

At the same time, Andy Frain and Jenny Eadie, two more of our scouts, were selected to represent Cheshire at the Patrol Leaders Camp on Brownsea Island. They joined 250 PL's, two from each county in the UK,



Outside Hylands House, Hylands Park, Essex—the World Scout Jamboree—August 2007

Martin Jones, Alison Jones, Julie Eadie, David Jones, Andrew Frain, Andrew Jones, , Connor Frain, Jane Jones, Viv Pike, Carol Frain , Shirley Baston, Nicola Jones, Jenny Eadie, Catherine Eadie

However the highlight of the year was a trip to the World Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland. It took three years to plan but was worth every minute and every Swiss franc. We flew from Liverpool to Basel where we spent the first night in a youth hostel and explored the city. The following morning we went by train to Kandersteg and walked up to the Chalet. It was a beautiful village with soaring mountains, lush green scenery and a fast flowing river. The excitement grew with every step. Some of the highlights included swimming in an Alpine Lake, Rafting down the River Aare, a day trip to Bern, overnight hikes over a glacier and to a basic (very basic!) Hutte. We joined the biggest campfire circle I think any of us had ever seen and generally made lots of friends. I was very proud of all the scouts that went as they joined in with anything and everything and I know that the “Pinkies” (the staff at the centre) were glad to have such enthusiastic participants. It was an amazing adventure – the best I have ever had in 30 years of scouting.



Back in the UK we won the district 5- a-side Football tournament and enjoyed the biggest District Camp for some time.

All in all a year to remember.

2007, the Centenary of Scouting, holds some of the happiest moments and special memories for our group. It also marks two of the saddest. Whilst we were in Kandersteg we had two messages, 24 hours apart.

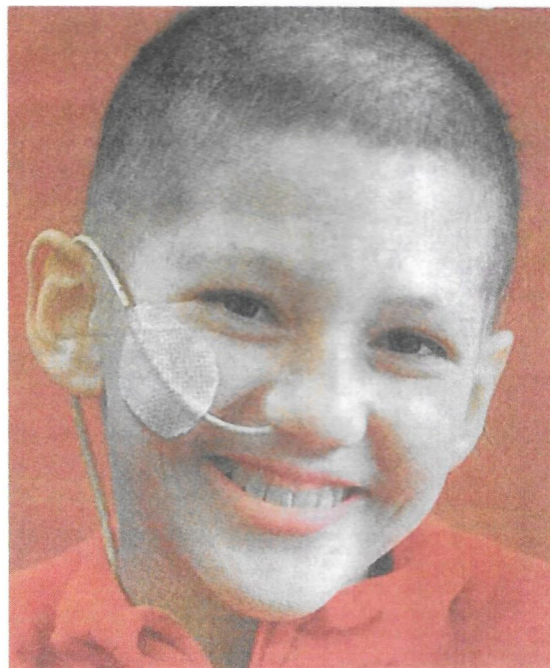
The first was to tell us that our wonderful Treasurer and stalwart supporter, Simon Pretty, has lost his long battle with Leukaemia. Simon was responsible for bringing the Group Executive kicking and screaming into the twenty-first century. His work meant that we were always ahead of the game with regards to legal requirements, health and safety aspects and all things monetary. He was the mastermind behind our successful Lottery application, bringing us £9996 to put in a new kitchen and update the toilet facilities.

I still miss hearing his voice on the phone, childlike in his excitement, as he told me of some other nugget of information or application that he had worked on. The group will always miss him.

