



Christchurch & District Scout Council

Annual Reports

2005

District Commissioner

Wow, what a year we've had!

Over the last twelve months I think that we have begun to see the positive effects of all the major changes that have happened over recent times. Our groups appear to be, on balance, stronger than ever before. The number of adults working within sections has increased. We have more adults completing their training. We have more young people in our movement enjoying all the activities that we all work so hard to provide.

THANKYOU for all your efforts and support and well done for making Scouting so successful in Christchurch.

As I write this report we are entering a new phase and period of change within the movement. I am talking of course about co-education and girls in Scouting. Yes this will be a challenge for us all, but as you've proved in the past, Christchurch Scouters face challenges head on and always succeed in making the best of things and making things work. I have no doubt that you will do the same over the next year or so. I shall certainly do all I can to provide the best support possible to you all.

So what else lies ahead? Well, we all need to start making the best use of the resources around us and we need to share our ideas and experiences more. The District Team (which consists of all Group Scout Leaders, Assistant District Commissioners, Fellowship, Band, Explorer Leaders etc) are fully committed to working together to continue to improve Scouting in Christchurch. I hope you will join in and work with us to help everyone's job to become just that little bit easier.

It is unusual for me to name particular individuals/groups in my report but I feel I must express my particular congratulations to Mundeford Scouts who have not only been awarded RYA training accreditation this year but they also came 2nd in the Regional Cooking Competition. Well done and congratulations to all involved. I'd also like to congratulate Matt Allibone. Matt was selected to represent Dorset at the National St George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle this year and was a member of the National Colour Party. Well Done Matt and thankyou for representing Dorset and Christchurch in such a fantastic way.

Finally I'd like to thank all the many hundreds of people that work so tirelessly around the District helping to make Scouting work in Christchurch. To all the Leaders, assistants, helpers, committee members, parents, supporters and fund raisers, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done and continue to do for Scouting.

The young people that you are helping will benefit from your efforts for the rest of their lives. They will always remember their time in Scouting and they will be all the better for it, just as we all the better for having such a wonderful opportunity to help them.

Take care, have a great year and enjoy your Scouting!

Mark Flexman
District Commissioner

District Chairman

This is my third report as District Chairman and once again I am able to say that Scouting in Christchurch has enjoyed a very successful year. When I attended the Gang Show earlier in the year I was very proud to be associated with such a hardworking, talented group of people.

Unfortunately this year has seen the resignation of Phil Old from Braggers Wood and the Scout Centre. Phil has been involved with Christchurch Scouts in one way or another for many years, and both he and his wife Sue have put in hundreds if not thousands of hours of voluntary work especially at Braggers Wood. I would like to thank them both for all their hard work over the years, although Sue is still very much involved with Gang Show and Somerford group.

In the past few weeks I have attended the A.G.M's of most groups in the District, I cannot help but be impressed by the commitment of the uniformed leaders we have in our area. It is not just the time at the weekly meetings, it is the planning that goes into it and even more time and planning if the children leave their H.Q. for an event, and then there is training which takes up many hours and often means weekends away from home to keep up the high standard that we perhaps take for granted.

But it is not only the leaders that we parents and grandparents have to thank, the committees of the groups who work tirelessly to provide the funds, buildings, equipment and the where with all to make scouting so successful in Christchurch. We must also remember those landlords who, especially at Braggers Wood, lease us land at such reasonable rates

I would like to close by thanking everyone involved for without your time and dedication, Scouting would just not exist and hundreds of local youngsters could be wondering what to do with their time!

Dennis Hughes
District Chairman

Assistant District Commissioner (Beavers)



Beavers throughout the district attended a number of events this year a Challenge Day, Sports Day and a belated Christmas Party

The year started with the Beaver Fun Day at Buddens with the theme of Cowboys and Indians. A coach and minibuses supplied the transport for us and a good day was had by all particularly as the weather was kind. It was touch and go on the way home as to whether the leaders or Beavers fell asleep first.

The Beaver Adventure Day (BAD) was again a success, unfortunately the weather was not to kind towards the end of the day. As always my thanks go to the various leaders who ran the activities for us.

Sports Day was well attended again and congratulations to Bransgore for taking the trophy this year in a very close contest.

The Beaver Christmas Party was well attended at Twynham School. With some 80 beavers plus assorted cubs, leaders and parents attending to make it a successful event. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves

As individual colony's beavers go from strength to strength with a wide range of activities throughout the district. Virtually all colonies are running at full capacity and with Highcliffe on the verge of opening a second colony this can only be good for scouting in the future.

As ever our Beaver leaders toil on, coming up with varied programmes which benefit both Beavers and Scouting alike.

These are my last notes as ADC Beavers as I am standing down from the job, however do not despair I will still be around by returning to my original position as ABSL at Bransgore. As you will probably know Peter Andrews is returning to the post of ADC Beavers and I wish him well.

Finally a massive thank you to all the Beaver Leaders, young leaders, parents and assorted other helpers for making Beavers so enjoyable for the Beavers themselves, and a special thank you to Sandy for her support whilst I have been ADC.

Happy Beaverering with Fun and Friends.

Keith Latham
ADC Beavers

Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs)



Christchurch Cubs are riding high! Thanks to all of the time and hard work put in by our Leaders numbers are up once again.

At the end of May last year six packs took part in our annual Spring Bank Holiday Camp at Braggers Wood. Our theme was 'Get me out of here' and incorporated the Naturalist Badge. Everyone earned enough stars to have plenty to eat and a good time was had by all.

At the beginning of June the Cub District Sports Shield was won by Bransgore who have been a few points behind the winner for the last four years. At the end of the month 75 cubs attended the Athletes Badge evening at Twynham, most of who gained their badge.

In July we held our Sixers & Seconders weekend Camp. The activities offered at this camp are more adventurous and most of the cubs attending were able to gain new experiences.

After the summer break – or not if you were one of the packs who organised a Summer Camp. Thank you, it's what youngsters join us for – camping and the outdoors.

After the summer break we met again in September for our annual District Quiz. Highcliffe were the winners for the third year running and represented us at the County Quiz. Thanks go to Paul who set the questions for both events, and managed to get the balance just right for the cubs and the Leaders who have their own teams.

The Swimming Gala was enjoyed by all who took part and the trophy keenly fought over. Highcliffe gained yet another trophy to put in their cupboard. The event was not without its dramas, with several competitors having to be rescued and the electricity failing for quite a while.

We were unable to attend the County, Chief Scouts Awards presentation because it clashed with the Swimming Gala, and so decided to hold our own. It was held at Hurn Sports and Social Club and the County Commissioner presented the certificates. This was followed by a buffet supper and bowling for the cubs and their siblings while parents chatted. The evening was voted a great success and one we hope to repeat.

November brought for some the most popular event of the calendar, Five-a-side Football. Once again restored to its Saturday afternoon spot at 2Riversmeet meant that all packs took part. A nail biting final that Mudeford won, gaining them the trophy for the first time in a while.

