



*21st Production of*

# **SCOUT ABOUT**

*by Chester & District Scout Association*



**AT THE GATEWAY THEATRE**

**DECEMBER 10-15, 1973**

**PRICE 5p**

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## ABOUT 'SCOUTABOUT'

21

The first Show under the name of 'Scoutabout' was staged in January 1953, in the Cathedral Refectory. The Gang of 112 Scouter and Scouts, supported by the usual team of helpers, was recruited from the 8th and 13th Scout Groups. The small profit from that show was donated to the King George VI Fund for Sailors. This pilot show was so successful that a second was produced the following year, when the Gang had the backing of an 8-piece band under the direction of Billy Brickland. 1955 brought an even wider range of talent when scouts from the 1st Upton Group joined the Gang. The venue was still the Refectory where the dressing rooms were the draughty cloisters. What intrepid troupers they were!

By 1956 'Scoutabout' was receiving so much support that a larger venue was necessary and we moved to the Royalty Theatre, which was to be our home for the next eleven years. In the same year, 'Scoutabout' became a truly District show, for the members of the cast came from nearly every Group in the District. So the show became an annual event on the District calendar.

With the closure of the Royalty Theatre in 1967, we moved to the A.B.C. Cinema. This provided two challenges. The first was to organise a cast of 120 on a cinema stage which was too wide and not deep enough, and to house them all in dressing rooms designed for half that number. The second (and more difficult) was to fill an auditorium which had twice the seating capacity of the Royalty. With the first we succeeded and the second we just failed, bringing about our first serious financial loss which to many was the death knell of 'Scoutabout.' Our survival is due to the faith of the District Scout Council.

The 1969 Show was notable in two respects. The opening of the Gateway Theatre provided us with a new home with all the facilities of a modern theatre and until that year, Scoutabout was an all-male show. With our usual foresight we recognised the power behind 'women's lib' and the cast was strengthened by the inclusion of girls—a move which was welcomed by audiences—and by the cast!

Any success which 'Scoutabout' has enjoyed since 1953 must be due to the fantastic support it has received from an army of helpers—the mums, dads and friends of the gang—whose names we have tried faithfully to record in this and previous programmes. Without them and their help we could never have 'gone on.' Although it is invidious to name names, I feel that I must mention two—Bill Brickland (our M.D. for the past 20 years) has been a power of strength to the production team in particular and the Gang in general. The other is of course Ralph Reader. I cannot do better than to quote from this year's London Gang Show programme. "He was the creator and has been the author, composer and inspirer-in-chief of 'Gang Shows' everywhere. We remember with gratitude the fun and happiness he has given, and continues to give, the countless proud wearers of the red scarf and their audiences." After 21 years 'Scoutabout' can only echo these sentiments and add our very grateful thanks.

**ROY FISHER**

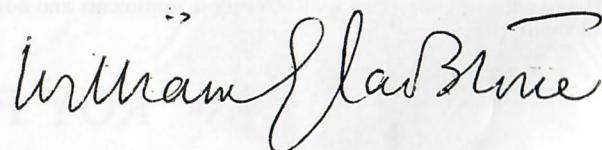
(PRODUCER)



*I often enjoy a visit to the Theatre in Chester, but seldom have I looked forward to one more keenly than I do to my visit to the Chester Gang Show in this your Twenty-first Anniversary Year.*

*My wife and I are greatly looking forward to coming to what I am sure will be a most enjoyable evening, and to what is certainly one of a long and splendid series of Gang Shows in Chester.*

*Good luck and every good wish for a successful production.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Gladstone".

