



Christchurch & District Scout Council

Annual Reports

2007

District Commissioner

Wow what a year we've had. Is it June already?

Looking at the reports contained within this book and the experiences I have had over the last twelve months I am still astounded and proud at how much time and effort is put into Scouting by all our adult volunteer helpers, supporters, committee members and leaders to make the District the success that it is.

Unfortunately we have had a few Groups and areas of the District who have had more than their fair share of problems to deal with over the last year and this was reflected by a disappointing drop in members in this years census. By pulling together I hope that we have put things in place to improve matters and I have no doubt, from past experience that all of us will continue to work as hard as we can to ensure that Scouting succeed and grow in all areas of the District.

A few dear friends of Scouting have 'Gone Home' this year and a number of Scouting stalwarts have unfortunately decided to hang up their scarves and leave us in 2007. On behalf of all of us in Christchurch I thank you all for the time you have spent with our Young People, for the knowledge you have shared and for the experiences you have given them. You have all made a difference to their lives which they will remember always. I hope that we can encourage you back into Scouting sometime in the near future.

Last year we celebrated Beavers reaching the grand old age of 20 and Cubs making it to a sprightly 90 years of age. This year, as you know, the calendar is full of events and activities marking 100 years of Scouting. At the time of writing this we have already had a busy but fun time and more details of our adventures will appear in next year's report.

In the next few years some of our Groups will also be celebrating significant birthdays and celebrating continuous Scouting in their respective areas of Christchurch – Town will be 100 in 2008 and Jumpers will be 90 in 2009. I know that plans are afoot to celebrate in appropriate and fun ways!

In celebration of Scouting's centenary, Stephen Head has spent the last few years researching and updating the History Book which was printed in recognition of Ken Old's service to Christchurch and his retirement as District Commissioner in 1999. I am delighted to say that this hard backed book has been professionally printed and is now available for purchase at just £8 per copy. Limited to just 500 copies, each book is individually numbered and is a must have keepsake of this special year of Scouting. I encourage you all to purchase one and spread the word to all your members, parents, supporters, friends and family. Further details can be found on our website, or feel free to get in touch with me.



This year is already proving to be a truly memorable one and I am so pleased and proud to be part of the celebrations and a member of Scouting at this exciting time. Yes it will be hard work but looking at the smiles on our Young People's faces as they go home from an activity, or hearing their comments about how much fun they have had should be remembered and treasured. After all that's why we are all playing this game we call Scouting.

I wish you all the best for the coming year and send you my very sincere thanks and appreciation for all your efforts and hard work. Keep happy, keep smiling, enjoy your Scouting and remember rain is just liquid sunshine ☺.

Mark Flexman
District Commissioner

Assistant District Commissioner (Beavers)



This year has been a year of celebration of 20 years of Beaver Scouting and any celebration is usually followed by cake, so it's been a good year for Beavers.

St. George's Day Parade was well attended by the Beaver Section with most Colonies attending.

A Beaver Adventure Day in April was held for the older Beavers who were going up to Cubs. Activities provided included archery, trail, backwards cooking and gardening.

In June the County held their Fun Day at Buddens and two Colonies attended. Christchurch District Beavers were asked to provide a Garden Project which can be seen at Buddens. The theme being "Land of the Silver Birch, home of the Beaver". Sadly the silver birch has since died but will be replaced eventually. Christchurch Scout Fellowship provided help with the project and thanks must go to James Morton for kindly donating the garden seat.

The District Poster Competition was held at the CSC and the theme was "A day on holiday". Five Colonies attended with Jumpers Beavers being the winners, who represented Christchurch at the County Poster Competition. Christchurch were the winners in 2005 and had to provide the venue for 2006. Jumpers Beavers came second in the County competition at the CSC.

Next it was cake at Moors Valley Country Park for the District Fun Day and celebration of 20 years of Beaver Scouting. A great time was had by the Beavers going on trails, adventure playgrounds and model railways. You can always judge the success of an event by how tired the Leaders are. It was a great success and thanks to the District for providing the cake, it was delicious.

The next event was the District Beaver Party held at Burton School when the Beavers were entertained by Barney Bay and played games and had tea. They all had a great time mostly because I was unable to attend. Thanks must go to all the Leaders and helpers that made it a success.

Finally it is time to thank the many people that make the Christchurch Beaver Section such a great and formidable section that they are. Thanks go to my fellow ADCs, Christchurch Scout Fellowship for their help and support, and to all the Leaders, Helpers and Young Leaders who constantly provide activities each week so Beaver Scouts can have Fun and Friends.

Peter Andrews
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 are numbers are up once again.

At the end of May last year four packs took part in our annual Spring Bank Holiday Camp at Braggers Wood. Our theme was Medieval and competition between the packs to make their area look the part was keen, work going on until the early hours! As usual a good time was had by all.

At the beginning of June the Cub District Sports Shield was won by Bransgore maintaining their winning streak. At the end of the month 75 cubs attended the Athletes Badge evening at Christchurch Junior School, 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 – canoeing, sailing climbing to name a few. This camp is always a favourite with cubs and Leaders alike.

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 to celebrate 90 years of Cub Scouting with an outing to Brownsea Island. All packs were able to come and the weather was kind to us. After taking part in activities run by the National Trust we walked to the Scout Camp site for lunch and a slice of Birthday cake and then strolled back along the beach to catch the ferry home. As we practically filled the ferry other hopeful passengers were disappointed. We shared the remains of our cake with the few who managed to get on board and arrived home tired but happy.

Also in September we held our annual District Quiz. Town were the winners 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 the trophy back from Mundeford.

Our Chief Scouts Awards presentation evening was held once again 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 each year.

November brought, for some, the most popular event of the calendar, Five-a-side Football. In a nail biting final the trophy was won by Burton who have been keen competitors but not won for a number of years

This years Sixers & Seconders Christmas Party was held at Millstream Raceway – a giant slot car racing track. Although not attend by all packs those who came made the most of the extra goes that meant and were a lot more adept than the Leaders who were willing to show themselves up.

