges and awards.

Once again we were called upon to provide a guard of honour for the Bishop of Chester Victor Whitsey who came to confirm 22 candidates. Many of them Scouts

In May the Patrol Leaders went to Beaudesert Cannock Chase for a long weekend camp.

In September the whole Troop joined in the District Camp at Crewe Green.

A Halloween Party was held in November followed by a Troop Hike to Bickerton in December.

1972 During the early part of the year the troop constructed Nesting Boxes under the supervision of Alan Drury a member of the Scout Group Committee. Many of the boys were involved in training for the District Gang Show.

We received an invitation from one of our ex Scouters Johnny Howes to attend the Berkshire International Camp at Windsor which we eagerly accepted . The details of this camp are in the

Appropriate file but it was a remarkable experience .

The cost of attending World Jamborees had rocketed and consequently meant only a few boys could attend whereas this was a chance for all the lads to experience International Scouting on a grand scale.

We had a Troop Bonfire on 5th November.

On the 19th November the Venture Unit was reformed under the leadership of Mike Bennion and Tony Pitt with an initial membership of 7 all from the Troop.

In December we joined the Church Choir on a Carol Singing expedition round the Parish visiting the housebound.

1973 Another camping invitation arrived this time to join in the Welsh Jamboree at Penrhyn Castle Bangor North Wales

. It had been initiated by a Scouter named Alf Mostyn from Bramhall where Rev Gaisford had done his training as a Curate. Having tasted the International Scene in 1972 we accepted. If you go to the camp log you will read about a camping nightmare as the site was hit by a force 9 gale tearing our ancient equipment to shreds. As a result we had to abandon camp (some of the lads travelling home in their sleeping gear)

Prior to this camp we had been involved in canoeing on the Crewe Queens Park Lake, plus a long weekend training camp for Patrol Leaders at our now well established farm site at Sommerford Hall which was followed up by individual Patrol Camps at Austerson and Sandiway ensuring that we would be well trained for the forthcoming Welsh Jamboree

Despite the disaster at Bangor we rallied round with whatever gear we could scrounge and went to Queen Charlottes Wood campsite near Helsby to take part in the County Camping Competition in September.

We also entered the District Swimming Gala and took the whole troop to the final camp of the year at Barthomley

Most of the senior members joined in a sponsored walk at Birchwood Forest Camp

Our Cycle collection had to be refurbished so that we could join in the District Cyclo Cross event in November.

There was the usual fun and games at the annual Halloween Party and in December we staged A Dads and Lads Christmas party which turned out to be a darts dominoes and skittle event, the only thing missing was the beer.

The loss of our gear at Bangor meant that we had to get down to some very serious fundraising. If we wanted to keep up the Scouting pattern we had now established.

Our Group Committee came up with the idea of a weekly Bingo which was to be our lifeline. Ron Owen our Group Chairman was to be the caller and the idea caught on. It also provided a much needed social amenity for the elderly in the area enabling them to have a night out with their friends, over a cup of tea and biscuit for a modest outlay. At the same time they felt involved in a charitable cause providing the means to help the youngsters in the area to make sensible use of their time and talents.

Throughout the Autumn a group of thespians (Alan Betley/ Peter Roberts) together with members of the newly formed Venture Unit and most of the Scout Group Committee teamed up with our Guides, Brownies and Youth Club members to produce a superb parish show based on the Cinderella theme.

1974 The show was scheduled to run for three nights 3rd 4th 5th January, It was a complete sellout and had to be extended into the following week..

The funds raised by the show and the Bingo went a long way towards the renewal of our camping kit which we managed to purchase at a great discount from Blacks of Greenock as it was ex demonstration and only slightly shop soiled.

1974 The Troop Hike was to the Goyt Valley with a coach to the Cat & Fiddle

Gordon Cliffe one of the lads Dads offered to coach a First Aid Team which we entered in the British Rail Engineering Ltd Crewe Competition for Boys organisations. The team took first place' and were presented with a superb trophy.

A tremendous effort by both the lads and their trainers.

In March we had a local night hike and a weekend hike to Tilston Mill the District Activity Base on the Shropshire Union Canal. This was followed by the annual Pancake Party

1974 was the first time that teams residing outside Chester were permitted to take part in the Cheshire Hike so we entered. This event was a truly tough one requiring two man teams to walk up to 35 miles in two days carrying complete camping gear. The three teams entered ,all completed the course within the allotted time and were a credit to the group.

In May the whole Troop went to Oulton Park to meet the new Chief Scout Sir William Gladstone

Eagle Patrol had their own camp at Bulkeley

On the 19th May we attended County Scout Sunday at Chester Cathedral along with Scouts from all Christians denominations residing in the County. , Afterwards we hired boats on the River Dee and luckily escaped drowning and fines for exceeding the laid down times

In July Mike Bennion took a district Venture Unit contingent to Chatsworth for Peak 74

Falcon Patrol camp was at Sandiway in the same month.

In August the Troop Camp was at Sommerford Hall.

October the Cyclo Coss bikes were again renovated in time for the District Competition at Barthomley followed by lots of practice at the baths for the District Swimming Gala.

In November we opted to support the National Scout Appeal to raise funds to acquire a state of the art Lifeboat which was to be named "The Scout" when launched this boat was and still is based at

Hartlepool

We ended the year by joining our Guides for a Christmas Party in H.Q.

