



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST 75 YEARS

1933 The Group was started in a wooden hut alongside the common. Two of the founder members were Mr Vic Martin and his father and a lady, who later became Mrs Martin, joined them. They served with the Group until the start of the war when the Group had to close until the war ended.

1947 It was decided to reform the Group under the leadership of Mr E V Martin assisted by Mr J W Ratcliffe. The meetings were to be held on Fridays in the Methodist church.

1948 The first meeting was held in February with a limited number of boys who were trained to 2nd class standard before enrolling more boys. Two more scouters, Mr Fred Whitehouse as SM and Mr Wal Effingham as ASM, were enlisted. A cub pack was formed with Edwin Roberts as CM and Nancy Martin as ACM.

1949 Mr Harry Horsfield was appointed an ASM and his wife was Group secretary.

1950 Mr F Whitehouse resigned as SM and Mr W Horn replaced E Roberts as CM. Senior scouts attended Whitsun camp at Bryn Bach, which was visited by the Chief Scout.

1951 Mr J Rowley was appointed SM and a Rover crew was formed under H Horsfield. Senior scouts Reg Dubells and Colin Ratcliffe represented the District at World Jamboree in Austria. C Ratcliffe and I Houston were appointed ASMs.

1952 Mr H Fair was appointed SM.

1953 Frank Holland and Peter Wolstenholme were appointed SM and ASM respectively. Mr J W Ratcliffe became District scoutmaster for seniors and Reg Dubells ASM also for seniors.

1955 Peter Constantine and Tony Martin both represented the District at the world Jamboree in Niagara, Canada.

1956 E Turner became RSL and T Martin was appointed ACM. Pensby scouts closed so our Rover Crew used their hut.

1957 World Jamboree in Sutton Coldfield was attended by senior scout Martin Smith and GSM E V Martin who was in charge of the West Cheshire contingent. The Cubs also visited the Jamboree.

1958 E Turner appointed GSM and J W Ratcliffe became RSL with Reg Dubells as SM (S).

1959 Rover crew vacated Pensby hut in favour of 3rd Heswall.

1960 Mr A Mews became ASM

1961 C Ratcliffe became SM (S) with P Constantine as ASM (S) and P Morton was appointed ACM.

1962 J W Ratcliffe was appointed GSM and K Brookes reformed the Rover crew.

1963 Queen's Scout Arnold Stephens attended Windsor Castle. Plans made for new HQ behind Village Hall.

1964 The shell and roof of the new HQ was erected and operations began on 1st June. Mr E Jones and Mr J MacLeod became CM and RSL respectively. Mr W Franklin, Mr R Morton and Mr R B Smith were Group Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

1965 Mr P Leidecker and Mr R Bunce were running the senior troop. Autumn Fair opened by Selwyn Lloyd MP.

1966 Mr P Morton took charge of the seniors

and Mr A Mews was appointed SM. GSM J Ratcliffe was awarded the Medal of merit.

1967 D Gardner represented the district at the world Jamboree in the USA and became ASL. Mr E Jones and Mr T Fawcett became VSL and ASL respectively. Mrs M Fletcher joined the Group as CSL with Mr T Fletcher as ACSL. During 1967, the "new look in scouting" was adopted with new uniform, tests and titles.

1968 The Chief Scout visited Arrowe Park. Mrs F Harrison was appointed CSL for 2nd cub pack to be formed in 1969. Mrs J Ratcliffe joined as ACSL.

1969 Mr P Morton became VSL with Mr J Richardson beginning as AVSL but becoming GSL when Mr J Ratcliffe resigned. Mr T Fletcher was appointed DCSL and Mrs M Probert became an ACSL.

1970 The 2nd scout troop was formed with Mr C Ratcliffe as SM and Mr J McDonnell, Mr A Creaser and Mr N Causey as ASLs. Mrs McDonnell and Mrs Creaser became ACSLs and Mr T Davidson an AVSL.