The Scrap Store Challenge this year was to make a scene from the next Doctor Who movie complete with aliens. As well as marks for teamwork, organisation and creativity points were awarded for how many aliens were invented – sadly we couldn't count the ones hiding in the space ships! Bransgore's model won them the trophy and a place in the County competition.

The sun shone once again on our District Hike in the New forest on a sunny spring day. 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.

I would like to welcome all new Assistant Leaders and helpers to the District, and as usual 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 weather for Spring Bank Holiday camp was good to us and saw Bransgore, Highcliffe and Somerford undertaking various tasks in preparation for Emlyn.

A full orienteering course was set out in the New Forest for the Sunday afternoon with the Scouts trying to visit twenty seven sites in an hour and collect up to 1000 points. Most only managed 10-12!

A glorious sunny day added to the fun of Sports day. Somerford took most of the honours, but twenty six of the forty scouts taking part gained their Athletics badge, with a few of the remainder able to improve their points through school events. The disappointing part of the day was the lack of support from two of the troops.

Two weeks later another glorious weekend heralded this years Emlyn competition. Nine patrols took part in a series of bases together with cooking a three course meal on wood. Free time was taken up with "spare time activities". A good time was had by all with a mixed patrol from Somerford taking the honours this year and representing the District in the County banner two weeks later.

And "didn't they do well" – bringing back the County banner as winners by a margin of four points.

The new Scout year again started with the swimming gala. Once again Mudeford took the trophy, with Bransgore as runners up.

The usual problems arose with the start of the 5 – a – side football competition in November. One team failed to turn up and the first ½ hour of the session was double booked! However after a shaky start, some good football was played, with Highcliffe retaining the trophy for a second year.

Our centenary year started with the Cooking competition. The standard here gets better every year and the Scouts are to be congratulated on some excellent meals and table decorations and layouts. Certainly the judges find their job getting harder every year. By a very close margin the competition was won by Burton, with Mudeford as runners up. Highcliffe won the new "super sweet" trophy.

Two weeks later Burton and Mudeford represented Christchurch at the County competition. Mudeford were just pipped into third place, but Burton maintained their standard and won this competition, going forward with a team from Bournemouth to the region final in March.

Thirteen teams took part in this competition and initially Burton was placed first. However, after a delay of forty eight hours and a recount, it was discovered that an error had been made and that they were in fact second. This was still a tremendous achievement, and after intervention by the two County Commissioners, it was agreed that the two teams would in fact share the trophy for six months each.

We are now looking forward to the remainder of our centenary year, and all the great events coming up.

I cannot end, without once again thanking all the leaders, and particularly my Fellowship colleagues for all the help and support they have given both me and the Scouts during the year. Without them most of the above would have been impossible.

Brian Davies
ADC Scouts

Explorers



Where do I start? The year has seen some fairly major changes within the section, some for the good and some maybe not so.

We started the year with a good number attending the Tuesday night meetings and went to Ireland for Summer Camp – the first time I've ever flown to a summer camp! - Despite some interesting discussions with Car Hire Companies the trip went well. Ireland is a lovely Country and the Irish made us very welcome. As it was a foreign country the tourist bits had to be done, Guinness, Jamesons etc. but at the same time the opportunity to get and see Ireland was also taken.

After the Summer break we welcomed Ann Davies as our new Explorer Leader and I retired to the peace and quiet of the Young Leader Scheme! Unfortunately things didn't work out and Ann left us at the end of the year. Whilst her stay with us was brief I would like to thank her, and Nigel, for what she did with the Unit.

That meant that I was back in the hot seat, but as Adam had gone to Luton and Oli going to the USA for pilot training leaders were thin on the ground. This combined with falling numbers, partly due to older members moving on, meant that the decision had to be taken to suspend the Unit for the time being. I know all sections and all Groups are looking for help, but if anyone is interested in working with the 14-18 age group please let Mark know.

Those members that were still with us are, hopefully, joining with the Unit at Mudeford so the opportunity for Explorer Scouting in Christchurch is still there.

As I mentioned above I retired back to the Young Leader Scheme, and have since September managed to run a couple of introductory modules and a very successful, well I thought so, training weekend at Braggers Wood. The Young people involved in the scheme are all enthusiastic and will, in turn, make good leaders in the future.

I am planning more courses and meetings for the future and if you have anyone of Explorer age helping you who I have not been in contact with please let me know.

Finally just to say thank you to all who have helped with the section over the past year – to Ann, Oli, Adam, Sally, and especially Rob (without whom the unit would have fallen long ago) and to Brian, Sheila and Vicky for their help on the Young Leader weekend.

Christopher Root
Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leaders)

Assistant District Commissioner (Adult Support)



This has been a very interesting year, especially in my additional role as Appointments Secretary. Having ploughed through most of the back log of information and collating it on our database we can hopefully see a light at the end of the tunnel with regards to accurate records.

I would personally like to thank everyone for their patience in this matter.

We have seen a lot of 'younger' leaders coming through the appointments process which is great news and I am also extremely pleased at how the training process for Modules 1 and 3 has moved on over the last few months. We did have a huge back log of leaders that had slipped the net but I can now confirm that we only have the odd few which are being addressed.

Because of this it has been good to see lots of new warrants coming through and being presented.

We have also had a great response to the First Response information and can confirm that my list of 125 not recorded as having First Response is down to under 30

I will be focusing on this over the coming months as we MUST get everyone covered with First Response. There will be a course in October, and I will be writing to all the ones that are out of date or do not have the qualification to hopefully book them on this course. Please can you all do your best to encourage everyone to make sure they are First Response qualified as this is very important.

On the matter of CRB forms, we do seem to have quite a few 'gaps' with regards to CRB forms especially with long standing leaders. I know this is causing a little concern as many are saying that they have done them. However, if we do not have the actual CRB form and there is no record than we really do need to do a new one to make sure they are covered. It is better to be safe than sorry as I am sure you all agree.

