



Scouts



First Century Scouting in Rochdale -

a history of Rochdale District from 1907 to 2007

By Ian Kay

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February 2008

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Introduction

One hundred years is a lot of years – a lot of changes, and a lot of achievements!

Scouting was started in Rochdale as early as it did because an adult was prepared to discuss the topic of the day with a young person and the young person was confident and honest enough to tell the adult he was talking rubbish!

A century later and Explorer Scouts, Patrol Leaders and Cub Sixers are still encouraged by similar minded adults to voice their opinions and shape the Scout Movement in Rochdale for its second century.

The District's Scouting has been guided by many very important people of Rochdale namely the thousands of adults who have given of their time. It is to these people that this book is dedicated.

Some adults have received national Scouting awards in the form of Chief Scouts Commendations, Medals of Merit, Silver Acorns or Silver Wolves and their bars in recognition of outstanding service.

Some have got their names in print in the local papers and hence some have found their place in this history. There are hundreds more who have acted as leaders, helpers, administrators, supporters and sponsors who's names are not included.

But let's remember that their contributions are not forgotten for without them this history and the thousands of young people's lives changed by their efforts would not have been realised.

Collecting together the material for this book has illustrated that people have fond memories of their involvement in Rochdale Scouting. Be this as a young person or an adult the effect on so many lives is enormous.

Young people thrust into responsible roles when the men of the town went off to war. Individual youngsters who have found support and encouragement in Scouting, that wasn't provided in their home life, enabling them to develop, and in later years, take on what their parents thought would be impossible.

Friendships that have stood the test of time made whilst in the Scouts are too numerous to list. There are also the marriages as a result of people meeting through Scouting.

Think of the number of exports from Rochdale to other towns and countries where skills developed

through Rochdale Scouting have been spread far and wide.

There are politicians, doctors, nurses, accountants, managers, and indeed all walks of life around that owe their leadership, organisational and management skills to those adults who have served as role models and leaders.

As you dip into this book to read about the District's history remember what is recorded but please also reflect on the points raised above in relation to the fantastic achievements made in the lives of thousands of people as a direct result of an involvement with Rochdale Scouting.

If through reading this it has brought back memories, unlocked those gems from the past, or given ideas for the future of Scouting in Rochdale then I have achieved what I set out to do.

If you have information that could be added to a second edition of this book then get in touch with the secretary of Rochdale District Scout Council who can be contacted via The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, Bury Road, Chingford, London, E4 7QW.

It only leaves me to now wish all those currently involved in Rochdale Scouting and to those in years to come who will join them along with all who read this history every happiness in their journey along the Scouting trail.

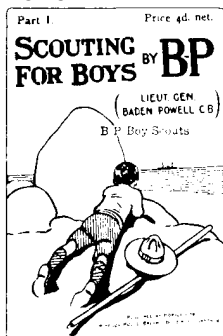
Ian Kay

February 2008

1907-1917

Scouting begins

Scouting started in Rochdale, in the same way as elsewhere in the United Kingdom, directly from the publication written by the founder Robert Baden-Powell.



Without any formal structure or indeed adult leadership young people in Rochdale, like elsewhere in the country, started to follow the ideas in Scouting for Boys which was published in fortnightly parts beginning in January 1908. This had been written following Baden-Powell's successful experimental camp on Brownsea Island in August 1907.

A Sunday School Teacher at St James' Church Wardleworth by the name of Mr John Waller was one day pouring scorn on the new idea of BP Scouts when one member of his class told him he didn't know what he was talking about.



John Waller

Even at the very beginning the abilities of youth to shape the Scout Movement were the driving force – and long may this be so!

The young person convinced Mr Waller to make more enquires and he was persuaded to start a Scout Troop attached to St James's Church. It officially started in October 1908 with 9 boys.

Mr Waller continued to run the First Rochdale Scouts until the mid 1920's so that young person had obviously had a major effect on his life as indeed Mr Waller had on many other young people.

One such person was Cec Bellarby who in 1958 recalled his memories to Mrs Darlington the Secretary of the First Rochdale Group which are the reference for some of the early First Rochdale history recounted in this publication.

Mr Waller used to run "Scouts Owns" on Sunday evenings once a month which consisted of a short address given by him or an outsider followed by favourite Moody or Sankey hymns. Afterwards the Scouts used to play draughts or chess, which often continued outside on the streets by gas light, using pocket chess sets, after Mr Waller had closed up.

Meetings were held in rooms in and around the Wardleworth Area and even at one point in a rented house on the moors at Healey Stones. The meeting place was not important it was the activities that the Scouts wanted.

During these pioneering days of Scouting there was no such thing as a National Association Headquarters let alone a District so very early history is difficult to obtain.

We can however say that by the end of the first decade Rochdale did have a local Association which covered the area of Rochdale, Heywood, Littleborough, Castleton, Milnrow, New Hey, Norden, Whitworth Todmorden and other Districts in the vicinity

One interesting letter to the Rochdale Observer in November 1908 (A months after The First Rochdale Troop was formed) read as follows:

"Sir, - May we, through the medium of your paper, draw the attention of the public to the practice of some boys posing as "Boy Scouts"? They are reported as having solicited subscriptions for Scout Club. Boy Scouts should be self supporting, and one principle lesson learnt by them is self-reliance. We hope therefore, that the public will refuse to subscribe to any application for pecuniary aid – no true Scout would make such application.
Yours, etc.,
R Fitton RW Taylor (Scoutmasters) 1st & 2nd Rochdale Nuttall Street,
November 12th 1908."

In 1914 there were 16 Troops and a total membership of 446 which included 16 Scoutmasters and 21 Assistant Scout Masters

By February 1917 the registration form for Rochdale Boy Scout Association sent to the Boy Scouts Association in London recorded a total membership of 861 in 20 Groups. Three of these having by this time 34 Wolf Cubs - this being nearly a 100% growth in less than three years.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION
1917

The Boy Scouts Association.
County *Lancashire*
Commissioner's District *West East Lancashire*
REGISTRATION FORM FOR A LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

Name of Local Association *Rochdale Boy Scout Association*
"Local Association and *ROCHDALE LITTLE BOYS' PATROL*"
"Section of the *ROCHDALE LITTLE BOYS' PATROL*"

Chairman *D. C. B. B. B. B.*
Hon. Sec. *C. W. B. B. B.*
Address *111, Bury Road, Rochdale*
Date when formed *1907*

DETAILS OF ASSOCIATION.
The Association is composed of the following Troops:-

Troop Name	Name and Address	Name and Address	Estimated Strength
<i>1st</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>3rd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>4th</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>5th</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>6th</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>7th</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>8th</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>9th</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>10th</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>11th</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>12th</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>13th</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>14th</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>15th</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16th</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>17th</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>18th</i>	<i>18th</i>	<i>18th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>19th</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>20th</i>	<i>20th</i>	<i>20th</i>	<i>15</i>

Approved and forwarded to Headquarters with two copies of the proposed By-Laws
Signed *[Signature]*
Date *1917*
Approved *[Signature]*
Date *1917*

N.B.—This form should be made out in triplicate. All three copies should be signed by the Local Association Secretary and sent to Headquarters. The original copy should be sent to Headquarters. The other two copies should be sent to the Local Association Secretary and the Local Association Treasurer.

The full registration form is printed in the appendices

Early rally and visit of the Chief Scout

In September 1912 there was a Boy Scouts Rally in Heywood Park when the Scouts were inspected by Captain AL Spafford the adjutant of the 6th (Rochdale) Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. After the inspections the Scouts took part in signalling, ambulance and other work.



The Rochdale Observer had, just prior to Baden Powell's visit in 1912, published a letter which started:

"Sir — a few years ago Rochdale held a prominent position in the Scout Movement. Unlucky now when the Chief Scout is paying his first visit to the town the movement is probably at its lowest ebb."

It went on to say that in surrounding districts like Heywood rapid progress is being made but that in Rochdale "It was discovering persons who were willing to sacrifice some of their leisure by becoming scoutmasters" that was the issue - a theme which was to repeat itself right up to this day.

An article in the Rochdale Observer prior to the visit of the Chief stated how "within four years the Boy Scouts had become so familiar that the eminently practical and common sense uniform it has long since ceased to cause surprise. No movement, probably, has made so many friends in so short a time; everyone has a good word to say for the Scouts; they have won a reputation for reliability and straightness as well as for practical capabilities and usefulness"

The Chief arrived on the Tuesday Evening at around 7 o'clock by car from Manchester via Middleton and was greeted by the Mayor Alderman Cunliffe as he arrived at the Town Hall four buglers, Walter Cragg (Castleton); James Butterworth (3rd Heywood); Charles Stansfield (Castleton) and John Hall (3rd Heywood) sounded the general salute which Baden Powell acknowledged. He then gave his address which lasted an hour and a half followed by an inspection of the Boy Scouts in Fleece Street. A dense crowd of many thousand packed the streets in order to get a glimpse of the popular general. He then took to his car again and travelled on to Oldham to address a further gathering.



First decade Scout Uniform

The Great War Years

The war of 1914 to 1919 saw members of Rochdale Scout Association leave to fight for their Country some never to return, whilst others

stayed at home and provided all sorts of service. Scouting in Rochdale continued.

It was noted that men and boys who have been trained as Scouts were much quicker to settle down to their new life in the army.

The Prime Minister Lloyd George wrote in 1917:

“I do not think that I am exaggerating when I say that the young boyhood of our country, represented by the Boy Scout Association, shares the laurels for having been prepared with the old and tried British Army & Navy. It is no small matter to be proud of that the Association was able within a month of the outbreak of war to give the most energetic and intelligent help in all kinds of ways.”

Scouts were prepared as first aiders, messengers, lookouts as well as standing in for those men who had gone to war in all sorts of ways.

People came to realise that the Boy Scouts were trained to lead upright, honest, healthy lives, to be strictly honourable in all their dealings - in a word, to become good citizens.

National Award for Rochdale Scout



In November of 1917 the Gilt Cross was awarded to Scout J Sharp of the 6th Rochdale (Unitarians) for stopping a runaway horse.

1917-1927

In 1918 Rochdale Scouts had their first District Commissioner. Alderman C Bryning was appointed and he went on to lead the district for the next 21 years. In 1927 he also combined his Scouting with that of being the Town's Mayor.



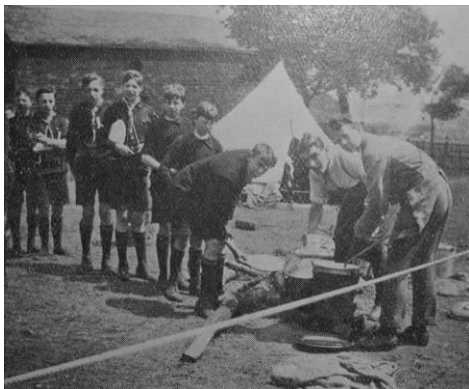
In August 1919 The Rochdale Association held a Scouts Gala at Rochdale Association Football Ground.

In 1919 the First Rochdale troop had its headquarters in Haynes Street and after the meeting on Saturday afternoons used to parade with drums and bugles up to Healey Stones wearing their brown jerseys, red scarves tied in a knot, broad brimmed hats and carrying a scout stave, where they played wide games or went tracking followed by cooking tea and then having a camp fire.

1921 saw a District bazaar being held which was opened by Lord Hampton

19th Rochdale Hold Whit Camp

25 Boys from the "Turners Own" Troop left their headquarters in Halliwell Street at Whitsuntide 1919 and had a fantastic camp at Calderbrook. In the Sunday morning they left camp to attend a Church Parade at St James's Church Calderbrook.



The Turner's Own Troop was sponsored by Turner Brothers Asbestos Company

Sport plays it's part in the programme

Around 1920 the First Rochdale Troop had a pair of parallel bars in the Headquarters and they ran a PT class. It was at one of these classes that one of the Scouts broke his collar bone and when he arrived at hospital the rest of the scouts were congratulated on by the Doctor for their first aid skills.

In 1924 a Scouts Football League was started in Rochdale and Rochdale Harriers invited the Rochdale Association of Boy Scouts to take part in a special Scouts relay race at their annual sports day.

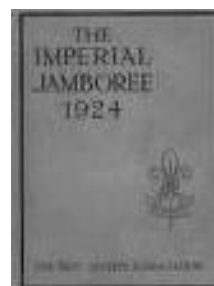


In January 1925 Rochdale challenged Heywood District to a wide game at Crimble Wood.

In October 1927 a Troop boxing competition took place

Imperial Jamboree

A contingent of Scouts from Rochdale joined 500 others from South East Lancashire Scout County in 1924 to attend the Imperial Jamboree.



The Jamboree was held during the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley and brought together over 8,000 Scouts from 21 independent countries and 12 British dependencies which were reviewed by King George.

About 5,000 camped, the rest lodging in makeshift boarding houses or at the vast Olympia Hall in London where the Jamboree took place.

The festivities lasted for eight days in heavy rain. It was a combination of exhibition, fairground and parades on a vast scale with an infinite variety of games, sports, Scouting skills, singing, and stage shows.

The Jamboree was viewed well by the public.

The presence of the reigning monarch and two heirs to the British throne gave it the seal of royal approval and proved that Scouting was taken seriously even in high places.



When I have been asked what impressed me most about the Jamboree I have been able honestly to say it was not the pageantry, it was not the fine appearance of the boys nor their numbers and efficiency – it was the fact that discipline from within showed itself to be an established force among them and that they have a true grasp of the ideals of the movement.

And that means that Scouters are making a success of the training.

Robert Baden-Powell

Letter from BP after the Jamboree

At the height of the festivities, an amusing suggestion was put forward by James E. West, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. His proposal, made half in jest and half seriously, was that Baden Powell should be awarded the title of Great Indian Chief.

B.P. found the idea amusing but during the initiation ceremony the following day, one of the young Scouts in the huge audience suddenly shouted "Long live the Chief Scout of the World." The cry was taken up by thousands, and Baden Powell was officially acclaimed as Chief Scout of the World.

French Scouts welcome

In August 1924 about 20 members of the 3rd Rochdale (Castleton) Troop held a camp in Lille in Northern France.

They were met with the sight of their tents already up. Their French hosts having done the work for them as a gesture of friendship.