1975 In January and February we again concentrated our efforts on First Aid Training whilst our Cheshire Hike teams were getting their equipment refined for the big event which was as usual scheduled for Palm Sunday weekend

. We again used Tilstone Mill for the overnight base. on the practice hikes

Those who didn't make the team went on the District Hike to the Wrekin.

The Patrol Leaders training weekend was at Sandiway in readiness for the Whitsuntide camp at Sommerford Hall Farm.

Everyone who could attended County Scout Sunday at Chester Cathedral where they reaffirmed their Promise.

Summer Camp was at Sandiway where we tested the polystyrene rowing dinghy which had been given to us by one of the parents. Because of Midge's one of our Leaders had to return home for medical treatment. on an eyelid which was gradually closing.

Andrew Ward one of our Patrol Leaders was selected for the World Jamboree in Norway.

A Troop of Irish Scouts from Dublin used our H.Q. for an overnight stay whilst en-route for their summer camp at Oxford.

September was taken up training for the annual Swimming Gala and sorting kit for the District camp at Barthomley.

The November Hike was lead by Pete Roberts to Nant-y-Ffrith

Our Christmas Treat was to the Deeside Ice Rink.

1976 Our 60th Anniversary Year was to be marked by an exceptional trip to Aviemore . The Group Committee gave us the full backing and underwrote the transport costs which were obviously going to be quite high and would probably have deterred many lads from attending.

The Springtime was absorbed with all the usual training for the Lord Derby First Aid Competition and many weekend practice s for the Cheshire Hike Competition.

The rest of the gang were taken on a hike to Alderley Edge .The whole troop joined in the Traditional Pancake evening.

On the 23rd April we attended a St. Georges Day Parade.

In May we made our usual pilgrimage to Sommerford Hall Farm for the Whitsuntide Troop Camp with a special treat for the Patrol Leaders who were

invited to the county P.L.'s Weekend training camp at Carrog. where we camped on the banks of the River Dee and enjoyed rafting pioneering and lots of new activities.

June saw us marching through Chester on the annual County Scout Sunday Parade then it was all hands to the pump to finalise our packing for Aviemore.

This was to be a memorable Summer camp with forest cycle rides mountain expedition day hikes, trips to the ice rink and visits to the highland wildlife park at Kingussie, canoeing on white water..

The campsite was a freeby as we had engaged the local Highland Guides to supervise our more adventurous activities and they had pulled a few strings for us on the understanding that we would provide litter picking teams to tidy up the nature reserve trails and car parks.

September was taken up with the District Swimming Gala and District end of season weekend camp at Barthomley

During 1976 Girls were allowed to become Venture Scouts and the Andrews were keen to score a first which was a good move because the Andrews had long ceased to have a Ranger Section and there were many girls who had completed their Guides Training and who were keen to get involved.

The 60th Anniversary Reunion was a wonderful event with the usual gathering of the clan and much banter and reminiscing about "the good old days".

To round the year off we had a winter camp at Queen Charlottes Wood in November and finally the now traditional White Christmas on the Ice Rink at Deeside.

1977 We attempted to upgrade our local knowledge with each patrol producing a Town Trail around Crewe, Sandbach and Nantwich. Chipshops seemed high on the sampling agenda followed by sweet shops. and pub names

In February we had a night hike to Nantwich and the usual pancake fiasco.

Cheshire Hike practices took place in all weather conditions and the leaders had a major role in the District Hike to Moel Famau

The P.L.'s were treated to a taste of abseiling on Cloud End and two teams entered The Lord Derby Ambulance Competition

All the lads took part in Scout Job Week showing much initiative and raising some much needed cash

Spring Camp was again at Sommerford Hall Farm.

1977 on the 1st May our new Flags were dedicated at Church Parade.–

The Scout Troop attended the Annual County Scout Sunday Service in the Cathedral and ,came 2nd in the District Camping Competition

We entered teams in the District 5-a-side Football Competition.

The Group celebrated the Queens Silver Jubilee with a party in June and went for a weekend practice camp at Sandiway with other troops who were joining us at the Welsh Jamboree the following month. At LLanover (Abergavenny)

The detailed Log outlines the many activities but perhaps the competition to erect the tallest Flag pole on the site is the one event which will always stick in the memory of most the lads.

Constructing it was relatively simple ,we used every pole we could lay our hands on but raising it was another matter and eventually common sense prevailed as it became obvious that it would probably have demolished half of our sub- camp site had it collapsed which I'm sure it would have done.

Never the less it provided a lot of fun and consumed a lot of time and effort.

On our return from Camp we took on the waste paper challenge. The Company we dealt with supplied two Steel Skips which were positioned on the H.Q. forecourt and had to be loaded with 5 tons of paper over one weekend so it was all hands to the pump ..

Our Venture Scout Unit entered a Float in the Crewe Carnival to celebrate the Queen`s Silver Jubilee and gained second place in their class.

In August the Venture Unit went MIXED Jean Benion Mikes wife took out a Warrant to assist Mike and keep things legal.

The camping season ended with the usual trip to Barthomley for a get together with the other troops in the district and the annual cyclo- cross competition.

