

CHESTER'S OWN GANG SHOW '96



43rd Production at The Gateway Theatre, Monday to Saturday April 29th to May 4th 1996.
Evenings at 7.15 & Saturday Matinee at 2.30p.m.



Marks & Spencer Financial Services has been based in Chester since 1985 and is delighted to be supporting Chester's own Gang Show.

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City of Chester

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor, Councillor Richard Short
The Lord Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Chester CH1 2HJ
Telephone (01244) 402126

It gives the Lady Mayoress and myself great pleasure in wishing the Chester District Scout Association every success with this year's Gang Show.

Our best wishes to all concerned in producing what is always a professional and thoroughly enjoyable event for all the family.

Richard Short

Lord Mayor

Producer's LETTER

Little did I know what I was taking on when I became Producer of Gang Show '96, our 43rd production. My phone has been red hot on most evenings. On some nights I have crept to bed in the wee small hours after a production meeting wondering, 'Why I am doing it?'

Tonight's production makes all this effort worth while. Thank you for supporting our show. As you read this programme and enjoy the 14 items we are staging, remember that it is the end product of four months of frenetic rehearsal and activity.

Our Gang of over 100 youngsters and leaders have joined forces to put on a show which will indicate to you just how much talent there is in Chester District. They have given up much of their spare time whilst, at the same time, keeping up their regular Scouting commitments.

Gang Show involves tremendous team spirit. It also entails hard work, frustration, but above all, fun. New friends have been made and old friendships renewed. Everyone has to work as a team. There is no place for prima donnas in our show. Everyone's strengths have been used to bring it to the stage.

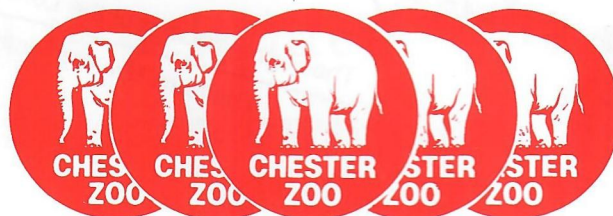
Gang Show is a 'Great Great Game' and a wonderful experience for all. This is what Scouting is about, particularly Gang Show. My thanks go to all the Gang for their support and trust in me. Well, enough of me, all you need to do now is sit back in your seats as the curtain rises and let the members of Chester District Scout Gang Show entertain you.

Matthew Davies

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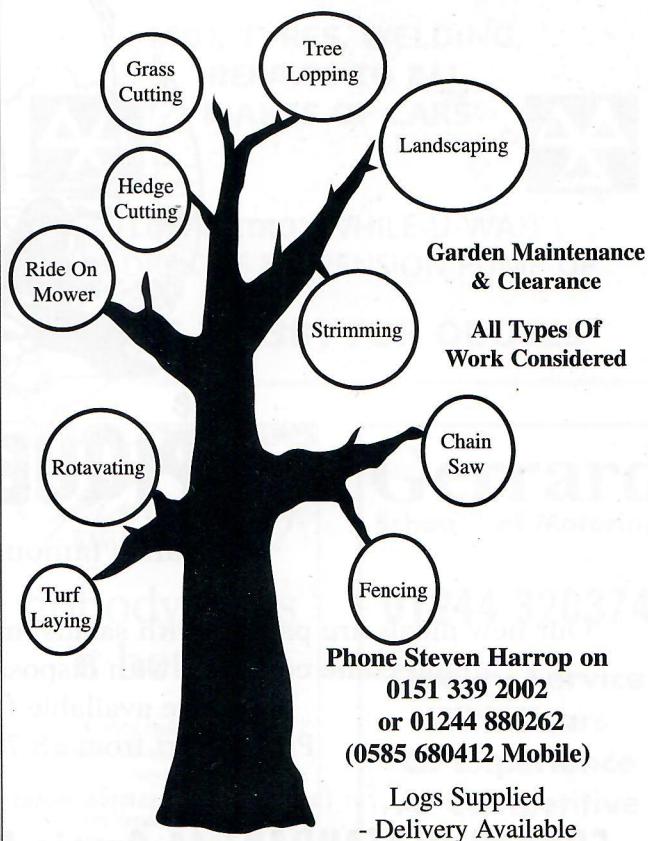
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Milestones Down MEMORY LANE

1951

A Party from the 8th and 13th Chester groups visit London, and go to the London Gang Show. They are inspired!

