

22nd July 1944 – newspaper report

Gatehouse Scouts “Good Deeds”. – The splendid sum of £22 was raised for the Boy Scouts Association Relief Abroad Service as a result of the recent “Day of Work” undertaken by the Scouts and Cubs of Gatehouse Group and the Scouts of Cally House Troop. Group Scoutmaster McCorkindale was in charge of operations and had magnificent support from Scouts and townspeople alike. The jobs undertaken included gardening, window-cleaning, chopping sticks, tidying sheds, cleaning cycles, running messages, and so forth. So great was the demand for the services of the boys that all the jobs could not be finished on the appointed day. These, however, were completed during the following week.

21st October 1944 – newspaper report

Gatehouse Scout’s “Open Night”.

The 1st Gatehouse-of-Fleet Boy Scout Troop held their open scout night on Thursday evening in the Town Hall. A large number of parents and friends interested watched an impressive display of Scout and Cub activities by Gatehouse and Cally Scouts and Gatehouse Cubs.

The company was welcomed by GSM McCorkindale who referred to the Gatehouse Scout record of achievements in 1st and 2nd Class Proficiency Badges. The parents, he said, had every reason to be proud of their sons, and particularly was this the case when one recollected that the Gatehouse Troop had made the sum of about £22 in the recent day of work.

Colonel F Rainsford Hannay, Cardoness, County Scout Commissioner, addressed the company and introduced Captain Matthews, County Commissioner of West Cumberland who also spoke. His address was mainly to the parents stressing the need in the post war world for men of a balanced mind, men who could and would act on their own initiative, and men who had and would hold to an opinion of their own. This he stated, could only be obtained by youths receiving training in an organisation such as the Boy Scouts, which had already withstood almost a generation of trials. Capt. Matthews asked parents to be interested in their son’s progress in the Scout Troop to assist by ensuring that boys were punctual and lived up to their Scout promises.

The evening was spent in games in which parents and friends took part. Gatehouse scouts gave a display of bridge building and later a most interesting knotting display. Cally Scouts gave a very realistic camp scene in which two boys received injuries and were given first-aid on the spot by their brother scouts. A camp-fire sing song brought the evening’s activities to a close.

Postscript – The football team of the above Scout Troop hereby challenge any Scout Football team in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright to a game of eleven a side football, at a ground to be arranged between both teams, Acceptances to :- Troop Leader G. McCrone, Boatgreen, Gatehouse-of-Fleet.

23rd December 1944 – newspaper report

Farewell to Cally Troop

The 1st Gatehouse-of-Fleet Boy Scout Troop held a social and dance in the Town Hall last week to pay a farewell tribute to Cally House Scout Troop. Gatehouse Scouts and their friends were present, and a representative body of Girl Guides from Cally House Guide Company, numbered about 40 couples.

At an interval Group Scoutmaster McCorkindale of Gatehouse Scout Group referred to the spirit of friendly rivalry which had existed for a number of years between Cally and Gatehouse Scouts,, and the spirit of helpfulness always shown by Cally Scouts. He also paid tribute to Cally Scouts who had existed ever since the commencement of Cally House School, entirely on their own, providing their own officers each year, and in spite of many difficulties keeping alive a healthy “Scouty” spirit.

In reply, Troop Leader Campbell of Cally Scout Group, speaking on behalf of Scouts and Guides, said they were indeed very sorry to be leaving Gatehouse and the local Scout Troop with whom they had been on most friendly terms since they came to Cally. Although Cally Scouts existed on their own, much credit was due to the Gatehouse Scouts and the Group Scout Master for their assistance and co-operation. He finally thanked the Group Scout Master and the Gatehouse Scouts for their kindness and assistance, and wished them all “Good Scouting”.

The evening was spent in dancing to music supplied by Alberto and other musicians, and at the close the Gatehouse Troop joined heartily in singing "For they are jolly good fellows."

On the occasion of another joint effort recently, Mr Burt, headmaster of Cally, sent the following appreciation to Constable McCorkindale :-

"It was a kind and friendly gesture which aptly symbolised the relationship between your Troop and ours which has been of great value to us. None of our boys and girls will forget Gatehouse : and high among the memories of many of them will be the occasions when they paraded along with the Gatehouse Scouts, and those others when they were their guests.

"Of your kindness and helpfulness to our boys at all times I cannot speak too highly. Believe me, both they and I are deeply grateful to you.

"In the name of all Cally, I wish you, and the Gatehouse Scouts and the Cubs who will follow in their steps, every kind of good luck in the years to be."