Fund raising in October consisted of a Jumble Sale and the Annual Cheese and Wine Party which was a complete sell-out.

The Troop took part in the District Swimming Gala and the Cheshire Hike Teams had their first overnight practice hike to a new campsite at Worleston .

In November we entered the District Navigation Competition, visited the Nantwich Rd Police Station and for a social evening went to the banger racing at the Earle St Stadium

We also had a weekend camp at Queen Charlottes Wood.

The year ended with a trip to Deeside Ice Rink accompanied by the Guides.

1978 January was spent Backwoods Cooking and Pioneering at the Wistaston Scout H.Q. and the Cheshire Hike team did an overnight practice using Meerbrook Y.H.A.

February project was a hike for the whole Troop from Mow Cop to Cloud End along the Mow Cop Trail

March saw the finishing touches to the Cheshire Hike team practices with an overnight hike to Wrenbury The Cheshire Police invaded the site at midnight thinking they were arresting burglars who had been active in the area. They apparently had been given a tip off that a strange white van was parked in a lay bye (that van belonged to a certain Scoutleader from the Andrews who just happened to be helping to train the team but it took some time to convince the police)

The First Aid Team took part in the Lord Derby Eliminator and everyone got involved in Scout Job Week.

April The P.L's were taken to Kibblestone for a training weekend

Everyone went to see the Gang Show at the Lyceum and Our First Aid team again entered the Crewe Centre Ambulance competition

May another District camp and cyclo – cross event at Barthomley

Scout Sunday Parade at Chester.

June was memorable as we went to the County Camp at Capesthorpe Hall

The Merlin and Owl patrols had their own camp at Weaverham

A Team was trained and entered the Crewe and Nantwich Life Saving Competition .

The Group Committee organized another successful Cheese and Wine Party.

July - Kestrels and Hawks have a joint Patrol Camp at Bulkeley

August The Troop Summer Camp is to Portmadoc We recruited help from Dek Davie a BCU Instructor from Pott Shrigley (Poynton) . He was a great asset taking the lads sea canoing and giving those lots of confidence. The only problem at this camp was the swarming midges which obviously weren't around when we reccied the site in the Spring .During a joint camp fire with the Sandbach Guide contingent a lad named Shaun Baker failed to catch a mug which had been thrown to him for supper and ended up at the local Health Centre in Pwhelli where he had 5/6 stitches inserted in the crown of his head (most painful)

On return from summer camp the Life Saving Team went to the Chester Northgate Arena to take part in the Cheshire County Competition

September - The Troop went to the Goyt Valley for a days hike

We took first place in the district camping competition,

October - The Group Committee had a social night out together and ran a Beetle Drive to raise Funds

November The PL's were treated to a days abseiling off Cloud End

We ran a pioneering day at H.Q. and the Cheshire Hike lads started training with an overnight hike

from Ilam using Hartington YHA as their base

December the Christmas treat was again to the Deeside Ice Rink with the Guides.

The 1979 Scouting Pattern started in January with a cycle rally around the quiet lanes of Cheshire incorporating sketching at Little Moreton Hall and Astbury . In March we had a Troop Hike to Rainow and an overnight weekend stay at the Bickerton Scouts H.Q. April was fully committed to practices for Cheshire Hike First Aid and District Swimming Competitions.

In May the Scout Troop and the Venture Unit had a joint weekend camp at Sommerford Hall . The first Fund Raising event was a Family Beetle Drive

Scouts held a troop camp at Sandiway in June and went to Chester for the annual County Scout Parade to the Cathedral. Scouts were invited to take part in a Public Relations Event on the Crewe Square and demonstrated open fire cooking. The Patrol Leaders attended a County Patrol Leaders Camp on the River Dee at Carrog where they enjoyed rafting firefighting archery and pioneering with over 100 other lads from Cheshire.

In July the Water Safety Training carried out in March payed off as the team won the Borough Competition and went to Chester to take first place in the Senior Section at County Level

Summer Camp was at Rydal Hall near Ambleside Lake District in August and ended the camping season in September with a weekend at Barthomley which was attended by all troops in the S.W. District .Once again the bicycles were renovated to enable us to join in the traditional Cyclo Cross event.

There was a Town Trail organized in October to improve Local Knowledge followed by a Troop Hike to Joddrell Bank. We entered a 5-a-Side Football Competition at the Shavington Sports Centre in November and rounded off the

year in December with a Night Hike around Alsager Barthomley Weston and a days abseiling on Cloud End.

1980 The P.L's opted to go to the Deeside Leisure Ice Rink for their Christmas Treat in January

A cycle rally was organized in February together with a Saturday Hike to Edale ready for the grueling Cheshire Hike which took place in March. Much of our training programme was now focused on the Summer Expedition to Macon France .Patrol Camps were held at Bickerton and a Troop Camp at Sommerford where we honed our equipment and backwoods skills.

We again made time for the annual County Scout Parade at Chester and took Rowing boats on the River Dee

August came and off we went to France a great adventure over 100 scouts and their leaders drawn from South West Cheshire and divided up into three sub camps St. Andrews formed the nucleus of the Blue sub camp. Living in the Railway Town of Crewe those who could get travel concessions travelled by train many went in the chartered coaches and the gear was sent ahead in an artic curtain sided wagon along with an advance party of Venture Scouts.