1953

A Gang from those two groups, totalling 112, stage the first Scoutabout in the Cathedral Refectory with help from parents and friends.

1954

Billy Brickland and his band join the Gang. Bill Cooper sells the first interval ice creams!

1955

The 1st Upton joined the Gang. Bill Cooper as house manager, organises the 2nd Chester and the 1st Christleton Scouts as "Front of House"

1956

We move into the Royalty Theatre to play the pre-panto week. Lord and Lady Leverhulme attend our guest night. We are now a District Show.

1965

We are delighted to welcome our President His Grace The Duke Of Westminster, accompanied by The Duchess. They come backstage after the performance to talk to the Gang.

1966

Sadly, the Royalty Theatre closes and we move to the ABC cinema for a January production. Love St. school is available for much needed dressing room space, but the weather is kind to us!

1968

The very big cinema auditorium is difficult to fill, so we look for a new home. This is the year of the opening of the Gateway Theatre.

1969

A landmark year! We move to the Gateway and... Girls join the Gang for the first time, 12 in a Gang totalling 143.

1971

This was the two shows year; one in January and one in December.

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This was the year of the three-day week and power cuts, but we survived. We also celebrate our 21st year with a visit from the Chief, Sir William and Lady Gladstone, who come backstage to talk to the Gang. We have a special message from Ralph.

1973

The year of our biggest Gang, totalling 175. We need extra dressing room space so we use the empty Mezzanine floor in the market.

1976

We entertain our MP Mr. (later Sir) Peter Morrisson.

1978

This year sees Bill Brickland's 26th and final Scoutabout.

1979

Keith Musselle takes over as Executive Producer and Colin Parfitt picks up the conductor's baton.

1980

Ralph Reader dies and we pay our tribute the best way we can - on the stage.

1982

No theatre... No show!

1988

Four members of the Scoutabout Gang represent Chester as members of the cast of "The Gang's all here" Diamond Jubilee Show in the Wimbledon Theatre.

1992

Our M.P. Gyles Brandreth came to see the show.

1993

It couldn't have been too bad because he came again!

1994

Jean Proffitt, Lilian Edmunds, Eric Wilson, Geoff Morris and Gerald Roose between them put in 165 years service to Scoutabout. That's dedication!

1995

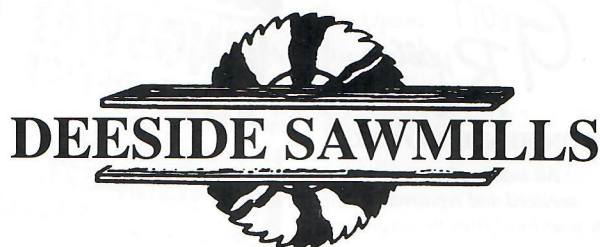
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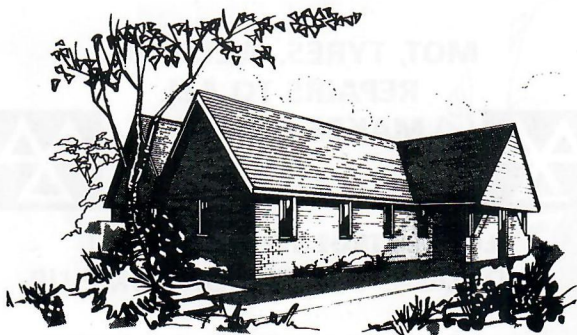
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The GANG

