

Gatehouse Scouts 60th Anniversary - 1992



Mr J McConchie, one of Gatehouse's founder members helped his grandson Murray McConchie (at present the troop's S.P.L.) to cut the 60th birthday cake.

The cake was made and donated by master baker Drew Kean, also an ex-member of the troop.



Gatehouse Scouts 60th Anniversary *(This report appeared in the South West Advertiser)*

The Gatehouse Scout Club is 60 years old this year (1992). The group consists of three sections, a cub pack (8-10½ year olds), a scout troop (10½-15½ year olds) and the "cally" venture scout unit (15½-20 year olds). At present the total membership at Gatehouse is 44 and all three sections are active. This hasn't always been the case but the group has more ups than downs.

Although the group celebrates its 60th birthday this year, being registered in January 1932. The first scout troop was formed in 1929, two years earlier. The troop was founded by Charles Langlands with a Mr Answorth being the first scoutmaster, assisted by Mr Newton, and the troop then consisted of 16 boys.

Their first meeting place was a small room behind the garage with boarded windows, a smokey old stove and a handful of paraffin lamps. Things have improved somewhat with the group expanding and now own their own hall in Gatehouse. Many leaders have contributed to the success of the group. Their job is a demanding but a rewarding one, the salary is nil and their training is of high quality.

The boys themselves have trained hard, competed at local, national and international levels and always come out with flying colours.

The Group Committee plans a special year to celebrate, with many activities for the boys including Promise Appeal '92. The promise appeal is the first national effort to raise money for the scout movement for more than 50 years. Gatehouse Group will be taking an active part to raise funds locally, our local activities include the annual Job Week, a telethon tea party (an attempt at the world record), a cyclethon (helping to bike the length of Galloway), national woggle day (like red nose day) and a record, record breaking day (collecting bags of rubbish). The scout troop is planning a trip to the Channel Islands in the summer. Probably most challenging for the leaders is to hold a dinner-dance inviting all ex-members of the group. Some 300 invitations have been sent out, any ex-members who have not received an invitation should contact Nigel on Gatehouse 814665.

The group's normal activities include a progressive training scheme which takes them outdoors as well as indoors, camping, hiking, biking, abseiling and many other adventurous activities. Joint activities with the local guides and brownies have been numerous. The face of scouting in Gatehouse may have changed over the years but the basic aim still remains – to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals and responsible citizens.

Three Gatehouse Scouts – Alan Connelly, Andrew Dixon and Keith Watson, were amongst 120 Scouts from all over Scotland taking part in Discovery '89, an international camp held in the grounds of Scone Palace, Perthshire.

The Scottish Scouts acted as hosts to over 300 Scouts from overseas and enjoyed a programme of traditional scouting activities as well as more up-to-date ideas involving modern technology and communications which linked the Scottish camp to a number of similar camps throughout the UK. All three carried away good memories as well as honours. After the camp the Scouts offered home hospitality to overseas Scouts including three Girl Scouts from Finland, Belgium and a Girl Scout from Sweden.