The report in the Rochdale Observer included a paragraph relating to the Scoutmasters relief in the fact that the boys were immune from the perils of what is usually described as "girlitis". All the boys came back to camp in good time because as they put it, "If we do see a nice girl we can't say anything to her, can we?"



Scout Master Russell and those ready to visit France

Following a successful camp the Scouts stopped off on their journey home to visit the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

The total cost of the whole excursion was the princely sum of £3 4s (£3.20) this compares with 4th Rochdale (Balderstone) Troop who visited the Isle of Man at the cost of 25s (£1.25)

The 17th Rochdale (Wardle) Troop visited Ansdell at Rushbearing 1924.

Championship Flag

9th August 1924 saw 5 Wolf Cub Packs & 13 Scout Troops taking part in the annual Championship Flag competitions.

Following a parade from the Town Hall square led by the District Commissioner Mr Bryning the event was run in the Vicarage Field next to the Rochdale Parish Church. The judging was done by Commissioners and Scouters from the Oldham Association.



2nd Rochdale Cubs with their mascot "Peggy" who won the Cub Championship Flag Competition

Annual Gilwell reunion

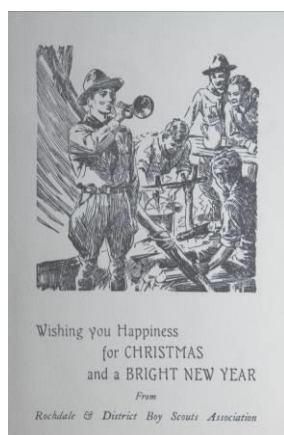
In September 1924 two members of the 1st Gilwell Park Troop and Pack who had qualified at Dunham Park for their Wood Badges having completed their Scouter's training joined a reunion of around 130 others at which Mr JH Wilson the Camp Chief from Gilwell Park was the principle guest.

Scouts serve the community

The Empire Day parade held in May of 1924 was organised by the Rochdale Boy Scouts Association and saw representatives of the entire Town's youth organisations taking part.

In September 1924 Milnrow Troop handed over £1 to the funds of the Rochdale Infirmary as a result of a charity comic cricket match which they organised.

In November 1924 Scouts help to distribute leaflets around the area for National Health Week – well the scouts got fitter out of the exercise even if the leaflets were treated as junk mail as we know it today! This continued for a number of years as a mention of the activity is recorded in 1933.



Christmas 1924 was very busy. It saw Lowerplace District (The Rochdale Association at this time was divided into smaller areas.) hold a Christmas Eve Party for 25 poor children,

30th Rochdale (St Luke's) held a potato pie supper for children – gifts of apples, oranges, sweets etc were handed to them when they left. These had been funded by a self denial week and with parent's donations.

The 4th Rochdale (Balderstone) Rover Scouts ran a Christmas Day breakfast for 50 boys & girls.



The 2nd Rochdale had a Christmas tree laden with oranges, candles, toys and crackers when 30 poor children attended their supper.

The Burnage Troop assisted Santa to visit the homes of the poor children by helping with the use of their trek cart.

In 1927 a Scouts employment bureau was set up in Rochdale.

Also in 1927 the Rochdale Association wrote a public letter which was also sent to the Mayor, the Member of Parliament, the Rochdale Observer and the secretary of the Christian Union protesting about the proposed increase of facilities for gambling by the setting up of greyhound racing in the town, believing that the work of the Boy Scout Movement and other organisations engaging in the building up of characters among the youth of Rochdale would be seriously hampered by such a step.

In May 1927 Scouts supported the Town's clean up campaign.

A time for new Headquarters

The First Rochdale left their rooms in Haynes Street around 1920 and met in homes, in old stables and workshops, in a rented room belonging to a book shop in Cheetham Street, at the rented cottage in Healey stones, a short period in the Rochdale Associations Headquarters in Yorkshire Street and eventually in 1928 they returned to their old rooms in Haynes Street.

In 1925 The Rochdale Association acquired a new Headquarters in Moore Street consisting of two 40 x 60 foot army huts joined together. It was opened by the County Commissioner Mr C Gaddum and of course there was a parade with a Scout drums and bugle band at the front.



The band at the opening ceremony

In November 1926 Nick Road Farm was given to the Rochdale Association by Mr Lye as a camp site and activity centre. The First Rochdale Troop were later to erect their own hut containing six bunks at the site in 1931.

Balderstone had, in 1925, their own headquarters and in 1924 the Milnrow Troop opened a new Headquarters.

Rochdale Association re-organises

In 1925 various meetings were held to discuss Todmorden Scouts leaving the Rochdale Association and joining Hebden Bridge District which did eventually happen.

The rest of the original Rochdale Association remains to this day except for Heywood District which left Rochdale in 1930 and set up its own Association.

This, like the Rochdale Association, was later renamed a District first within South East Lancashire County and then, as the County boundaries were revised, in the current Greater Manchester North Scout County.

Silver Cross Awarded

In October 1925 the Silver Cross was awarded to Scout H Butterworth of the 19th Rochdale (Lydgate) Troop for the gallant rescue of a boy from drowning and assisting a young man who was also in danger at Cat-Holes Clough Dam Lydgate.

Mayor's Own Troop

In December 1926 the "Mayor's Own" Troop was started. There was in later years also a Rover Crew. They used to wear a yellow neckerchief with the Rochdale Borough Council coat of arms on its point.

Rail strike does not stop a committed District Cub Master



During the national rail strike in 1926 Fred Beaumont Rochdale Association's Secretary and District Cub Master walked 18 miles to attend one of the earliest Wood Badge Training Courses in Altringham. He later became a Leader Trainer within the County.

Resignation from the County Scout Council

In June 1927 The Rochdale Association resigned from their membership of the South East Lancashire County Scout Committee as it was considered that the scheme was too costly and is more than it could afford to pay,

After the County Commissioner visited the Association meeting and further discussions it was resolved that

from the end of June 1927 the Rochdale Association was to continue as contributing members of the South East Lancashire County Scheme on the basis of a 10/- (50p) per troop per annum basis until such a time as the Association's present debt is liquidated when the position would be reconsidered.

1927-1937

February 1928 saw the beginning of the Rochdale Association's Executive Committee.

The minute book for August 1928 states that Mr Greenwood the Association's Secretary offered to write a history of the Rochdale Association. (Alas whether or not this was carried out isn't known as no record of it has been found.)

1928 also saw the first Group Scout Leaders as new rules were introduced from National Headquarters regarding the operation of Scout Groups.

In May 1928 there was a Scouter's weekend at the Associations Camp Site at Nick Road Farm.

Good Turns

In April 1928 the First Rochdale held a "Good Turn" weekend. They delivered leaflets in their district reading

"Our Scouts can do errands, wash up, chop firewood, do small repairs and many other little jobs. Remember that a Scout expects no payment for a good turn, he is satisfied if he has been of service."

In 1932 the Scouts assisted in the setting up of the Rochdale boys club,

Also in 1932 the Associations Headquarters was put at the disposal of the Rotary Club for use of the unemployed "subject to them arranging proper control."

The Rovers in June 1932 assisted at the opening of Denehurst homes in Rochdale.

In November 1932 assistance was provided to a scheme set up to collect spare clothing and for its distribution to the needy of the town.

The Mayor thanked the Scouts at Christmas 1932 for their help in distributing Christmas Meals

In 1934 according to the Associations minute book the Scouts gave a physical drill display at the Rochdale Blind Carnival.

Scouts Week

In 1928 and in subsequent years records show that a "Scouts Week" was held in Rochdale. There was an ambulance competition, St George's Day Service, a Troop good turn day, open nights, exhibitions of activities, campfires

held at the Rochdale Infirmary and the Crippled Children's Home along with a massed parade.

Scouts to the rescue

In June 1928 Castleton Scouts acted promptly and with great effectiveness as they tackled a fire in Carr Wood which at its height threatened the whole of the wood.

They were responsible for getting it under control and eventually completely out. In February 1931 Patrol Leader Henry of the Castlemere United Reform Troop received a letter from the Chief Scout after an incident of gallantry.

In 1933 Albert Cryer of the 3rd Rochdale saved the life of a young girl from drowning in the Castleton Canal. He was presented with the Gold Life Saving Award from the Mayor on behalf of the Chief Scout.

Leslie Barnett aged 9 of St Peter's Pack was awarded the Gilt Cross in recognition of saving a boy from drowning on July 15th 1932

Arrowe Park Jamboree



1929 saw 44 Scouts from Rochdale attend the Jamboree at Arrowe Park Birkenhead.



The District hosted 500 scouts from the 50,000 Scouts from all over the world that had come to the Jamboree to celebrate the 21st birthday of the Movement.

A special rail excursion was organised by the Rochdale Association from Rochdale Station to Birkenhead. Oldham and Shaw Scouts were also invited to travel with them.

At the Jamboree the Rochdale Contingent made a rush cart out of a trek cart for their display.



One claim is that the founding of the Boy Scouts took place only four miles away from the Jamboree Site at Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. on January 24th 1908.

Originally Czechoslovakia was meant to be the Jamboree's host in 1929, but Arrowe Park was preferred in order to honour the 'place of birth' of the Movement.

The Jamboree was a big success, although after a couple of days it became known as the "Mudboree" due to the heavy rain.

Some Scouts from Rochdale also joined over 320, 000 paying public who visited the camp.

Among the famous guests was the Prince of Wales.

During the camp Rochdale Rover Scouts presented Lord Baden Powell with a statuette of a scout as a token of goodwill which was presented by Rover Mate White.

The Chief Scouts final message was brought back to Rochdale by the contingent.

"Today I send you out from Arrowe to all the world bearing a symbol of peace and fellowship on the wings of sacrifice and service to the ends of the earth from now on the Scout symbol of peace is the golden arrow carry it fast and far"

St George's Day Service

In April 1929 The Rochdale Association decided to hold a St George's day service and parade in place of the Empire Day service and parade. Other youth organisations were invited to attend.

In 1930 the St George's Day Service was held at 3pm and 8.15pm in the Rialto Cinema. The local Guides were also invited to attend.

Camp Wardens & Assistant District Commissioner appointed

Camp wardens were officially appointed in June 1929 at the Association's site at Nick Road Farm.

Also Mr Fletcher was appointed as the District's second Assistant District Commissioner. **Error! Bookmark not defined..**

The beginning of "A" Groups

It was in November 1929 that a decision was made to stop increasing the Group number for new Groups but to re use vacant numbers but suffixing them "A".

However this has since not been strictly adhered to

as illustrated in this extract from the 13th (no A) Scout Group's Golden Jubilee Celebration Dinner Programme from 14th May 1994:

"It is said that the 13th was formed in either the late Autumn or Winter 1944 as Arthur Neve remembers that it was a very dark and cold evening at the first meeting in the Park Baptist Church on Drake Street. He and Tom Twedale had decided to re-open the Group as war was coming to a conclusion albeit a rather long time away though who was to know it at the time....."

A point which is somewhat difficult to reconcile is that as all Scout Groups are numbered sequentially how come the 13th is 50 years old?

The story goes like this In 1939 there was a Scout Group at Park Baptist namely the 13th Rochdale which was in existence for many years but like all good men the leaders were called up to serve in His Majesty's Forces leaving the Group without leaders. It was then decided to close the Group down. When Arthur Neave and Tom Tweedale opened it up again in 1944 the then District Commissioner one Charlie Smith is alleged to have said to them as they still had their flag "Well as you still have the old Flag you can keep on using it instead of having to buy a new one with an A on it". A great deal of effort in finding out whether this is just hearsay or not has revealed that if a Group was closed through war or civilian strife then it was said not to have closed but to have gone into suspense. This maybe, is the reason that we were able to officially keep the Group as the 13th."

The 29thA Rochdale Group was formed in late 1929 and registered in 1930 they used the "A" to distinguish it from the previous 29th Rochdale which had by then faded from existence. Their first headquarters was in a disused electricity generating station.

Arts & Crafts

In 1930 a music festival was held and in 1932 a handicraft exhibition was staged.

Also it was in 1932 that Mr Lye offered to defray costs for Scouts and Cubs wishing to attend

Scouts on call

In 1930 the Chief Constable and County Police Superintendent were informed that Scouts can be called upon in the case of an emergency such as a recent incident of a lost boy on the moors in Castleton.

Appointment of Honorary Surgeon

In 1930 Dr Barlow of 15th Rochdale was appointed as Honorary Surgeon to the Rochdale Scouts Association.

First District Levy?

The Association's Minute book records that in 1931 there were collections held each month at Troops for District funds.

Scouts assist at Trades Fair

On September 26th 1931 forty eight scouts from 14 Groups in Rochdale carried out various duties at the Town's Trades Procession. The District received a donation of £2

Annual District Dinner Dance

The first annual dinner dance for Rochdale District was held in 1932 and this continued until the late 1990's.

At this dinner it was reported that there had been an increase in members within Rochdale Scouts and that at that time there were 29 Scout Troops, 27 Cub Packs and 6 Rover Crews Total numbers of all ranks was 1,205. The District Commissioner CH Bryning said:

"That at long last Rochdale had begun to recognise Scouting as an asset"

Cub Masters Camp

The Cub Masters of Rochdale held their first annual Seonee Camp at Ealees in 1932, and in

1933 the Littleborough District Seonee Pack amalgamated with Rochdale Seonee Pack.

Princess Royal's Visit to Rochdale

In 13th September 1932 the Princes Royal visited Rochdale and 50 Scouts provided a guard of honour. The Scouts were drawn from each of the 18 Groups.

District Jamboree

In 1933 a local Jamboree was held at the Rochdale football ground when Scouts showed off their skills in all sorts of Scouting activities.

Assistance from County Fund

It is recorded that 22 Scouts from Rochdale were in 1933 assisted financially to attend annual camps by the County Scout Council Fund.

Scout Camping Shield

A grand shield was presented by the District Commissioner Mr C Bryning in 1934 for the annual Scouts camping competition it has since been restored but is still in use to this day and is the largest of all the District trophies.



Camping Competition Shield 2007 - The central detail is from the original shield

King's Silver Jubilee

Scouting was very much a part of the Jubilee celebrations in Rochdale.