So on that note PLEASE can you all make sure that if I have asked for a CRB form to be completed that you explain why this is needed and get them to me as soon as possible. Headquarters are taking about two months to get them back to me.

Finally I would like to thank you all for all your support over the last few months. It has been challenging but I do feel positive that we are on the right tracks and moving forward and hope that the communication process on informing you all of what is going on etc is helping you all.

Carol Ward
ADC Adult Support
District Appointments Secretary

Braggers Wood Camping and Activity Centre



The past year has been a very busy and successful, although hard at times owing the limited amount of help that we have received.

As part of the Centenary celebration the woodland trust sponsored 100 Scout areas with trees and hedgerow bushes to make centenary groves and Braggers was successful in their application to take part of this and saw 2000 trees/bushes being planted in April and I would like to thank

those who came up and helped us do this.

Camper nights in 2006 /2007 increased on other years including more sections in the District using the site which is very pleasing.

Due to the age and poor state of the camp staff building (The Retreat) it was removed this year and a caravan has been temporarily sited until a new building is put in place. We are also looking into replacing Georges Den as again this building is getting past its sell by date therefore if anyone has any ideas of replacement building I would appreciate having comments.

Looking to the forthcoming year, the 1st week of the School holidays is very busy and the following week is fully booked being the week with the sunrise celebration, also we are hosting the European Scout Federation for their annual Jamboree who are bringing in the region of 600 scouts from 6 Countries. Plans are well on the way for 1st August including the sunrise celebration for all on site and Christchurch Beavers with a day of activities concluding with a barbecue and campfire.

Sadly after a long illness we saw the death of Dot Haynes who had been a long standing member of Staff for many years and offer our condolences to her family

In order for Braggers to function and run as a successful site it takes a lot of effort and time and unfortunately seems to fall on the usual few. In order to make this a lot easier I would appreciate hearing from anyone who is interested in helping at Braggers and I will arrange for them to become part of the team. This can be in the way of helping in the day to day running of the site or taking activities, for which Braggers will pay for activity instructors to be trained.

In Closing I would like to thank all the staff and instructors, Tony and the Committee and my assistant Dave Tickner for all the hard work he does in making my job easier and for it to Braggers function as it does and finally to my Wife Kerrie for all the support she gives me in my role at the site.

Mike Taylor
Camp Warden

Scout and Guide Band



We have attended many parades over the last year, including the Christchurch Civil Ceremony, Burton Scout Carnival and Bransgore school carnival. Two of our buglers were invited to play the Last Post at the anniversary of the Suez Canal for the Christchurch Navel Association. We also attended New Milton

Remembrance Day Parade, New Milton Christmas carnival and Wimborne Christmas parade. In February we joined six other bands in the Massed Youth Band concert at Canford Magna School. In April we joined together with Bournemouth Scout Band to Lead the St. Georges day parade in Dorchester.

In January we held our Presentation evening with awards for Best Bugler going to Will Hoad, Runner-up Bugler going to Melissa Dwight, Best Percussionist was awarded to Chris Manley, Runner-up Percussionist awarded to Jade Newman and Jim Tallent, Person Who tried Hardest went to Katrina Dwight and Ian Smewing, Attendance trophy went to Rob Paines and the Band Masters Trophy was awarded to Chris Manley.

The band is still in demand and most weekends can be seen at various Fetes and functions around the area and are constantly being asked to return to events they have previously performed at. In some cases they are booked to appear the following year immediately they have completed their initial performance.

Roger Milton
Bandmaster

Gang Show



Writing here, my first report, it seems so long ago that I was first involved with Gang Show. Well, I would hope that you could forgive a 3-month-old baby for not remembering their first experience!

Being handed this role is more that I could have ever hoped for back then and indeed more than I had ever thought could be achieved when I first joined the gang as a Cub a couple of years ago.....HEY! Who's counting!

Taking over from Janet, having the opportunity to have worked with the Gang with both Brett Jones and previous to that James Morton, I have some hard acts to follow – Pardon all puns!

Janet finished last years report, detailing some of the work that Lisa Jeans, Pete Old and Alex Sachs were planning to undertake by running a workshop in the hope of providing a taste for future Gang Members. The day was a great success, with Drama, Song, Scenery and Sound all being used as bases. I have yet to get Frank (our scenery painter) for painting everything other than the props we had available!

We had hoped this would have been the springboard to set the interest for a Show in the centenary year. Unfortunately this wasn't to be, as there were to be further changes that were to prevent this from happening.

On the 9th October Janet handed in her resignation as Chairman and Ann her resignation as Secretary. Steve Potter had resigned as producer and Dave Ward had been taken away from where he had hoped to be due to personal commitments. The need to re-structure the Gang became more apparent at this stage.

My appointment was announced on 12th December 2006, which was the start for the changes and re-structure for the New Gang Show. It has always been my belief that as one door closes another opens. The loss of Steves West End styled musical talents and Daves eye for numbers that stretch the realms of our imagination, has resulted in an interesting challenge. One that I now believe has opened the next door!

Last Year Janet also reported the importance, for the future of Christchurch Gang Show, to provide opportunities to our younger adults, on the grounds that they will be our future Producers. This has never been so apparent as it is now, the future for the long-term benefits of the show, does not lie in the "back row", although it does lie with them when it comes to discipline and support!

I sent out an email to "The List" requesting support and people to come forward. Fir those who may sit here reading this and suggest that Gang Show is over, I will share wit hyou a few words in response to my first email....."You have completely captured what Gang Show is about. I know that I would never have done half of the things that I have today without the confidence that Gang Show gave me."

My belief in Gang Show and its power and importance for the youth to "Have a Go" has never been so strong. This email reaffirmed my belief!

For those who appointed me, I promise you that "I will do my best" to ensure that the Gang remains for the foreseeable future. I need you and all those involved with the gang, to promise that you will play your part in ensuring that the Youth have their chance to be part too!