1971 The 2nd hut was erected and Mr V Allen became AVSL.

1972 Mrs A and Mr G Webster were both appointed ACSLs and Mr J McDonnell took over as SL.

1973 Mr D Harding became SL in place of Mr A Mews. Group awarded President's Prize.

1976 Mrs J Hales joined as ACSL Tuesday Cubs.

1977 Mr P Beacall became AGSL with Mr D Rimmer and Mr B Tucker SLs of Wednesday (Woden) and Friday troops respectively. Scout camps were held at Kibblestone and Whalley Bridge.

1978 Mrs M Fletcher received the Long Service Award.

1979 Mr K R Morton resigned as chairman after 28 years' service but agreed to be group president. Mr A Astbury and Mrs B Edwards became chairman and secretary respectively. Mr T Fletcher became SL of Woden troop with Mr D Rimmer staying on as ASL. Scout camps were

held at Bala and Cartmel. Monday cub pack was 10 years old. A van was bought from the local authority.

1980 GSL Mr J Richardson received the Medal of Merit. Scout camp was held at Bala and a cub holiday at Far Sawrey.

1981 Mr R Edwards was invested as SL for Friday troop then resigned to become AVSL leaving the GSL to run the troop. Mrs F Harrison retired as CSL (Monday) and received the Chief Scout's commendation, as did Mrs M and Mr T Fletcher for services to Scouting. Mrs M Creaser became CSL (Monday) helped by Mrs J Western, Mrs P Tunstead and Mr B Henderson. I Tucker gained the Queen's Scout award. Mr F Lang was appointed group chairman. Scout camp was held at Brynbach.

1982 Mr A Creaser and Mrs M Tucker became group secretary and treasurer respectively. This was the 1st year of the scout Christmas post. Scout camp was held at Brynbach again.

1983 50th anniversary of the group. 1st annual barbeque was held and a new minibus was bought.

1984 The 3rd cub pack was established with Mr P Burke as CSL and Mrs P Burke as ACSL. The scouts and ventures represented the District at the Liverpool Garden Festival closing ceremony. The group was awarded the District President's prize. Les Smith was awarded the Medal of Merit and Mr S Roberts took over as secretary.

1985 The first Beaver colony was started. Mr R Henderson took over as SL for Friday troop.

1986 Mrs M and Mr T Fletcher were both awarded the Medal of merit. Mrs K Henderson was appointed BSL and Mr M Powell became SL for Woden troop.

1987 Mr J Richardson retired as GSL and was succeeded by Mr T Fletcher with Mr P Morton as AGSL. Mr C Lecustre became VSL and Mr A Fletcher ASL for Friday troop. The scouts were awarded a cup for the most active District participation. Scout camp was at Sandiway. Mr R Noble did his first charity canoe hand-paddle. Mrs J Hales took over the 3rd Cub pack as CSL.

1988 Mr J Richardson was awarded the Silver Acorn. Mr I and Mrs J Wilson were appointed SL

and ASL for Woden troop. Mrs V Jones became CSL for Monday cubs with Mrs M Creaser as ACSL. Mrs J Hales resigned as CSL and Thursday pack merged with Tuesday pack with Mrs J Burton as CSL and Mrs M Fletcher and Mr P Hales as ACSLs. The flagpole was erected in memory of Mr J Ratcliffe. Mrs J Sanderson became group secretary.

1989 Mr. I and Mrs. J Wilson moved away so Mr D Rimmer returned as SL for Woden troop with Mr R Noble as ASL. Dr D Reed became a Registered Instructor with Richardson (Friday) Scout troop.

1990 Mr V Allen took over as VSL with Mr C Lecustre as AVSL. Mr R Thompson became ASL for Woden troop but moved away later in the year. In December, Woden troop merged into Richardson troop with Mr D Rimmer as SL and Mr A Fletcher as ASL. Mr R Henderson was appointed DSL. Mr J Moore became an ACSL for Tuesday pack. Mrs M Tucker resigned as treasurer and was succeeded by Mr H Warburton.