Chris Barden	1st Upton	Simon Johnson	18th Chester
Simon Barnwell	18th Chester	Tim Johnson	18th Chester
James Beattie	1st Upton	Chris Jones	Crusader Ventures
Martin Beeby	5th Blacon	Pam Jones	40th Chester
Michael Beigel	42nd Chester	Trevor Jones	Fellowship
Richard Beigel	42nd Chester	Michael Kerrich	1st Upton
Amy Bellis	8th Chester	Rachel Kevern	42nd Chester
Kieron Bellis	8th Chester	David Kitchen	1st Upton
Peter Bradshawe	40th Chester	Andrew Lambert	40th Chester
Jenny Brealey	8th Chester	John Lambert	40th Chester
Jason Brooks	5th Blacon	Robert Lambert	40th Chester
Chris Butt	1st Christleton	Claire Lavender	Crusader Ventures
Craig Callaghan	1st Saltney	Matthew Lawson	25th Chester
David Carrington	40th Chester	Chris Lee	1st Saughall
Daniel Chadwick	1st Saltney	David Lee	1st Saughall
Jayne Challinor	8th Chester	David Levitt	44th Chester
Jenny Challinor	8th Chester	Stephen Levitt	44th Chester
Jason Clarke	5th Blacon	Sian Manning	40th Chester
Richard Clarke	48th Chester	Chris Marnell	48th Chester
Veronica Collins	8th Chester	Anthony Massey	42nd Chester
Thomas Connelly	25th Chester	Philip McCann	40th Chester
Steven Connolly	48th Chester	Craig McIntosh	44th Chester
Ian Cotterrell	1st Upton	Stephen Mellor	1st Saltney
Mark Cotterrell	1st Upton	Adam Morgan	40th Chester
Vicki Courtney	Hatchmere Ventures	Louise Morgan	1st Upton
Joseph Cuerton-Williams	1st Saltney	Robert Morgan	40th Chester
Matthew Davies	40th Chester	Jonathan Morris	1st Farndon
Helen Dodd	1st Christleton	Richard Nicholas	1st Saughall
Rebecca Dodd	Crusader Ventures	Alex Owen	1st Upton
Gareth Donohoe	1st Saltney	Nikki Pinches	8th Chester
Philippa Dorrell	8th Chester	Lesley Pritchard	42nd Chester
Stephen Edge	40th Chester	Paul Ramsay	48th Chester
Elizabeth Edwards	8th Chester	Evan Roberts	1st Saughall
Vicky Fellows	40th Chester	Neil Roberts	1st Saughall
David Frith	42nd Chester	Louise Roffey	8th Chester
Tom Goodwin	42nd Chester	Philip Scott	18th Chester
Timothy Halliwell	1st Saughall	Ann Shone	8th Chester
Andrew Harrop	1st Upton	Andrew Simcock	40th Chester
Mark Henderson	40th Chester	Greg Smith	1st Upton
Robert Hewitt	25th Chester	Luther Smith	42nd Chester
Allison Horne	1st Upton	Andrew Stewart	1st Christleton
Alison Hough	1st Upton	Craig Turnbull	25th Chester
Nicholas Hudson	18th Chester	Mark Turnbull	25th Chester
Ashley Hughes	25th Chester	Rhys Tyler-Jones	1st Saltney
June Hughes	District	Dale Warburton	40th Chester
Thomas Huxley	1st Saltney	Robert Waring	25th Chester
Felicity Jackson	1st Upton	Andy Wheeler	1st Upton
Lucy Jackson	8th Chester	Daniel Williams	40th Chester
Alison Johnson	18th Chester	Michael Williams	18th Chester
Andrew Johnson	25th Chester	Tom Wright	48th Chester

Bill Cooper: It is with deep regret that we record the death of Bill Cooper in 1995. Bill had been associated with the Gang Show since 1954 and we have lost a very devoted Gang member and loyal colleague.