I conclude my report by thanking both Janet and Ann for everything they have done for the Gang as Chairman and Treasurer! I welcome Janet back as Secretary and I would like to thank Tony for continuing as Treasurer. I thank all of the new committee members – we have a great deal to do! And finally I wish to thank all of the helpers that have been and continue to be involved with the Gang!

Des Whitney
Gang Show Chairman

Scout Fellowship

Well here we are again another year has flashed by, we seem to go from strength to strength and this of course is down to the loyalty and dedication of all its members, we have two new members who have recently joined us.

Unfortunately some of our members have not enjoyed a very good year health wise and we wish them a better year this year. In May Sylvia and Tony hosted a plant sale at their home – a very enjoyable afternoon despite the rain.

Some of our members assisted at the District sports day and also at the Beaver fun day at Buddens. Our members helped at various activities with different Groups throughout the District and also at outside of our District. The District Commissioner of Bournemouth Avon asked if some members would attend a meeting at Butchers Coppice to explain how we came to have such a successful group. About 12 of us attended and when we left they had a Chairman and a Secretary and so I hope they are now running a strong Fellowship.

We had another good time at the regatta with the ladies doing cream teas and some members manning the gates.

In September about 20 of us went to Forde Abbey for the annual Fellowship day another good day was had by all. In September we again organised the car parking for the New Forest Marathon.

In October Alan organised a walk in the forest for the fit and able. Some of us decided we were too fit and met in Burley for a very enjoyable pub lunch! Our team won the County Quiz yet again – well done to all those who took part.

Tommy's night was again a great success with Ken Randall the eventual winner. Some of us attended the Founders Day service on Brownsea and in December we held our Carol Service again at the High Cross Church in Somerford. We were able to welcome the ACC Fellowship, the County Commissioner and of course our own District Commissioner. Lessons were read by six members of the Fellowship during a very nice service which was followed by tea and mince pies with entertainment provided by the St. George's bell ringers. The Peace Light service was held at the Priory Church.

Well I reckon that's enough from me except to thank all our members for their help and support over the last 12 months. I must of course thank Chris, Tony and Peter for all their hard work behind the scenes and I must not forget the A team who are always there when we need them. Last but not least a big thankyou to Peter our Vice-Chairman for looking after things when I am unavailable.

Derek Blake
Chairman

1st Christchurch (Town)

Another year over, the group is going through a few changes at present, numbers have remained strong within the group thanks to the excellent team of leaders we have.

2006-7 has been a difficult year for Town as we struggled to make progress with our building refurbishment / rebuilding plans. Various obstacles have been identified and have been or are being worked around currently.

During 2007 Scouting nationally is celebrating the Centenary of Scouting, next year 2008, 1st Christchurch (Town) Scout Group is itself 100 years old, making it one of the longest running groups in the world.

As a part of our own group celebrations next year we are planning a number of special events, including-

A service of Celebration at The Priory Church, 10th February 2008.

A weekend event at Braggers Wood over the weekend 21st / 22nd June 2008. We have invited the Chief Scout, and we are actively searching for old members of the group.

Please contact me for more details.

Following his retirement as Group Chairman, I would like to thank Mr Robert Phillipson for his many years of dedicated support and work for the group.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise all the members of the Executive committee, building committee and fund raising committee and to thank them for all their hard work on behalf or the group.

Finally a big thanks to all the uniformed and non uniformed leaders without whom the group could not function.

Looking forward to another year as we start planning the group's own 100 year anniversary in 2008.

Kevin Wall
Group Scout Leader

2nd Christchurch (Scoutlink)

This year has seen continued hard work by the leaders and scouts, with some major changes to our meetings. However we are continually striving to ensure the best possible scouting experience for our scouts. I would like to thank the leaders and their assistants for their sterling help this year. We are going to lose some of our young people in the coming year as they continue their education and we would ask if any of you know anyone who could help us, even if it is on a rota basis, that you ask them to contact us. I can honestly say that however much I don't look forward to coming out on a scoutlink evening, once I am here, the buzz I get is tremendous and I can recommend it to anyone.

As duty group we organised the Scout Leaders Service for ST George's Day, and had out new Union Flag blessed. I would like to thank Gemma, Vicki, Jenni and Natalie for their contributions to the service, I was so proud of them when some of them read in church (which none of them were looking forward to) and some presented the flag for the blessing. It showed the District what a young team of leaders we have, in what must be the most demanding group in Christchurch, so well done the. WE pass the District duties to Jumpers at the centenary BBQ next week, but can look back with pride on our year.

Fundraising has been an issue, and I would just like to draw people's attention to the buy.at website, this enables you to buy direct from the suppliers, you actually order from their website not buy.at so you get usual service, and we just get the commission. Easy, and I have tried it with M&S and it worked a treat. Use the cards to go onto the website and see what retailers there are, who you might want to use sometime.

Some of you may not be aware of the costs of running a Scout Group, we have to pay capitation for scouts and leaders to county/HQ, we have to have insurance for our activities and equipment, we have to pay for the compulsory training of our leaders, we choose to subsidise uniform expenses for our young leaders, in addition to buying equipment, paying for activities etc. As grants for young people become more difficult to get we have to focus our efforts on fundraising, to ensure we can continue to provide a range of experiences for our Scouts. There is a flyer with some of the ways you can help, please talk to one of us if you want any more information.

Sandy Latham
Group Scout Leader

3rd Christchurch (Jumpers)

Last year I reported that we were facing serious challenges to find more support for the Group, especially in finding adults prepared to take on the responsibility of Leadership. This year our serious challenge has become critical. At the end of the school summer holidays we will not have any warranted Leaders to run the Scout Troop. If we can not find suitable volunteers we will have to close the Troop, this will be a very sad decision especially in the year where we are celebrating the centenary of the movement. Dave Sawyer, Mark Barber and Jon Adams have all been in the Group since they were boys, it will be a great loss when they leave after so many years of loyal service to Jumpers. Our thanks to you and best wishes for the future.