They manned the beacon on Blackstone Edge as part of a national chain and the District Commissioner performed the lighting ceremony.

They joined a large procession of soldiers, veterans, nurses, bands, police and youth groups, etc. which was reviewed by the Mayor and Mayoress and civic dignitaries.

There was dancing and singing in the Town Hall Square and special illuminations in the Town.

County St George's Day Service

In 1936 Patrol leaders from each Troop in Rochdale attended the County St George's Day Service which was held in Manchester Cathedral.



Rochdale Association Registered

It was in 1936 that Local Scout Associations were registered at what was at the time known as International Headquarters and there is a record that Rochdale duly registered in the District Executive Committee's minute book.

Coronation

As a special good turn the Scouts of Rochdale sold souvenir coronation programs in 1937.

Around 150 Scouts attended the Coronation Day Parade

1937-1947

BP's Birthday

Rochdale Association sent a message of congratulations & loyalty to the Chief Scout on his birthday in February 1937

American Scout gives a talk

In May 1937 a visitor to the Church of Latter Day Saints from America gave a talk on Scouting in America

Scouts Employment Bureau

In 1937 Rochdale Scouts set up their own employment bureau to help its members find work.

District HQ is let

After much searching for interested parties the use of Moore Street HQ discontinued when it was let to Pentecostal Mission Society as costs to upkeep it were causing financial difficulties during 1937. It was eventually sold in 1938.

Association re-organises again

In January 1938 the Rochdale Association decided to divide again into separate Districts each looked after by an Assistant District Commissioner.

Old Scouts

Rochdale Old Scouts Association was formed during 1938 and this became BP Guild of Old Scouts in 1949 and eventually Scout Fellowship as it is in 2007.

Boy Scouts Appeal

In May 1938 Rochdale had an appeal for funds to go towards the Boy Scouts National Appeal for Headquarters' Funds.

Each Group made collections at open evenings and the District Commissioner sent out appeal letters to civic leaders and captains of local industry.

The grand total amounted to £227 which was forwarded to National Headquarters.

District Camp Site

In December 1938 negotiations started to acquire Bamford Hall and its 53 acres of land on Bury Road as a Local Scout Camp Site along with both Heywood and Bury Associations.

In March 1939 Lord Somers (The Deputy Chief Scout) visited Bamford Hall accompanied by Major Pilkington the County Commissioner of South East Lancashire and the Mayors of both Heywood and Rochdale. The visit had been arranged as it had been hoped that the site would have by this time been owned Scouting.



Mr F Lye who had provided the first camp site for Rochdale Scouts at Nick Road Farm was presented to Lord Somers.

The outbreak of war unfortunately meant that the substantial grant that was hoped to be received from the National Fitness Council did not materialise and the site was not purchased.

The minute book of the 1940's shows that in 1941 Rochdale Scouts were camping at Ashworth Valley an entry in the records of January 1943 indicates that the Parks Superintendent agreed to assist in the purchase and planting of trees at the Ashworth Valley Site.

It was however in April 1944 that the Deputy Chief Scout Sir Percy Everet visited Rochdale to officially open Ashworth Valley Scout Camp. He also celebrated his birthday with us during the weekend.

Sir Percy broke the flag (which had been donated by the Woman's Voluntary Service and was flown on a flag pole donated by the Rochdale timber merchant Mr Fletcher Bolton) and said

" For its size he had not seen any other site in those he had visited not just in the UK but also in Canada, USA and Australia and other countries which were more beautiful. He called it the 'camp of the crooked creek'.

Sir Percy had been at the original Scout camp with Baden Powell on Brownsea Island.

The site had been purchased for the sum of £1,500 but a further £1,000 had had to be spent on it. The sum of £1,000 had been donated by Sir Samuel Turner.

During the weekend Sir Percy also attended the District Handicraft Exhibition and the St George's Day Service at the Champness Hall.

Rochdale has its second District Commissioner

In 1938 Alderman C Bryning resigned as District Commissioner and handed over to his successor Geoffrey Duckworth.

Alderman C Bryning was to remain involved in the Movement and held the title of Honorary Commissioner for many years.

In 1940 G Duckworth volunteered to be accepted into service with the Royal Navy and the Honorary Commissioner took over in his period of absence.

Air Raid Precautions Scouts

In January 1939 there were 30 scouts taking on the role of assisting Chief Constable in ARP work around Rochdale. They wore tin helmets and ARP arm bands with their uniform,

Scouts support refugee fund

Scouts organised an open air service in Springfield Park in August 1939 in aid of the Mayoress of Rochdale's appeal for the Earl Baldwin refugee fund.

Rochdale's Mayor invested

In August 1939 the Mayor of Rochdale Councillor LW Taylor JP joins "The Great Scout Brotherhood" as a Scout.



The investiture took place in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall watched by the Mayoress, the District Commissioner Geoffrey Duckworth and a number of Leaders.

After making the Scout promise the Mayor shook hands with all those present using his left hand in according with Scout custom.

This was not the only Mayor to be invested into the Mayor's Own Rover Crew. Councillor William Crossly JP records in the 1952 Annual report and year book, after his investiture that:

"I think this happy association between the civic head and the Scout Movement is enjoyed as much by the Mayor as by the Crew"

Scouts join the Woman's Voluntary Service

In August 1939 the Scouts of Rochdale joined forces with the Rochdale Women's Voluntary Service for Civil Defence at an event in the Rochdale Town Hall.

Reunion & Scoutannica Review

In March 1939 the 27th Rochdale (Lowerplace Methodist) Group had 34 attend its reunion.

They also held a "Scoutannica Review" to raise funds. This was a programme of 20 turns providing a full two and a half hours of entertainment.

One item entitled "The umbrella man" include impersonations of the Prime Minister, Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini.

Added colour (as stated in the Rochdale Observers article about the show) was given by a troupe of girl dancers attired in bright costumes who executed their numbers admirably.

Camp site sold

The farm and land at Nick Road were sold by the Rochdale Association in 1939

War time PL's Meeting

Two months after Britain formally declared war the Patrol Leader's of Rochdale were being prepared.

The Assistant Camp Chief from Gilwell Park visited Rochdale in November 1939 and addressed their Patrol Leader's Meeting.

His visit was to bring home the great importance of the Patrol Leaders work during the war in keeping Scouting going in the absence of their leaders who were serving their country.

Ladies Committee do their bit for the war

During 1939 and 1940 the Ladies Committee provided knitted items and 2/6 (25p) per parcel for addition items from the Rochdale Association funds for Scouts serving with the forces.

Scouts tackle blaze

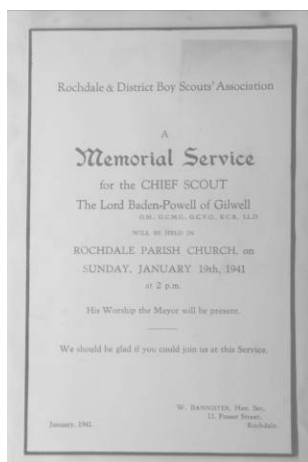
In October 1939 members from the 3rd Rochdale Scouts assisted in putting out a fire at Castleton

Scouts help their Country

During 1940 International Headquarters sent to Rochdale 500 Circulars entitled "You can help your country" and these were distributed to members

BP's Memorial Service

On 19th January 1941 a special memorial service for the Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell was held in the Parish Church. It was attended by 700 Scouts and Guides in the presence of the Mayor of Rochdale.

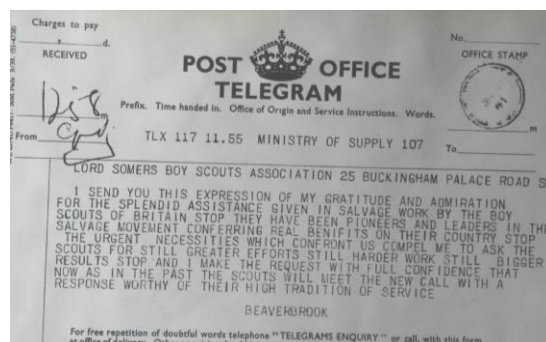


Scouts war effort

By 1941 the 39th Rochdale had collected 100 tons of waste paper since war broke out whilst In 1942 the District total was 900 tons. Largely due to efforts of Scout Master AD Taylor of the 39th Rochdale.

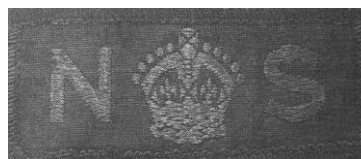
£136 was raised and this has been donated to war charities and to worthy causes which included, a refugee fund, Birch Hill Hospital, and a £5 grant was made to the family named Coward who had done yeomen service to Rochdale Scouting after being evacuated from the Channel Islands with very little possessions.

Other salvage work was also undertaken and the ministry of supply sent a telegram to Lord Somers which was copied to Rochdale District. The 37th Rochdale at one point was collecting two tons of selvedge a month.



Other services included: whitening kerbs, assisting with blackouts acting as guides at pedestrian crossings. Home Guard, Air Training Corp, National Fire Service, Civil Defence, Police messengers, hospital orderlies and one Troop helping ToCH with its canteen.

The National service badge (ed with gold lettering) was awarded to Scouts who contributed to the war effort.

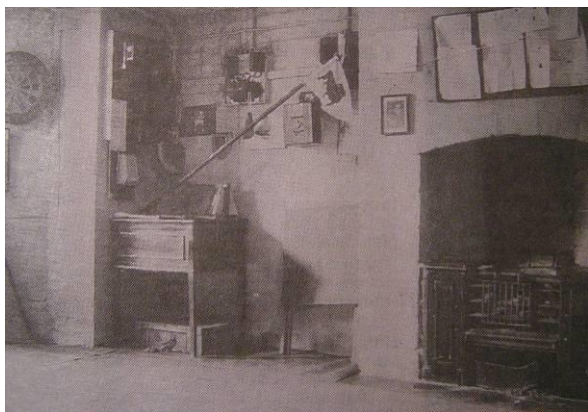


The 18th Rochdale Scouts formed a "Q" Ranch. This project produced eggs from the free-range hens and kitchen garden products on a sound financial return. The project was taken up at a national level

Over 80 officers and older scouts from the Rochdale area joined the forces.

After just over 2 years of war normal Scouting in Rochdale was still in full operation There were obvious changes, the lack of Scout Leader's so Troops were being run by Patrol Leader's.

Most Troops raising funds for trek carts, not for camping but for collecting waste paper for the war effort



The 37th Rochdale met in a cellar of a house during the war years.

Troops welcome new members

Rochdale saw Scouts with “Jersey” and “Wembley” name tapes on their sleeves during 1941 as boys from other parts of UK were evacuated to Rochdale.

Central Organisation

In 1941 the Association Headquarters was in Nelson Street and Troops were camping at Ashworth Valley.

Castleton Scouts camp in Wales

The 3rd Rochdale camp at Pensarn in North Wales for a total of 8 days during 1941.

The visiting Assistant Commissioner for Wales visited each day and gave them an excellent report.

Patrol Leaders Camp

Also in 1941 Patrol Leaders had a training camp the Scouts were instructed to take sandwiches for Friday tea and their own supplies of rationed foodstuffs i.e. butter, tea sugar bacon etc. the remainder of the supplies cost no more than 1s (5p) They were also reminded to take gas masks, Scout stave and rope.

Installing Air Raid Shelters

Scouts over 14 were trained to erect Morrison indoor air raid shelters. In 1942 it was reported that they had erected 11 for old people in the town.

37th Wolf Cub Pack starts

On the 8th April 1942 Miss Heap the Akela of the 37th Rochdale Wolf Cubs wrote in her log book “Akela climbed up on to the Council Rock and sat in the spring sunshine At her feet were four newly born little wolf cubs”



By 7th August 1942 the Pack had grown to 10 and they received a Pack flag from The Senior Patrol leader of the Troop which had been donated by Mrs Heap. In September a Pack Totem to record the Cubs achievements was also received.



By July 1944 the Pack had grown to around 30 Cubs.

The Cornwell Award



This exceptional award, reserved exclusively for Scouts under 20 years of age, is given in respect of pre-eminently high character and devotion to duty, together with great courage and endurance.

In September 1942 Derek Bull aged 16 of the First Rochdale Group received his award whilst he was residing at the Rochdale Memorial Home for Crippled Children in Norden.

The citation stated that Derek, who had complete incapacity of his lower limbs, had shown wonderful courage and cheerfulness in spite of continued suffering since 1938.



Derek was presented with his award on behalf of the Chief Scout by Dr WH Bateman JP Hon Surgeon to the home. The Cub on David's left is his younger brother and he also had an older brother serving in the RAF.

When accepting the award Derek said how proud he was and that he hoped he would remain worthy of it.

The Cornwell Scout Badge is named after JOHN TRAVERS CORNWELL a Scout from London who, at the age of 15 after joining up, gained the Victoria Cross at the Battle of Jutland where he continued to serve his gun on HMS Chester, though the rest of the crew were killed and himself mortally wounded.

Commissioner's Appeal

An appeal was made in September 1942 by the District Commissioner for Vice Presidents to offer support financially by annual subscription. Those who responded to the appeal were invited to attend a demonstration of Scout craft on Lenny Barn.

Annual Scout Week

The 1943 Annual Scout Week was organised with the St George's Day Service at the Champness Hall. The collection going towards the Mayor's National Air Raid Distress Fund realised £9 12s 3d, (£9.60)

A Scout Evening was also held in the lesser Champness Hall along with Dance & Whist Drives, A Scout Swimming Gala. Parents evenings, Ambulance competition, and entertainment at Baillie Street Sunday School.

A Handicraft Exhibition being held in the Town Hall.

Air Scouts

During 1943 the 1st Rochdale Air Scouts was formed by the 40th Rochdale Group under the direction of Scoutmaster Mr F Tattersall. They worked along with the Air Training Corps in Royton.

Rose Hip Collection

During 1944 Scouts & Guides in Rochdale responded to an appeal by the Ministry of Health to collect rose hips during September, October & November.

Rose hips are rich in vitamins and were so plentiful that it was possible to collect a stone in an hour and a half or so.

This was an important war service and was part of a national campaign when the public were told to give there collected hips to the Scouts to forward on to the firms who would utilise them.