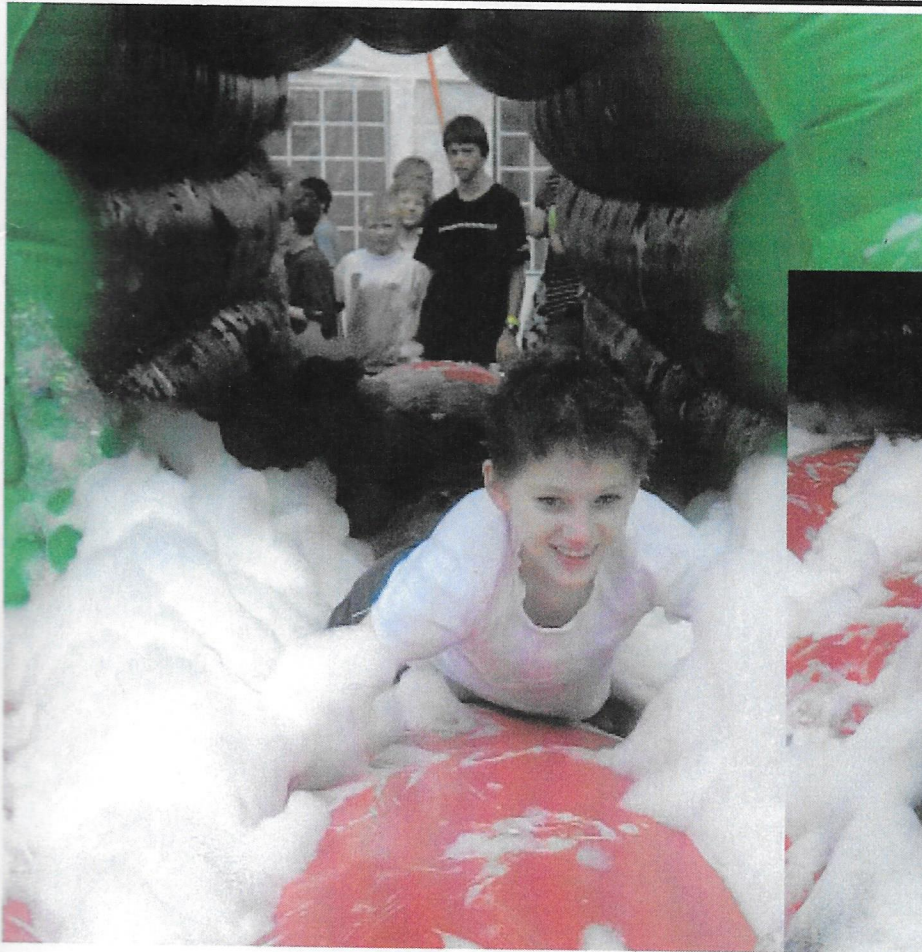
Two of Simon's children, pictured in the new kitchen that Simon funded through his successful Lottery application



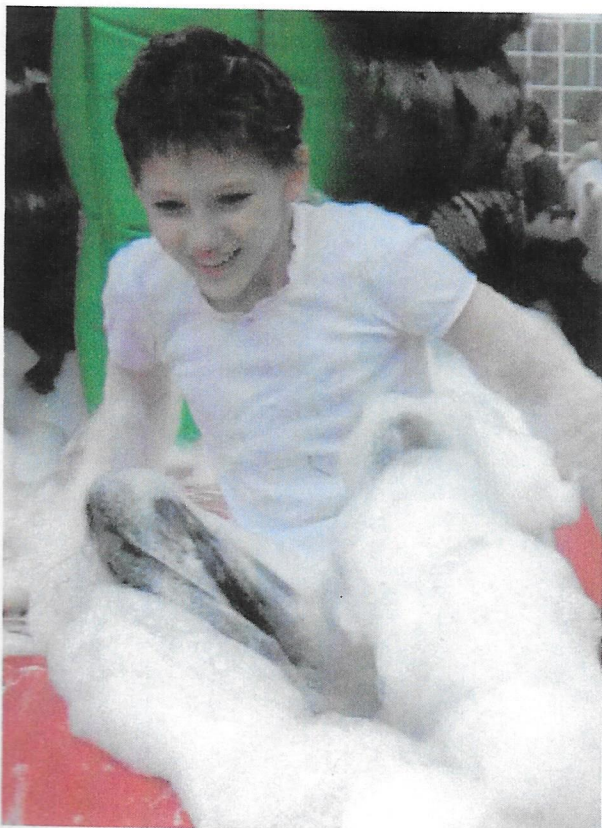
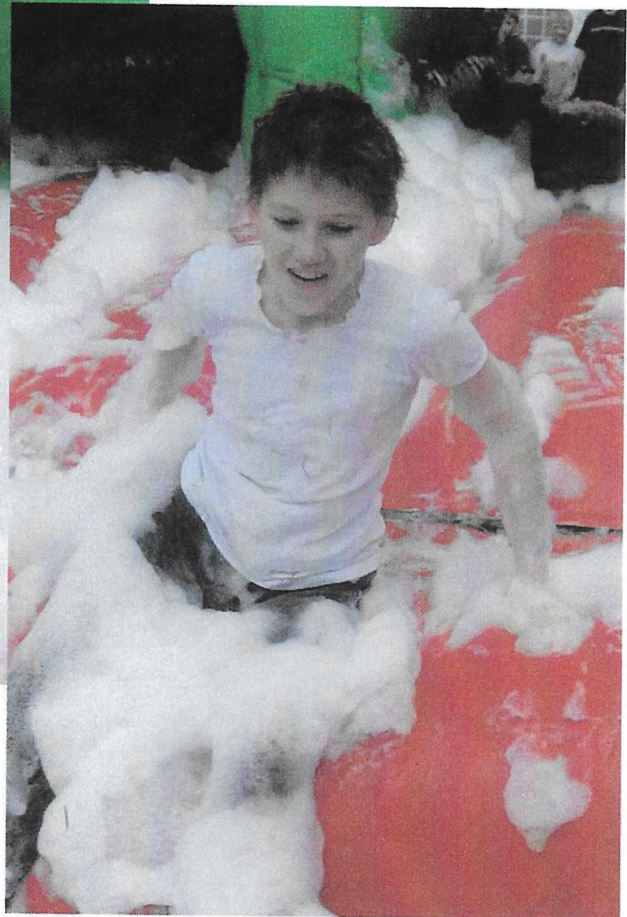
The following day we heard that one of our Scouts, Amy Parker, had also lost her battle with cancer. She had been ill for over two years but had kept coming to scouts when she felt well enough, in fact her parents told us that Scouting made her feel normal.