I am pleased to report that Annabel Major has taken over the Leadership of the Beavers again, she is supported by a great team, but we still need an Assistant Beaver Leader to help run the Colony and take some of the responsibility from Annabel. From Christmas 2005 to the summer of 2006 the Colony was run by the Cub Leaders, the Group thanks these loyal and committed Leaders who gave up so much of their time to ensure that the youngsters have a great time.

Another change this year saw our Chairman David Stribling resign his involvement with the Group after almost 5 years in the chair and many years previously to that supporting our activities. Dave is a good friend and loyal man who I know struggled with his decision, I record our thanks to him. I am pleased to report that Des Whitney has taken over the Chairman's office after 5 years as our Treasurer. A position that he performed with great skill and enthusiasm. We are very pleased to have recruited Debbie Bartlett to succeed him.

The big event of the year was our annual Family Camp, we had a fantastic time again. There is a lot of organisation for which we have to thank David Crumpler. Sadly this year we will not be holding Family Camp, with so many centenary events running we can not find a weekend to fit it in.

Behind the scenes the Group Committee continue to support the Group in a fantastic way, their biggest area of work is fundraising and again we have been very successful this year. Included within this is the annual Jumble Sale, Plant Sale Bonfire Night and Charity Stall. The significant purchase that we have made this year is a large trailer that we are using to move our equipment about.

As a Group we continue to support all of the District Events. I am proud to report that again Jumpers have represented the District at a County Competition, having won the Beaver Poster Competition our team went on to gain second place in County, well done to you all. This year the District are running a Centenary Celebration Day to be held on Christchurch Quay on July 14. It is our Chairman Des' idea and he is the driving force behind what will be a great day out and celebration of the Movement in the town. Des has also taken on the role as Chairman of the District Gang Show, as a Group we have always supported the show and we hope that under his stewardship we will be treading the boards again. It is pleasing that the Group has a representative going to the 2007 World Scout Jamboree, congratulations to Hedgehog our young Leader in Beavers who has been selected to join one of the two Units that Dorset County Scouts are sending. Hedgehog has been made a Patrol Leader in her Unit, we know that she will be displaying the caring leadership skills that her time with Jumpers Beavers has helped her to develop.

The Beavers Cubs & Scouts sections continue to inspire their young people, you will find full details within the individual section reports. The quality and variety of events and activities, in addition to the weekly programme is excellent, from camping to climbing, performing to parading we continue to offer wide ranging and stimulating opportunities and experiences. On behalf of the boys, and their parents a big thank you to all of the Leaders, Helpers and Committee Members for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Richard Stevenson
Group Scout Leader

5th Christchurch (Highcliffe)

This report is a testimony to all the young people and adults whose hard work and commitment make our Scout Group what it is - something to be proud of.

The Beavers have had another successful year coming first in the Christmas Carnival as Rocking Reindeer and Santas, second and third in the District Poster Competition; and third in the District Sports Day. They all enjoyed the District Fun Day to Moors Valley and some of them visited the Cubs at District Camp.

Other highlights include the climbing tower, hike through Chewton Bunny, Pirates and Treasure hunt on the beach, a really well supported family quiz night, action man scenes and dens, fireworks and jacket potatoes, a Christmas party ski bobbing and ringos at Matchams, and a visit to Highcliffe Church where they chatted with Rev Garry. Helen and Julie will finish as leaders of the colony at the end of the summer term. Currently there are no spare leaders in the group to replace them.

The Cubs enjoyed District Camp last May and the sixers and seconders really enjoyed the District organised sixers and seconders camp where they went sailing, climbed up and abseiled down the climbing wall and went kayaking. Some of the youngsters had never tried these activities before.

The pack went to Brownsea Island to celebrate 90 years of Cub Scouting and Jessica and Josh took lots of photographs of the peacocks who wanted to share everyone's lunch. They held Karaoke disco to which they invited the Beavers, Scouts and the youngsters from Scout Link. All those who came really enjoyed it. The pack took part in District Sports Day, the Forest Trail Hike, enjoyed a Christmas treat to Scalelectrix.

The Troop received the District Night Hike winner's trophy at last years Group AGM. At the District Emlyn Trophy Camping competition Holly, Will, Chris, Jack, Philip and mini Will represented the troop. They were presented with the Ken Hart runners up trophy although it became apparent once the trophies had been presented and the result sheets analysed that they were clear winners, and should have represented the District at the County Competition.

Summer Camp was spent at Youlbury National Campsite in Oxford where activities such as a hike along the Thames, rifle shooting, swimming, archery, climbing, night hike, and a day visit to London to the Museum at Greenwich by minibus, over and underground and boat. Having camped with them for the week I would like to congratulate all of them on their camping skills, particularly the patrol leaders and assistants on the way they promote the patrol system, and look after and encourage their younger members. They are a credit to themselves and Scouting.

When it came to the District Five a side football competition it was left to big Will and Mitch to organise the team. Again they came up trumps encouraging some of the newer scouts and organising coaching sessions after school. Despite not fielding the strongest team they brought the trophy home, once again illustrating their philosophy of encouraging everyone to have a go and that wining is the bonus.

After Christmas Holly handed over the reigns of her patrol to Andrew. She is quickly becoming a very able Young Leader with the troop. At this point the success of the troop became apparent with the number of youngsters moving up from Cubs, and a third patrol created.

Our patrol of big Will, Andy, Chris, and mini Will came third by three points in the District Cooking Competition. It was a tough call because you had to devise a three course meal within a budget of £15 to celebrate the Centenary.

Frost bite camp was once again held at Fernycroft and for some of the youngsters their first scout camp. Work and other commitments affect all the leaders in the group and we were fortunate that Graham Marwick, Burton Scout Leader, was available to help on this occasion – thanks Graham.

Our executive committee has in recent years been struggling for new members and in particular a Chairman, so a really big thank you to those parents who have come forward and offered their services. Alan Perkins our treasurer for the last three years is standing down at this AGM, I would like to thank him not only for looking after our finances, but for his sound advice, encouragement and support.