This years Sixers & Seconders Christmas Party was held at Bowlplex in Bournemouth and was a great success – after the Leaders had mastered the computer score-boards.

The Scrap Store Challenge this year was to make a theme park ride for a marble. As well as marks for teamwork, organisation and creativity points were awarded for how long the marble took from start to finish. Bransgore's Dinosaur ride or was it a crocodile won them the trophy and a place in the County competition.

The sun shone once again on our District Hike in the New forest although the wind was very cold at the start. Thanks go to the Scout Fellowship, in particular Alan and Tony for organising the route and the rest of the team for very welcome hot refreshments at the half-way point. Numbers taking part were high this year and we used the event to raise money for the Gimmie5 appeal – organised by HQ in conjunction with WWF.

I would like to welcome all new Assistant Leaders and helpers to the District. We have one new Akela this year – Shaun Flynn has taken over from Graham who has moved on to be a Leader at Scouts. As usual I will take this opportunity to thank the Leaders and all who help in any way to give Christchurch Cubs such a fantastic and varied programme. Everyone's time when they are not at work is precious and cubs certainly take up a lot of that time – Thank you.

Sheila Davies
ADC Cubs

Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts)



Once again the Scout section have had a full and active year within their own troops, the District and County and also at Region level.

Spring bank Holiday camp saw two troops, Somerford and Bransgore, taking part. Working towards their Camp Cook badge they had a busy weekend with some interesting food offerings being made!

Sports day was again well attending with 37 under 12's and 15 over 12's gaining their athletes badge.

This years Emlyn was attended by 5 troops with 2 troops pulling out at the last minute. Their loss! All enjoyed a great camp with perfect weather. The Eagle patrol from Jumpers were the overall winners. They went on to the County Banner and came a creditable third. County banner took a different format last year that caused the patrol some problems, as they were "unprepared"! Hopefully we can remedy the format for this year to overcome this. I also hope that every troop will enter Patrols this year, the excuse that the Scouts are to young no longer holds water, as the winning Patrols for the last two years have contained Scouts who have just come up from Cubs or who had no previous Scouting experience.

The County Jamboree "Goose 2004" was attended by over 90 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders – (again two troops did not attend. Again their loss.) A fantastic time was had by all, with the opportunity to take part in lots of activities, some old, some new. Everyone was exhausted by the end of it, for the best of reasons. My thanks to Steve Potter for overseeing all the catering, and all the Leaders who attended for their support and assistance.

Swimming gala was well attended with a draw between Bransgore and Mudeford ending an exciting evening, including a short power cut.

A change in the timetable meant that the end of the autumn term was quiet from the Districts point of view, but all Troops continued to run a full programme.

2005 began with the cooking competition. Seven teams took part and again left the judges with the unenviable task of deciding a winner from the extremely well cooked and presented meals. With a European theme we saw meals from England, France, Greece, Spain and Switzerland. (There is no truth in the rumour that something I ate during the competition made me ill during the afternoon. It was something I ate, but at home earlier that day!) The team from Mudeford won the competition and together with the runners up, from Somerford, went forward to the County competition. Mudeford won this and went on to come second in the region competition, a terrific achievement against some very stiff competition.

The 5-a-side football competition followed this, and once again we had some exciting and well-played football. The team from Mudeford came out winners beating Highcliffe 2 – 1 on penalties after a goalless draw during the final.

The final event of the year was the Scout Night Incident Hike. It was certainly full of incidents, but of the wrong kind! Owing to a misunderstanding of the arrival instructions, by some, we were late starting, and then a base was set up in the wrong location! This was closely followed by several patrols getting lost in the dark! While packing up one of the leaders fell in a ditch and fractured her wrist, and the result sheet went missing. However we were able to obtain a result in the end and the Mudeford B team came out on top.

Before I end this report I would like to apologise to the various troops that I have not visited them as often as I would have liked during the year. A full Scouting, Choir and Social programme put paid to that. I hope to do better next year!

All in all an eventful year. I would like to extend my thanks to all the leaders who have aided and supported me during the year, and a special thanks to my fellowship colleagues for all their help in providing judges, refreshments and any other help I have requested, sometimes at short notice!

Brian Davies
ADC Scouts

District Explorer Scout Leader



September last year saw Nicky and Simon leave Explorer's having taken it from its formation, and indeed prior to the Unit being officially formed activities were being organised to get the ball rolling, to where we are now.

Starting anything completely new is always a challenge, and trying to convince people that what was happening is for the greater good is not always an easy task, but between them they took it on and made it work. Thanks to both of them for all their efforts.

Just prior to their leaving they took the Explorers, with District Scouts, to GOOSE the County Camp that was held at Buddens last summer. An enjoyable time was had by all, and the opportunity to try something different, be it gliding or power boating was eagerly seized upon.

As there was no-one to replace Nicky as leader I, rather foolishly, volunteered – I'm sure there's a saying somewhere about never volunteering – and took the role on. It has been a challenge, probably if I'm honest much bigger than I envisaged, but one that I feel I am starting to come to grips with. I'm pleased to say that I've had a lot of support from across District and especially from the members of the Scout Network who have stepped in to become my Leadership team and I would like to thank you for that support.

The youngsters themselves have also been great, and although we have lost some we have also gained others from outside of Scouting. Gang Show proved a hit within the Unit with some twelve Explorers taking part, along with several leaders, although I have started to worry a little about the way some of them took to dressing as ballerina's! (Although I can't really comment I suppose). WOOSH 2 (The Return of the Penguin) the rather oddly named County ski trip took also proved popular and although some of us didn't improve our skiing an enjoyable week was had by all at the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland. (And for some at the local Hospital – fortunately nothing too bad)

Various other activities have been undertaken and the hope is that we can continue to expand the opportunities for Scouting in the District.

I would also mention the Young Leader scheme, and although I haven't been able to fit in another training weekend for them yet, the Young Leaders helping in the various sections across District are I know proving their worth and I know that without them several sections would be struggling.

On the whole a good year – but plenty of room for improvement.

Christopher Root
District Explorer Scout Leader

Assistant District Commissioner (Adult Support)



Yet again it has been a good year for new recruits into the district and nice to see some old faces back.

I have enjoyed coming along to some events and catching up with new and old faces and seeing how leaders are fitting into their new roles within their groups.

Keep up the good work, and if any of you need my help or support please don't hesitate to contact me.

My e-mail is carol@acvhinchliffe.co.uk or my mobile is 07775684743 and my home number is 01202 473248.

Carol Ward
ADC Adult Support

Braggers Wood Camping and Activity Centre



This year has seen an unprecedented amount of change at Braggers Wood. After almost thirty years at the site, Phill Old stepped down as Warden. On behalf of the many thousands of people who have enjoyed using the facilities at Braggers Wood over the years I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Phill and his family for all their hard work.

Tony Bolt continues to do a sterling job as Chairman and is making positive changes to the operational management and development of the site. The Rotary Club have recently donated their time and money in helping to develop two new activities and I thank them for their support. Members of the Scout Network, Explorer Scout and Fellowship sections (amongst many others) are working extremely hard at the site now and seem to be there all the time helping to keep the site in good shape.