Royal Visit

In May 1945 the King and Queen visited Rochdale.

Scouts provided a Guard of Honour as they left Dunlop Mill Cub Graham Ledson of the 37th Rochdale Pack got to speak to the King about the fact he was Senior Sixer and would be going up into the Scouts in the next year. Scout Jack Sunderland of the 41st Rochdale Troop and Rover Scout John Tootell of the 3rd Rochdale Rover Crew looked on.



Chief Scout Visits Ashworth Valley Scout Camp

The Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan visited Ashworth Valley Scout Camp in May 1946.

600 scouts had camped the weekend. Whilst 1500 scouts attended to greet the Chief who can be seen to the left of centre on the following picture with the local District Commissioners to his left.

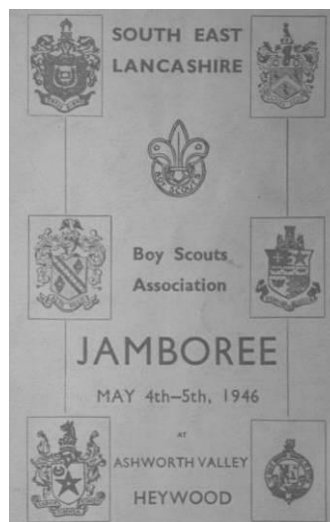
The Chief Scout was greeted by the assembled Scouts who chanted a specially written “Howl” which incorporated local landmarks such as Ashworth Valley and Cheesden.

Lord Rowallan first shook hands with local dignitaries and then Kings Scouts and Bushmans Throng holders and then had a special word with Derek Bull who had been awarded the Cornwell badge in 1942.

He then addressed the Scouts congratulated those responsible for the site and during his speech commented “a glorious site, one of the most magnificent in which I have ever spoken” Nearly as many Cubs met the Chief in the Rochdale Town hall afterwards when it appeared that every inch of the great hall was covered with Cubs.



Lord Rowallan commented that the Grand Howl he received on arrival was “the grandest and loudest I have ever heard anywhere” he added that he didn’t think he had ever seen so many cubs in so large a hall.



In the programme the Mayor of Rochdale Councillor W Rhodes JP extended a warm welcome to members returning from the Forces and he sent them best wishes for their happiness and success in their activities in the years ahead.

District Scout & Guide Week

In July 1946 the Littleborough District held its 4th Scout & Guide Week it started on the Sunday when over 800 Brownies, Girl Guides, Wolf Cubs and Boy Scouts took part in a church parade in the Littleborough Methodist Church. The lesson was read by Scout Donald Chadwick of the Littleborough Methodist Troop. The Promise was taken for the Scouts by ADC Jack Butterworth the Address was given by Rev L Halstead. A collection at the service was taken for the Littleborough Nursing Association and amounted to £10 15s (£10 75p). These Annual Scout & Guide Weeks were to continue well into the 60's.

1947 - 1957

Welcome Home Dinner

A Welcome Home Dinner and Dance was held on the 21st January 1947 in the Masonic Temple Richard Street to welcome home the Scouters who had been away serving their Country.

The evening started at 6.45pm and went on till midnight when a happy band could be seen leaving in their morning suits.

The District Commissioner reported that Scouting had grown in Rochdale during the war years and that this was a great tribute to those who had worked so hard.

Rochdale's third DC

During 1947 Mr G Duckworth resigns as District Commissioner and he was presented with a watch.

He was succeeded by Dr Michael Heap who held the post for the next three years

Annual General Meeting Appeal

At the 1947 Association Annual General Meeting an appeal for adult leaders was made as despite numbers in Troops growing Troops were suffering due to lack of adults.

Welcome Cash

At the April 1947 St George's Day Service it was announced by the Mayor that an anonymous gift of £250 had given to the Association (£250 had also been donated to the Guides)

World Jamborees

13 First Class Rochdale Scouts and two Scouters attend the World Jamboree in Moissen near Paris in 1947.



The Mayor Councillor NR Woolfendedn holds a special reception for the 13 scouts in the Mayor's Parlour

Following on from the devastation of the Second World War, this event was aptly named the Jamboree of Peace.

The cost was £18 per head plus 13 coupons for the uniforms.

Rochdale was also represented at the Jamboree in Austria in 1951 and of Course the BP Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield.

Recycling

In May 1947 a "Jam & Pick Jar Drive" was in full swing.

Scouts and Guides in Rochdale collected just over 37,000 jars. The record went to Cub Barrie Cooper aged 8 of 37th Rochdale who collected 1,100 and Scout Ronald Wright of the same group who collected around the same amount.

The jars were passed on to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for recycling.

DC & ADC's Butlin's Conference

In 1948 Rochdale Commissioners attend the first National Conference for representatives of local associations at Butlin's Holiday Camp in Filey.

St George's Day at the Cinema

The 1949 St Georges Day service was held at the Regal Cinema.

Nearly 2000 Scouts, Guides friends and family members attended and they were rewarded with the Cub choir singing the Scout Hymn to an organ specially brought from Blackpool for the occasion.

Rover Scout Moot

The first Joint South East Lancashire and Manchester Scout County Rover Moot was held at Ashworth Valley Camp Site in 1951,

Rochdale "Gang Show"

In February 1952 a show entitled "Bare Knees Days – A Revue by Boy Scouts" was organised by Rochdale Scouts which filled the Pioneers Hall for four nights raising £18 for funds.

The programme consisted of 15 items which included chorus numbers, folk dancing, musical semaphore, bridge building, a melodrama, sketches, tableaux, ballet (a burlesque in lighter

vein), cornet and trumpet solos, harmony and campfire singing finale.



Producer of Bare Knees Days ADC Donald Law adjusts John Shackleton's headdress for the Indian Silhouette scene

Officially the above title of "Gang Show" is incorrect since the title should only be used when the shows contain Ralph Reader material and have been given official permission to use the title. Hence the alternative title of "Bare Knees days"



Tragic Accident

In 1950 two First Rochdale Scouts Peter Kershaw and David Robert Banks (both aged 15) died at Doilgelley and Barmouth District Hospital following an accident when travelling to camp in a lorry which collided with a telegraph pole on the Dolgelley to Barmouth Road.

Two others, Cub Scout Master Norman Taylor and William Bennett were also injured.

The lorry contained 21 Boys and 4 adults. Some of the boys sat on the edge of the side boards others sat on a few chairs on the flat lorry and

the majority on the floor. This was common practice at this time.

The coroner's verdict was accidental death and the leaders were told not to blame themselves for the deaths.

31 Scouts attended the funeral at Rochdale Cemetery.

District Trip to Blackpool

In 1951 around 80 people from the District went on a trip to Blackpool. Among other things they did upon arrival was a flight in an aeroplane

New District Headquarters

In 1952 the new District Headquarters "Elmfield" erected in 1864, was opened in Mere Street Rochdale.

A direct grant of £1000 was made from the Ministry of Education covering half of the purchase price.



In the 1952 Year Book it was suggested that when future funds were available they would be used as follows:

"The ground floor would be "public rooms" where meetings, whist drives, socials and other functions will be arranged to meet expenses of the house. The first floor rooms would provide accommodation for the District Commissioner's and Secretary's Office, a library and quiet room, the warden's office and rooms for instructional training. The district rover crew has its den on this floor and the three rooms in the attic will be useful storage or games rooms. In the basement it is intended to establish a cellar chapel and a cellar workshop."

Bob-a Job week

During Bob-a-job week in 1952 the Rochdale District raised a total of just under £406.

In 1953 it raised £426 8s 4d (£426.40) which was the highest amount per head in the county.

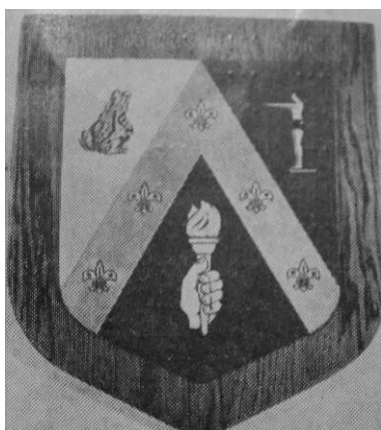
Flood Relief Work

During 1952 Scouters & Rovers from the District undertook flood relief work at Maplethorpe and Sutton.

Bryning Swimming Trophy

In 1952 the Bryning Swimming Trophy was won by the 37th Rochdale Group.

The trophy was first put up for the Group teaching the most Scouts to swim.



The trophy's design incorporates a frog which was taken from the Cub's swimmer badge, the boy poised to dive from the Scout's swimmer badge and a torch from the over-15-year-old Scout's Athlete Badge which was a collective badge including master swimmer.

ACC for Handicapped Scouts

In 1953 Mr A Marsland the Scout Master of the 19th Rochdale was appointed as the Assistant County Commissioner for Handicapped Scouts.

Turkish Scouts Visit

In 1954 seven Turkish Scouts were guests of the Rochdale District prior to them going to the 3 Counties Jamboree at Lyme Park.

St George's Day Parade

Prior to the main service at Baillie St Methodist Church, in 1954, various Troops paraded from their own headquarters. The Roman Catholic Scouts then joined the rest of the Scouts for the main parade which marched along John Street,

Yorkshire Street and the Esplanade where the Mayor Councillor AG Bossier JP and District Commissioner Mr C Smith took the salute.



Scout Officials visits Ashworth

In 1954 there was a visit of the Deputy Chief Scout Sir Peter Lockhart to Ashworth Valley Scout Camp. He talked to nearly every boy in camp and completely upset the official timetable.

Whilst in 1955 Ralph Reader visited the site in his capacity of Chief Scout's Commissioner. He brought the worst weather ever known at Ashworth – including an inch of snow.

SE Lancashire County Badge

In the 1950's the South East Lancashire County produced a new County badge but it was banned by National Headquarters because it incorporated the Arrowhead badge which was not allowed on County Badges without approval.



First Annual Swimming Gala

The first Annual Swimming Gala was in 1954. This became the most supported event in the District Calendar during the 1960's and completely filled the large plunge with spectators. There used to be two very popular events The High Diving and the "plunge" – a standing dive from the side and then without any swimming strokes the greatest distance travelled.

Scouts clean cenotaph

During the National Boy Scouts Good Turn Week in June 1957 Rochdale Scouts had looked round

for a combined publicity seeking and useful job and they decided to scrub the Rochdale central cenotaph using brushes and buckets of water.



Scouts took it in turn every night for a week to climb the scaffold erected by Rochdale Corporation workmen and achieve a very worthwhile job of it according to the Evening Telegraph dated 25th June 1957.

1957 – 1967

New Scout HQ in Church Grounds

On Saturday May 16th 1959 the 35th Rochdale (Baillie Street Methodist) group opened their new Headquarters in the grounds of the Church in the Town centre.

Following the opening a special dinner was held where the guests sat down to a five course dinner consisting of Soup, Roast Beef or Roast lamb served with Roast and creamed potatoes and vegetables followed by apple tart with fresh cream followed by Cheese and biscuits followed by coffee and toasts. Following the dinner the guest speaker was the District Cub Master Mrs Kay Cotton.

Chief Scout Visits Ashworth

During 1959 the chief scout again visited Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site. It was an unforgettable sight when he spoke to over 5,000 Scouts and Wolf Cubs in the valley.

Cub Sports

1961 saw the Rochdale Seeonne Pack's 3rd Annual Cub Sports held on Lenny Barn.



17 Cub Packs took part and over 200 Cubs showed their sporting skills. The eventual winners being the 16th Rochdale.

New HQ for Spotland Scouts

In 1962 the 7thA Rochdale (Spotland Methodist) Group opened their new Headquarters at Spotland Bridge at a cost of £2,600.

The building was opened by County Commissioner Sir Geoffrey Hulton watched by the Group Scout Master Mr Ernest Harrison



This was the climax of 15 years of fundraising by an army of volunteers and 20,000 man hours carried out by a dedicated band of volunteers led by the Group Scout Master Ernest Harrison.

The building was built entirely by volunteers.

A meal and social for around 100 people was enjoyed in the evening

Hong Kong Boy joins First Rochdale Scouts

In March 1962 a 13 year old boy from Hong Kong joined the First Rochdale Troop. Mo Hing had never been in the Scout Movement until he came to live in Rochdale when his father moved to manage the Spring Bamboo restaurant on Drake Street. After being in School in Rochdale for about 10 months his new friends encouraged him to join the Scouts. When he arrived in Rochdale he knew no English but after 10 months he had learnt the basics. After 4 weeks attending the Troop meetings he was invested after he had translated the Scout Promise into Cantonese.

Scouts County Rally

On 17th to the 19th September 1965 Groups from the District attended the South East Lancashire Scout County Rally at Hulton Park.

On the Friday the camp was set up from 5.30 to 9.30pm. and this continued until 11am on the Saturday when the activities began.

A Golden Mile of activities was one attraction, there was a mammoth wide game which included the use of motorbikes, a festival of light before the camp fire when the Chief Scout, Charles Maclean arrived.

After the camp fire the Ventures had their own late night wide game.



During Sunday the Chief Scout visited the sub camps there was a Scouts Own and in the afternoon there was the closing rally addressed by the Chief Scout

Rochdale's 110 Scouts who were in camp for the weekend were joined by 176 Cubs that had visited to meet the Chief.

During the weekend a radio station was set up and some of the scouts made contact with Israel by morse code.

Scout receives Gilt Cross



In 1965 Leslie Howarth aged 11 of the First Rochdale was presented with the Gilt Cross for rescuing a 2 year old girl who's push chair fell into the canal, by the County Commissioner. Mr J Woodcock.

Leslie had been walking by the canal with a group of friends when he came across the incident. He removed his coat and shoes and swam to the middle of the canal arriving just as the girl was sinking. He managed to get hold and drag her to safety.

As he dived in Leslie cut his hand badly on rubble on the canal bed. Later after the baby had recovered he went into hospital for treatment which included stitches and a skin graft

Also Christopher Lee another Cub was praised for his presence of mind and help in the rescue.

Seventeen years later in February 1982 the girl Christine Bamford, who was then 19, met up with Leslie as a result of a special feature about Scouts in the Rochdale Observer.