Leaders and their wives had a sub camp on the edge of a vineyard and the lads had canopied cover in the adjoining woods which had been partially prepared by the Macon Scouting fraternity .

The weather was magnificent , the hospitality superb and every one had the opportunity to sample the delights of their twin town. Go to the Camp /Expedition section for details of the costs /programmes /menus and highlights.

In September we rounded off the camping season as usual by attending the District camp at Barthomley and dragging our cycles round the cyclo -cross course.

October saw us out at Delamere Orienteering, and in November we had a Group Toy Fair together with a practice Christmas cooking session.

Instead of the Christmas pilgrimage to the Deeside Ice Rink we had a Disco and fish and chip party with our Guides

1981 started with a Cycle rally to Rode Heath in January and a Troop hike to Mowcop in February

March saw the commencement of serious training for the Cheshire Hike and those who excelled in first aid went to Runcorn for the Lord Derby Eliminator

April was absorbed with the Cheshire Hike ,the Crewe Centre First Aid Competition and of course on the 23rd St Georges Parade

The first camp under canvas for the troop was as usual on the River Dane at Sommerford Hall on the Spring Bank Holiday weekend followed by a trip to Chester for County Scout Sunday and boating on the River Dee.

Summer Camp this year was at Reith near Richmond Yorkshire .Dek Davy accompanied us and controlled the water activities on the River Swale which ran through our campsite . We hiked , cycled and visited many places of interest including the castle at Richmond which has a plaque .commemorating a visit by the Chief Scout Lord Baden Powell

In September we were invited to the Crewe and Nantwich Motorcycle Scramble course at Hatherton and allowed to camp free of charge in return for carrying out litter picking duties and performing messenger services. On the Sunday Morning every one jogged around the steep muddy course as if they were actually going to take part in the races (before breakfast)

We recovered in October but undertook some major pioneering projects at a farm in Oakhanger during November

Christmas Dinner Cooking was the theme for December

1982 the programme followed the now well tried and tested pattern with a Cycle Rally to Shakerley Mere in January Cheshire Hike practices on the Sandstone Trail with an Overnight stop at the Bickerton Scout Hut and First Aiders genning up for the Lord Derby Eliminator at Runcorn

In April it was all go for the Cheshire Hike and the whole troop went on a hike from Bodfari to Mold along Offa`s Dyke.

In June the Cub Pack entered a competition to see who could serve a cup of tea at the most unusual point in their locality.This was done on the 13th floor of Rail House in Gresty Rd the highest point in Crewe at the time. In the same month the Group held a plant sale on the Square and the troop camped at Barnswood (Rudyard Lake) and then again at Tatton Park along with other Scout from Cheshire to celebrate 75 years of Scouting. During this camp we met the new Chief Scout Major General M J. Walsh who flew in by Helicopter

Summer Camp was at Llanfair Cerrinion Powis in July

The Group Committee held a very successful Cheese and Wine Party in September.

The Scout Troop went abseiling on the Roaches and as usual attended the District end of season camp at Barthomley in September.

In November the Scout Leaders underwent Canal Barge training in readiness for the 1983 Summer Camp

The Christmas Outing was to the Deeside Ice Skating Rink

1983 Although the Summer Camp was to be the highlight of the year with much effort spent on the Canal Theme we did manage to maintain the usual traditional Spring camping pattern .

In May we went to Sommerford Hall and were visited by the Vicar of Astbury Duncan Dean who happened to be an ex Scout of St. Andrews .He conducted Scouts own for us.

Various fund raising took place to help with the cost of the barge hire. There was a Barn Dance in May which was intended to be a generation gap effort and a Jumble Sale in June .

Patrols held their own camps in June and July

The Canal Cruise took place around the four counties of Cheshire Staffordshire Warwickshire and Shropshire from 27th August until 3rd September and the crew consisted of 30 lads and 6 leaders.

We hired 2 boats each manned by 2 leaders and 10 lads . Those who weren't on board camped at Kibblestone The groups rotated so everyone had at least 2 days on each boat and 3 days camping at Kibblestone. Whilst on board the lads had access to bicycles ,canoes, or organized hikes along the route to places of interest. Operating the locks or taking a turn at the Tiller was very popular and by the end of the trip most had learned to cook in a confined galley

Pioneering was the flavor of the month in September with expert tuition from our ADC Dennis Woodhart while camping at Barthomley.

More Fund Raising followed with a Cheese and Wine party in September, a Jumble Sale and Autumn Fayre in October.

The final event of the year was a night hike in November.

1984 The Venture Scouts went to Colwyn Bay and the Scouts to Manorbier for the Summer Camps,and we had a wonderful Group weekend Camp with lads ,leaders and parents took at Higher Elms Farm Church Minshall in July.

. The Group Committee ventured out to Cannock Chase in February, We again entered the Lord Derby Ambulance Competition at Farnworth and Bold and quite a number of the group were involved in the 1984 Gang Show.

The usual Fund Raising Pattern took place with a Plant Sale in June a Cheese and Wine Party in September and a Jumble Sale in October.

The final camp of the year was at Barthomley in September with other groups from South West Cheshire.

1985 In February the Leaders went to reccy a site at Symonds Yat in the Wye Valley and liked it so that determined the Scout programme. Canoeing was at the top of the agenda and once again we recruited Dek Davy to organize an overnight expedition along the Wye.