The next year will see further development at the site and I have no doubt that it will continue to grow and mature into a site where even more groups will wish to stay and enjoy all that it has to offer.

Thankyou to all those who work so hard in the background for Braggers and I look forward to even more good times ahead.

Mark Flexman
District Commissioner

Appointments Committee



The appointments committee have been kept busy with interviews and approved warrants and certificates of appointment for 14 persons to become leaders and helpers within the District as follows:

1 Beaver Scout Leader	1 Pack Assistant
5 Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders	1 Skills Instructor
1 Assistant Cub Scout Leader	
3 Assistant Scout Leaders	
2 Assistant Explorer Scout Leaders	

We wish them all well in Scouting.

There were seven changes of appointment within the District and eight cancellations. Special thanks must go to Bud Hine, Stuart MacFarlane, Tim Barnes and Sharon Gale for their help on the committee and to Sharon for also carrying out all the training of the new leaders. Our appreciation also goes to Carol Ward for all her work in supplying adult support.

David Stevens – Chairman
Maureen Freeman – Secretary

Gang Show



Our year began with another 'In the Spotlight' production for families and friends of the 'Gang'. It was staged, as before, at Twynham School on Saturday 17th April 2004. There were 4 items in each half, with a 'fish and chip supper' during the interval. Rehearsals were kept to a minimum and so were costumes and staging. The dress rehearsals were fairly hectic but the full house audience brought out the best in the cast and everyone enjoyed it enormously! The Fellowships rendering of 'River Dance' had to be seen to be believed!

In the autumn the committee agreed to start planning for a full show in the Regent Centre, at Easter 2005. Steve Potter agreed to produce the show with Brian Davies, Paul Root, Chris Root and Sue Jones as assistants. Pete Old and Alex Sachs also joined this team, to give a younger perspective to it!

Auditions took place and rehearsals started in November. The cast had a fairly equal number of scouts and guides, but there were more girls overall than boys!

Mrs Sheila Davies had decided that she wished to stand down from her Wardrobe Mistress role. The committee all expressed their thanks to Mrs Davies who had worked tirelessly on our wardrobe for very many years. Mrs Sue Old agreed that if she had sufficient help she would continue. Some new parents were recruited to help with sewing and dressing, but unfortunately no one has come forward yet to share the organisation role with Mrs Old.

Once again, Des Whitney was in charge of scenery and props and James Stead was our musical director. Anne-Marie Davies took on the role of choreographer. Rehearsals went well, with the cast battling as ever to learn their lines!

As the year ended for this report we were about to present our first evenings performance! The costumes were ready, the stage was set, the musicians about to start the overture. Another Gang Show was under way!

Once again I would like to record my thanks to everyone who has supported us in any way, however small, over the last year. My special thanks to the committee for their continued commitment, hard work and support to me and the 'Gang'.

Janet Campbell
Gang Show Chairman

Scout and Guide Band



In the past year we have been very busy. Attending various events including St George's day parade in Christchurch, Burton Scout Carnival, New Milton Remembrance day parade and the Royal Navy old comrades society.

We also took part in the Massed Youth Band concert. This was a great day for the members as they got to play with a variety of bands.

The highlight of the year was being invited to play at Kings Park for Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Obviously the band members were very nervous before they arrived. As soon as we caught sight of the royal helicopter the nerves turned to excitement. As the Queen past the Duke of Edinburgh stopped and spoke to Bandmaster Roger Milton. He asked how old the youngest member was and how old the oldest member was? He then said that he could hear us playing when they landed. He said that he was amazed to find the music was coming from a youth band. He congratulated Roger on the music and turnout.

We also had a very successful fundraising stall at the regatta, we raised even more than in previous years.

Again we have been inundated with requests for bookings for the coming year.

As last our members are on the up, but we still would like to encourage more members.

Roger Milton
Bandmaster

Badge Secretary



I would like to thank all the groups for their continued support during the last year.

All of the young members have been working really hard and a good mixture of badges have been given out. I would like to thank the leaders for all the hard work which they put in to help the young people in gaining their awards.

Happy Scouting in the next year and I look forward to receiving your orders.

Joyce Colbourne
Badge Secretary

Adult Training



Training over the past year in Christchurch continues to go well. There have been approximately 20 new leaders and helpers who have attend module 1. One leader has completed his training completely in the new system and achieved his wood beads only the second person in the county to do so. County training courses are extremely well supported and early booking is advisable. There is a county expectation that all leaders in transition will have completed their training by the end of 2005 this doesn't automatically mean attending courses as we have validated evidence by many different methods.

Any leaders who have started their training in the past 12 months are encouraged to book onto courses as training will be formally reviewed at warrants reviews.

I would like to thank the GSL's and training advisors for all of the hard work they have put in on the leaders behalf regarding training without them my job would be impossible.

Sharon Gale
Local Training Manager

Scout Fellowship



I will open my report on a sad note, sadly Laurie Chick has passed away. Laurie was well known and a long time Cub Leader at Mudeford. He was a great supporter of the Gang Show, where apart from being on stage, spent many hours at rehearsals keeping the Cubs occupied. He was also a member

of Fellowship but as he did not enjoy good health, could not attend as often as he would have liked. He will be sadly missed.

Well another year has flown by and again we have had a very successful year helping out at various events within the District including Sports Day, Swimming Gala, Scout Night Hike and the Cub Hike.

Some of our members have also been outside the District when requested, to demonstrate the different handicrafts we now take out to different Groups. Other Fellowships within the County have shown a great deal of interest in what the Christchurch Fellowship gets involved in.

Peter organised a good day out at the Bath and West Horticultural Show. The weather was kind to us and everybody had a really nice day. Also our lovely Ladies again served cream teas at the Regetta. I would like to thank Somerford for the gift of small teapots. We also manned the gates at the Regetta which is another good fundraiser.

We had a good turn out at Buddens for Goose. Everyone enjoyed themselves doing various Handicrafts and the young ones had a good time taking part and trying different skills. Some of our members also organised the car parking at New Milton for the New Forest Marathon.

About twenty of us went to Lacock Abbey for the Dorset Fellowship Day. Again, a good day although we did get a drop of rain.

The Founders Day service was held at St. Mark's Church in West Parley and was attended by quite a few of our members. We also had a Carol Service at the new High Cross Church at Somerford where we were made very welcome. Some of our members read the lessons and after the service there followed hot drinks and mince pies.

Our last event for 2004 was the Peace Light Service which was again held at the Priory Church and was very well attended.

We had a very good quiz again this year with the Quizmaster being Paul Root again. Thankyou Paul for another good evening. Tommy's night is proving to be a good social event and the winners this year were Martin and Pauline Wester. After a play off, Martin was declared the outright winner. After supper we had a game of knockout for 50p per person. Half of the money raised was shared between the winners (David Stevens and Brian Davies) and the other half, plus the raffle money (£75) was donated to the Scout Holiday Homes Trust.