Leslie commented during this reunion that he had also received

"An award from TV21 magazine, was made a freeman of the ABC Cinema and an honorary life member of Rochdale Hornets junior supporters club." He went of to say "They even had a collection at my school and bought me a fishing rod."

Ashworth's 21st Birthday

In 1965 to celebrate its 21st Birthday Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site organised a Camp which was visited by the Chief Scout Lord Maclean

7th A Scouts are prepared

In 1995 a former member of the 7thA Troop Mr George Tomlinson was awarded the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving the life of one of his colleagues.

George who had left the Troop to join the Royal Navy as a boy entrant following 10 years service was in the Merchant Navy and it was whilst a sea in the Straits of Gibraltar that his colleague fell overboard and George immediately jumped in and kept him afloat for well over an hour despite him being unconscious and George being exhausted.

It was whilst in the Troop that George undertook training for and passed the Royal Life Saving Society's Bronze Medallion.

Also in May 1965 It was reported in the Rochdale Observer that 2 Patrol Leaders of 7thA Rochdale Troop, Neil Woodcock and Roy Percy along with 2 other boys received public congratulations from the Mayor Alderman Mrs Alcroft and the Chief Constable Mr P Ross for their prompt action in going to the rescue of a boy who had fallen into the River Spod.

Churchill Fund Appeal

In March 1965 Scouts from Rochdale District undertook the task of scraping off labels from 400 collecting boxes in the Town Hall which were used to collect for the Churchill Appeal Fund.

Unique Presentation

In June 1995 six of Rochdale's Scouters were presented with their Medal of Merits for outstanding service to the Movement by the County Commissioner Mr BS Bates at a unique ceremony at the 37th Rochdale headquarters.

Before the presentation around 130 people sat down to a potato pie supper.

The District Commissioner Mr W Fletcher introduced the County Commissioner who then presented medal of merit medals and certificates to Mrs Cotton Assistant District Commissioner, Miss Heap Scoutmaster of the 37th Rochdale Troop, Mr Howard District Treasurer, Mr Sutcliffe Scout leader, Mr Harrison Assistant District Commissioner & Mr Finnie District Secretary.

Mrs Cotton and Miss Heap later went on to be awarded the Silver Wolf whilst Mr Sutcliffe later gained the Silver Acorn and Mr Harrison the bar to the Silver Acorn.

Wolf Cubs 50th Birthday

On Saturday 29th January 1966 The Scout Counties of South East Lancashire, West Cheshire, East Lancashire and Manchester organised a Wolf Cub 50th Anniversary Rally at Belle Vue, Manchester. Wolf Cubs from Rochdale paid 5/6 (25p) to watch the show and visit the zoo.

Youngest Queen's Scout

15 year old First Rochdale Scout Peter Knott was presented with the Queen's Scout Badge in 1966 and he was the youngest Queens Scout in Rochdale's History.

It was presented by the Assistant County Commissioner EL Oates (Titus) assisted by Assistant District Commissioner E Harrison and watched by The Mayor Councillor Cyril Smith MBE JP, his parents Cub Scout Leader and Assistant Cub Scout Leader Earnest & Marjorie Knott and his friend Ivan Hurst aged 16 who was also presented with his Queen's Scout Badge

Cub Leaders Conference

On Saturday 22nd October 1966 South East Lancashire County Scout Council held a Cub Scout Leader's Conference at Salford

Grammar School at a cost of 2/6 (15p) per head.

The event started at 3.00pm with opening remarks from the Assistant County Commissioner for Cub Scouts and was followed by three speakers: Arthur Brown MBE, Vera Crossley Akela Leader, Barry Moule HQ's Commissioner for Cub Scouts and ended with a square dance from 7.00 to 9.00pm

Abefan Disaster

In October 1966 3 Rover Scouts from the First Rochdale left Rochdale after contacting the police and worked side by side with miners and other rescuers at the school in Abefan following the landslide that had engulfed it.



John Mannering commented in the Rochdale Observer on his return "At first there was no real organisation of the rescuers but the miners were superb. They came straight from working a shift at the mine and started digging furiously"

Les Marshall commented that they were only occasionally conscious of the tragedy which surrounded them "But when I found some kids books and saw their names on the pegs in the school cloakroom this brought the whole thing home to me. The whole business was in retrospect a very touching and moving experience."

Fred Hindley commented that as soon as we arrived we set to work digging on the black ooze above the school. They dug all weekend with only a few hours sleep and returned to Rochdale on the Sunday evening and were back at work on the Monday morning.

Mr George Mainwaring the Group Scout Leader commented "that this is an instance of what this "Scouting lark" is all about.

1967-1977

Inter denominational Service

In 1968 the first inter denominational St George's Day Service was held in Rochdale.



Prior to this date Catholic Scouts held a separate service and joined up for the parade.

It was held in the Champness Hall, a venue that was used right up to the hall being unsafe in 2006.

Last Scouts Queen's Scout Awards

Following the Advanced Party Report and the dramatic changes to the look of UK Scouting in 1967 Rochdale's last Scouts to gain the Queen's Scout Award were Nigel Casson and David Fern both from the 37th Rochdale Group.



Under changes introduced in 1967 the Queen's Scout Award became a Venture Scout Award not a Scout one. This has of course changed again with Explorer Scouts & Network taking over from Venture Scouts.

Rochdale's 6th DC appointed

In September 1968 Lt Col Peter D Matterson became District Commissioner.



His father had been involved with Rochdale Scouting before him. He had been the District Rover Scout Leader

First Rochdale Diamond Jubilee

In November 1968 the First Rochdale Group held its Diamond Jubilee Reunion Dinner Dance.

Those present included:

John Milne - at 71 Year old, believed to be the only founder member of the Group remaining who left the Group to join the army in 1915 where he won the military medal for bravery in the field;

Alderman George Stanley Crabtree - a former Rochdale Mayor and Scout of the First;

Captain Harold Watkins - chief pilot and flight inspector of British Eagle International Airlines who was a former member of the First's Rover Crew who left to join the Finish Air Force (there was an 8 month waiting list to join the RAF and he couldn't wait,) then the British Intelligence and eventually the RAF, being imprisoned in Russia for 2 years and gaining the DFC for his part in a Lancaster bombing operation in 1944;

Elizibeth Stott - at the age of 86 the oldest person present had served the Group Committee for nearly 40 years;

Florence Darlington – The Group's Secretary who's name is given to the current First Headquarters on George Street "Darlington House" in memory of her achievements and recognition to her 40 years service to Scouting which was rewarded with the award of the Silver Wolf.

During the speeches George Mainwaring the Group Scout Leader reported that their numbers were strong with 104 members (10 of which were leaders) plus a Group Council of 25 members.

Appeal for new District HQ funds

During 1969 a major appeal for funds towards the purchase of a new Headquarters for the District was launched.

March saw a sponsored swim at the Castleton baths. This raised a total of £840 towards the appeal fund



ADC Mr E Wood completing his 27 laps of the baths

November was the occasion of a “Five Guinea Charity Ball” in the Grand setting of the Town Hall organised by Mr G McLoughlin and a select team of volunteers including Mr RH Pearce, Mr F Holt, Alderman Cyril Smith MBE, Councillor J Kielty, and Messrs J Bleakley, A Lynskey, R Jones, H Rothwell, T Butterworth and P Matterson.

Special guests included: The Mayor & Mayoress Alderman & Mrs HR Halstead, Victor Sylvester OBE and Clive Rushton - Rochdale's International Swimmer.

The meal consisted of eight courses which was a little ambitious as it over ran by 2 hours delaying the start of the dancing. The whole evening went on to 2.00am the following day.

Dancing was to the Victor Sylvester Trio with other music provided by Tex Matthew and his Caribbean rhythm, The Rochdale Youth Theatre Orchestra and Miss Sheila Daniels

The event raised about £750. this was after giving away a colour TV valued at £365 as the main raffle prize and the prize of a weeks holiday at Butlins. The minimum price for raffle tickets was £1.



Rochdale Venture Scouts lined the grand staircase in the town hall as the guests arrived. It was partly for them that the funds were being raised as the Central Venture Scout Unit was to be based at the new headquarters.

Princess Anne, Gracie Fields, the bishops of Manchester and Salford and the Chief Scout Sir Charles Maclean sent messages of every success.

1300 Cub caps in one place

June 1970 saw over 1,300 cubs from around the County attend the annual Cub Day at Ashworth Valley Camp Site.

Whilst in June 1970 there were 80 Cubs from Rochdale District attended a successful Sixer's Camp based upon a European theme also at Ashworth Valley.

3C Gang Show

4th May 1970 saw a week long run of the 3 Counties Gang Show at the Opera House in Manchester. Many Rochdale Groups attended.

700 trees planted at Ashworth

During November 1972 Cubs from Rochdale plant around 700 trees at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp.

These largely contributed to the look of the site as we know it today.



County Rally

In 1973 the County held a rally at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp and The Chief Scout, Sir William Gladstone visited.

GMN was formed

1974 was when the Scout Counties were reorganised and South East Lancashire Scout County ceased to be and Greater Manchester North Scout County was formed.

GSL Retires to concentrate on District

In April 1975 Mr Ernest Harrison retired as Group Scout Leader of the 7thA Rochdale Group after 25 years service.

He left to support the District Commissioner in his role as Assistant District Commissioner General Duties. He had for the past 20 years been an Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts.

9 Groups took part in speed races, slalom, and relay in both singles and doubles. There was also a fun slippery pole competition and a raft race.



Ernest Harrison receives his gifts from Allan Pemberton with his wife, Cub Alla Mitchell and Patrol leader Neil Goodwin looking on

Cosmorama

Rochdale Ventures joined others at a major event at Lingfield Park Race Course on 27-30th August 1976. The Venture Scouts got the chance to enter the record books. The idea of the world record breaking festival was to attempt to get in the Guinness Book of Records with all sorts of activities from eating 130 prunes to being buried alive for 4 days. No individual Ventures from Rochdale did however get their names in the book!

Jubilee Sixer's Camp

Greater Manchester North Cub Scouts held a Jubilee Year Sixers Camp at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site on 20th to 22nd August 1976.

Activities included a treasure hunt, archery, assault course, blindfold trail, football with a difference, shelter making, kite making & flying, plaster casts, twist making, natural painting, making bird boxes, stained glass windows, enamelling, wrestling display, Rochdale District band display, camp fire, water sports, its-a-knockout and Cubs Own.

Canoe Regatta

The first Canoe Regatta in the District was organised by Rochdale's County Water Activities Representative Allan Pemberton at Hollingworth Lake on 8th October 1977.

1977 -1987

Queen's Jubilee Rally

In 1977 Rochdale Cubs and Scouts attended the Join in Jubilee Rally at Giant's Seat Scout Camp on the 6th to the 8th May.

Janet Cotton Memorial Pack Holiday Centre.

In 1978 Ashworth Valley Camp Site opened its Pack Holiday Centre.



The Janet Cotton Memorial Pack Holiday Centre was named after an Assistant Cub Leader from the 7thA Rochdale Group who tragically lost her life in a car accident on the way to work.

Janet's friends at work had a collection and it was suggested that a fitting tribute to her would be to raise funds for a much needed building at the site.

Kay Cotton (Janet's mother) and friends made the idea become reality.

Train Trip to London

The District Executive organised two train trips to London in the 1980's. A full train was commissioned to take those with special excursion tickets direct from Rochdale Station to London for a day trip.

In 1980 four hundred and twenty people paid £8 and this raised a profit of £77 for District funds.

1982 The Year of the Scout

75 years of Scouting was celebrated in the District in a number of ways.

On Tuesday 10th August 1982 a Mayoral Reception was held in Rochdale Town Hall when the grand hall was transformed to show off every conceivable scouting activity and the grand staircase was lined with all the Group and District flags as the guests arrived.

The Greater Manchester North County celebrated 75 years of Scouting at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site with "Crash on 75".

1965 Scouts and Leaders camped the weekend and 1095 Cubs visited.

Medal for meritorious conduct

A Venture Scout from the 37th Rochdale Group was awarded a medal for meritorious conduct in 1982.

7th A Rochdale Ski Austria

In March 1983 Scouts, Venture Scouts and Leaders from the 7thA Rochdale Group had a weeks skiing in Mayrhofen in Austria. Allan Pemberton introduced the activity when he was Scout Leader by running trips to Aviemore in Scotland and the numbers of Scouts who have learnt to ski increased over the years.

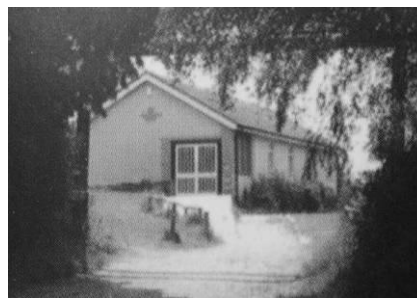
Ashworth's 40th

During 1984 Ashworth Valley Scout Camp celebrated 40 years of camping by staging a special anniversary camp.

Prior to the camp an adventure playground was built in between the Pack Holiday Centre and the camp fire circle.

Ranch House Opened

In 1985 the Ranch House was opened.



The name conjures up a different image to that of the building. Originally it was a wooden ranch house with a veranda. However this had been burnt to the ground two years previously before it was completely fitted out for use.

3C Camporee – 1986

On the weekend of the 2nd to the 4th May 1986 the three Manchester Scout Counties had a 3 County Camporee at Heaton Park in Middleton. This was attended by the Chief Scout along with

many Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures from Rochdale. Activities included a late night film show on the Friday, Beaver Scout picnic, massed band display, Venture Scout water activities, camp fire, disco, lawn mower racing, wide game, sub camp competitions and usual camp activities and the displays.

1987 – 1997

District Open Day

On 3rd May 1987 the District held its first Open Day on Greenbank School playing fields outside the District Headquarters.

This realised an excess of income over expenditure of over £770 from sale of over 1500 programs.

Events included a tug of war, static and mobile displays, fancy dress competition, badge work displays and camping and cooking displays

Go for a million

In November 1990 Mr Geoffrey Dickens MP sat down to a full English breakfast in the House of Commons served by Scouts from the 17th Rochdale Troop led by Patrol Leader Leyton Bracegirdle aged 13.. (Well it wasn't actually "The House of Commons" but was in fact on the mock-up set at Granada Studios.)