We had a Troop Spring Camp over the Whitsuntide Weekend at Sommerford and the Summer Camp took place in July

On the social side the Group Committee had an evening at the Swan at Woore in February before embarking on the usual Fund Raising programme of Jumble Sales in March and October a Plant Sale in May and a Cheese and Wine Party in September.

1986 proved to be a challenging one. The Group Records were in a Jumble and it was decided to stage a reunion to mark the 70th Anniversary with a grand photographic exhibition which would be open to everyone who had been associated with us since 1916. This took place on the 17/18th September and was a great success Geoff Vernon the oldest surviving member opened the exhibition and the Mayor Les Wood and his Lady graced us with their presence thus securing us some excellent publicity. As mentioned in the preamble this exhibition has formed the basis of our historical record.

Needless to say active Scouting carried on while people rummaged for photographs and souvenirs.

To mark our 70th Anniversary we were honoured by being allowed to carry our Group Flag in the County Scout Sunday parade at Chester.

The Scout Summer Camp was at Spean Bridge and everyone summited Ben Nevis in glorious weather. What a splendid way to celebrate the Group's 70th.

The Group Committee once again went to the Swan at Woore for their annual get together and organized the Annual Cheese and Wine party in November.

A unique experimental summer Family Camp was held at Higher Elms Farm at Church Minshall on the 20/21/22 June everyone including day visitors joining in the fun.

1987 started with a Leaders Bonding Hike to Moel Famau on New Years Day.

More Bonding took place in March when the Group Committee returned to the Swan at Woore for their annual evening meal. Parents and friends stepped up the bonding process at a Pie and Pea supper on the 25th April.

Venture Scouts went to Adelboden (Switzerland) for their Summer Expedition.

There was a new challenge for Scouts at Sandiway this year. Teams were invited to cook a banquet meal on an open fire. The menu had to include British Meat and the judging took into account hygiene presentation and of course taste. The training certainly paid off and the lads came away with a first class result. The troop had the Spring Training camp at Higher Elms Farm at Church Minshall ideal because it is located on the banks of the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal enabling easy access to canoeing and fishing.

Summer Camp was at a new venue at North Rode.

The Group Committee again staged the annual Cheese and Wine Party in October.

1988 The Group Committee again went to the Swan at Woore on the 18th February to assess fund raising priorities.

At this stage details of scouting activities seem to be missing but hopefully will emerge at the vetting stage of this document.

1989 A change of ownership at the Swan at Woore led to the Group Committee going to the Rising Sun on Middlewich Rd for their annual get together.

Again no details of Scout activities until ;

August when the Troop went to Oakmere near Ellesmere for 7 days. A beautiful site surrounded by the Shropshire Lakes.

In September two influential characters John Derek Partridge (Pyma) our G.S.L. and Bob Allcock A.C.S.L (Trotter) decided to hang up their Boots. Between them they had served the Andrews for 100 years and every one was sad to see them go Roy Bradley paid tribute to their wonderful contribution to Scouting at the Andrews and he agreed to take on the G.S.L.'s duties for a 5 year term on condition that Pyma and Bob would be around for guidance They obviously had so much experience it would be a disaster if it was all lost overnight.

Three Scouts brought honour to the the Group by receiving their Chief Scouts Award at Macclesfield.

The presentation was made by the Bishop of Chester who said he had no idea that he actually had a Scout Group of his own. He was delighted and congratulated Garreth Rubbathan, Philip Wheatley and Steven Yates on their achievement.

In October the Troop entered and won the Diller Dale Trophy at Milldale for excellent Camping Standards.

The Group Committee once again hosted a Cheese and Wine Party in October and raised valuable cash.

The Scout Troop organized a Winter Weekend at Cornel Mountaineering Centre in the Conway Valley.

1990 From the 1st January the Green Beret ceased to be official head wear. I think this was brought about by the fact that hair styles were getting longer and sadly this no longer suited the Beret.

The Venture Unit attendance was becoming a bit erratic resulting in wasted effort by the leadership team. A meeting was called to try and establish the cause and identify a way forward.

The Scout troop entered and took part in the Cheshire Hike in April . Two lads Roy Sumner and Chris Lucas did exceptionally well and came home with the South West Trophy . Six lads got selected for the District Gang Show at the Lyceum.

The Beaver Colony had a parents evening in April and in May took part in the District Sports Day at the Cumberland Sports Centre

The Group Committee organised a Car Boot Sale on Manleys spare ground in Barker St. in May and in July we manned a Charity Stall on the Kingsway Playing Fields.

The Fund Raising momentum was kept up in July when we staged a Can Crash Event at the Crewe Carnival

Summer Camp was at Hathersage Derbyshire organized by Dave Griffiths , Bob Allcock ,Tim Clarke Peter Buckley and Jeremy Nasse who along with 16 lads sampled the messy delights of Caving.

The Beaver Colony had a coach trip to Drayton Manor Park .

The Cub Pack had a weekend camp in the grounds of the Bickerton Scout H.Q.

In September our Scouts attended a Special Go for a Million Camp at Milldale contributing to the National Target which was aiming to get one million lads /nights under canvas.