1991 Mr P Hales received the Chief Scout's Commendation. A group camp was held at HQ with 85 attendees. A new minibus was purchased.

1992 Mrs J Burton became BSL with Mrs M Fletcher as ABSL and Mr J Fletcher taking over as CSL for Tuesday pack. Mrs M Creaser retired after 22 years service with Monday pack. Mr T Fletcher and Mr P Morton received the bar to the Long Service Award. Mr J Moore gained the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award. Mr R Noble was awarded the Reg Cook trophy for Community Service. Cub E Sanders gained all 41 proficiency badges. Mr R Jones became group treasurer.

1993 Mr V Allen was awarded the Medal of Merit and moved to District while R Noble took over as VSL. Mrs M Fletcher and Mr D Rimmer gained the bar to the Long Service award and D Rimmer moved from SL to ASL with A Fletcher taking over as SL. Mr S Smith returned for a spell as ASL. Miss T Houghton and Mr A and Mrs D Longstaff were appointed ACSLs for Monday Pack but later the Longstaffs moved to Hilbre cubs. D Forster and J Oliver became Monday Cub Pack helpers and P Hales moved to District. A badge was designed to commemorate the Group's Diamond Jubilee,

which was celebrated by a week of special activities in June.

1994 Mrs V Jones and Miss T Houghton resigned as CSL and ACSL of Monday Cubs and Mr T Ford joined the Monday Cub leader team. The Venture Unit closed temporarily due to lack of members. The drive was coated with tarmac for the first time.

1995 Mr D Forster became CSL for Monday Cubs. Mr A Reed and Mr A Sothern gained their D of E Gold awards.

1996 Mr D Forster resigned and Mrs R Colborn took over as CSL of Monday Cubs. The Venture Unit re-opened but Mr A Fletcher resigned as SL with the GSL taking over the troop and Mr S Charters as ASL. The second hut was demolished and a Portacabin (donated by Irby Cricket Club) put in its place. A concrete garage was erected to serve as a canoe shed.

1997 Mr R Jones resigned as treasurer due to ill health and Mr A Knight took over. A 40 foot steel container was purchased to serve as an equipment store and was placed alongside the Portacabin on the site of the old hut. The field was fenced off to increase security.

1998 Mrs J Sanderson resigned as Group Secretary and the post was filled by Mrs C Dugdale. The Scout Troop summer camp was held at Barnswood near Macclesfield. The Troop was awarded the *Tom Bigland* trophy for an active and varied scouting programme. Mr S Charters resigned as ASL. Mrs R Colborn resigned from CSL and was succeeded by Mr T Ford. The trailer and canoes were stolen from the Merseyside County campsite at Tawd Vale.

1999 The Millennium Minibus Fund was set up to raise money for a new bus and as part of this the weekly draw was started at Irby Club. Tuesday Cub Pack was closed and amalgamated with Monday Pack. Mr F Lang retired after 18 years as Group Chairman and was succeeded by Mr R Dugdale. The Scout Troop attended the Arrowse camp at Thornton Hough to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the 2nd World Jamboree, which took place at Arrowse Park in 1929. Mr T Fletcher, the GSL, resigned as acting SL, which meant the closure of the Scout Troop at the end of the year.

2000 Mr. T Fletcher resigned as GSL after 13 years in the post and Mr. D Rimmer retired

from active scouting. The Venture Unit had a summer camp in Kandersteg, Switzerland. The minibus was scrapped and a new one purchased. The Scout Troop reopened in October when Mr. A Gardner became GSL but he resigned at the end of the year. Mr. T Ford also resigned as CSL. Mr. A Knight resigned as treasurer and Dr D Reed took over temporarily.

2001 Mr. T Fletcher came back as Group Manager until Mr. A Arnould was appointed GSL. Mrs. M Fletcher took over Monday Cubs and Ms S Jones joined as ACSL. Mr. E Brown joined as SL. Scouts and Ventures attended the Nailer International summer camp in Northamptonshire. The drive was widened to make a car park and a new land drain was put into the field.