I should of course mention our A Team who are always there when asked to make hot drinks. Thankyou all for your help.

Alan Jones organised a walk for the Fellowship starting at Badbury Rings. A walk of 7 miles, stopping half way for lunch at Pamphill Farm Shop. Another good day was had by all. We again helped at the Gang Show selling programmes and raffle tickets. We raised over £500 over the course of the Show.

Well I must close my report but not before thanking Chris our Secretary for all she has done over the past year. Also Tony our Treasurer for keeping our books in order and not forgetting Peter our Social Secretary.

The Fellowship could not function without the support of all our members so I would like, at this point, to thank them all for their help this past year.

I feel it a priviledge to be Chairman of the Christchurch Fellowship.

Derek Blake
Chairman

1st Christchurch (Town)

This is to be my last report as GSL of 1st Christchurch (Town) Group – more of that to come!

We have continued to go from strength to strength over the last year, with Beavers now standing at 24, Cubs at 35 and Scouts at 24. On the leader front we have welcomed Belinda Johnson and Lisa Pidgley as Assistant Beaver Leaders and Debbie Jarvis has moved to the role of Beaver leader following the retirement of Edna Russell. Unfortunately, after much thought Ian Penny stepped down from the role as Scout Leader at the end of the summer term and after equally the same amount of thought I have decided to step down from GSL to Assistant GSL and take on the role as Acting Scout Leader. As you are reading this, Kevin Wall (previously AGSL) will have taken over the helm of the group and I am confident that together we can carry the group towards its' 100th year. Also, as I write, all leaders will have achieved a First Aid certificate so well done to them.

As usual, all sections have played an active part in all District events. The Cub and Beaver sections enjoyed the Spring Bank Holiday camp in May and were present at Sports day. A number of our Scouts attended Goose in August and had an excellent time. We held a beetle drive evening in November for Edna to say thank you for all her work with the group – she can still be found at Beavers on a Tuesday sharing her wealth of experience with the new leaders. October saw the swimming gala with a good turn out and the Cubs played in the football competition in November. The Beavers held their annual Sponsored Paper Chain Race and Christmas saw each section holding their own Christmas parties with the Scouts visiting the Regent Centre to see "The Incredibles"- (Well recommended)

The New Year started well with a family games evening to mark the Groups 97th birthday. Both the Beavers and Cubs went to District Christmas Party's and the Scouts took part in the Cooking competition and the 5 a-side football. We had a reasonable turn out for the Cub Hike with all completing the route including my 3 year old who walked the whole way – who says training can't start young! We had 2 Cubs and 2 Scouts taking part in the Gang Show, which I know they enjoyed and had an excellent turn out at St Georges Day. More recently, the Scouts have undertaken the Mechanic badge, and the Cubs have been making Wormerys and the Beavers have made Musical instruments! Wow. We have been busy.

On to fundraising. I know you are all aware that we are currently undertaking a project to redevelop and refurbish our headquarters, and over the last year the fundraising committee have worked very hard to get us off the mark – thank you to them! Past events included – Stalls in Saxon Square, Family treasure Hunt and BBQ, Wine Tasting Evening (very good!), Christmas meal, Quiz night at Hurn Bridge and a Bingo evening. I know we have had a lot of support from the District – particularly Fellowship, and may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and support. We cannot achieve this project on our own. (NB for future events please see our group website)

I would like to end by thanking all the leaders, helpers, parents and members of the group for all their hard work this year, and throughout my time as GSL, and wish everyone well of 2005/6.

Steve Haskell
Group Scout Leader

2nd Christchurch (Scoutlink)

Lots have happened this year. Sadly we had to say goodbye to Anita Penny in the summer as she has chosen to take a break from scouting to spend time with her young family. We invited Anita to our Christmas Skittles Party where we thanked her for all her hard work, determination, support and all the laughs. She has taught us and given us all so much. Thanks Anita (please come back anytime).

We have had made some important changes within the group mainly by splitting the Scouts and Explorers. Explorers is now being run on a Tuesday for an extended time of an hour and a half and Scouts have changed their night to a Thursday- all of which is working really well.

Vicki has also started up a Network unit on a trial basis for a term and this is running on a Friday. We'll keep you posted.

They have all been up to lots of activities, with loads of badges and activities including weather badge (can't remember correct name) fire safety badge, music badge and the Explorers have started their International Friendship Group Award.

Some of the young people went to Goose camp in the summer and had a fantastic time especially in the tent. It was great to see everyone integrating and having fun.

On a personal note I was very privileged, honoured and proud to be asked to take the Scouts to St George's Day this year. It was fantastic to have such a great turn out and even more to hear all the wonderful comments that were made from many of the other groups. Thank you for asking me.

I am really pleased to be able to let everyone know that I am now stepping down as Acting GSL as Sandy Latham has volunteered (yes she did volunteer!!! to take on the role. (.and yes she has agreed to go into uniform....gone are the days when we heard her say "I don't DO uniform") I couldn't be happier with this news as she is a great person and will work really well with Kelly, Vicki and their teams of helpers. Thank you Sandy.

This obviously means that Sandy will now be passing on her role of chairman to someone else, which I am glad to say this is a place she has filled – news to follow shortly. Again thank you Sandy for your help and support in this role.

Finally, I would like to say the most biggest 'thank you' to Kelly, Vicki and all the assistant leaders and young leaders. You all do a fantastic role and Scoutlink would not be as successful as it is without each and everyone of you. I honestly believe that we are so privileged to have Scoutlink as part of our District as you bring a lot of 'sunshine' to a lot of people. Thank you.

Carol Ward
Acting Group Scout Leader

Over the last year we have seen the group develop and expand, with the Explorer unit and Scouts both carrying out a variety of meetings, visits, events. In order to continue to develop Scoutlink we have decided to split the two sections, with Explorers becoming a unit linked with District Explorers. This has also lead to the introduction of a Network meeting on Friday for those with special needs. So in future the Explorers and Network will not be part of Scoutlink Scout Group. Of course we wish them luck in their venture and we will of course maintain a link which will facilitate the movement of Scouts from Scoutlink to Explorers.

Scoutlink Scouts have now moved to Thursday nights to ensure Leaders can attend. They continue to do all the normal scouting activities and to achieve Scouting awards. I was fortunate to be asked to judge their cooking as part of their Cooks Badge, and had an interesting Italian themed meal. The Scouts were justly proud of their efforts and I was pleased to see all of them gain their Badge.

There are going to be some changes in Committee, I have now offered to become GSL for Scoutlink, and our new Chair will be appointed at the AGM. Lindsey Stevenson has had to step down from the committee and I would like to thank her for her help. Having worked with Lindsey

on another Scouting Committee I have always admired Lindsey's practical approach to Scouting, and found her common sense helpful on many occasions. Thanks Lindsey and what Committee shall we work on together now? Whilst I am acknowledging help, I would really like to thank Carol Ward for her support in stepping into acting GSL role to enable us to continue. Carol has agreed to remain on the Scoutlink Committee so we are not losing her experience and expertise in Scouting. So thanks Carol. And of course I couldn't help but acknowledge our sterling Committee, Sandra Bonney who tolerates us as treasurer, Lynn Coombs our Secretary, Stan Ellis our Fellowship member for his support and wine for the AGM. We are fortunate to have two dedicated and enthusiastic parents Mrs Miller and Mrs Hardcastle, who help us to remain focussed on the Scouts in our section.