It was part of the Troops "Go for a million" challenge when National Headquarters had put together a number of challenges for Scouts all over the Country, This particular one was to gain points by serving a meal in an unusual place. Added points were gained because of the publicity it received.

Accompanying Mr Dickens was the District Commissioner, Mr Ian Kay who had been involved with the team put together by National Headquarters to launch the "Go for a million" challenge the length and breadth of the UK.

After the meal Mr Dickens said:

"This was as good a breakfast as any I have had in five star hotels all over the world."



The 7thA Rochdale Troop invited Sir Cyril Smith MP to a "Millionaire's Banquet" on the balcony of Rochdale Town Hall. They not only managed publicity in the press but they also made the local television news which gained them even more points.



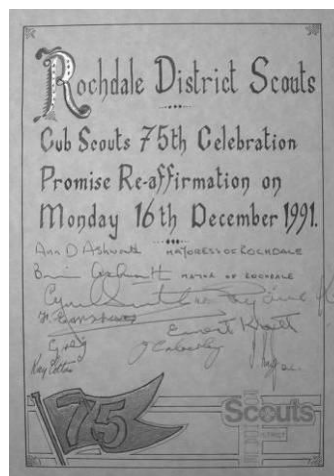
Patrol leader Alan Haigherty had personally invited Sir Cyril to the millionaire's banquet and after he had said yes he told him where it was. Cyril still agreed to attend "for his cheek"

Rochdale District Scouts also took part in the Go-for-a-million camp at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp

75th Anniversary of Cub Scouting

As part of the 75th Anniversary of Cub Scouting the Rochdale cubs held a promise re-affirmation ceremony on Monday 16th December 1991

This was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress Councillor and Mrs Brian Ashworth, Sir Cyril Smith MBE and specially invited ex Scouts/Scouters who along with the District Commissioner Mr Ian Kay signed an illuminated parchment to record the occasion.



Chief Goes North

On the weekend of the 13th & 14th April 1991 the Chief Scout Garth Morrison visited Greater Manchester North and every section had its own event which provided an opportunity for many Rochdale Members to meet him. Beaver Scouts had a special Birthday service in the Champness Hall Rochdale; Cubs had an activity afternoon at the Oldham Sports & Leisure Complex, Scouts had their event at the Heathershaw Sports & Leisure Complex Ventures had their event at the County Training Centre at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp; Supporters met the Chief at a get together in Bury Church High School and Leaders and Commissioners attended a meal at the Royton Assembly Halls.

Soccer school

In August 1992 Rochdale Association Football Club ran a Cub & Scouts Soccer School during the school holidays at Balderstone School. As a result the District was presented with a cheque to the value of £90 for their funds.

Ashworth Valley Improvements

Since its opening Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site did not have an outdoor chapel like other sites. But in 1988 this changed with the dedication of the altar at a simple ceremony.

In 1989 Work began on refurbishing the farm buildings and the opening of the top toilet and shower blocks.

This was followed in 1993 with the opening of the new tuck shop in the farm buildings and the installation of disabled facilities in the main toilet block

In 1994 the Frank Downham-Clark room was opened above the tuck shop. Frank a Scouter from Heywood had been an avid supporter of Ashworth over many years before his death.

About Scouts

On Saturday 10th July 1993 the Rochdale Observer restarted publishing a weekly Scout Column which was called "About Scouts".

This resulted from a visit of Mr John Fogg, the Scout Association's Public Relations Officer, to a County Team Meeting to which District Commissioners were invited to invite their District Public relations Representatives.

District Commissioner Ian Kay invited Neil Woodcock and following the meeting Neil agreed

to write copy on a weekly basis and to make arrangements for the column to be printed in the Observer.

The column is, in 2007, still a weekly feature and over the years has contributed to a greater awareness "About Scouts" to the readers of the paper in Rochdale.



Sea Canoeing

2nd to 4th July 1993 saw Scouts, Venture Scouts and Leaders from Rochdale enjoying sea canoeing at Cable Bay in Anglesey.



Miss Kathleen M Heap

In August 1993 Miss Heap who had been for many years the Scout Leader at 37th Rochdale Group "went home" at the age of 90.

She was the Districts first lady Scout Leader and had become involved with Scouting when her brother Michael Heap (who was District

Commissioner in the late 1940's) had been posted abroad during the war in 1941,

She ran both the Troop and the Pack until his return in 1945. Her warrant was then changed to Scout Master making her one of only a handful of women Scout Leaders at the time. A position she held for many years.

She had also been District Badge Secretary and District Secretary and was the holder of the Silver Wolf for her services to Scouting.

Even after her retirement in 1968 the leaders used to visit her at home and reported to her, after the Troop meeting, what had gone on.

A memorial service was held at St Aiden's Church on Monday 8th November 1993 following which her ashes were interred at a simple ceremony at the family plot in Rochdale Cemetery. Many friends, ex members of the Group and the District Commissioner I Kay attended and the readings and the address were given by members of the 37th Rochdale Group.

Cubs On Air

Wednesday 4th August 1993 had Matthew Bottomly, James Carr and Craig Kershaw of the First Rochdale Pack interviewed live on BBC Radio Manchester. Matthew was interviewed during the broadcast.

Link Club and Scouts Camp

August 1993 had 20 Scouts & Link Club members accompanied by 10 Leaders and Helpers from the 30th Rochdale (Special Needs) Group camping at Kielder Water in Northumberland.

They enjoyed a packed programme which included raft building, abseiling, orienteering, and various water activities.

County Cubs take over Pontins

During 1993 Rochdale Cubs joined around 800 Cubs and 200 Leaders and Helpers from Greater Manchester North Scout County at Pontin's holiday camp in Morecombe.

Activities included boating, football, Crazy golf, putting, orienteering, swimming, handicrafts, a disco, camp fire singing, mini pioneering, first aid, astronomy, table tennis, mountain and BMX biking.

Beaver indoor fireworks

In November 1993 the Rochdale Beaver Scouts had an unusual firework display. It was held inside the District Headquarters at Greenbank.

More than 20 leaders and 130 Beaver Scouts converged on the headquarters for a sing song followed by the judging of the lantern competition and the indoor fireworks.

The faces of the Beaver Scouts were a picture as the sparks began to fly. Following the fireworks supper of hot dogs was followed by more singing and eventually they all left chewing sweets they had been given for on the way home.

Remembrance Parade

The District Team and other Leaders joined the Annual Remembrance Parade in Rochdale in November 1993 just as they do every year.



Various Groups also attended local parades in Wardle, Whitworth, Norden and Castleton.

Beaver pantomime visit

In 1994 the Annual Beaver Scout Pantomime trip was to see Cinderella at Middleton Civic Hall.

A total of 56 Beavers and 21 adults enjoyed lots of audience participation including the inevitable "He's Behind you...".

One Beaver Scout also managed to get on stage, performing as a bomber pilot in the sing a long.

Ventures finalists in Bat Polo

In February 1994 K2 Venture Scouts (27th/15th Rochdale) were runners up in the County Bat polo competition.



Presentation Evening

On 21st April 1994 the District had its first presentation evening held at the District Headquarters.

The idea was that as most District Trophies are presented at the actual competition the rest of the District do not get a chance to acknowledge the winners.

All the trophies won in the past year were represented in front of a packed audience who also saw some Leaders and Administrators presented with long service awards.

Darlington Hike & First Aid Competition

In April 1994 the Darlington Hike & First Aid Competition drew 17 Scout teams from around the District.

The hike took the teams from 41st Rochdale's Whitworth Headquarters over Rooley Moor to end up at 10th Rochdale's Norden Headquarters.

On route the teams should have encountered three bases: fire lighting, tent pitching, and pressure stoves. At the end of the hike having dined the teams took part in a first aid incident competition

Ashworth's 50th Year

In May 1994 Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site celebrated its 50th with a special camp.

600 Scouts and leaders took part in the event which was visited by local Mayors and other dignitaries. The action packed weekend was formally closed with a "Scouts Own" on the

theme of thanksgiving for God's creation led by Canon R Smith of Bury Parish Church.

Beaver Fun Day

In May 1994 a total of 89 Beaver Scouts Leaders, helpers and some parents had a fun filled day at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp.

They followed a wood trail, played a wide game, had a scavenger hunt, followed rope trails through the trees and tried their skills at skipping, hoola hoops and dribbling a football all before they helped to dam up the stream in three places.

Scout Cooking Competition

In the summer of 1994 Scouts from Rochdale Groups took part in the District Cooking Competition which was in the form of a backwoods meal.



The Scouts had to prepare and cook a meal for themselves and the judges without using any utensils or the use of tinfoil.

Menus were of the teams own choosing and items included: quails, trout, eggs, potatoes, bacon, turkey and assorted fruits and vegetables. One team even managed to make a brew.

Euro Jam

In August 1994 a contingent from Rochdale led by Assistant District Commissioner Stephen Allan took part in the first European Jamboree at Dronten in Holland.

They travelled from Rochdale Town Hall and met up with two other contingents at Harwich as they boarded the ferry.

Eventually they arrived at the site in atrocious weather and had to bed down in a giant warehouse as the wind was so strong tents didn't stay up.

The ceremony following the opening by the Dutch Prime Minister was a real colourful spectacle with everyone taking part by making a rainbow as they held up various coloured balloons. The 12,000 Scouts then spend 2 weeks having a great time in very hot weather taking part in various activities including a pop concert - scuba diving, being oversubscribed!

Help for Uganda

In September 1994 Rochdale Scouts from all sections were in the Rochdale Market raising funds for the National Scout Unite Project appeal.

They were visited by the County President Sir Cyril Smith, The Mayor of Rochdale and the towns MP Liz Lynne.

Activities in local groups during Unite week also raised awareness of the situation in Uganda and helped raise £275 of which over half was sent to the Ugandan Scout Association to help with projects to improve village life in the country. The remainder was used to help buy equipment such as needles, sterilising units and vaccines.

Royal Visit

As part of the Co-op's 150th year celebrations, the Queen and Prince Philip visited Rochdale in 1994.

Three Beavers (from the 16th, 18th and 27th/15th Colonies) three Cubs (from the 5th, 43rd, 12thA Packs) two Scouts (from the 10th and 29thA Troops) and two Ventures (from the 41st and 37th Units) along with three leaders and the District Commissioner Ian Kay were there to represent Rochdale District Scouts.

The contingent joined other dignitaries in the Town Hall and after having light refreshments were ushered onto the Town Hall Square to line the route from the Town Hall to the waiting car standing opposite to Rainbows, Bownies, Guides and Rangers from our sister Movement.

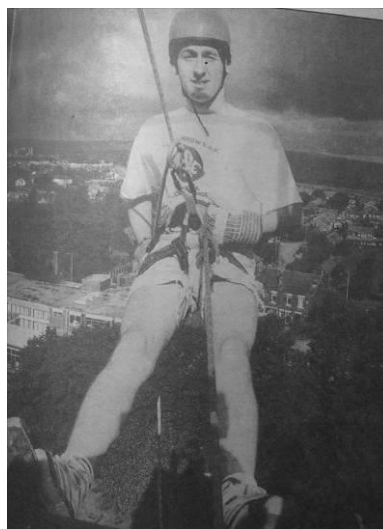
The Queen and Prince Phillip entered the square and Prince Phillip shook hands with the District

Commissioner and went on to speak to the Venture Scouts.

The Queen walked on the opposite side speaking to members of the Guide Movement. Following Prince Phillip were other dignitaries including the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester Colonel John Timmins who spoke to the Scouts.

Good Turns

At the end of August 1994 a team of Venture Scouts from the 1st Milnrow Venture Unit organised a fund raising event to raise funds for St James's Church 125th anniversary appeal by "abseiling down Everest"



The abseil, from the church tower, was done by a team who descended enough times to cover 29,106ft, which is the height of Everest.

The sum of around £450 was split between the Unit and the Church.

In 1995 the 17th Rochdale (Wardle) Group organised a sponsored swim and raised £250 for the Special Care Baby Unit and towards the Hydrotherapy Pool Fund at the Birch Hill Hospital.

Venture Scouts from 27th/15th Rochdale and 17th Rochdale helped the Littleborough Lions Club in the organisation of the first Boundry Walk which was a walk of some 20 miles around the area to raise money for the Mayors Appeal and Roy Castles Cause for Hope Appeal.

A dozen Milnrow Venture Scouts and Leaders in 1995 raised £1,600 for cancer research.



Neil Heywood

It was in March 1995 that Neil Heywood who had been a member of the management committee, treasurer and then the warden of Ashworth Valley Scout Camp for a total of 24 years, went home.

Many friends, Scouting colleagues including the District Commissioner Ian Kay and other members of the District Team represented Rochdale District at the packed funeral service in Middleton.

St George's Day Parades

Throughout the years the Annual St George's Day Service and Parade have shown Rochdale the strength of Scouting in Rochdale and this continues to this day.



In 1995 the theme for the service was "World wide Scouting" and the service was led by the District Team.

The parade followed with the salute being taken by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Rodney Stott

Kite & Kart Day

In May 1995 a new competition was introduced to the District calendar of events. The idea was to have something that all sections could take part in the idea was to have a kite and kart day.

Kites and manually propelled karts were made by sections and individuals prior to the day and then prizes were awarded for the design, height flown speed, etc.



There were 30 entries for the kites and 7 groups entered a kart.

The event held at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp was repeated in 1996 and held in 1997 in a field in Wardle.

Sporting Weekend

July 1995 saw 12 Packs and 5 Colonies competing in sports days and for the Cubs a chance to earn their athletes badge.

The Cub event was held at Springfield Park – a venue used regularly for this event whilst the Beavers used Greenbank HQ and the School Playing Fields.

VJ Parade

Groups from Rochdale took part in the Town's VJ Parade in 1995, led by the District Team.

World Jamboree

Rochdale Scouting was represented by 2 Scouts at the Jamboree in Holland during August 1995 as part of the 35 strong Greater Manchester contingent.