October saw a new plastic coated steel roof on the Headquarters and removal of the corrugated asbestos. The newly formed Monday Club cleared out and insulated the loft space .

To help rebuild our finances Councillor Howard Curran organized a fascinating Slide Show entitled `Old Crewe.` It was a complete sell out and was to become an annual Fund Raising event.

December proved to be busy The Venture Unit investing 8 new members.

The Scout Troop went to Barnswood for their Winter Camp where they became snow bound and caught up in a power cut . Fortunately they had plenty of gas and paraffin so everyone had a memorable experience.

1991 Was a memorable Landmark Year when we celebrated our 75th Anniversary and the whole Group focused on one key objective the Summer Group Camp at Cornel. However other things did take place.

In January we staged a coffee morning at Crewe Library and invited everyone who had associations with the Andrews to come along and sign a Roll of Honour. This was followed by a Beetle Drive and Coffee evening in February and a Saturday Jumble Sale in March.

March was also memorable because Kevin Owen (who with Father John Gaisford was a founder member of our Beaver Colony) invested the 100th Beaver Scout to enter our Group. Due to a job change Kevin had to hand over the Colony to Jean Bennion but was able to transfer to the Scout section to provide assistance there.

We were fortunate in being awarded 25 litres of emulsion paint from the Crown Paint Company and were able to spruce the HQ up in readiness for the forthcoming anniversary celebrations.

In May the lads sold £140 worth of Draw Tickets to help fund the Cheshire Contingent who were going to the World Jamboree in Korea.

We had an afternoon Tea Party for all the senior citizens who had helped us over the years.

In June the Troop had their Spring Camp at Mr Charlesworth`s Farm at Higher Elms Farm in Church Minshall.

On the 30th of June 10 lads and leaders joined in th 450th Anniversary Celebrations to mark the formation of the Chester Diocese.

1991 was also 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Wolf Cub section of the movement and our pack went to the Isle of Man to join in the Multi Sports Challenge. On the way home they flew a special celebratory flag on the ship`s mast..

On the 7th July the group went to the parish evening service to welcome Father David Peebles our newly ordained curate.

On the 3rd August the big event arrived and Cubs Scouts and Venture Scouts set off for camp at Cornell where we enjoyed a whole week together . The Beaver Colony came out for a days visit and members of the Group Committee dropped in at various intervals to join in the fun and to see how we were spending their hard earned funds..

Mike Bennion spearheaded a team of venture Scouts who constructed a superb float in the Crewe Carnival Procession and won a First Prize.

Fundraising continued with yet another Coffee Morning and Cake sale in the library in August, A Cheese and Wine Party and also a Hot Pot supper/ Folk Evening were held in November which managed to increase the Group Fund by £420 which we spent on refurbishing our Archery Equipment.

The highlight of this year was of course the 75th Anniversary Party and grand reunion. 250 guests attended and we were honoured by the presence of both our County and District Commissioners.

A Thanks Badge was awarded to Father John Young our Sponsor for his encouragement and help since taking charge of our parish.

The Beaver Colony took part in the District Swimming Gala in October The Cub Pack had their annual hike to Loughrigg Fell in the Lake District in November travelling through the Blackpool Illuminations on the way home. The Scout Troop went to Wilkin Hill Derbyshire for a Winter Weekend Camp in December. In November two of our Venture Scouts abseiled down Rail House to raise cash for Hope House Childrens Home.

On the 15th November we gained a Sea Scout Leader who had moved to Crewe from Wadebridge in Cornwall. Richard Hine fitted in well with the Troop and we were fortunate to take up his offer to help out.

The Group Committee held one more Jumble Sale at the end of November and everyone who could Parents, Leaders Venture Scouts and Group Committee members gave up weekending the 1st December to lay a new H.Q. chipboard floor and varnish it. This had become an essential upgrade because one of our newest recruits was regularly going home with wood splinters in his bottom. Steve Madders who suffered from cerebral palsy had to do his Beaver Scouting either in a wheelchair or on the deck so considering his great effort to make his promise by voice activated computer we rewarded him with a nice tidy floor. Actually he was our excuse to do something which was becoming a safety hazard. Thanks Steve.

December continued to be as hectic as the rest of the year Ian Westwood (alias Clint Eastwood) was presented with his Queens Scout Award, the first in our Group for a number of years so we had yet another celebratory party. Our Cub Pack went to the Oakley centre for a special Carol Service to mark the 75th Anniversary of The Cub Scout Movement and presented a cheque to the R.N.I.B. to support the training of more Guide Dogs

Our Venture unit performed one last act of service in December by decorating the Manor Way Centre Home for the residents Christmas Celebrations.

The 31st December is a memorable date when we transferred the Bishop of Chester's Emblem Badge from off the right breast portion of our shirts and sewed it on our Neckerchieves in order to conform to H.Q. directives. Officially we should have ceased to wear any religious symbol on our uniform but we held firm to our treasured heritage and got the backing of our County Commissioner.

1992 was a very busy year for the Group Committee as we all agreed to support the Chief Scout's Promise Appeal". This initiative was intended to raise funds to not only improve existing Scouting but also to reestablish Scouting for the underprivileged kids in the inner city areas and also to help to provide Scouting for those who lived in scattered rural areas where there were acute shortages of leader and meeting places..