William Gladstone  
CHIEF SCOUT



*Congratulations, Chester!*

*So you have 'come of age'! Chalking up 21 years is a fine achievement and all of us in the London Gang Show send you our happiest Good Wishes for a terrific success with this your very special edition of 'SCOUTABOUT.'*

*With the example of your Enthusiasm, Team Spirit and Talent it is a tremendous way of showing the Public something of the 'inside' of Scouting and though a Show is but one small part of our overall programme it can be a fine Shop Window as B.P. said it could be. No one was more keen about Scouts taking part in Amateur Theatricals as some of you will remember from his 'Outlook' which he wrote so long ago and it is great to know that Chester so worthily is carrying on with his Tradition.*

*Good Luck to you all and may your Celebration Year be the biggest success you have ever enjoyed.*

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*RALPH,  
"Mr. Gang Show"*

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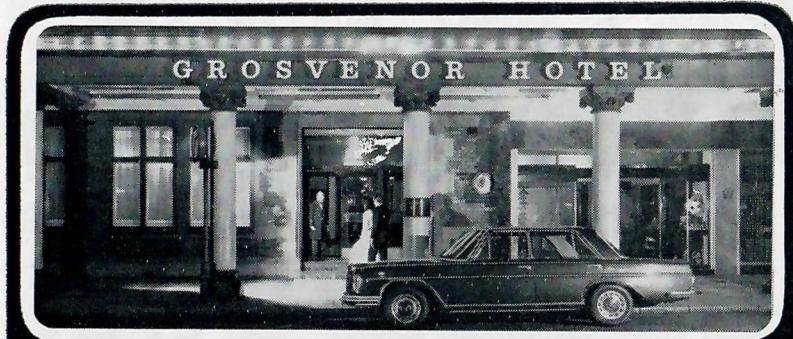
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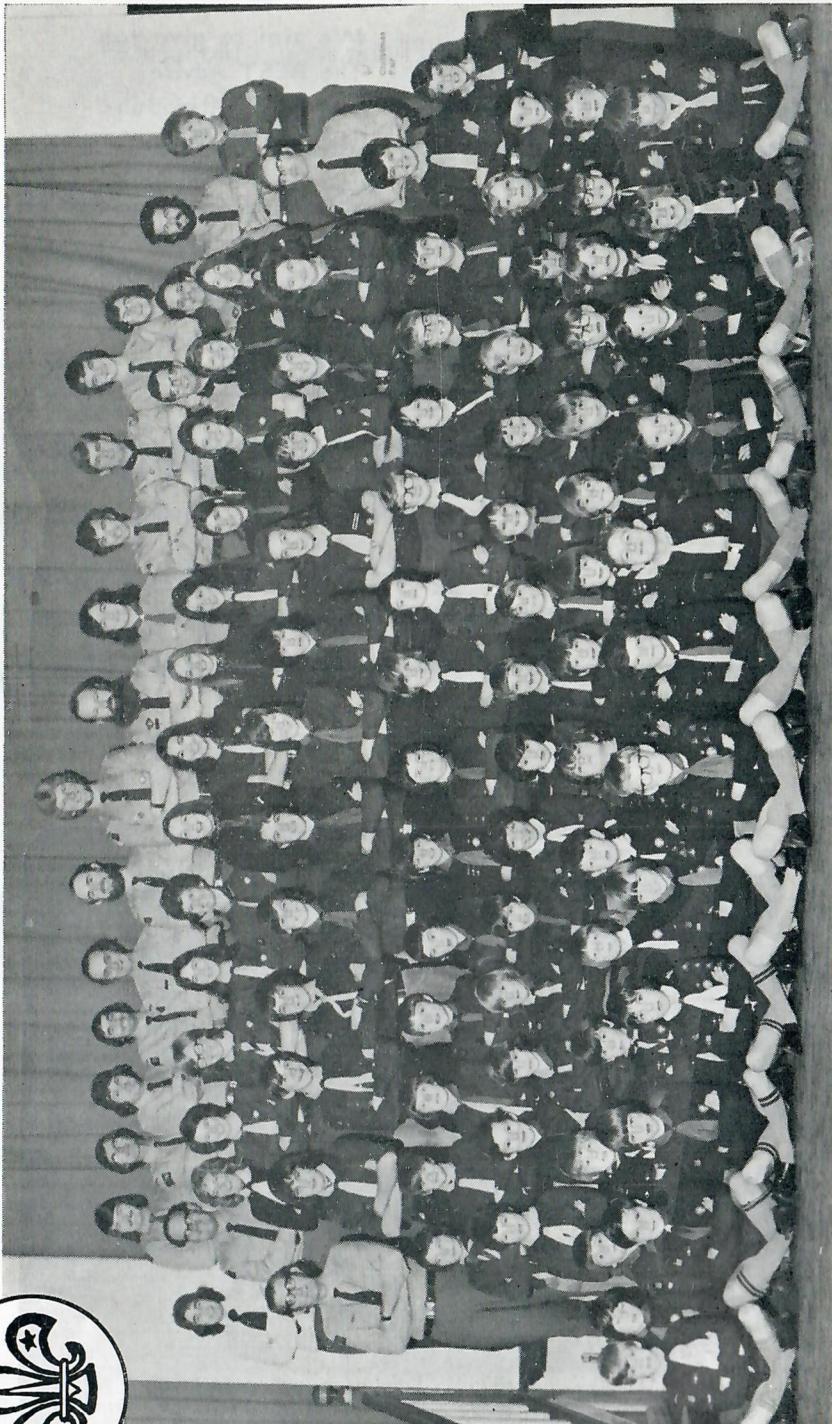