So it remains for me to say, as always, thanks to the Leaders, for all of their help, it goes without saying that without them well you know the rest. We at Scoutlink, the Committee, Scouts, parents and me as Chairman and now GSL really do appreciate you and many many thanks for your dedication and commitment. And of course a big thanks to all the Scouts who turn up week after week and make the evenings such fun. Thanks every one of you.

Sandy Latham
Group Scout Leader Designate

3rd Christchurch (Jumpers)

'Scouting is good for Boys – Scouting at Jumpers is even better for Boys'. That was the comment made by Arthur Priddis when he was made President of Jumpers at our 2005 AGM following his decision not to stand for re-election to the Group Executive after over 40 years service to the Group. During this time he has served the Group as Chairman, Treasurer and Committee Member never shirking from the work that is needed to support the Group. It was a pleasure to make Arthur President and his remarks are an endorsement of all the great opportunities that the members of Jumpers enjoy. This report of our last year underpins Arthur's comment.

This year we have needed to look carefully at the projected numbers of young people that will be in the Group over the next few years as there is growing pressure on our operating size. We have had to take the decision to close the waiting lists for Cubs and Scouts. The waiting list for Beavers can only accommodate children who are not yet 6 years old. Only by carefully monitoring the age groups within each section can we ensure that we will not become too big to operate.

Change within a Scout Group is inevitable and brings a healthy challenge. Otter & Boomer [Annabel & Nigel Major] told me about half way through the year that they would be leaving their roles as Beaver Leaders in February, at about the same time Sue Butler completed her application form for a warrant as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader. She had been involved with the Cubs at camps and took a leading role in producing the costumes and props for 'Good Turns' our Group Show last Christmas. After some thought Sue agreed to change her application to become Beaver Scout Leader and since February she has been in at the deep end very successfully running the Colony and taking to the job as if she had been doing it all her life. Losing two leaders at one time was a big blow. At the moment Sue is the only warranted Beaver Leader in the Group, she is supported by some loyal parents who are regular attendees at the meetings and the temporary support of the Cub Leaders who are taking turns to be at Beavers on a Monday night. The appreciation of the Group goes to them all and we look forward to Jumpers Beavers continuing to be as strong as ever. My own and the Groups thanks go to Annabel & Nigel they did a fantastic job running the Colony, we hope that one day, when their personal commitments allow, they will bring their enthusiasm and experience back to Jumpers. We are also pleased to welcome Jaquala – Mark Stafford our latest new recruit as Assistant Cub Scout Leader, and to welcome back Mark Barber as an Assistant Scout Leader. We have also sadly said 'goodbye' to 'Kim' Roy Freeman who has been a helper with the Cubs for many years, our best wishes go to him and to all of the other helpers that support the weekly meetings.

This years camping has been excellent and very varied. The Scouts won the coveted 'Emlyn Trophy' – the District Camping competition and went on to represent Christchurch in the County Final taking an excellent third place. The main Scout Camp was at the International Camp 'Goose' run by Dorset Scouts at Buddens. The week saw the participants attempting a full programme ranging from gliding to water activities, climbing and much much more. The camp was visited by the out going Chief Scout, George Purdy, on his last official duty before handing over to his successor Peter Duncan. Cub Camps again brought all of the challenges that the boys need from a 'prehistoric' week on the Isle of Wight to weekends of adventure at Osmington, 'Survival' or I'm a Cub Get Me Out of Here – both at Braggers. The sun shone again on us at Family Camp - another great weekend, sadly we were not joined by Scout Link but hope that they will be with us again in 2005. We were entertained superbly by the District Scout & Guide Band while we ate our hog roast thank you Roger and the entire Band.

We are all looking forward to this years camping season.

In the Autumn the Cubs Cardboard City Sleepover was sponsored and raised over £600 which was used to purchase a wide screen television, video camera and recorder, and a sound system for the Quay Foyer in Poole [an accommodation and training project for young homeless people], yet another fantastic achievement for the Cubs and the Group.

The Group has, as always supported all of the activities organized by the District Team and I know that on every occasion fun was had and where appropriate the competition was keenly fought. Our Trophy cabinet may not be so full this year but we still have the 'smiles' to look back on. We also continue to support the District run activities where a time commitment is necessary like the Scout

& Guide Band [I was pleased to congratulate the Band Master again on the quality of the Music at St Georges Day], and Gang Show.

Fundraising this year has been a mixture of the old and the new, our annual Jumble Sale and Plant Sale again brought in a significant income. We tried an Autumn Fayre at the Scout Hut – it rained – heavily!! But despite this set back we had some fun!! We also revived our Quiz Night, where although numbers attending were low we again enjoyed a very good evening.

Our major expenditure has seen some tremendous improvements to the hut. We redecorated the main hall, entrance and kitchen and have built new fitted cupboards in the storage area. Our current toilets date back to the 1950's and need a lot of work. We are planning to carry out significant improvements, where separate facilities for adults and young people will be provided and hot running water!

The decision of the Group Committee not to allow a playgroup to operate at the hut was one of the toughest that we have had to make. A long discussion with some passionate input from both sides of the coin was followed by a vote where a large majority came down against the proposal.

This years Group Meal was held at the training restaurant at the College in the Lansdowne. We were excellently fed and served by young people learning their skills. It was a superb occasion enjoyed by all, and seemed an appropriate setting to support the training of young people – the corner stone of our movement.

I am always delighted by the innovation and dedication that the Leaders and helpers contribute to the weekly programmes we run. This successfully combines the Jumpers experience and traditions with an unceasing willingness to experiment with new ideas, and my thanks on behalf of everyone are extended to them all. Always working away in the back ground are three members of the team that I feel need special mention, Des Whitney, Jenny Jackson and David Crumpler who display loyalty beyond measure.

As we look back, we also look forward 99, 100 years here we come! We will still be here pushing forward in 101, 102.

Richard Stevenson
Group Scout Leader

5th Christchurch (Highcliffe)

Highcliffe Scout Group has had another successful year. Despite being a small group we continue to offer diverse and quality experiences for the young people involved, making memories they will take with them to adulthood. We have been fortunate in stabilising the leadership team with parental support in the beaver section, and a new leader with the troop giving a ratio of 1:4 adult::scouts. Explorers continue to support the troop and cubs, and Patrol Leaders are carrying out service with both cubs and beavers.