2002 Scouts had a Whit camp at Bowley and a summer camp at the Cheshire Jamboree. Scouts were awarded the *Dave Blackwood Trophy* by District for Outdoor Activities and as a result spent 2 days at the District Activity Base in Deiniolen, North Wales. Mr. K Quayle joined as ASL and Mrs. S Flush as ACSL. Mr. A Fletcher resigned as AVSL. Dr D Reed became permanent Treasurer.

2003 The new programme for the whole Scout Movement was introduced and as a consequence, the Venture unit ceased to exist. The 14-18 age group became Explorer Scouts, which is run by District with the "Central Unit" being based at Thurstaston HQ. Mr. Arnould retired and Mr. V Allen became GSL. Scouts had Whit camp at Waddecar. 1st Thurstaston Scout Group won the *President's Prize* for the best Scout Group in the District. V Allen resigned as GSL and Mr. Arnould returned as Group Manager. Mrs. Burton, BSL and Mrs. Fletcher, CSL, retired. Mrs. S Flush became CSL and Mrs. E Reeve became BSL. Mr. and Mrs. J Oliver became ACSL and ABSL respectively. Mr. E Brown resigned as SL. The Explorer Unit at Thurstaston was closed by District. In honour of the many years given to Scouting in general and 1st Thurstaston in particular by the Fletcher family, the Cub pack was named the Fletcher pack

2004 The big event this year was the complete refurbishment of the kitchen mainly carried out by Mr. R Newton, Dr D Reed and

Mr. R Ormsby. Despite not having a SL, Scouts struggled on courtesy of Mr. A Arnould (reinstated as GSL) and Dr D Reed as Helper with occasional appearances by ASL Mr. K Quayle. Scouts attended an International summer camp at Waddecar. Dr D Reed resigned as Scout Helper after 15 years service. Mrs. C Roberts and Mr. R Wilkinson resigned as Cub Helpers. Ms. J Hayward and Ms. J Hobson joined as ABSLs and Ms. C Hayward as ACSL.

2005 Mrs. J Oliver took over as BSL. And Mr. P Oliver became ACSL. Mr. and Mrs. Dugdale resigned as Group Chairman and Secretary respectively and Dr D Reed resigned as Treasurer. These posts were filled by Mr. A Muir, Mrs. J Kitchen and Mr. D Funnell respectively. The Cub Pack was awarded the *Fitzpatrick Cup* as District's "Cub Pack of the Year". Scouts had summer camp organized by ASL K Quayle, but still lacking a full-time leader. 12 cubs gained the Chief Scout's Silver Award.

2006 Due to other commitments Mr. A Muir and Mrs. J Kitchen resigned and Mr. and Mrs. Dugdale resumed as Group Chairman and Secretary respectively. Scouts had summer camp in Sweden. Mr. D Hart joined as ACSL and Mr. E White as ASL. A complete refurbishment of the toilets was carried out, including the installation of a hot water system and a shower room. The plumbing and electrics were done professionally and the peripheral work mainly by Mr. T Fletcher and Dr. D Reed with help from Mr. R Ormsby, Ms W Thompson and Mr. R Noble.

2007 First girl invested in Scout Troop. Cubs, Scouts and Beavers attended the District camp to commemorate the centenary of Scouting. Scouts had summer camp in the Lake District. Mr. T Fletcher and Mrs. M Fletcher left the area after over 40 years with the Group. Mrs. S Flush received the Chief Scout Commendation and took on the role of AGSL. Mr. D Hart moved to Scout Troop as SL with Ms. C Hayward as ASL.

2008 Mr. A Arnould resigned as GSL and was replaced by Mrs. S Flush with Mr. J Oliver as AGSL. Mr. P Oliver was awarded Young Leader of the Year by District. A 75th anniversary celebration was held in November.