Photo by Lynton Barton,  
Photographers, Chester.

The Gang (or most of them) at a rehearsal.

## THE GANG

Nicholas Allen  
Michael Allen  
Ken Almond  
Valerie Almond  
Graham Andrew  
Chris Attwood  
Jenny Attwood  
Anthony Barton  
Ken Barton  
Gwyneth Barton  
Stephen Bayley  
June Beckett  
Mike Benson  
Richard Black  
Ian Bolshaw  
Mark Bond  
Alan Bostock  
Alan Brookmyre  
Dave Burrows  
Simon Butt  
Paul Calvert  
Alan Champion  
Alan Cochran  
Tommy Concannon

Mark Conlon  
Arthur Cremill  
Phillip Cunningham  
Henry Curtis  
Michael Curtis  
Tom Curtis  
Alan D'Arcy  
Jon D'Arcy  
Robin D'Arcy  
Fred Darlington  
Richard Densham  
John Devlin  
Chris Edmunds  
David Edmunds  
David Enfield  
Derek Fairhurst  
Judith Fay  
Roy Fisher  
Andrew Foster  
Jill Foster  
Adam Gallop  
Marjorie Graham  
Timothy Gray  
Jonathan Green

Andrew Hamilton  
Mark Jones  
Keith Harding  
Malcolm Harding  
Paul Harper  
David Holroyd  
Philip Henderson  
Simon Hamilton  
Nicholas Lloyd Jones  
Eric Kay  
Robert Kay  
Paul Kellard  
Carole Killip  
Dave King  
Ian Kirkland  
David Knight  
Dave Kynaston  
Stephen Langford  
Rupert Leslie  
Adam Longman  
Patrick McDonald  
Gary McHale  
Iain McIntrye  
Pat McManus

Neil Mason  
Christopher Melia  
Robert Melluish  
Robert Moir  
Scott Morris  
Geoff Morris  
Pat Morris  
Lesley Moyles  
Keith Musselle  
Paul Musselle  
David Oakes  
Jonathan Oakes  
Derek Oldfield  
Christopher Paddock  
Phillip Parker  
Andrew Paul  
Philip Paul  
Ian Peers  
Kevin Potts  
Karan Pritchard  
Dave Proffitt  
Lorna Proffitt  
Malcolm Proffitt  
Howard Reece

Geoff Smith  
Neil Smith  
Perry Smith  
David Southwell  
Jonathan Southwell  
Mark Sproston  
Nigel Steventon  
Andrew Stewart  
John Sweetenham  
Raymond Swift  
Stephen Taylor  
Brian Terry  
Kevin Wallace  
Graham Webb  
Malcolm Webb  
Christopher Weston  
Michael Weston  
Michael Whitehouse  
John Williams  
Eric Wilson  
Roger Wright  
Hugh Sillitoe

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Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Stonebridge

Miss E. Scott

Mr. and Mrs. S. Travers  
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Warne  
Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Cooper

Mrs. R. Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Beavan  
Mr. and Mrs. Chrutley

## PATRONS

The 'Gang' wishes to acknowledge it's thanks to the many subscribing Patrons and Audiences for their continued support.