The beaver colony continues to be full and will open a second colony later in the summer term. They have spent Thursday evenings trying such activities as spicy food, judo, making rockets, road safety with the school crossing patrol, making bird boxes and paper Mache, visiting Steamer Point and Serendipity Sam's at Christmas. They spent several weeks making props and fire engines for the village Christmas parade and definitely painted the town and themselves red, winning a very worthy second place in the float competition. They raised money on a sponsored walk along the beach last summer, and a £100 for red nose day.

Badges are always popular with cubs and continue to be so with the cyclist, athletes, and first aid badges being awarded alongside outdoor, fitness and creativity challenges. Three Chief Scout bronze awards have also been awarded. The pack took part in District Camp, Sports Day, came first in the District Quiz and Swimming Gala, and second in the five a side football, enjoyed visits to Legoland Windsor, the Coastguard, and pond dipping and canoeing at the Outdoor Study Centre at Hengistbury Head.

Troop have had a very positive year with many of the troop attending last summer's GOOSE camp, night navigation hike and camp, a frost bite camp at Fernycroft in the New Forest when the temperature really was below 0, and more recently May Day camp in the grounds of the scout hut working on camp skills and the campers badge. They have supported District Events taking part in the cooking competition and five a side football only losing to Mudeford on penalties; and runners up in Emlyn Trophy. Visits to the Fire & Rescue Service and Buddens, working alongside their BCTV volunteer towards their Foresters Badge and their Fire Safety Badges.

All sections look forward to the coming better weather and the opportunities offered by outdoor programmes. As a group we persist in trying to forge better support for our Executive Committee and links with the local community.

My thanks to the leadership team who give so freely of their time and energy, to our Committee stalwarts, and to the District leadership group and my colleague GSLs for their help, support and words of wisdom.

Angela Budd
Group Scout Leader

6th Christchurch (Bransgore)

This has been a very active year for all sections. They are all function very well and have very active and balanced programmes through out the year, which are a credit to all the leaders.

We were particularly pleased and proud that the Scout Group won the Best Troop in the District, and that the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts won every trophy at the District Sports day. This was an incredible feat, and will require some defending this year! The Cubs excelled in the District Handicraft competition again, winning it for the second year running and coming second in the County Competition.

It is unfortunate that we have had to continue to tightly manage the Beaver and Cub waiting lists. We have more Cubs in the pack than we would ideally like and it will be another year or two before we are able to return to even age range within group. It is an undeniable fact that there is the possibility that some young people will miss out on experiencing the challenges of being a member of the Scout group. However we do ensure that all those on the waiting list who are likely to be unsuccessful are offered the opportunity of being part of another Scout group within the District.

Much of the group's time and effort this year has been spent on expansion to our HQ by taking over the old Boys Brigade HQ adjacent to our own building. This was about to be razed to the ground by the Church, who could no longer afford to maintain it. We agreed to take it over and have sectioned one end off to make a new store for us, and upgraded the rest of the building, which has now given the Group and the village an additional hall. Now that we have almost completed the work, we believe that the building will be self-funding with the regular bookings that we now have. We have a Luncheon Club meeting there 3 times a week, a Brownie group, an Art Club and table tennis club, plus many adhoc parties and events.

None of this could have been achieved without the efforts of all the volunteers within the group, both uniformed and non-uniformed helpers who give of their time so freely. We have benefited from a very strong committee who have supported the group admirably, in what has been a very challenging year. I would like to thank everyone personally. It is very satisfying to look back at what has been achieved within each section and the group as a whole, and realise what an exceptional year we have had.

Phred Crosby decided to retire after many years service during the summer, and I would like to thank him for all his help and support to the group over the years. Mike Brackstone has decided to resign his warrant from the summer after many years in the group, initially helping with the Cub pack, then periods as Assistant Scout Leader, Scout Leader, Assistant Venture Leader, and, latterly, as Assistant Group Scout Leader. We are grateful for all his support and will miss him.

Graham Pedder
Group Scout Leader

8th Christchurch (Burton)

Another busy year at Beavers, we are maintaining our number of 20 boys and never seem to have a shortage of others wishing to join. The boys enjoy a fun packed and exciting programme including outdoor cooking, passport evenings where the boys try food and learn about other countries, visits to local places i.e. lifeboat station and string trails at St. Catherine's Hill organised by Fellowship which they all thoroughly enjoy. Another 3 Beavers have gained their Bronze Awards and we are pleased to say that all of our Beavers who have swum up to Cubs this year have stayed. We have taken part in all District events and the boys especially enjoyed the Christmas party. We were also awarded the District Beaver trophy for the first time at the District AGM in June 2004. Along with the Cubs we have managed to raise some money to buy a parachute and other games equipment and look forward to many hours of fun playing with them. Claire has now been given her warrant so there are now 3 Beaver leaders again at Burton. On behalf of the boys we would like to give a big thank you to Fellowship who continue to give their time and valuable help whenever it is needed. As always we have another busy year ahead and are planning to participate in the Children's Marathon Challenge to help raise money for Children with Leukaemia along with our Cubs.

Throughout the year the Cubs have had a busy programme, taking part all District events, Village activities and Cub meetings. We enjoyed 2 camps, Braggers Wood District Cub camp and a winter camp at Ferny Crofts – well attended and supported.

Two events that stand out would be the Cardboard City and the Big Breakfast. By the name of it you realise that the Cardboard City involved an awful lot of cardboard, a very hard floor, and little sleep (unless your name was Alan!) Some home made graffiti decorated the walls of the Hut and I shouldn't forget a cup of soup. The Big Breakfast was a jolly event, an early start on a lovely morning, where some of our older Cubs cooked an al fresco breakfast for invited guests who then kindly gave donations, which, the boys gave to a cancer charity they had chosen. The District hike also became a charity event – it does after all say in their law that 'A Cub Scout thinks of others before himself'.

The boys earned themselves quite a variety of badges this year, a lot being incorporated into our programme and camps. IT badges were completed by Beavers and Cubs during the boys own time, using the facilities at Burton school.

We had an excellent celebration of the Chinese New Year. In good organised style, not one of us had a camera! I don't think in many years I have seen our Scout Hut looking quite so festive or smell so nice! The dragons, place mats and cookies had been made the previous week. The boys were dressed appropriately and had made their Chinese Chefs Hats at home. The food was excellent, the service and even the clearing up was done with a smile. The Rooster juice and Dragons blood was refreshing and our guests - who had worked hard for their dinner - left orders for delivery on Saturday evening

Thanks go to Sue, Alan and our 'new boy' Robin. Robin took the brave step of coming to help us at camp, enjoyed it so much that he signed on. At least that's what we thought he said. On the extra plus side, his wife Claire has joined the Beaver team. I mustn't forget Matt. He's been our Young Leader for a while now and has become an asset to us.

The Scouts have had another successful year with numbers staying up at around 18-20. We have also had two new members join from outside of the Group.

Last summer's camp took place at Braggers Wood and involved teaching the boys some basic camping skills as well as doing some hiking and the high ropes course at Avon Tyrell.

