



Cyngor Sgowliaid

Ceredigion

Scout Council



Annual Report 2007



Tyfu, Cydnabod, Dathlu
Growth, Recognition, Celebration





The Scout Association

Registered Charity Number 306101 Incorporated by Royal Charter

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Founder: The Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell OM GCMG GCVO KCB LLD
President: The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO
Chief Scout: Peter Duncan

Cyngor Sgowtiaid Ceredigion Scout Council

Registered Charity Number 524859

Area Commissioner: Midge McGee

The Purpose of Scouting

The purpose of Scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Scout Method

The Scout Method provides an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Promise and Law, which is guided by adult leadership.

Centenary of Scouting

Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell (1857-1941) was a decorated soldier, talented artist, actor and free-thinker. Best known during his military career for his spirited defence of the small South African township of Mafeking during the Boer War, he was soon to be propelled to extraordinary fame as the Founder of Scouting.

He had been impressed during the siege at how boys had used their initiative under pressure to make themselves useful and capitalize on limited resources. Already thinking of developing a training programme for young people in Britain, he was urged by friends to re-write his handbook for soldiers (*Aids to Scouting*) for this younger audience.

In 1907 he held an experimental camp on Brownsea Island, Poole, Dorset, to try out his ideas. He brought together 20 boys, some from public schools and some from working class homes, and put them into camp under his leadership. The whole world now knows the results of that camp.

Scouting for Boys was published in 1908 in six fortnightly parts at 4d a copy. Sales of the book were enormous and boys soon formed themselves into Scout Patrols. What had been intended as a training aid for existing organisations became the handbook of a new and, ultimately, worldwide Movement. B-P's great understanding of young people obviously touched a fundamental chord both in this country and others. In September 1908, B-P set up an office to deal with enquiries pouring in about the Movement.

Scouting for Boys has since been translated into many different languages and dialects.

Some 28 million young people worldwide now take part in the adventure of Scouting and in 2007 the Movement celebrates its centenary.

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We are indebted to Delyth Davies for undertaking the written translation work on our behalf at very short notice. Thank you to those who have kindly provided photographs. Photos can be displayed on the website and entered into the Area portfolio by sending them to the Secretary



Chairman



This year has been a very busy one with the changes associated with the new Area structure being introduced after many lively meetings throughout the Area. The Area Executive has had a number of extra meetings to discuss the practical implications of the changes and to clarify the lines of communications between Area and Groups.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of both North and Teifi District Executive Committees for their commitment to Scouting over the years and hope that they will continue to assist Scouting in Ceredigion in the years to come.

The death of Alec Carr in February caught us all by surprise. It was Alec then Area Commissioner who approached me many years ago to ask would I become District Commissioner for Teifi District. Alec attended last years AGM and will be remembered for his unruffled approach to and leadership of Scouting in the County.

The year has seen the Scout Movement recognise the contribution made to Scouting in Ceredigion by both Scout Leaders and lay people with the presentation of Awards by the Association, congratulations.

I would on this occasion like to say a special thank you for all their help, in what has been a very busy year, to Jim our Secretary, Donald our Treasurer, and Midge our Area Commissioner.

Finally; to all those who have helped to send our contingent to the World Scout Jamboree, a very big thank you. Attendance at a World Jamboree is a once in a life time activity and for 16 young people in Ceredigion an opportunity to meet thousands of Scouts from many countries, share experiences, make friendships, and come back and tell us all about it.

NJW Hill



Area Commissioner



The year began with a fun filled Jamboree Selection Weekend at Llandysul Paddlers when 10 Young people were selected to represent Ceredigion at the 2007 Centenary Jamboree. As more places were subsequently offered the number rose to 16. Funding has been provided partly through fund-raising, Grants and Parental support. Finances were further stretched with a large contingent of Explorer Scouts from Teifi District and Aberystwyth attending the Serbian Jamboree in August. "Was it Worth it? Yes it Was!"