# SCOUTABOUT 1973



## Act One

One ..... CELEBRATION  
Two ..... THE GYM GIRLS (1967)  
Three ..... PETER & WENDY (1964)  
Four ..... CAMELOT (1968)  
Five ..... SPRING (1953)  
Six ..... TENDERFEET (1965)  
Seven ..... THE JUMBLE SALE (1963)  
Eight .. THE MOUNTIES GET THEIR MAN (1971)  
Nine ..... SHADOWS (1970)  
Ten ..... LITTLE BLACK BAG (1962)  
Eleven..... SET IN A SILVER SEA (1964)

INTERMISSION (15 minutes)

## ORCHESTRA

Organ/Piano ..... Billy Brickland  
Bass ..... Jeff Jones  
Drums ..... Billy Buck  
ORCHESTRATIONS -  
BILLY BRICKLAND

## Act Two

One ..... ROMANY ROAD (1969)  
Two ..... MINUET  
Three ..... MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY (1968)  
Four ..... FRIENDSHIP  
Five ..... PUBLIC SCHOOL (1967)  
Six ..... FREEDOM (1970)  
Seven ..... THE YOUNGSTERS (1970)  
Eight ..... WE'RE THE ONLY GIRLS LEFT  
IN THE BALLET (1969)  
Nine ..... THE GNOME (1969)  
Ten ..... FINALE

(Date in brackets indicates when  
previously performed in 'Scoutabout')

Entire Production  
Directed by Roy Fisher

Assisted by  
Eric Wilson, Chris Edmunds  
and Des Southwell

Choreography Assistant  
Pat McManus

Good Luck  
and Best Wishes  
to SCOUTABOUT  
from the

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## THE TEAM

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**Director of Production:** Roy Fisher

**Assistant Producers:** Eric Wilson, Chris Edmunds and Des Southwell

**Musical Director:** Billy Brickland      **Choreography Assistant:** Pat McManus

**Backstage Organiser:** Geoff Morris      **Gang Organiser:** Des Southwell

**Stage Manager:** Stan Benson      **Costume Co-ordinator:** Dave Proffit

**Wardrobe Mistress:** Lily Edmunds      **Deputy Wardrobe Mistress:** Edith Harding

**Wardrobe Team:** Mesdames S. Crabtree, P. Curtiss, R. Mason, B. Parker, M. Pritchard, H. Roberts, I. Southwell, A. Sumpter, G. Weston, I. Wilson, Misses E. Halford, C. Holland, L. Hulley, P. Oldfield.

**Wigs:** Jean Proffitt, I. Evans and C. Harding

**Make-up:** Alan Sumpter assisted by Mrs. E. Sumpter; Misses J. Airley, C. Dixon, J. Nevett, M. Oldfield, B. Read and A. Thomas; W. Crump and R. Sumpter.

**Stage and Scenery Crew:** Misses Caroline Green and Ruth Green; B. Conlon, B. Crabtree, R. Crabtree, E. Edmunds, J. Goodall, S. Grant, L. Harding, D. House, S. Kershaw, R. Leighton, D. Lloyd, F. Moore, D. Morgan and J. W. Sheen.

