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Susan Armstrong, Jane Scott Neil Swalwell and Stuart Park, members of the Gatehouse Venture Scout Unit, signed up for the adventure of a lifetime. They travelled to south eastern France with Venture Scouts from all over Scotland to take part in the challenging Explorer Belt Experience. The Venture Scouts were dropped off at an unknown point in the French countryside and given 10 days to make their way to the end point 100 miles away. They also had to complete one major and 10 minor projects. In order to complete the projects they had to talk to as many local people as possible to find out about their lifestyle, culture and views on a number of topical issues. The major project was selected by the Venture Scouts themselves before they left Scotland but the minor projects were kept secret until they started the hike. The Venture Scouts had to record their projects and their daily experiences in log books, face 3 interviews on completing the hike and then make a presentation on the whole expedition once they returned home. After completing all of this to a very high standard they were awarded the coveted Explorer Belt.





5 Gatehouse scouts are to represent Galloway at the 28th International Patrol Jamboree in Perthshire. Ian Austin, Kevyn Parker, James Armstrong, Niel Austin and Mathew McWhir will be at the camp at Blair Atholl until July 26. They will join around 700 scouts – half from Scotland and half from abroad in patrols of 12. After the camp the Gatehouse scouts will bring some of the overseas scouts back to Galloway for around 5 days. Activities at the camp will include climbing, canoeing, a gorge walk, electronics, martial arts, camp fires and a ceilidh. Pictured here are Ian, Kevyn, James, Niel and Mathew making their final preparations before they set off.



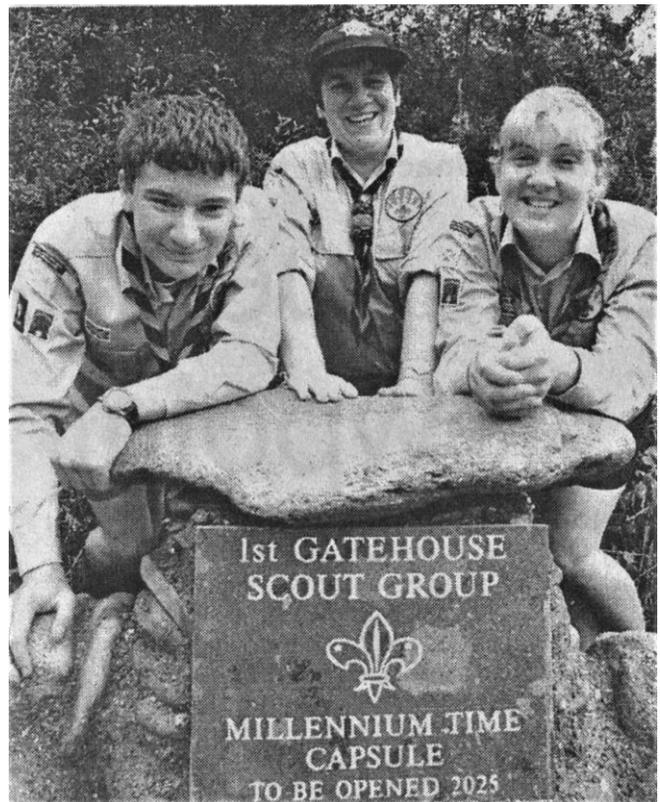
The local and American scouts on the shore at Kirkdale Port.



Members of the Gatehouse Scout Group who enjoyed the 5-day camp at Kirkdale Port



Eck McKie who retired as assistant leader of Gatehouse Scouts at the troops Millenium camp, with some of the scouts.



Ranger Scouts Stuart Park, Pam Dale and Susan Armstrong with the stone surround for the troops Millenium time capsule.



Gatehouse Cubs and their leaders (back row, left to right) Group Scout Leader Nigel Scott, Venture Scout Susan Armstrong, Cub Scout Leader Susan Pickthall and Assistant Cub Scout Leader Fiona Hesketh.