CHESTER'S OWN GANG SHOW

'96

First HALF

- 1** Opening
- 2** If I Were Not Upon The Stage
- 3** Finale of a Troop Show
- 4** Toyshop
- 5** Aquatoning
- 6** Checking Up
- 7** Buggy, Dick & Nathan

There will be an Interval of 15 minutes

No photography in the Auditorium please.

Gang Show is based on an idea, and using material,
by the late Ralph Reader CBE

Second HALF

- 8** America
- 9** One More Knight
- 10** Maw & Paw
- 11** Moonlight
- 12** Four Little Fellas
- 13** Best Seat In The House
- 14** Finale

Civic Night

On Wednesday evening 1st May 1996 we extend a cordial welcome to the Rt. Worshipful, The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Chester, Councillor Richard Short and Mrs. Short, also Helen Terry and Jim Law of Marks and Spencer Financial Services, former officers of Chester and District Gang Show and other distinguished guests of Chester District Scout Council.

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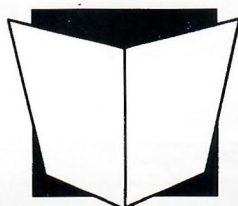
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Towards the FUTURE

This is a forward to the 43rd show, which nearly didn't take place. After 42 shows, the majority of which were produced by Roy Fisher and his team, it was very much a case of, "Where do we go from here?" In practice, a successor to Roy, willing to take on this, and possibly many other successive shows, able to supply the commitment and ride the pressure, had to be found. In addition to this many members of the team, who had served well and loyally over the years, were passing from the scene, or looking to hanging up their thespian woggles. Worst of all, there loomed a large chasm between what it cost us to stage the show and the money coming in.

By about September 1995 our new producer Matthew Davies was found and after many supportive words, slaps on the back, and pints of strong ale, he felt equal to the task. There still remained however, the empty cash box and some "twitchy"

would-be supporters. The only solution seemed to be to "think big" and find a well endowed good fairy.

As in most traditional shows, (or in pantomimes at least,) in the nick of time one such did appear, without it must be said the apocryphal rubbing of the magic lamp.

When all seemed lost, Marks and Spencer Financial Services agreed to support our revamped show with great generosity. Their financial support and publicity expertise has been personified by Helen Terry of their marketing department. She has been unstinting in her efforts to such an extent that it appeared that she might even "go native" and join the gang!

All this support and effort has made it possible for the show to be completely remodelled, with better equipment and services, and what it is hoped will be self evident, a three fold increase in the costume budget. The Gang has now returned to its old strength of about 100, due mainly to Matthew and his assistants going out and literally bringing in the cast. Many old names are sadly missing from the team, but many new and some old ones still remain. All you need to do now is watch and see if it has all been worth it.



Producer to Assistant Producer:

“Just in case it all goes wrong, have you booked our flight to South America?”

Did You KNOW...?

Matthew Davies - Producer



Matthew has taken over the "hot seat" from Roy Fisher. He has passed through the mill of Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts since 1977. After a period as an ASL he is now AVSL of the 40th Chester Venture Scouts. He was press-ganged into the 1989 show and became part of the production team in 1994/1995. As new Producer he faces his toughest assignment, but to use a well worn phrase, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

Louise Roffey -Assistant Producer



Louise came into Scouting via Gang Show. Originally from Yorkshire, she was pianist for Goole Gang Show before coming to Chester College in 1990 to undertake Theatre Studies. Goole's loss was Chester's gain and Louise was recruited by Roy Fisher to bring her piano along to our party! Having appeared on stage in 1995, she is now supporting Matthew Davies, our new producer.

Richard Clarke - Assistant Producer



Richard is a Cestrian, having joined the movement in 1976. He became Scout Leader of the 48th Chester in 1987, after which he served as ADC Scouts from 1990 to 1993. As a glutton for punishment, Richard also trod the boards in local pantomime, having appeared in Gang Show since 1979. He is now assistant producer with special responsibility for the sketch "funny factor".