**Lighting, Amplification and Sound Effects:** Gerald Roose, Graham Bulmer and David Griffiths

**Properties:** Alison Edmunds, assisted by Lin Bostick, Mike Curtis and Jackie Bulmer

**Front of House Stewards:** B. Kershaw, P. Slater, G. Oldfield, E. France and S. J. Weston

**Prompter:** Marjorie Fisher

**Catering:** Mr. & Mrs. F. Attwood and helpers; Mrs. Joan Mosselle (rehearsals)

**Publicity:** Eric France

**Stage Door Security:** Denis Williams and Steven Williams

**Producers' Factotums:** Marjorie Fisher and Stan Travers

**Programme:** Stan Weston and Ted Warne

### Officials

**Chairman:** Mr. S. Travers      **Secretary:** Mr. S. J. Weston, 51 Long Lane, Plas Newton, Chester. Tel. 42536      **Treasurer:** Mr. R. J. Johnstone      **Booking Secretary:** Mr. W. S. Cooper, 44 Parkgate Road, Chester. Tel. 22893      **Producer:** Mr. R. Fisher

All Songs and Sketches are by Ralph Reader except for: 'Gym Girls,' 'The Ballet,' 'The Gnome' and 'The Jumble Sale' by Wilcock and Rutherford. 'Mutiny on the Bounty,' 'The Mounties' and 'Minuet' by Jim Foote. 'Camelot' by Brian Whiting and Billy Brickland.

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Ernie Boyer. He joined the production team in 1958 and was an ever present member until this year, when ill health prevented his active participation. It was his expertise in music and stagecraft and his outstanding sense of fun which gave Scoutabout an extra sparkle. Above all we will miss the friendship which he shared with the Gangs of the last fifteen years.

R.F.

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Hoole, Chester. Tel. 25350

*Secretary:* E. H. WARNE, Esq., 14 Moorcroft Avenue, Chester.  
Tel. 41231

*Treasurer:* G. B. ELPHICK, Esq., M.B.E., 6 Hunter St., Chester.  
Tel. 23051

•  
**District Commissioner:**

W. S. COOPER, Esq., J.P., 44 Parkgate Road, Chester.  
Tel. 22893

**PARTIES at time of going to press**

**Monday**

1st Saltney Ferry Scout Group  
43rd Chester Scout Group  
1st Saughall Guide Company  
Mrs. Beanclerk's Party, Oswestry  
1st Ince Scout Group  
Runcorn St. Andrew's Boys Brigade

**Tuesday**

Christ Church, Newtown, Chester  
9th Chester Brownies  
44th Chester Scout Group

**Wednesday**

35th Chester Scout Group  
1st Tarporley Scout Group  
18th Chester Scout Group  
Waverton Guide Company  
Heronwater School, Dolwen, Abergel

**Thursday**

2nd Wharton (Winsford) Scout Group  
1st Pulford Guide Company  
4th Heswall Guide Company  
Hope Scout Group

**Friday**

1st Christleton Scout Group  
1st Cudding & Sandiway  
Scout Group  
2nd Sandiway Guide Company  
8th Ellesmere Port Scout Group  
10th Ellesmere Port Scout Group  
1st Helsby Scout Group  
1st Norley Scout Group

**Saturday Matinee**

1st Tarvin Scout Group  
42nd Chester Scout Group  
1st Llanidloes Scout Group  
Llanidloes Venture Scout Unit  
1st Sandycroft Cub Scouts  
Mrs. Wallace's Party, Hope  
Oswestry Scout Group  
Senior Citizens  
Mrs. Thaw's Party, Ellesmere Port

**Saturday Evening**

Urmston Gang Show  
2nd Sandiway Guide Company

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Acknowledgements for assistance towards the production:

Royalty Theatre  
A.B.C. Cinema  
Coventry Gang Show  
8th Chester Group  
Campbell Memorial Hall  
Gateway Theatre  
The Tavern in the Town  
Derby Gang Show

Cheshire Police Force  
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and others too numerous to mention

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## *From the District Commissioner, Chester & District Scout Association*

'Scoutabout 1973' is a very auspicious occasion for two particular reasons. Firstly, because our 'Gang Show' comes of age on achieving 21 years of very successful productions, and secondly, because the Show and Chester Scout Association are being honoured by the attendance of the Chief Scout, Sir William Gladstone and Lady Gladstone at the Wednesday evening performance. I am sure our many patrons and friends will pardon our very obvious pride and delight in these two facts.