In the Autumn Term, the Troop participated in the District swimming gala and played a good part in the Group's Christmas Concert where they performed the alternative version of the Night Before Christmas. Troop meetings involved some cooking, orienteering on the Fellowship's Burley Trail and a patrol competition night. Two of our leaders also tied the knot – Amy and Damien got married at Highcliffe Castle.

In the Spring Term, Burton Troop gave a good account of themselves in the cooking competition, the night hike and the 5-a-side football. Troop night highlights included ski-bobbing at Matchams ski centre, a patrol cooking competition, a New Forest hike and ten-pin bowling in Bournemouth.

This Summer Term, we go back to basics to teach our young Troop basic Scout skills in preparation for Emlyn before doing some adventurous activities towards summer. We hope to do a day hike, some climbing and archery and some canoeing. We also aim to take the troop to Osmington Mills at the end of April due to there being no summer camp this year.

Another busy year for Burton but it is positive that most of our Scouts have stayed and that we have an excellent team of young leaders and helpers to support the leaders.

Nicky Randall, Beaver Scout Leader
Barbara Evans, Cub Scout Leader
Jeff Eden, Scout Leader

10th Christchurch (Mudeford)

Our report from the shores of Christchurch is again very comprehensive and dynamic, so with the Election now history we come down to earth and move on into the rest of 2005.

The following is a general breakdown of the achievements for 2004/5.....

The Beaver Colony has been running at full capacity with a fairly long waiting list so we have had to refer boys wishing to join to other Beaver Colonies in the District. Activities during the year have included, working towards their Experiment badge by planting broad beans and charting their progress over a number of weeks. We had a visit to Streetwise, always a popular outing. There was crabbing at the river on the Marsh and sandcastle competitions and tug-of-war, all working towards their outdoor challenge. We held our first sleepover at TSO and all attending Beavers gained their nights away stage 1 badge. Four Beavers gained their Bronze Chief Scout award by learning French, spending weeks studying the new language culminating in a French evening finishing off with a sampling of many French Cheeses.

There was a visit to the Fire Station where everyone got thoroughly wet; they didn't even notice that it was raining at the time as they practised using the fire station hoses.

At the Christmas performance this year the boys came up with some really original performances and entertained their parents with song and dance. There was a half term Pirate themed evening with all the beavers dressing up as pirates and breaking open a treasure chest full of gold coins!

Fellowship organised a craft evening at Easter for the beavers and they had an excellent pot that was transformed into chicks and rabbits. They looked very effective.

Throughout the year, Mudeford Beavers, Cubs & Scouts have been taking part in a number of activities together, so there has been a good strong relationship between all the sections with a day out in the summer, on the water, for all members, finishing up with a BBQ.

Amanda has introduced a badge book outlining the requirements for each Beaver badge, so the boys have been working away at home and school giving a presentation to the Colony at meetings. This has brought a lot of boys out and has surprised many parents when their son has stood up in front of the others to give an account of his badge work. A very busy year and excellent parental support for the colony.

The Cub Pack has also been running at full capacity plus. There have been more Beavers moving up than Cubs moving to scouts due to a birth bubble but this should settle down this coming year but it has resulted in us being unable to take on boys from outside the group. The average attendance of boys over the year has been in excess of 87% and has been very action packed.

The behaviour, enthusiasm, interest and politeness must be commended, as it has improved no end, especially at meetings held at the HQ and various other venues around the District. We have made visits to Highcliffe Castle, Littledown, Mudeford Wood, All Saints Church, Christchurch Police Station and many other places and the turn out has been very good and enjoyed by all.

There have been a lot of badge work achievements, so after the opening game at pack nights we move onto badge work presented in such a fun way that the boys do not realise that they are working towards badges and awards.

Thanks to the Bragger's Wood volunteers and our own Sea Scout Leaders the boys have enjoyed the many activities available...Archery, climbing, abseiling, sailing and rafting sessions and all has been very well supported.

We've had a beach party, sausage sizzle and a rather wet walking History Walk in Christchurch. A visit to Highcliffe Castle, night hikes, football sessions at Mudeford Wood and swimming at Littledown, also a memorable visit to Bournemouth for a game of Quasar, the larger members of the leadership team providing admirable targets!!

We attended all the District Activities and managed a good first with a mixed team of swimmers from Scouts in the Group Freestyle Relay. We won the District 5-a-side football coached by our very own "Sven" Root who picked a victorious team. Ashley has produced a regular Newsletter

keeping parents/leaders/helpers up to date with all cub events including a regular update of movements through the group. Beavers to Cubs to Scouts to Explorers.

The Scout Section has again made so many achievements that it is difficult to detail them all.

The main event has been the work towards RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Training Centre status, which has now been confirmed. There are only 5 such Sea Scout Troops in the country that have RYA Training Centre Status and we are the first in Dorset. The national standards for this are far higher than that required by the Scouting Association and so has involved a certain amount of additional expenditure and Administration. This has been completed by Richard Ashdown, who is not only one of our own ASLs but is a RYA senior instructor and will be the Training Centre Principal. Thank you Richard and congratulations on attaining your Wood badge earlier in the scout year.

Some of our scouts took part in the RN Sea Scout Camp at RN base Portsmouth whilst another group of boys/girls were down at Weymouth at the Sea Cadet centre doing similar activities, but in much deeper water. At the RN Plymouth National Swimming Championships in February we managed 9th overall place out of the 26 Sea Scout groups attending, whilst the Explorers made 3rd out of 15 teams. The under 16 group was won outright by 3 of our own Scouts. (26 groups attended out of the 101 RN Recognised Sea Scout troops of about 400 SS troops in the country)

Whilst the Swimmers were in Plymouth our football team beat Highcliffe on penalties with a mixed team of girls and boys.

We took the Scoutlink troop on the water in June with our own scouts as helms. Other members have assisted at Scoutlink meetings. An ex-troop member is now one of their assistant leaders.

At the Blatchford regatta in June the sailing team managed 8 wins out of 32 races giving us 4th place overall for Scouts and 2nd overall for Explorers out of 10 other Troop teams from all over Hampshire competing. In July we gave the District Cubs a taster of sailing during their weekend camp so with 4 different sessions we enabled nearly 50 cubs to try sailing with our own helms over the 2 days involved.

We had 2 scouts at the Cadet World Championships held in Australia during February, James Rusden won the under 15 age group and his brother William won the under 17 age group. A great triumph for both the boys.

We have had 4 canvas camps which involved boating at the Swanage Camp and Ferny Crofts for some rifle shooting and archery.

Our crack cooking team surpassed themselves by not only winning the District competition (for the 3rd year running) but also going on to win the County competition at Butchers Coppice at the end of February and 2nd place at the Regional Finals. Well-done Cooking team.

Congratulations to Chris Harman, James Hulbert and Dominic Tarrant on gaining their Chief Scout Gold award. These were presented at a Scout meeting earlier in the year.

All the other activities are just too numerous to mention but it has been an extremely full year for all sections and the waiting list just keeps on growing.

My sincere thanks go to all the Leaders, Helpers, Committee and Parents for your unstinting help to make it all possible; we are extremely lucky to have such a team.