With money received back from HM Taxes we were able to install new heating in the hall. If you have yet to complete a Gift Aid form please do so - in the words of that famous supermarket chain 'every little helps!' Along with the Guides we were honoured to be chosen by Highcliffe Carnival Committee to be recipients of the money raised at Christmas. We not only received a cheque but it allowed both organisations to be recognised publicly by the village. We have once again just had another successful plant sale thanks to Marion Birtles and her team of helpers leading and inducing enthusiasm in the rest of us!

In this Centenary Year of Scouting it is even more apparent that teams - whether they are lodges, sixes, patrols, leaders or committees - bond our group together, and I feel uniquely privileged to have worked with them all. My thanks as always goes to all the leaders who give our children such wonderful opportunities; to the Group Executive for supporting us both financially and administratively; to all of the parents who entrust us with the care of their youngsters, support events and activities, ensure the youngsters arrive on time and in uniform; but especially to the youngsters themselves who make it all worthwhile.

Angela Budd
Group Scout Leader

6th Christchurch (Bransgore)

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

We continue to tightly manage our numbers within the group with waiting lists now in each section. At the census this year Beavers had reduced by 3 to 14 and Cubs unchanged at 22. Scouts reduced from 42 to 38, which is a more manageable number but still high. With very low attrition and without an influx of new leaders to allow us to open new units it could potentially be many years before we have more balanced numbers again across the sections. Regrettably this will result in some young people missing out on the opportunities, experiences and challenges of being a member of the Bransgore 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.

We have been actively trying all year to recruit new leaders and helpers in all sections within the group, but particularly in the Beavers, where both leaders are leaving in the summer. At the time of writing this, we have failed to find any new leaders, and as a result are now planning to close the Beaver colony from the summer. It is very disappointing as we are a very successful group, well resourced and appreciated in the Village, but without the adult leaders we cannot continue.

The committee has supported the group throughout the year. In common with most of the community buildings in the village we have continued to suffer from break-ins and mindless vandalism which has taken up a disproportionate amount of our time.

I continue to be impressed by the continued enthusiasm and commitment of the leadership team, who are all unpaid volunteers, who keep devising and delivering new and imaginative programmes in their sections that keep the interest and motivation of our young people.

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.

Graham Pedder
Group Scout Leader

8th Christchurch (Burton)

2006-7 was to have been a year of continued progress and of further gradual growth for our Group: it proved to be all of that and much more besides!

All three sections have enjoyed a successful year, participating in District, County and even Regional events with enthusiasm, determination and, ultimately, success. Further to last year's triumphs for our Cub pack in District and County Scrapstore Challenge, our Scout Troop went one better by winning the Regional Cookery Competition. We remain committed to encouraging our Young People to accumulate new skills and knowledge in a fun environment and this is evidence of that commitment.

We are delighted and proud that George Worden of our Group will be performing the duties of Mayor's Scout in the latter half of this year. This is the first time in a decade that Burton has been honoured in this way. George's development through Scouting has mirrored the progress made by the whole Group in recent years, and we are proud of this progress.

As a group, working within the framework of our five-year Action Plan, we have achieved many of our objectives already and are on the way to achieving others. The group has raised funds for re-equipping, and these have been spent on upgrading our Camping proposition in terms of canvas and of cooking equipment. Burton will be a distinctive presence at this year's Camps...

Our links with our village community prosper as ever: we took part once again in the Village Spring Clean this year, and were once again the largest presence on show. Our plans for a new building have taken a few sideways steps, but are moving forwards again, in harness with the local Football Club and with the support of Burton Guides and our resident Martial Arts club.

In the development of any Group, it is sometimes sadly necessary to say 'Farewell' to long-standing Leaders who we also count as friends, supporters and wise counsellors: this year we part company with Nicki Randall, who is 'trading up' to the purple of Fellowship; also Amy Kefford, who served the Group with distinction, spanned the transformation in our Scout Troop, and helped it to become the success it now is; Alan Smith, who served the Group tirelessly in many capacities and whose wisdom we hope to tap from time to time as a continuing member (I sincerely hope!) of our Executive Committee; Anne-Marie Allen, our brave Group Secretary for the past two years, and John Downer, who, after his long and distinguished stint as our Treasurer, continued to serve on the Executive Committee. We owe all of these people a huge debt of gratitude: young people of our village will bear witness to their wisdom and guidance over many years. As we are all too well aware, replacing people is never easy: replacing the knowledge, the skills and the wisdom they bring to the Group will be harder still. We will miss them all.

Burton is proud to be part of the 2007 Centenary celebrations, and we look forward to our own 70th birthday next year. Plans are beginning to hatch, and all are welcome to celebrate with us: your invitations will be forthcoming!

Peter Hayes
Group Scout Leader

10th Christchurch (Mudeford)

Once again I can report that Mudeford have again achieved more than ever over the past year with one or two difficulties in between.

The Beaver Colony have been running at full capacity for most of the year with a healthy waiting list, the surplus having been referred to District to try to get them all into the movement. The Beavers have worked very hard for their various badges and most have achieved their Outdoor Challenge over the summer. The Experiment Badge was gained by making a head out of tights filled with sawdust and grass seed sewn on the top filling the hut with green monsters! The annual sleepover Nights away 1 badge was held in the theme of an Indian Camp, all dressing up and sleeping in homemade tepees, always a popular night on their first night away from home for so many. Visits were made to the Bournemouth Aviation museum, the local fire station, the Electricity Museum in Christchurch which they all enjoyed very much.

Other activities included beach games and sandcastle competitions in the summer, an outing with the scouts for some sailing and powerboat experiences, the summer ending in our annual water fight and BBQ providing the parents an incite into Beaver activities. The Christmas outing was to Pizza Hut where the Beavers were invited to make their own pizzas with a grateful thanks to a great staff at Pizza Hut for looking after them. This special year commenced with them looking at the History of Scouting over the past 100 years with a competition to find a picture of the oldest scout (not including Baden Powel) and these are posted on the Beaver Notice Board in the hut. Further memorabilia are being added to the board during the year.