The appeal was launched in February with a DVD presentation and was followed up with many new fund raising ideas..The first effort was to sell Cherry Trees , then a Grand Tea Party in May followed by National Woggle Day and a Swimmathon in October

In addition to this special appeal the committee ran their own fund raising plans starting in February with a Slide Show on the History of the West End of Crewe given by Howard Curran, then in February we had a Spring Jumble Sale. We had a Can Crash and Dart Stall at the Crewe Carnival in Queens Park and in September we had an Autumn Jumble sale and a Bookstall at Christ Church. The annual Cheese and Wine Party took place in October and in November we had a musical evening with The Jack Lynn Fret Orchestra. This was a complete sell out making us a profit of £150.

Despite all this money making activity the sections pushed on with their own projects :-

Beavers toured the Post Office Letter sorting department in Weston Lane in February. They entered and took First place in the District sports at Wistaston Green in May and had a Grand Halloween Party in November

Cubs went to Keele University for an introduction to astronomy . They again visited the Isle of Man for the Multi Sports Challenge in June and took part in the District Cross Country race at Milldale in October

Scouts entered the District Swimming Gala in February had a Spring Camp at Sandiway Their Summer Camp was at Kibbleston in August.

The Venture unit also entered teams in the District Swimming Gala On the Charity Front they had a car wash on the Earl of Crewe car park and donated the profits to the Crewe Cancer Research Team. In May they held a Family Quiz night which drew in 38 people

As was becoming the normal practice we all found excuses to celebrate.

In March the Committee went to the Broughton Arms at Gorsty where Roger Woodward was presented with a Thanks Badge in Recognition of all the work he had done in preparing a refurbishment programme for our H.Q.

In September Mike Bennion and Kevin Owen were presented with Long Service Awards by the D.C. Ray Salisbury.

On the 20th September Group Committee members and Leaders were invited to meet the Chief Scout Garth Morrison at a Grand Garden Party at Capesthorpe Hall.

To round off the years celebrations the County Commissioner Derek Olliver presented us with his Personal Award for Good Scouting. To show our appreciation, on the 4th November we staged a Group Indoor Camp Fire lead by Richard Hine and Mike Bennion before settling down to refreshments the usual drinks and after dinner speeches.

In December the whole Group Raised £53 for the Special Needs School at Hebden Green by Carol Singing around the Parish .

Sadly there was a bereavement in the group and on 1st October we all paid our respects to Alan Drury who had steered the Monday Club through the first stages of Roger Woodward's H Q refurbishment plans." May He Rest in Peace."Alans Widow very generously donated the cost of a brand new fitted kitchen as a memorial.

1993 started with a Coffee Morning in the Library .Our new S.L Richard Hine had managed to obtain some Helium from his employers Air Products so in addition we staged a balloon race on the Square .

The Crewe Male Voice Choir sang for us at a concert in the Parish Church on the 30th January raising £350

Fund Raising continued throughout the year and again at the Carnival we raised £94 on the Can Crash and Dart Stall. In October £200 was generated at the Autumn Jumble Sale and in the same month we took part in a District initiative to Bag Pack in the Safeways Supermarkets at Crewe Nantwich and Sandbach raising over £1000 which was shared equally between all the participating Groups.

The Group Outing was to the Merlin

Two major events took place in 1993: on the 24th May Father Bill Baker was inducted Vicar of St Andrew`s and became our new Sponsor. His first task was to join together with St John the Baptist parish in Stallbrige Rd. As a result we

renamed our Group 1st S.W. Cheshire St Andrews With St John the Baptist Bishop of Chesters Own quite a mouthful and a lot of sewing on of the new nametapes which were dedicated at a service on 19th September. After the service everyone was transported by Coach to Wrenbury Parish Hall where we all shared a Faith Lunch (everyone took food placed it on a table and then took back whatever they fancied). Having eaten ,the Scout and Sunday School Leaders organized an It`s-a-Knock-Out Competition for all the youngsters.

Many other worthy events took place in this year ;in May the Venture Scouts helped the Local Cancer Research Team to set up their Annual Spring Fair at the Earl of Crewe. The Scouts attended a District Camp at Milldale where Richard Hine acted as a sub camp leader and in the same month the Committee held a Spring Fair which raised £310.

In June we all went to Chester for County Scout Sunday and in the same month the Beaver Colony held a Beatle Drive to raise cash towards the cost of a box of camping gear for the newly formed Scout Movement in Russia. The Box of basic Camping gear cost £200 was fully subscribed to by the lads efforts and on the 29th October it was posted off to St Petersburg.

Our Venture Unit helped organize a Fun Day for the Beavers at Milldale in July and in August the Scouts went to Wadebridge for Summer Camp organized by Richard Hine . We borrowed the Wadebridge Sea Scouts gear slept in their H.Q. on the first and last nights then under canvas at Ruthernbridge .It was a truly memorable camp and made all the more enjoyable by having so much contact with the local Group members. who had excellent local knowledge on land and sea.

We rounded off the year with a Group Swimmathon and Fun Night at the Flag Lane Pool the proceeds going towards the purchase of a Resuscitation Torso.

The year had its sad side when Elliot Booth moved on to Higher Service on the 9th July Elliot had camped with us at our 75th Anniversary Camp and made a lovely Video of the event.