This year has seen a major reorganisation of the Area structure. The intermediary District administration has devolved to Area freeing up District volunteers to concentrate on Operational Scouting. Despite an initial resistance to the proposals it is now generally accepted that this has improved efficiency especially in regard to finance and communication.

Four Delegates attended the National Scout AGM in Warwick in September. There, the rewards of the Young Spokesperson Training, were experienced first hand as the youngsters "Stole the Show!"

Dr David Lewis has regrettably had to pack in as President due to ill health and will be missed. Thanks go to David for all his enthusiastic support during his time with us and we wish him all the best.

I was delighted to present the Silver Wolf, the highest award in Scouting, to Major David Mills for his many years of service. Also the Medal of Merit and the bar to the Medal of Merit were awarded to John Glyn Evans and John Morris respectively for their dedication to Scouting.

Thanks to Lottery support we now have extensive bilingual Publicity and Promotional materials with which we hope to grow the numbers of young people engaged in Scouting locally. With the help of the newly appointed Development Officer we aim to reopen the Aberaeron Scout Group and restart Beavers and Cubs in Newcastle Emlyn.

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Dr Alec Carr, a retired Ceredigion Scouts Area Commissioner. He was an inspiration in his time to many young Scouters to whom he gave advice and support.

We now have an extremely competent Secretary, Jim, who has spent many hours setting up the Area Website, of which we are justifiably proud, bringing Ceredigion Scouting into the 21st Century, and keeping everyone in touch with what's on and where. Chaiman, Norman continues to support and encourage us all and the work of the Exec certainly couldn't continue without the work of very busy, hard-working Treasurer, Donald.

Finally, I must thank the Area and District Teams and Trainers, and all the Scouters and Helpers who during the past year have worked so very hard with our young people and have been responsible for much of my own motivation and enthusiasm.

Midge McGee
Area Commissioner



Field Commissioner



The Welsh Scout Council (WSC) has been successful in its grant application to the Active Communities Fund administered by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales (NaFW). This money along with a grant from the Scout Association Development Grant Board plus funding from WSC's own resources has enabled the employment of three full time Regional Development Officers. We know from experience that employing people to work directly with local Scouting facilitates the recruitment and retention of adults into our movement. This enables us to offer more Scouting to more young people. The work programme over the next three years allows for a Development Officer to work in Ceredigion and, by the time this report is published, work will have already begun.

The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust has funded the WSC to work with Explorer Scout Young Leaders. David Morris, former Wales Commissioner for Explorer Scouts, has developed a successful Young Leader training programme for Explorer Scouts under the collective title of Team X. This programme has enabled Young Leaders from all parts of Wales to come together in a residential setting at no cost to them.

During the year Headquarters appointed a new Chief Commissioner of Wales. She is Jill Gloster previously Area Commissioner for Snowdonia and Anglesey. Jill took up her appointment at the WSC AGM in October 2006.

Members of the WSC staff, senior volunteers and a number of young people were present at a very successful day at the Welsh Assembly in March. This gave us a platform to inform Assembly members about the work of Scouting. Most Assembly Members made the effort to come and talk with us including the First Minister and Jane Davidson Minister for Education and Life Long Learning.

During the course of Summer 2006 a very successful All Wales Scout Camp was held at the Royal Welsh Showground. The event was attended by several hundred Scouts from around Wales.

A new member of staff, Alison Harding, joined the Welsh Scout Council administration in Llantwit Major replacing Helen Bhanaut.

Clive Bracewell
Field Commissioner



Beaver Scouts

Beaver Scouts meet regularly throughout Ceredigion. These 6 to 8 year olds have certainly lived up to their reputations as “Busy Beavers” during the past year.

Activities included Sleepovers, Family Camps, Treasure Hunts, Gardening, cooking, Building Shelters in the woods and Pond Dipping to name but a few.