Many other activities took place including the planting of 150 trees at Braggers Wood culminating in the big parade at Dorchester which was a fantastic success. and enjoyed by all.

The Cub year commenced with the District Sports Day where many certificates were picked up so a great effort by all concerned. One of the highlights was an evening out with the scouts on the water in Christchurch Harbour where they had a taster boating session. A trip out to Braggers Wood for part of the Outdoor challenge before the term ended with a beach party and water fight always a favourite by all the boys and leaders.

District events included the Football competition where we reached the semi finals and the swimming gala where we achieved second place overall. They entered the District quiz night and did very well, the district hike and scrap store challenge was enjoyed by all. Overall a good and varied year, with a lot of activities.

How do I précis 5 pages down to 1 in the Scout section report? The year has been so busy which could not be achieved without a tremendous amount of time and dedication from all, which applies of course to all the sections.

Boating Events: 4/8 overall in the Blashford Regatta in June. Testwood Kayak Regatta in September, 8/12 in the small group, 6/12 in the Explorer section and an outright win in the doubles. We entered into several club races with Highcliffe Sailing Club over the summer months which is a great experience for the young people. As well as taking the Beavers and cubs on the water for taster sessions we took the Scoutlink boating which was a very special event and their members will remember the day for a long time.

As we are an official RYA training centre we run sailing and power boat training sessions on a voluntary basis for our members. Over the 4 years in the scout section they have the opportunity to complete all 4 youth levels of the sailing courses and both initial levels of power boating. 24 RYA Sail and Power certificates have been awarded over the past year.

The RN Swimming Competition at Plymouth was again held in Early February and with the expert hand of our past and present swimming instructors they managed to achieve 2nd place in the whole competition against the 26 RN recognised troops from all over the UK. Norwich have won the competition for the last 5 years, so it must be our turn next year!

We have had 6 camps over the year each with a different theme including Boating, cycling, hiking and football, all were very well attended.

The troop took part in the Scout Centenary celebrations with the "Challenge 100" celebration in which 3500 patrols took part, so they can all sport the "Join in Centenary" badge for their Friendship scarves.

Three special events took place (amongst others) with a visit to the new lifeboat station and launch facility at Mudeford Quay, a visit from a fully trained NHS paramedic who demonstrated the latest techniques in CPR (cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) And of course the planting of 400 sapling trees at Braggers Wood last month as part of the Global Conservation badge.

We seem to excel in the swimming and once again pulled off another outright win at the district gala, partly due to the intense training carried out in preparation for the RN competition. Football, cooking and first aid competitions were all entered into and although not overall winners did very well with very commendable results.

An enormous amount has been achieved over the past year and our thanks must go to all the leadership team. After over 18 years service with Mudeford, Roger and Jane Murray stepped down from the team in September and Keith Vinycomb took on the Scout Leadership position. All our thanks go out to Roger and Jane for their input to Mudeford over the years keeping the troop at the very high level for so long. It is very difficult to recruit such dedicated Adults in these times and we are all working very hard to keep the standard in the future.

Finally my personal thanks to all in Mudeford and support from District for keeping Mudeford the successful and thriving group that we are. Our committee have worked so hard and have raised over £7000 (including a healthy lottery grant) in fund raising. Unfortunately we will be losing some of our committee but hope to build a new committee to take us through into the next scouting year.

My personal thanks must go to Ashley for all his support over a sometimes difficult year and we look forward to renewed vigour in 2007/8.

Rob Maskell
Group Scout Leader

20th Christchurch (Somerford)

The year started with the Cubs working on the headquarters, applying a fresh coat of paint to pretty much everything they could see!! Still it made it look much brighter and all the young people and leaders laugh and smile!!

Both Cubs and Scouts went to District Camp at Braggers, with the cubs enjoying their usual themed approach, this year being 'Knights Away'. The young people went to sleep as usual on the Friday, only to wake up on the Saturday morning, to see our campsite had been transformed into a castle, complete with walls, gate and towers!! Rome wasn't built in a day, but our castle took just about an hour!! The Scouts spent the weekend brushing up their skills for the District Emlyn Trophy.

Unfortunately, the day after returning from an enjoyable camp, the Group was rocked with the sad news that it had lost one of its stalwarts, with the untimely death of 'Auntie Nettie'. A loss for the Group on both a personal and scouting level.

Sports Day saw all three sections join in and the Scouts returned successfully, with the Scout Section Trophy, the Group Relay and the Spreadbury Cup, a personal trophy, won by Josh Smits. June continued with the Scout Section enjoying victory at the District Emlyn Trophy, obviously the practice paid off! The Cubs spent June taking to the streets doing the Road Safety badge, learning the green cross code like we all used to many years ago!! We were very pleased to see they all showed a good knowledge in their road safety.

In July, the Cubs got on their bikes and cycled around the estate, mended punctures, cleaned and maintained their bikes, all for their cyclists badge. The Group then held their annual summer fayre, where we hit just thirty minutes after starting with probably the worst weather we have ever witnessed, with torrential rain flooding the ground, extreme winds wiping out several of the tented stalls. A disaster!! The Annual Group Rounders match, Parents v Uniforms, saw the parents continue their losing streak (with no score manipulation whatsoever this year!!) and the young people successful.

The Group then took a much needed summer break, with the Scouts going off to camp at FernyCrofts in the New Forest. Another wet week, but enjoyable.

After the summer, the three sections returned and started getting ready for our end of year Christmas celebrations, however the Scout Section had one small competition to deal with, the County Banner competition at Buddens Farm. The Scouts were representing Christchurch, after their success at the District Emlyn Trophy. The success continued with our patrol winning the competition. The Cub Section joined in the 90th Birthday celebrations of Cub Scouting, with a huge District Party held on Brownsea Island.