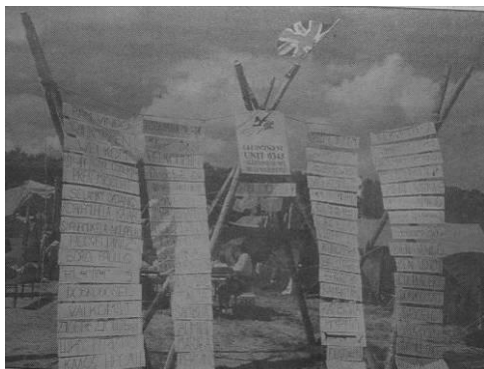
The Contingent joined 3,000 others at crystal palace in London which was eventually swelled to around 5,000 when the contingents from Japan, Russia and Uganda arrived en route for Dronten.

After a send off from the Chief Scout Garth Morrison they crossed the channel via ferry and arrived at the Jamboree site.

Life at the Jamboree with the other 30,000 Scouts is an experience not to be forgotten. An entry in the diary of one of the Scouts Read:

"Made a friend, talked to anybody we could. Atmosphere friendly, no barrier with religion, race, creed colour or language"

Surely this is a testament to Baden Powell's concept of a Jamboree years before.



Unit 0343 Greater Manchester Gateway at the Holland Jamboree

The Scouts Own at the Jamboree saw people of different colours, creeds and religions stood together, singing and joining in unity led by an inter faith team of Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Jews to name just a few.

Other activities included pop concerts, unforgettable opening and closing ceremonies, inter country patrol activities, visits and challenges.

Following the Jamboree home hospitality was in Germany.

District Gala Open Day

On 17th September 1995 the District held its second Gala Open Day at the District Headquarters and using Greenbank School's Playing Fields.

Most of the Groups taking part with displays of computing, electronics, pioneering, camp ovens, backwoods cooking, car mechanics, compass work and others which had been badge courses run prior to the event by the Troops and Packs.

The Venture Units took part in an its-a-knock-out type competition

County Beaver Day

September 1995 saw Beaver Scouts from the District join around 1,000 others at Ashworth Valley Camp Site for the County's Beaver Fun Day.

The theme of Explorers had the Beavers taking part in assault courses, treasure hunts, panning for gold parachute games, a bug hunt Beaver trail making telescopes, compasses map holders binoculars and pith helmets.

Special Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Sunday in 1995 the 30th Rochdale (Special Needs) Scout Group were in camp at Ashworth Valley.

Whilst others from the District attended either the Town Centre Parade or those around the borough the 30th Scouts took paper poppies, they had made earlier during their camp, down to the river and after appropriate words from the leaders they cast their poppy into the gently flowing water and stood silently as they watched it float away. The Scouts grasped the solemnity of the "Service" which was a very moving experience.

Ashworth hosts Regional Camp

May 1996 had the North West Region's Cub Leaders camping for the weekend at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp.

The first Region 8 camp was in 1977 and has been held every 2 years since then.

The event was opened by Sir Cyril Smith the County president apart from socialising the leaders had a chance to choose from 24 different activities.

District Camps

In 1988 The District held a weeks camp at Coniston in the Lake District, Four sub camps enjoyed a mixed programme of water activities, pioneering, rock climbing, hiking, sports, wide games, camp fires, its-a-knockout, mountain biking etc. The activities were provided by a central leadership team whilst Troop Scouters looked after their camping arrangements. The 1996 camp was on Angelsey from 10th-17th August.

First go to Switzerland

In 1996 the First Rochdale camped in the International Chalet at Kandersteg.

11 Scouts 2 Ventures and 2 Leaders spent a week hiking up spectacular mountains, tobogganing down the biggest summer toboggan run in Europe rowing, swimming, playing football with Scouts from Italy, visiting ice caves and seeing ice carvings

Cubs celebrate

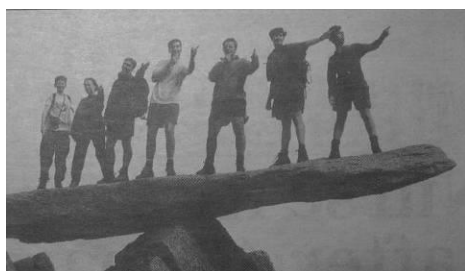
In June 1997 around 200 Rochdale Cubs and their Leaders took the theme of "Knights of the Round Table" for their celebration weekend camp held at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp, There were games, activities, camp fires, a

tournament, a fancy dress competition and a cubs own. One activity involved building a giant castle that all the sub camp could get in (around 40 cubs)



Bondi Ventures on TV

The 41st Rochdale Venture Scouts (Bondi Unit) spent 4 days in Beddgelert, Wales in 1997 and managed to get themselves filmed by the BBC Country File programme walking up Aberglaslyn Pass.



Bondi Ventures on the cantilever stone on top of Gyllder Fach

They also walked in the gliders and completed the Snowdon horseshoe including a scramble up Crib Goch.

1997 - 2007

Whitworth's New HQ

41st Rochdale Scout Group opened a new HQ in Saturday 25th April 1998 after the fruits of many years labour since their previous HQ was burnt down in Brenbar Crescent.

The new HQ was officially opened by Sir Cyril Smith MBE with around 200 people taking part in the ceremony including the Mayor and Mayoress of Whitworth, The District Commissioner Ian Kay, Reverend Trevor Haig, Councillor Kershaw members of Whitworth Council and representatives of organisations, churches, firms and shops who had over the past years supported the Group's fund raising efforts.

District Website

1998 saw Rochdale District's first web site launched.



There was also a District Intranet site called RODISC for members to swap ideas, and to provide information. Since then the site has been updated and a separate Beaver Scout and Group sites have joined it.

90 years of Scouting Camp

May 1998 had Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site hosting a special activity camp to celebrate 90 years of Scouting.

Over 500 Scouts and Guides attended from as far a field as Southampton. Activities included backwoods cooking, badge making, hot air balloon making, candle making, climbing, abseiling, glass painting, crafts, kite making, leatherwork, plaster casts, survival techniques, hiking and canoeing.

Unfortunately during the camp Scout Scott Fanning fell to his death on a public footpath whilst hiking from the site. Prayers were said by Father Lannon at the Scouts own service which also remembered 90 years of Scouting.

Patrol Leader's Training Course

Rochdale District Patrol Leaders and Assistance had a training camp at Hebden Hey Scout Camp in Hebden Bridge on the weekend of the 27th February 1998. Over 20 Scouts took part in the course which was aimed to help PL's gain leadership skills. Sessions included programme planning, camp menus and programmes, who does what in the Scout Troop, practical skills including backwoods cooking, rock climbing and toffee making. There was also a night hike and a treasure hunt. There was also the by now traditional "Brain Game" A management training game where the scouts patrols have to plan a weekend camp but have to ask "The Brain" for information that they would in real life have to ask others for. The brain being made up of the tutors and staff of the course.

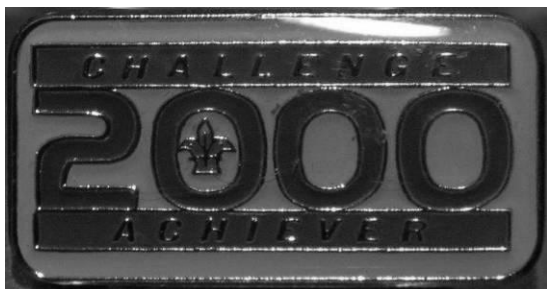


Opening of Greater Manchester County HQ

On Wednesday 11th November 1998 The District Commissioner Ian Kay represented the District at the official opening of the new County Headquarters and Training Centre at Monks Hill Middleton by HRH Princess Alexandra the Hon Lady Ogilvy GCVO.

Millennium Challenge

To celebrate the Millennium Rochdale District offered a challenge to its members.



A pack of programme ideas were drawn up by the District Team.

2000 activities in ten categories: 2000 ways with water, 2000 welcomes; 2000 miles of fun; 2000 images of Scouting; 2000 £'s for charity; 2000 good turns; 2000 new skills, 2000 millennium domes; 2000 Joint activities 2000 thank you's.

The eventual winners were the First Rochdale Group.

Money raised from the Challenge was donated to the Springhill Hospice.

North 2000 Jamboree

In May 2000 Ashworth Valley Scout Camp hosted the Greater Manchester North Scout County's North 2000 Jamboree.

Around 1000 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scout members joined in the experience as did local dignitaries and guests.



*The Mayor's of Rochdale and Bolton Councillors
Brian Leather & Alan Wilkinson at the Jamboree*

As well as the sites usual activities of climbing, abseiling, shooting, archery and low ropes there was dry stone walling, circus skills, wallpapering, sing songs, art and crafts, glazing, hama bead crafts, corn dollies, backwoods cooking, macramé, thatching, trek cart racing, cooking, personal challenges, volley ball, making musical instruments, tug of war, egg decorating, map making, pioneering, sketching, machanics badge, handling birds of prey, leather work,

learning about Scouts from around the world and their cultures and faiths, learning about healthy eating and many more.

During the weekend computer links to Scouts around the world were made and messages were received from Slovenia, Australia, Finland, The Czech Republic, Holland, Canada, USA, Brazil and Italy besides many other camps in the UK..

The Chief Scout sent a special message which was read out at the festival of light on the Saturday Evening which was followed by a fantastic firework display.

Beaver Scout Wedding

In 2000 Beaver Scouts from 27th/15th Rochdale Colony had a Beaver Scout Wedding when the Beavers dressed up and acted out a mock wedding ceremony as preparation for one of the Colony Leaders getting married.

On the actual day the Beavers along with other members of the Group provided a guard of honour outside the Rochdale Register Office as the bride and groom left.

Rochdale Observer Thanks Badge

In 2001 The District Commissioner Ian Kay presented a special Thanks Badge plaque to the editor of the Rochdale Observer Mr Brian Beal.



This was for the Observers many years of support to Rochdale Scouting.

Rochdale's tenth DC

In April 2001 Stephen Allan took over as Rochdale's District Commissioner from Ian Kay who had completed his maximum term of 10 years in the post.

Ashworth Valley Activities

For the new millennium Ashworth Valley Scout Camp decided to boost its activities.



In 2001 a new adventure playground was set up and grass sledges were purchased and Orienteering courses were also set up.

In 2002 at a cost of £75,000 a scheme to build a 30 foot high climbing and abseiling tower, a shooting and rifle range and a low ropes course was struck with the Heywood New Deal project.



Rock & River were brought in to run the activities for the site.

Wardle Scouts Show

In April 2002 the 50 or more members of the 17th Rochdale Scout Group and the local Guides performed a sell out show to raise money for Group funds.



Pioneer Explorer Scouts

In 2002 Explorer Scouts started in Rochdale with the setting up of the Pioneer Explorer Scout Unit.

20th World Jamboree

Three Scouts from Rochdale attended the 20th World Jamboree in Sattahip in Thailand from 27th December 2002 to 7th January.

The Jamboree site was so large it took 40 minutes to walk across it.

Following the Jamboree they had home hospitality in the Philippines.

Ashworth Valley 60th

In 2004 Ashworth Valley Scout Cam Site held a weekend camp to celebrate its 60th Birthday.

Around 150 campers stayed over the weekend including four troops from Rochdale.

Activities were provided by Rock and River

Scouts Service Continues

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers still carry out service projects as part of their programme.

7thA Rochdale Beavers have raised funds for a young boy with an incurable disease, 40th Rochdale, 27th/25th Rochdale Scouts and the Pioneer Explorer Unit have all done stints as service teams at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site,



Tsunami Appeal

Following the Asian Tsunami in December 2004 The Rochdale District Executive Committee resolved to co-ordinate a local appeal and set about producing "Reef Knotted Rope Circles" taken from the World Scout emblem as a sign of world scout unity. These were sold to raise funds for the appeal and groups in the District also had other fund raising events and the collection at the 2005 St George's Day Service was all donated to

the appeal. Eventually a cheque for £1000 was sent to National Headquarters to contribute to the UK Scouting's total of £138,628.

Cub Scout Activities

New Cubs enjoyed an action packed day of activities in January 2006 when they took part in 5 bases on the subjects of country code, tracking, first aid, knotting, Cub Scout law, promise and jungle book.

Older Cubs took part in an inter Pack competition held at Oakenrod Church Hall when they tested themselves on Baden Powells' history, map & compass, pioneering, European countries, pancake cooking and team working skills.

New St George's Day Service Venue

In April 2006 last minute changes had to be made to the St George's Day Service and Parade due to unforeseen circumstances at Champness Hall when it has been declared unsafe. The venue was changed the St Mary's The Baum and the 320 on parade walked down Yorkshire Street to the front of the Town Hall for the salute taken by the District Commissioner Stephen Allan and the Mayor Councillor Ashley Dearnley and the Mayoress Councillor Beryl Wright who is an ex Cub Scout Leader from 17th Rochdale.

First Beaver Scouts Visit Dublin Zoo

2006 saw the First Rochdale Beaver Scout Leaders tackle a day activity with a difference. The Beavers met at terminal 1 of Manchester airport to fly to Dublin arriving at 9.20am from where they made their way to Dublin Zoo and met up with some local Beavers from Dublin. Many of the animals were outside as the weather was good and by 11.30 the Beavers stopped for packed lunches and then they went to see the chimpanzees have their lunch fed by their keeper. And the sea lions feeding time was also observed. By 7.10 all were tired, and ready for the home flight.

Scouts camping 2006

Scouts from the District camped in the Lake District at Great Tower Scout Camp and more locally at Bradley Wood Scout Camp at Brighouse.

The 16 Scouts from the 7thA and 17th Rochdale Troops held a joint camp at Great Tower where they took part in orienteering, water activities on Windermere and "going ape" in the Grizedale Forest (a high ropes course 50 to 70 feet up in the tree tops) During the camp some scouts gained their 40 nights away badge.

Scouts from the 40th and 27th/15th Troops held their joint camp at Bradley Wood whilst Scouts from 29thA Rochdale and the Pioneer Explorer Scout Unit also chose Bradley Wood but the week later.

Joint Cub Camp

Cubs from 10th Rochdale, 37th Rochdale and 40th Rochdale held a joint camp at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site on 2nd to 4th March 2007. The theme for the camp was Canada (The venue for the 8th and 15th World Scout Jamboree.) Games and bases included ice hockey curling, three man skiing, native crafts, local cooking, orienteering and log fume.