Eric Plenderleath - Gang Co-ordinator



Eric, a Geordie by birth, was in Newcastle Gang Show as far back as 1947. He came to Chester around 1969 and restarted Scouting in Tarvin. He was District Commissioner from 1975-1981, after which he joined the show in various roles, such as Assistant Producer, Business Committee Chairman and Gang Co-ordinator. He even found time to appear on stage!

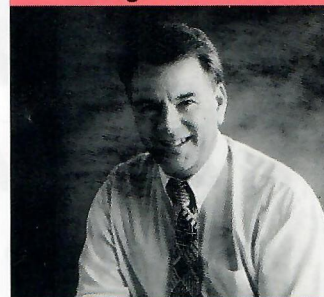
Colin Parfitt - Musical Director



Colin was born and bred in the Wrexham area where still at school, he obtained his first diploma in music. He has worked professionally with Lenny Henry and David Copperfield, to mention but two. He is currently a music teacher at Blacon High School, from where he draws some of his musicians. Their school band performed last year for the Prince of Wales. Colin took over as maestro 16 years ago when the long serving Bill Brickland retired due to ill health. He has been Musical Director for many local operatic societies and seems to be digging in for a long stint with Gang Show.

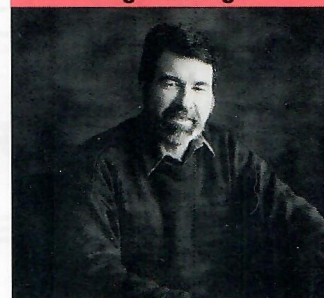
Geoff joined the Scouts when he was about 12, but he really made his mark as a stalwart of the old Chester District Rover Crew. He appeared in various shows at the Royalty Theatre and then at the ABC. He came to fame in his present role in 1973 via his work at the ABC under Charlie Jones. He is now much sought after by many local societies as the most professional amateur Stage Director in the business.

**Geoff Morris -
Stage Director**



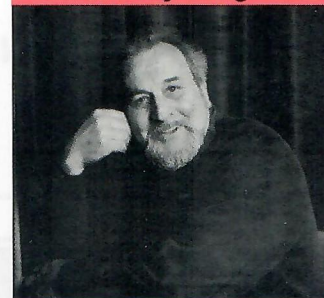
Brian was drawn into the movement by his son. He came into the show 15 years ago after becoming a Scout Leader with the 47th Chester group. He has appeared on stage and has been stage manager for about five years. He currently runs the Crusader Venture Unit and regularly helps with other amateur Gateway shows.

**Brian Dickinson -
Stage Manager**



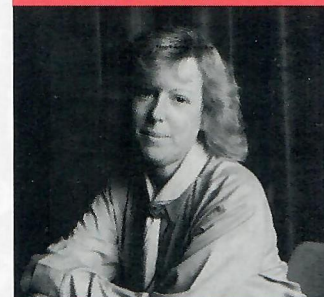
Brian is a carpenter by trade and was also recruited into the movement when his son joined the Scouts. He was "volunteered" to help with scenery and also to be part of the cast about ten years ago. He has been scenery designer and builder for the past six years. Brian says that he likes to build it all alone and then let his assistants paint it.

**Brian Wilkes -
Scenery Design**



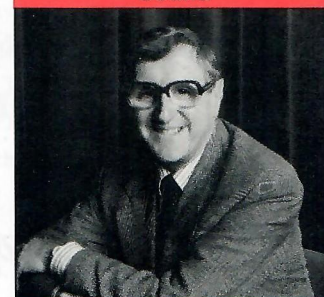
Vicky is another ex-patriate, this time from Coventry, where she was a Cub Scout Leader. In 1985 she came to Chester, and joined the 40th Scout group as an ACSL. She has been involved with the show, on and off the stage, since 1986. She now takes over from the redoubtable Lil Edmunds as a wardrobe mistress with a mission.

**Vicky Fellows -
Wardrobe**



Gerald joined Scouting in 1948 with the 8th Chester group but his predicted membership of six weeks has now stretched to nearly 50 years. His first appearance in Gang Show was in the Cathedral Refectory in 1953. There then followed various roles in sketches and theatres up to the present. However, having provided sound over the years for all sorts of local drama groups and societies, he has deserted the stage for the department of funny noises at the back!