As leaders we made the decision to tell the scouts in Switzerland together by the river. Some moments will stay in the memory for ever and the reaction of these wonderful young people was one of these. There were tears and sadness but also everyone looked after everyone else., brothers and sisters (who had been ignoring each other all week) the older scouts hugged the younger ones and held each other close and they all looked after us, the leaders. It is Amy's legacy that they all cared so much about her and each other at such a sad time. It is a tradition at Kandersteg that everyone who visits leaves a necker. We did so in Amy's memory.



Amy enjoying the fun at the District Centenary Camp in July 2007.



So what does 2008 hold for Moberley Scout Group?

Following on from Kandersteg we challenged the Scouts to camp out for at least one night every calendar month to achieve a Zodiac award.

We hope that we will grow as a group for the seventh year running.

We hope that everyone, Beaver, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders, members of the Executive Committee and parents will continue to enjoy being a part of our group.

Carol Frain, Group Scout Leader

Brownsea Island Patrol Leaders Camp – July 2008

By Jenny Eadie and Andy Frain

We were very lucky to be chosen to represent Cheshire as two of the patrol leaders for this event. It was to be a gathering of two patrol leaders from each county in the UK for two days and nights of activities and fun.

We drove down to Dorset the night before and camped with our families nearby and then we got to Poole Harbour very early. It was packed with Scouts and leaders dressed in Hawaiian type shirts – they were very loud and happy!!

We registered and were put into one of four patrols, Raven, Bull, Curlew and Wolves. These were the patrols that BP originally named 100 years ago. We were both in Raven, bright red t-shirts with the silhouette of a Raven on the back.

We then walked to the dock where the ferry awaited.



Whilst we sailed to Brownsea we had to learn the signature call of our patrol. It was called “Let me see your funky Raven...”

The day was spent getting to know the other members of our patrols, setting up in our tents and then taking part in the many activities that were set up for us.

All the meals were vegetarian, which was interesting but a bit boring. The whole of the second day was spent doing various activities. Jenny was asked to join a group that was interviewed for BBC South.

During the afternoon we had visitors, both mums and our younger siblings, Catherine and Connor. They had decided that they should take the chance to visit the island with it being so close and had tried to hide from us so that we didn't see them – but we did and we were able to have some great photo's taken. Whilst we were at the Memorial Stone we met a group of Portuguese scouts who were cycling from their homes to the World Jamboree in Essex. They gave us one of their special badges.