Centenary St George's Day

In April 2007 the Service was held in St Mary's The Baum Church and started with the blowing of a horn as did the first ever scout camp run by Baden Powell on Browsea Island. The 500 congregation fell silent as the Mayor Councillor Jean Hornby and her consort and other dignitaries entered the Church.

During the service the District Commissioner Stephen Allan asked the Beaver Scouts present who was the youngest and Kyle aged 6 from the 17th Rochdale Who had only been invested a week ago was asked to go to the front of the church and shake hands with Scout Fellowship member and ex leader and assistant camp warden Ted Whitham aged 81 who was the oldest member present.



Ted and Kyle shake hands during the service

Also during the service the District Treasurer John Wild spoke of how Scouting had influence

him and many others. After the service the parade formed up on Hunters Lane and took the route down Yorkshire street and along the Esplanade where the Mayor took the salute outside the Town Hall.

Always Prepared

This was the title of a special eight page supplement published in the Rochdale Observer on 25th April 2007 to commemorate the 100 years of Scouting in Rochdale.

The District Commissioner Stephen Allan told the Observer that the major task for Scouting in the 21st century is to maintain the adventure and challenges the movement provides its members. We already organise adventurous challenges appropriate to the ages of members and activities such as grass sledging, climbing and abseiling. archery, camping and canoeing are regular features of our programmes. We need to maintain our modern image. We radically updated uniforms, programmes, age ranges and training in the last six years but still find it is a challenge to convince more young people that we are a 'cool' organisation, though few would argue that our activities are not exciting and enjoyable.

Scouting is already valued by most parents who trust us to help train their children in greater self-reliance, to develop physically and mentally and to gain leadership and organisational skills. Our challenge is to build on the trust and provide greater opportunity for more young people.

Centenary Camp



Rochdale District invited Middleton District to join them in their Centenary Camp at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site in May 2007. 500 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts enjoyed a weekend of activities ranging from climbing, abseiling, rifle shooting, archery, go karting, grass sledging, face painting, candle making, camp fires, and may more.



Centenary Exhibition

As part of the centenary celebrations an exhibition of Rochdale Scouting History was on display at the Centenary Camp and each Group invited past members to visit it and explore the District's History



District Commissioner Stephen Allan & District Chair Sheila Sommerville at the display

Rochdale Scout Fellowship provided refreshments and took visitors including the County Commissioner John Woolley, Jim Dobbin MP and The Mayor of Rochdale Councillor Peter Evans on a tour of the activities as well as round the exhibition.

Sunrise Ceremony

On the 1st August 2007 Scouts all over the world met together to reaffirm their promise.

Beaver Scouts and Cubs from 17th Rochdale met at Watergrove reservoir to make their promise whilst the Scouts from the Group were in camp at St Annes and they travelled to Blackpool Tower to reaffirm their promise. Two of the Scouts were interviewed on Radio Lancaster and by the Blackpool paper.

Three other Scouts from Wardle took part in their sunrise on holiday in Spain whilst another was in New Zealand.

21st World Jamboree

Six members of the 17th Rochdale Group helped with the erection of the camp at the 686 acre Hylands Park for the Jamboree.



From 27th July to 8th August 2007 three Explorer Scouts attended the Jamboree in Chelmsford whilst many other Scouts and Leaders from the District attended as day visitors to be counted amongst the 40,000 Scouts and over 50,000 day visitors that made it the largest ever Jamboree to be held in the history of the Movement. For the first time ever representatives from all of the 180 countries and territories which have Scouting were present.



As well as spectacular opening and closing events and a special sunrise ceremony to commemorate the start of celebrations on Brownsea Island on the anniversary of the first ever Scout camp those attending the Jamboree took part in activities at Gilwell Park where they attempted the high ropes course, challenge valley, climbing and other activities.



Water activities at Alton Water and community projects such as clearing forest footpaths, improving habitats for wildlife, repairing and repainting playgrounds were also enjoyed away from the Jamboree site.

First Chief Scout's Gold Award

In September 2007 Matthew Williams, Chris Lock and Josh Murphy of the 17th Rochdale were presented with their awards by the District Commissioner Stephen Allen. This is the highest award in the Scout section and these were the first awards to be made in the District since this award had been introduced.

Cubs Halloween Event

On 28th October 2007 forty six cubs took part in three wide games at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site in the dark. The customs and smugglers; water hunt and sweet hunt games were enjoyed by all and the evening was finished off with a camp fire and firework display.

Presentation Commemorating Rochdale Scouting's Centenary

Rochdale District Executive Committee decided that to commemorate the 100 years of Scouting they would present to the Town a commemorative plaque for display in the Town Hall.



The presentation on Friday 23rd November 2007 was made in the Mayors Parlour by the District Commissioner Stephen Allan watched by the District Chairman Sheila Sommerville and representatives from the local Groups.

District Commissioners

CH Bryning 1918-1939



C Smith 1951-1965



G Duckworth 1939-1947



WA Fletcher 1965 - 1968



M Heap 1947-1951



PD Matterson 1968 – 197?



District Commissioners

J Sutcliffe 197? - 1982



SJ Allan 2001- 2008



SJ Holt 1982-1990



I Kay 1990-2001



Early Local Association Registration Form

LOCAL ASSOCIATION RETURNS 1917

Ref. No. 2990.

Form B. Revised Nov., 1918. 9000-10.12.15.

The Boy Scouts Association.

County Lancashire

Commissioner's District South East Lancashire

REGISTRATION FORM FOR A LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

Name of Local Association Rockdale & District Boy Scouts Association

*Please state accurately the area. Names of places to be in BLOCK capitals.

Local Association area ROCHDALE; LITTLEBOROUGH; CASTLETON; MILNROW, NEWHEY, NORDEN WHITWORTH AND TODMORDEN, AND OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE VICINITY

Chairman B. E. Williams

Address Crumble Cottage, Rockdale

Hon. Sec. C. H. Evans

Address 330, Etonfield Rd. Passmore, Rockdale

Date when formed Nov 18th 1908

(For Headquarters use only)

Date when fully recognised and Local Association Oct 15th 1910

Local Association issued: June 28th 1911

DETAILS OF ASSOCIATION.

The Association proposes to administer the following Troops:—

Troop Name.	S.M. Name and Address.	A.S.M. Name and Address.	Estimated Strength.
(1) <u>St James'</u>	<u>J. A. Waller</u> <u>15, Whitford Park Rd.</u> <u>Littleborough, Buryingham</u>	<u>J. Lingard</u> <u>122, Rugby Rd.</u> <u>Rockdale</u>	<u>25</u>
(2) <u>Rockdale II</u>	<u>J. Greenwood</u> <u>6 Pille St. Deptford</u> <u>Rockdale</u>	<u>J. E. Dalton</u> <u>139, Yorkshire St.</u> <u>Rockdale</u>	<u>32</u>
(3) <u>Castleton</u>	<u>P. Russell</u> <u>101, St. Martins St.</u> <u>Castleton, Rockdale</u>	<u>Vacant</u>	<u>18</u>
(4) <u>Baldwinstone</u>	<u>Jas Lee</u> <u>134, Drake St.</u> <u>Rockdale</u>	<u>Vacant</u>	<u>24 and 9 cubs</u>
<u>P.T.O.</u>			

Approved and forwarded to Headquarters with two copies of the proposed Bye-Laws

Signed C. H. Evans
Secretary, Local Association.

Date February 21st 1917

Approved, Samuel Turner
Asst. District Commissioner.

Date February 21st 1917

Rockdale District.

N.B.—This form should be made out in Triplicate. All three copies should be signed by the Local Association Secretary and District Commissioner, and sent, together with two copies of the proposed Bye-Laws, to the County Secretary. He will retain one copy, return one, if approved, to the Local Association, and forward the third to Secretary, Boy Scouts Association, 116, Victoria St., London, S.W., with the two copies of Bye-laws. If there is no County Secretary the District Commissioner should send the three forms and two copies of Bye-laws direct to Headquarters.

Details of troops registered by the Local Association are kept by the Local Association Secretary for his own information, and are not to be sent to Headquarters until the Annual Census is asked for.

Model Forms of Bye-Laws can be obtained, on application, from Headquarters.

Troop Name	S.M. Name & Address	A.S.M. Name & Address	Boys and Scouts
(5) 1 st Whitworth	S. B. Farrell, Hill Crest, Healey, Rochdale	Vacant.	58
(6) Unitarians	Troop has been temporarily disbanded owing to S.M. and A.S.M. being called up		
(7) Silver St	T. Spencer 33, Holmeau St Rochdale	Vacant	16
(8) Castlemore	Gas Hall, 39, More St. Rochdale	Vacant.	40 and 18 cubs
(9) Brimrod U.M.C.	F. H. Law, 47, Holborn St. Sudden, Rochdale	Walter Boulton 58, Manchester Rd Rochdale	28
(10) Spotland U.M.C.	A. Simpson 343, Yorkhill St Rochdale	Frank Whithead 144, Mackinson St Rochdale	30
(11) Secondary School	J. H. Brittain 2, King St. Bull. Rochdale	Vacant	39
(12) Bailie St. U.M.C.	F. W. Slack 22, Wilton St Rochdale	Vacant.	32
(13) Trinity Wesleyan	F. Dawson, 369a Oldham Rd Rochdale	Vacant.	18 and 7 cubs
(14) St Ann's Belfield	W. E. Mitchell, 589, Halifax Rd Smallbridge Rdale	Vacant.	16
(15) Falinge	Disbanded for period of war. Woff Park in charge of Miss E. M. Phillips Falinge Church, Rochdale		
(16) Providence	Disbanded for period of war		
(17) Lanshead	J. Park, 17 Broadley Fold Whitworth Rdale	J. J. Southwell 15, Smallshaw Rd Lanshead, Rochdale	19
(18) Rastewood 1 st	Gas. J. Briller, Hollingworth Farm Littleborough Rdale	Arnold Cochrane 1 Hollingworth Fold Littleborough	16
(19) Turner's Green	W. Brookes 175, Edmund St West Rochdale	Harry Whitworth 12, Blenheim St Rochdale	56
Todmorden 1 st	J. W. Crabtree, 5, Castle Grove Todmorden		33

Groups

First Rochdale – St James had Rovers (1908 to current)
2nd Rochdale – Parish Church (pre1919 to ?? & 1959-1991)
3rd Rochdale – Castleton (pre1919 to 1957)
3rd Rochdale – St Johns RC Church (1973 to 1992)
4th Rochdale - Balderstone – had Rovers (pre1919 to 1933)
4th Rochdale – St Albans (1951 to ??)
4th Rochdale – Kirkholt (1955 to 1966)
5th Rochdale – 1st Whitworth (existed in 1917)
5th A Rochdale – Castleton Congregational church (URC) (1931 to ??) (1944 to 1950) (1951 to 1995)
5th/13th Rochdale – Castleton (1995 to 2004)
6th Rochdale – Unitarians (existed in 1917)
6th Rochdale - Brimrod United Methodists – had Rovers (1926 to ??)
6th Rochdale – Facit Parish (1952 to 1957)
6th Rochdale – Oakenrod Church of England (1975 to 1988) (?? To current)
7th Rochdale – Silver Street (existed in 1917)
7th Rochdale – Rochdale Secondary School Troop (pre1919 to ??) (1934 to ??)
7th A Rochdale Spotland Methodist (1943 to current)
8th Rochdale – Castlemere (existed in 1917)
8th Rochdale – Milnrow (existed in 1927)
8th A Rochdale – Hudson Street (1934 to ??)
8th A Rochdale – West Street Baptist (1936 to ??) (1938 to ??)
8th Rochdale – St Patrick's RC (1953 to 1994)
9th Rochdale – Brimrod United Methodist (existed in 1917)
9th Rochdale – Trinity Methodist (existed in 1927)
9th A Rochdale - All Saints Hamer (1934 to ??)
9th Rochdale – St James Church Wardle (1953 to 1958)
9th Rochdale - St Vincents (1976 to ??)
10th Rochdale – Spotland United Methodist (existed in 1917)
10th Rochdale – St Chads Fold (1923 to ??)
10th A Rochdale - Norden St Pauls (1935 to 37) (1937 to ??) (1946 to 1957) (1965 to current)
11th Rochdale – Secondary School (existed in 1917)
11th Rochdale – (1st Whitworth) United Methodist Church (1933 to ??)
11th Rochdale – St Edmonds Spotland (1953 to 1981)
11th Rochdale – Latterday Saints
12th Rochdale – Baillie Street United Methodists (existed in 1917)
12th Rochdale – Milnrow Wesleyan Church (1929 to ??)
12th A Rochdale – Whitworth Halfold Congregational Church (1932 to ??) (1934 to ??)
12th Rochdale – George Street (1944 to ??)
12th Rochdale – St James Calderbrook (1947 to 1950)
12th Rochdale – Plavinas (1952 to 1960)
12th Rochdale – St James' Calderbrook (1961 to 68)
12th A Rochdale – Smithybridge (1982 to current)
13th Rochdale – Trinity Wesleyan (existed in 1917)
13th Rochdale – Park Baptist (1927 to ??)
13th Rochdale – Hamer Methodist Church (1935 to ??)
13th Rochdale – Park Baptist (1977 to 1995)
14th Rochdale – St Ann's Belfield (existed in 1917)
14th A Rochdale – Cottage Homes Wardle (1934 to 1936)
14th Rochdale – Salvation Army (1955 to 1965)
15th Rochdale – Falinge (existed in 1917)
15th Rochdale – St Peters Church (1927 to 1948)
15th Rochdale – (1948 to 1993)
16th Rochdale – Providence (Existed in 1917)
16th Rochdale - Lady Royds Own Troop (existed in 1924)
16th Rochdale – Molesworth Street United Methodist (1929 to ??) (1934 to 1936) (1944 to ??)
16th Rochdale – St Thomas's – Kirkholt (1955 to 1969)
17th Rochdale – Lanehead (existed in 1917)
17th Rochdale – Heywood (Roachwood) (1930 to 1931)
17th A Rochdale - St John's Smallbridge (1933 to ??) (1950 to 1964)
17th A Rochdale – (1964 to 1969)

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