Unfortunately I have to end this report on a rather sadder note with the passing on of our dear friend Lawrie Chick. He lived Mudeford Cubs and scouting in general and is sorely missed. His range of activities was astounding and his help to the community and scouting in Christchurch is well known. Thank you Lawrie for your life.

I look forward to another scouting year and am so proud of our team with whom it would not be possible to continue.

Rob Maskell
Group Scout Leader

20th Christchurch (Somerset)

2004 was a big year for Somerset. Not only did we celebrate the Group's fiftieth birthday, we also numbers in all three sections grow and at last the hard work and effort seemed to be paying off.

The Beaver Section had started to attract more young members and with the addition of the young leaders, the youngest section started to grow as we would expect it to. Due to the size of the hut, I have had to ask the cub section to try not to exceed 24 cubs (although with those swimming up and going onto Scouts we seem to have about 29 at the moment!!) The Scout Section has also steadily increased and have now had to form three patrols, again I have had to ask them to try not to exceed 24, although we still have a few more places yet.

But it is not only the uniformed sections that have seen growth in numbers. Our committee members increased last year and we now regularly see at least ten members at each meeting, this is without any leaders there!

Without a doubt this is showing on our fayres and events with much more support being found from within the parents of the young people. Working with the Chairman, I have had to adapt the attitudes of several people into accepting that some people can only help for an hour every now and again, but that hour is an hour that I don't have to find! No longer can we expect parents to show their faces from 9am to 9pm every time, life has changed!

The Beavers have enjoyed taking part in most of the District and County organised activities, taking part in their Explorer, Experiment award badges and their Discovery and Friendship Challenge Awards. Two beavers have also managed to pass their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

The Cub Section has also been incredibly busy throughout the year, attending all of the District events except for the quiz, which Akela forgot all about! (Is that a sign of old age setting in?), including last years District Camp, 'I'm a Cub, get me outta here!!' where fortunately? they all managed to escape at the end! The Scouts camped jointly with Bransgore, in a back to basics camp, where camp ovens were built, hikes were walked, backwoods dinners were 'cooked' and the Beavers came out to visit us during the weekend. The Cubs have also attempted their Scientists badge, Outdoor and Adventure Challenges to name just a few.

At Sports Day, all three sections took part, with the Beavers and the Scouts both achieving second place, well done to all of you.

In June the Cubs trundled up the M3 and joined in the Medieval Day at Gillwell Park, a day which I am sure they never will forget.

Due to Leaders' work commitments, this years Scout Summer Camp was different from previous years as we only camped for a weekend instead of a week. It started well with a quite unique experience, putting up two Icelandics in the dark!

After the summer break, two new faces joined the Cubs, Kaa (Barry Houston) as a helper and Hathi (Will Shaylor) a young leader. These were two very welcome additions as cub numbers had been increasing over the months. Then, shock, horror! Somerset Cubs attended the swimming gala!!!! As numbers had increased it became possible to get a team up together and enter a competition that we hadn't been in for some time. It felt good to be there taking part.

The DC visited our Group's Autumn Camp to present the Group with the Environment Award, which we had been working towards all of the year. With the activities that took place that weekend, it was extremely worthwhile and I think most of the young people gained a terrific amount of knowledge from our work.

The colony also racked up some more nights away, when they joined in with the Group camp in October and successfully ran two individual nights away, so that more could complete the experience. I hope that throughout this year they will endeavour to try and earn at least two nights each.

At this year's Christmas Show, the Beavers suffered when some of the cast caught the sickness bug that was doing the rounds at the time, never the less, with some fine wooden acting the young leaders stepped in as the trees!! The Cubs managed to put on a fine Nativity show and the Scouts put on Grease in 30 minutes. This year we held an additional show on the Saturday afternoon,

which I believe, helped as the evening show was far more polished! The afternoon shows were 'different' with things going slightly askew, but the audience laughed anyway!!

After the winter break, Den took the cubs on their IT badge, where after a few weeks, we visited the Civic Offices and used some of their equipment to investigate the Internet and the wonderful world of email. All passed their first stage and Den is still marking some of those who may have passed further stages.

The Beavers have now just welcomed Gemma Hayward (a former Somerford Scout) as a young leader with the colony and with the imminent transfer of Anne-marie from a young leader into a Warranted Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, things are looking up for the colony.

The Scouts held their Winter Break camp, where the young people just spend the days together having fun, and then in March visited Osmington Bay for a weekend of activities.

The year was finished with probably the biggest District event of the lot, the Gang Show. I was extremely proud to see Somerford well represented throughout the cast, production and backstage crew and hope that they all enjoyed their time in the spotlight.

Without a doubt it has been very busy, both on the uniformed front and in the shadows working with the committee. I am proud to say that Somerford is starting to emerge into the daylight, there will be many more challenges face the Group over the future years, putting hurdles in the way that we shall have to overcome and will overcome.

Dennis Miller
Group Scout Leader

Awards 2004-2005

MEDAL OF MERIT

Mark Flexman	District Commissioner	
Peter Andrews	Member	District Scout Fellowship
Angela Budd	AGSL	5 th Christchurch (Highcliffe)

CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

Barbara Andrews	Member	District Scout Fellowship
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THANKS BADGE

Rev. Hugh Williams	District Chaplain	
Mary Domoracki	Secretary	5 th Christchurch (Highcliffe)

CHIEF SCOUT'S LONG SERVICE DECORATION (40 years)

David Cunliffe	President	District Scout Fellowship
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BAR TO THE LONG SERVICE DECORATION (25 years)

Roger Milton	Bandmaster	District Scout and Guide Band
Steve Potter	Member	District Scout Fellowship

LONG SERVICE DECORATION (15 years)

Mark Flexman	District Commissioner	
Anne Ashman	Member	District Scout Fellowship
Nigel Davies	Member	District Scout Fellowship
Jackie Jones	Member	District Scout Fellowship
Ken Randall	Member	District Scout Fellowship
Dennis Miller	GSL	20 th Christchurch (Somerford)

10 YEAR SERVICE CERTIFICATE

Debbie Jarvis	ABSL	1 st Christchurch (Town)
Ken Savage	Troop Assistant	2 nd Christchurch (Scoutlink)
Jackie Jones	Member	District Scout Fellowship

5 YEAR SERVICE CERTIFICATE

Dennis Hughes	District Chairman	
Tony Bolt	Chairman	Braggers Wood
Pauline Wester	Member	District Scout Fellowship
Sandra Bonney	Treasurer	1 st Christchurch (Town)
David Stribling	Chairman	3 rd Christchurch (Jumpers)
Mary Domoracki	Secretary	5 th Christchurch (Highcliffe)
Amy Donaldson	ASL	8 th Christchurch (Burton)
Jeff Eden	SL	8 th Christchurch (Burton)
Graham Smith	ABSL	20 th Christchurch (Somerford)

WOOD BADGE

Adam Huxley	ACSL	6 th Christchurch (Bransgore)
Richard Ashdown	ASL	10 th Christchurch (Mudeford)