Once our families had left we continued with activities and then a disco in the evening.

When we returned to Poole we were thrilled to find a Hog Roast stand and we devoured a roast pork sandwich – it was the best thing ever.



We then travelled to Essex where we camped overnight and then went as Day visitors to the World Jamboree. It was amazing and we were able to join up with other families from Knutsford to spend the day exploring and meeting up with our friends who were in the cast and contingents at the Jamboree.

It was a busy 5 day trip but we got to meet so many Scouts from around the world and really felt like we had got the most from our Centenary Experience.



Adam Holmes of 1st Mobberley helps to release the white doves at the Sunrise ceremony held on 1st August 2007 on Knutsford Heath



Shirley Baston, Scout Leader, receives the Silver Acorn



July 2008 - Shirley Baston stepped down as Scout Leader at 1st Mobberley. Neil McAleece, Kurt Mather and Sarah Bale took up the leadership of the Scout section.

Memory Lane - My involvement with 1st Mobberley, began in 1979 when our eldest daughter, Emma, asked me to go the weekly Guide meetings to help with the Toymaker badge, as at that time I enjoyed soft toy making. The Guides were then meeting at Dukenfield Hall, by kind permission of Colonel Teddy Morton, whilst the Guide hut on Hall Bank was being re-decorated. Our son Steven was already an active member of the Cub section which, together with the Scouts also met at Dukenfield Hall

Mrs Edith Brown, the Guide Leader, persuaded me to become an assistant leader shortly after the Guides moved back to the Guide Hut after the refurbishment. A current First Aid certificate was a requirement for involvement in Guiding and I undertook a 13 week First Aid Course held by Knutsford Red Cross and gained my certificate. I became very interested in First aid and went on to become an instructor in First Aid, gained my Long Service Medal and taught First Aid skills to many of the townfolk of Knutsford and Mobberley, hundreds of Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Scouts and ran many courses for the Scout and Guide leaders all over Cheshire.

Eventually I took over the leadership of the Guide section and had several very good Assistant Guiders, but none as good as Vera Edge. We became very good friends and complemented each other as I liked the camping, and adventurous outdoor activities and Vera was excellent at record keeping and paperwork. We enjoyed some great camps with other Scout and Guide groups within the District, many of which were held at Whitehouse Farm in Plumley. We camped many times with 7th Knutsford Scouts, who were resident at High Legh, . Vera and I wrote and produced several pantomimes which progressed from small performances for parents in the Guide hut to full scale, 3 night productions for the public in the Victory Hall, Mobberley. We even involved the Cubs, Brownies and Scouts in some of our productions.

The highlight of our pantomime evenings was to get parents and members of the audience participating on stage in our silly campfire songs. Arthur Davies (the Organist and Choir Master of St Wilfrids, ably assisted by his wife Wynne, played the piano for us and Jim Shepherd accompanied on drums). It was brilliant to see the shyest child become a thespian and the enthusiasm of all the children was conveyed to the receptive audience of parents and villagers alike.



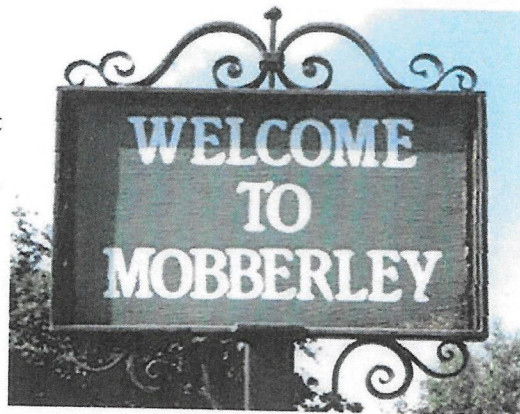
Pantomime - Guides & Scouts in their performance of Cinderella at the Victory Hall

We entered a float in the Mobberley Rose Festival nearly every year. The Higginson family on Hobcroft Lane kindly loaned us a trailer which we decorated in one of their barns and Alan would drive the tractor and pull the trailer for us. We won several prizes.