There were however many joyful occasions and we celebrated the marriages of Tim Clark and Lisa Prince on the 29th May ,Graham Barrow and Jackie Walker on the 26th June and Ray Johnstone and Sara Clark on the 14th August sounds like the Andrews was becoming a marriage making agency but it really was a very joyful time.

On the 19th June our D.C Ray Salisbury was appointed County Commissioner for Cheshire and handed over the District Commissioners Duties to Gerald Newbrook. Both these chaps were very supportive to the Andrews and we wished them every success in their new positions.

1994 The A.G.M reports summarise the progress made by the Group and its highlights. We had lots to celebrate especially the presentation of Medals of Merit to Mike Bennion, Brian and Janet Jones together with a letter of Commendation for Jean Bennion, from the Chief Scout which took place after Church Parade (St. Georges day Celebrations.) We also celebrated the willingness of Mike Bennion to accept the G.S.L's position following a handing over from Roy who had completed his 5 year stint.

The Scouts had their Summer Camp at Parkamoor on the shore of Coniston Water in the Lake District and enjoyed Hiking Canoeing Rafting and cooking on open fires

Sadly the joys and successes were overshadowed by the sudden death of the man who had served our Group for over 50 years. John Derek Partridge who moved to higher service on . His example will live on long after his funeral because he was such a loveable character who practiced what he preached or perhaps it would be more correct to say he never needed to preach because his actions said it all. St Andrews was his passion and we were all the much wiser and better people for having shared his life and recognized his very realistic approach to the everyday ups and downs. (May He Rest in Peace and Enjoy the Heavenly Happiness he so much earned and deserves)

1995 There were local Spring Camps at Milldale in April for Patrol Leaders in May for the District gathering and again in October for the whole group.

The Scouts went to Newtonmere (Ellesmere) for their Summer Camp and had their annual Winter Experience at Barnswood

1996 was yet another important land mark when we all became Octogenarians.

There was an Expedition to Snowdon in March a weekend camp at Milldale in May and a new destination for the Summer Camp in Ireland at Roundwood near Avocar.

On the nearest day to the actual Anniversary there was a camp for the whole Group at Milldale

Yet again the Winter weekend was at Barnswood.

1997 Weekend camps were at Kibblestone and at Milldale for the District Camping Competition.

Summer Camp was to Tanaeldroch Farm near Betws-y-Coed.

1998 everyone went to the Chamboree at Tabley House Knutsford Winter Camp was at Waddecar Lancs.

1999 There were a series of weekend camps instead of the usual pattern.

These took place at Barnswood, Kibblestone, and Milldale.

The Winter tradition took place at Bowley.

2000 the Millenium experience was a weekend camp at Milldale with the District Contingent.

P.L's had a training weekend at Milldale in July and the Summer Camp was at Kibblestone

Winter camp was again at Bowley

2001 the "Real" Millenium Camp was held at Milldale

Summer Camp was at Sandiway and Winter camp at Ashworth Valley.

2001 saw yet another uniform change and in 2002 the age ranges for Scouts and Venture Scouts was changed. The following year Venture Scout's were disbanded and new Explorer/Networker Sections introduced

2002 The Group attended the county Chamboree at Tabley House near Knutsford

There was a joint Group Camp at Milldale in September and the Troop had their Winter get together at Waddecar.

2003 The emphasis was on Patrol Camping at Milldale in May and August with a troop camp at Bowley to wind off the year.

2004 There was a group camp at Kibblestone and a Group night hike at Forest Camp Sandiway.

The Troop attended a "Skills Weekend" at Milldale and held their Summer Camp at Gradbach.

2005 A joint Summer Camp with members of 10th Haslington took place in August. The destination was Nine Ashes Farm Pencarrow Cornwall.

There was a Group Camp at Consall Forge in May and a Scout Winter Weekend at Cornel North Wales.

2006 The 90th Anniversary was celebrated in fine style with a Grand Reunion in September when we reassembled all our Memorabilia in a very professional manner opening it up to the parish and general public. Old Boys attended a banquet style lunch cooked by our Chef Bill Baker and in the evening Janet Pownall prepared a buffet for the not so old members.

The new G.S.L. handled the proceedings and managed to persuade the Mayor our own Howard Curran who had done so much for us in the past to open proceedings and cut the celebration cake.

There was a Group Anniversary Camp at Milldale.

The Troop had a Summer Camp at Beaudesert Cannock Chase and a final weekend camp at Gradbach.

Once again our joy was tinged with sadness when 6 of the old boys journeyed to Ledbury to pay their last respects to Peter Garnett (Kym) who sadly passed away in November. Another Great Scouter who had terrific impact on the Andrews.

2007The Years programme was dominated by the Centenary Celebrations for the foundation of Scouting. There were National ,County And District Events all over the place. Mike Bennion was heavily involved with the international Jamboree in Essex . The Group held their own Sunrise Ceremony at the Crewe Alex Football Ground and reaffirmed their Promise on the Terraces at 0800 on the .

They all knew they would be doing this along with the rest of the World wide Brotherhood and it was a very moving experience.

Summer Camp was to Culzean.

2008 Summer Camp planned to take place at Kibblestone attended by the Scouts and Cubs with boys and girls in both sections.