**Gerald Roose -
Sound**



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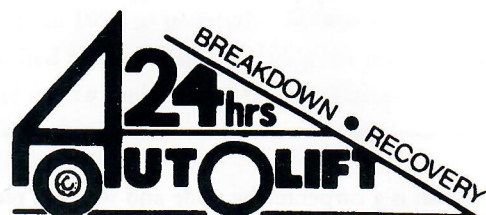
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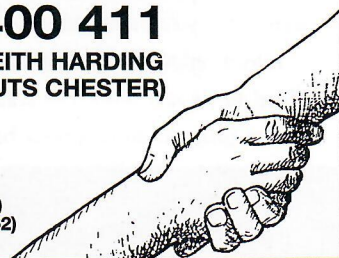
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The Team BEHIND THE GANG

Producer: **Matthew Davies**

Assistant Producers: **Louise Roffey, Richard Clarke**

Assistant Producer & Gang Coordinator: **Eric Plenderleath**

Choreography: **Matthew Davies, Louise Roffey**

Assistant Choreographers: **Eric Wilson, Pam & Trevor Jones**

Lighting Plot: **Jim Woodley** (Member of The Association of Lighting Design)

Musical Director: **Colin Parfitt**

Amplification & Sound Effects: **Gerald Roose, Graham Bulmer & William Roose**

Stage Director: **Geoff Morris**

Properties: **John Davies**

Stage Manager: **Brian Dickinson**

Stage Crew: **Members of Chester District**

Scenery Design & Construction: **Brian Wilkes**

Stage & Scenery Crew: **Members of Chester District**

Wardrobe Mistress: **Vicky Fellows**

Wardrobe Team: **Vicky Fellows & Pam Jones** (Assisted by Members of Chester District)

Make Up: **Richard Clarke** (Assisted by Members of Chester District)

Back Stage Steward: **Les Harding**

Front of House: **Geoff Taylor & Peter Slater**

(Assisted by Members of Chester District)

FOR GANG SHOW

Chairman: **Dave Lloyd**

Treasurer: **Ron Jackson**

Secretary: **Janet Bull**

Publicity: **Geoff Taylor**

District Publicity: **Dave King**

Sponsorship: **Gerald Roose**

Sponsorship & Advertising: **Peter Slater & June Hughes**

Gang Bookings: **Pam Jones**

FOR THE GATEWAY THEATRE

Artistic Director: **Jeremy Raison**

Production Manager: **Tim Highman**

House Manager: **Carol Eden**

Chief Technician: **Peter Highton**

Deputy Technician: **Andy Blacklock**

Marketing Manager: **Rachel Reeves**

Stage Technician: **Drew Smith**

FOR CHESTER DISTRICT

DC: **Keith Musselle**

DDC: **Hazel Petch**

Chairman: **Terry Collier**

Secretary: **Linda Dodd**

Treasurer: **John Hickman**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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35th Chester Scout Group

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8th Chester Scout Group

Chester Chronicle

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The Gateway Theatre Staff

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CREDITS

"Aquatoning" - **Louise Roffey**

& **Helen Turner**

"Bugsy, Dick & Nathan"

- arranged by **Louise Roffey**

"One More Knight" - **Richard Clarke**

Other Material: **Ralph Reader**

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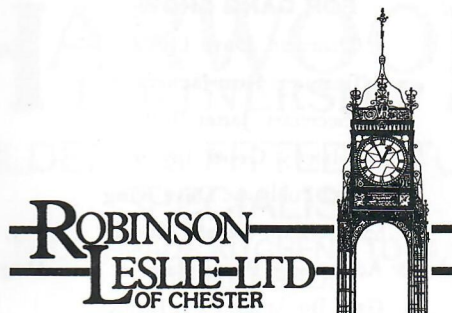


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