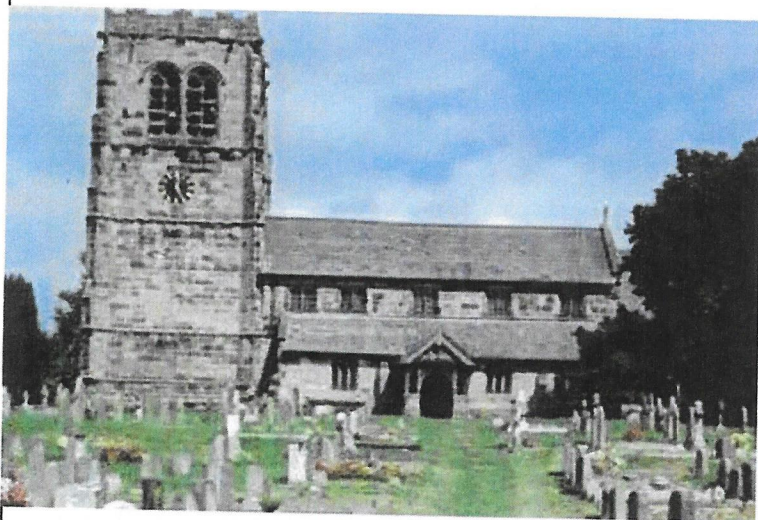
Vera and I sadly retired as Guide leaders for 1st Mobberley in December 2002, for me, after 22 years of great fun, friendship and the knowledge that we had helped many young girls gain confidence and new abilities whilst involved in Guiding.

Whilst still involved in Guiding, I took over the role of acting GSL. It was my vision to run the Group as a family group and for many years held meetings for the leaders of both the Scout and Guide section. Our AGM became a popular event where the young people from both Guiding and Scouting, entertained parents and guests when the business side of the evening was finished. The Stephen Thorpe Memorial Shield was presented to the Scout who had achieved the most over the past year and the Steven Pike Cub Shield was presented to the Cub Scout who was felt most worthy. An individual shield was also presented each year to one of the Guides.

Over the years I have enjoyed running Rainbow and Beaver evenings, running the Cub Section for a time, with Jacqui Fielding, an ex Guiding colleague from Knutsford and also running the Scout section until new leaders were found. I feel privileged to have touched the lives of so many young people in Mobberley.



I have seen many changes to the Guide/Scout hut in Mobberley and can recall harsh winters when we had burst pipes which froze and then thawed and water dripped from the wooden ceiling onto the wooden floor, only to freeze again. We had a few heaters which were not sufficient to heat the headquarters so we had to employ lots of boisterous activities for the young people and we all went home from weekly meetings with rosy cheeks due to the cold. A far cry from the laminate floor and automatic gas fired central heating we now have installed.



Many hours were spent scrubbing the wooden floors and then latterly vacuuming the carpet. My long-suffering and ever supportive husband, Mervyn, was dragged along many times to pack away tents and he, together with Nigel & Mike Flatman installed a system of racking for storage and hanging wet tentage in the storeroom area of the H.Q.

As a member of the Building Committee, I was present at the inception of the building of the new headquarters and felt very proud to be a participant at the magnificent opening of the new H.Q. which was attended by many village people. The support we received from local people in building the new headquarters was overwhelming.

When we decided that it was time to tarmac the car parking area outside the H.Q, it was decided that funding would be by way of a raffle and long evenings were spent knocking on doors selling tickets to raise the £5,000 necessary to complete the project. Inevitably, it would take some time as people always wanted to chat about Scouts and how they had been involved in their youth. The prize draw was to take place at the Saturday performance of our latest pantomime at which Neil Hamilton and his wife Christine were to officiate. It coincided with a famous political scandal but Neil and Christine, not to be phased by such an event, still turned up to draw the raffle and even joined in our famous rendition of "A Pizza Hut" on stage, despite the fact that there were several members of the Press in the audience waiting to ensnare the Hamiltons at the end of the "performance". Needless to say, we managed to smuggle them out through a side door, much to the disappointment of the Press and our raffle was successful in raising sufficient funds to surface our car park.