Aberystwyth and Penparcau Beavers Celebrated 20 years of Beaver Scouts by orienteering at Nant yr Arian followed by a Birthday Tea.

Visits to a Gang Show in Solihull, a visit to the X-Ray and Physiotherapy Departments at Bronglais Hospital and a Butterfly Centre were part of their year.

Beavers were also on Parade for the Remembrance Day Parades throughout the Area.

None of this of course can happen without the many hours that Adult Volunteers give to the running of Beavers and they deserve a very big thank you.



Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts, the 8 to 10 age group, are thriving throughout the County despite falling roles. Aberystwyth have recently opened their doors to a second Cub Pack which is fully bilingual.

The year has included recycling, cooking and back woods cooking, photography, making camp blankets, camping, hiking and night hikes, kayaking, archery, air rifle shooting, tracking, tie dying, astronomy, mountain biking, shelter building, bug catching and pond dipping, orienteering, painting ceramic tiles and much, much more.

Cubs also visited the police station where they were locked in a cell and finger-printed; also the cinema; pantomimes; the fire station; and a visit to Cardiff for a long weekend of activities from St Fagans to Techniquet.

They took part in a Pantomime, a Pinewood Derby where they had to make and race their own cars, Remembrance Day Parades, a Gang Shows and a Swimming Gala, and finally celebrated 90 years of Cub Scouting with fireworks and a bonfire.

Their Leaders say they won't be charging to cover up the grey hairs generated by this lively age group!



Scouts



This is a challenging age group ranging from 10 to 14. The trick is to keep them busy and busy they certainly have been. Activities throughout the County range from kayaking, dinghy sailing and speed boats, archery, air rifle shooting, pioneering, raft building and racing, hiking and orienteering, to camping, shelter building, backwoods cooking and a Christmas party and a sleep over in the "Bothy" in Teifi Pools. Also more modern activities such as Internet searches and webpage design.

They took part in the Malvern Challenge, All Wales Scout Camp and Canoe Cruises on the Wye and Severn, a wet, wet, wet challenge where the object is to get everyone as wet as possible in as many ways as can be devised, food Olympics which included blindfold jelly feeding, a Pantomime, Krypton Factor and a Pinewood derby.

Visits included a Summer camp in Ireland where 3rd Aberystwyth Scouts camped with the Wexford Scouts, continuing a tradition which began in the 1950's.

Scouts also participated in the Remembrance Day Services throughout the County.

And of course, without the dedicated Leaders none of this would have been possible! Would it?



Explorer Scouts



Finally, our older age group, the 14-18 year old Explorer Scouts who have had a very exciting year. A large contingent flew out to Serbia to attend an International Jamboree along with hundreds of other Scouts of different Nationalities.

Two Teifi Explorers crewed on a Tall Ship to the Azores with the Azores Scouts.

Other activities included participation in Jamboree on the Trail, The Welsh Canoe Cruises on the Wye and Llyn Gwynant, the Sun Run and Moon Run, hiking including night hikes, bowling, archery, air rifle shooting, camping, go-carting, mountaineering, plastering, plumbing, cooking, gorge walking, raft building and racing.

Both Explorers took part in their Pantomime "Robin Hood and the Cubs in the Woods" along with the other members of the Group who all enjoyed the fun, and of course the "Wet, Wet, Wet" challenge.

A number of them are working for and some have actually completed their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards whilst two actually attained their Gold this year. All deserve congratulations on their achievements.

Again, this only happens because so many committed adult volunteers are willing to give up their time to run the Explorer units and organise the activities and fund – raise to cover the costs which at times can be considerable.



Network

These are our younger Adult members who tend to get overlooked as they are usually too hard at work helping in the other Scout sections to take time out for their own activities. They are the 18 to 25 year olds who as well as giving up their time to the younger members are also working towards Duke of Edinburgh Gold and the Queens Scout Award whilst at the same time, in most cases, studying for a University Degree.

They must surely also deserve a vote of thanks.



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