Nearing Christmas, with rehearsals continuing, we briefly interrupted them with our Group Camp in October. The Beavers visited during the Saturday and joined in the fun. The Cubs learnt all about adventure, with maps & compasses, tracking trails, backwoods cooking and shelter building. The Scouts also built shelters and slept out in theirs for the night, with a hot drink in the morning to make sure they were warm enough! Not to be outdone, the leaders also slept in a shelter they had built.

The Scouts joined in the Swimming Gala and enjoyed themselves. Sometimes it's nice to take part in something just for the fun, not for the competition. In November, both the Cubs and Scouts also took part in the District 5-a-side football competitions, again neither side were successful, but they both enjoyed taking part.

Christmas finally arrived and the three sections put on their shows. The Beavers entertained with a short play, the Cubs with their traditional Nativity Play and the Scouts with a play called 'Return to Toyland, starring every member of the troop and the leaders. The parents all enjoyed the shows and the performances were repeated on the Sunday, entertaining the elderly residents of Somerford, accompanied by a traditional Christmas meal, generously sponsored by Sainsbury's.

After the Christmas break, we returned ready to celebrate the biggest year ever for Scouting. The cubs have been following the Centenary programme and have experienced different styles of

dancing, different countries, craft and many different 100 challenges. The Scouts have been on a Winter Freeze camp at Braggers and running their own programmes over the term.

The success of Somerford has always been the way we interact with the young people. Working with them and not against them is the key. With some work we can ensure this message is used throughout the group and that parents know that we provide the very best for their children. We're not there yet, but we are getting there!

Without a doubt, this year has been an 'annus horribilis' with the very sad loss of some very key individuals within the Group and this has caused great sadness amongst the group on both personal and scouting levels. It has been a struggle to continue but the smiles on the children's faces do make you realise what they worked for and help to reinforce the reasons to continue.

Everybody who helps at Somerford knows they are appreciated and I thank them all for everything they do, whether it's the odd hour or regular help. Without them the task would be so much harder.

And to those who have passed on, we offer you our eternal thanks and our promise that you will always be remembered at Somerford, and beyond.

Dennis Miller
Group Scout Leader

Awards 2006-2007

SILVER WOLF

| | | |
|----------|--------|---------------------------|
| Bud Hine | Member | District Scout Fellowship |
|----------|--------|---------------------------|

MEDAL OF MERIT

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| John Downer | Group Treasurer | 8 th Christchurch (Burton) |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|

THANKS BADGE

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sue Elliott | Pack Assistant | 8 th Christchurch (Burton) |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|

CHIEF SCOUTS LONG SERVICE DECORATION (40 years)

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Sheila Davies | ADC (Cubs) | |
| Maureen Freeman | Member | District Scout Fellowship |
| Edward Terry | Member | District Scout Fellowship |

BAR TO THE LONG SERVICE DECORATION (25 years)

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Taylor | Camp Warden | Braggers Wood |
| Ron Barcham | Member | District Scout Fellowship |
| Martin Wester | Member | District Scout Fellowship |

LONG SERVICE DECORATION (15 years)

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Ann Morton | District Secretary | |
| Anita Penny | District Recruitment Coordinator | |
| Len Ebdon | Member | District Scout Fellowship |
| Robert Phillipson | Group Chairman | 1 st Christchurch (Town) |
| Des Whitney | Group Chairman | 3 rd Christchurch (Jumpers) |
| Shaun Flynn | CSL | 5 th Christchurch (Highcliffe) |
| Graham Pedder | GSL | 6 th Christchurch (Bransgore) |
| Caroline Loader | Colony Assistant | 10 th Christchurch (Mudeford) |

10 YEAR SERVICE CERTIFICATE

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Tim Barnes | Member | District Executive Committee |
| Tony Bolt | Chairman | Braggers Wood |
| Nick Stone | ESL | Mudeford Explorer Scout Unit |
| Nicola Haskell | CSL | 1 st Christchurch (Town) |
| Mark Barber | ASL | 3 rd Christchurch (Jumpers) |
| Crispin Farbrother | ASL | 6 th Christchurch (Bransgore) |
| Rosemary Noles | ABSL | 10 th Christchurch (Mudeford) |
| Carole Knight | Pack Assistant | 20 th Christchurch (Somerford) |

5 YEAR SERVICE CERTIFICATE

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| Charlotte Stribling | Member | District Executive Committee |
| Syliva Cumes | Member | District Scout Fellowship |
| Michael Bishop-Bolt | Instructor | District Scout and Guide Band |
| Anthony Ramsay | Instructor | District Scout and Guide Band |
| Dennis Twitchin | Instructor | District Scout and Guide Band |
| Lynne Coombs | Group Secretary | 2 nd Christchurch (Scoutlink) |
| Daniel McGrath | ASL | 2 nd Christchurch (Scoutlink) |

5 YEAR SERVICE CERTIFICATE

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| Jonathan Adams | Troop Assistant | 3 rd Christchurch (Jumpers) |
| Trudi Butcher | ACSL | 6 th Christchurch (Bransgore) |
| Ginny Hebden | CSL | 6 th Christchurch (Bransgore) |
| Ian Manley | ASL | 6 th Christchurch (Bransgore) |
| James Crumpler | Troop Assistant | 8 th Christchurch (Burton) |
| Julie Alger | Colony Assistant | 10 th Christchurch (Mudeford) |
| Ashley Harman | ACSL | 10 th Christchurch (Mudeford) |

WOOD BADGE

| | | |
|---------------|------|---|
| Kevin Wall | GSL | 1 st Christchurch (Town) |
| Angela Budd | GSL | 5 th Christchurch (Highcliffe) |
| Clare Skitt | ABSL | 8 th Christchurch (Burton) |
| Robin Skitt | ACSL | 8 th Christchurch (Burton) |
| Ashley Harman | ACSL | 10 th Christchurch (Mudeford) |
| David Hulbert | ASL | 10 th Christchurch (Mudeford) |