As District Commissioner, I extend on behalf of the Chester and District Scout Association the most cordial welcome to Sir William and Lady Gladstone and assure them that the Gang will do their best to give them both a most enjoyable evening. This welcome is none the less also warmly extended to our other 3,000 patrons this week.

The 'babe of Scoutabout' first saw the footlights at the Refectory in 1953 when the 8th Chester (Northgate Congregational) and 13th Chester (College School) Groups combined forces for a money-raising charity show. The same Groups repeated it the following year and in the third year they enlisted the 1st Upton Group to augment their forces.

The 'Scoutabout' child was now growing so rapidly that the idea was conceived that it could become a full District show, and of launching it onto the professional stage at the Royalty Theatre. There it remained for some years until alterations to the Theatre compelled a move to the A.B.C. Cinema. Following the opening of the Gateway Theatre yet another transfer of venue was made, where we have remained happily for the past few years.

I am sure the pioneers of 1953, of whom our producer, Mr. Roy Fisher was one, could not have envisaged the continuing success of 'Scoutabout' and certainly would not have dared to hope to entertain the Chief Scout at one of its performances.

The Gang Show must of course only be one of the many and varied Scouting activities undertaken annually at District level—it takes its equal place alongside Cooking/Camping Competitions, Totem Pole Competitions, Scout Adventurer Competitions, Swimming Galas, Football Leagues and Knock-out events, Inter-Troop Quiz, etc. It is rightly considered to be a means of giving to the boys participating a different experience, thereby inculcating confidence and helping them develop into more complete people.

'Scoutabout' has provided great fun and entertainment for over 80,000 people while some 2,000 leaders and boys have over the years sung, danced and burlesqued their costumed, made-up way before the footlights after taking part in many months of exhausting rehearsals.

The loyal support we have continued to receive from many parties, large and small, and from individuals drawn from a wide area of North West England and North Wales has been a source of encouragement to the producers, back-stage team and the Gang. It has been the only reward they have sought, and they are deeply grateful to you all for your loyalty.

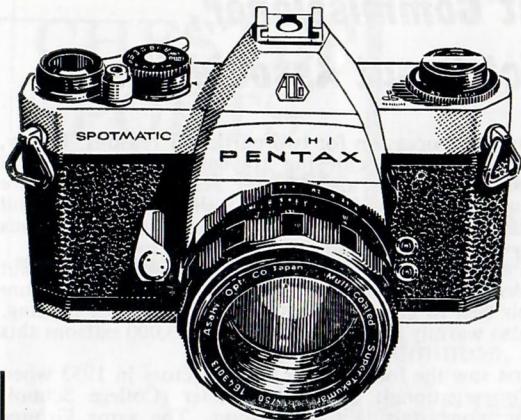
Perhaps the success of 'Scoutabout' has been derived from the naturalness of the performers. The producers do not profess to put on a professional show, but they do aim, with a real measure of success, to achieve a spontaneous, happy, balanced and colourful amalgam of music and mirth. The enthusiasm of a receptive audience is vital to the achievement of that goal.

Another source of pride is that we have throughout those 21 years received the support of all the successive Mayors of Chester, and for many years of the Chairmen of the Chester and Tarvin Rural District Councils. The attendance of our Civic leaders each year has been a pleasure and satisfaction to us, as indeed it is again this year, for it has proved to us that they recognise that the Scouting movement has a vital place in the work being done for the youth of our District.

'Friendship' is the theme of this year's 'Scoutabout.' This is indeed appropriate because 'Scoutabout' has made many friends for Scouting; it has fostered and cemented existing friendships among members of the Gang and among the many back-stage helpers. But also because friendship is fundamental to the concept of Scouting. May 'Scoutabout' and Scouting long continue to thrive on and to irradiate friendship and happiness.

W. S. COOPER

*(District Commissioner)*



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