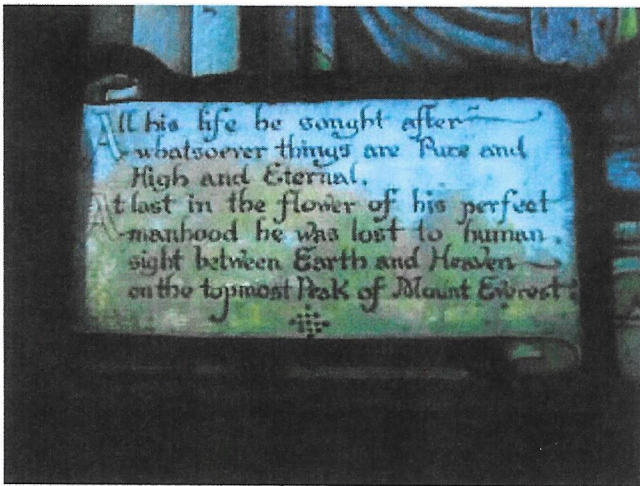
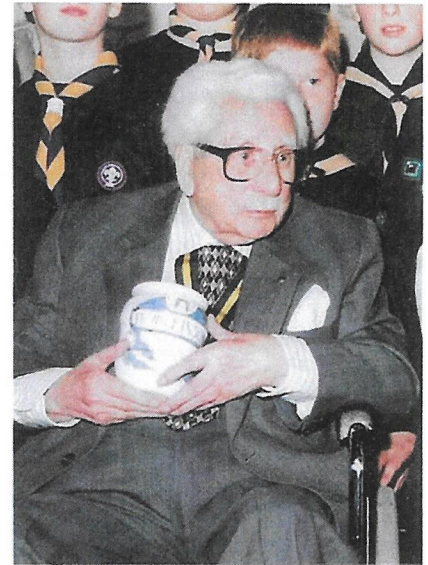
When Mobberley Rangers Football Club was formed the Club asked if they could install a shower in the kitchen, at their expense, so that the teams could shower after their game. We also purchased a lean-to shed which was erected at the rear of the building, half of which housed the canoes and the other half the Toddler Group's equipment.

Church Parade was held on the first Sunday of every month and was well attended by all Sections. The Rector would sometimes allow us to run the service, i.e. choosing the hymns and prayers and providing the readings. We even held an open air service on the field adjacent to the Scout hut and all the members brought along their pets (including a horse!).

We ran many fund raising events such as Christmas Fairs and coffee evenings to raise funds for new camping equipment. Indeed, some of the patrol tents are still in use. Knutsford Lions Club was always very supportive of our efforts as one of our girls had a grandparent who was the Chairman at one time. We entertained at the Senior Citizen's concert in return for the generous donation given to us by the Lions Club.

We used to run Car Boot Sales on the Old Hall Field, and "Wilkie" (Dr John Wilkinson) President of Alderley and Knutsford District Scouts, always came along to see how we were getting on and his wife Marion would always buy something from our stalls.

The famous Jumble Sale was always a great social event and parents and members alike thoroughly enjoyed sorting out the jumble. Pantomime costumes were more often retrieved from the Jumble and many villagers still came along to help, even when their children were grown up and no longer involved with the Group. Their unstinting support for Barbara and Harold Horry was very evident.



The commemorative window inside Mobberley Church dedicated to George Leigh Mallory,. The 1st Mobberley Scout badge was dedicated to Mallory who lost his life on Mount Everest.

Scouting and Guiding have provided me with many wonderful opportunities: learning new skills, participating in Gang Shows, making international contact by attending World Jamborees and forming new friendships but most of all being able to enjoy the company of young people and watch them develop into confident and capable adults. I hope that they too will go on to promote Scouting in Mobberley and in the surrounding areas.

A new era has dawned and new leaders are now encouraging the youth of Mobberley to participate in all the exciting things that Scouting has to offer.

Long may it continue

Viv Pike

Editor's Note:-

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the making of this short history of Mobberley Scout Group.

The facts presented herein are those which I have either been given by others as contributors to this history and from my own memories. I take no responsibility for any of the facts or dates not being exactly correct but hope that those who read this will enjoy the contents therein.

Viv Pike





1910 - 2008

