

Montgomery

Early scouting records are minimal. We know that four Troops were established in 1910 (at Welshpool, Llanfyllin, Llanidloes and Machynthlleth) and that ten had come into existence by 1914, but we know very little about them, and by 1922 the total was down to four. Montgomery is, and always has been, a rural county, and the dispersal of the population has caused constant problems for a 'meeting organisation' like the Scouts. By 1953 numbers had fallen from an unknown peak to 185, which was attributed to the lack of leaders and resulting closure of Groups. However, two years later the story was happier. Numbers were up to 221 and groups now numbered ten. Through the 1960s the numbers remained more or less stable at between 220 and 250, and the number of groups hovered between nine and ten. In 1963 a County camp was recorded for the first time, and two training weekends were run in 1966, a year which also saw a visit from the Chief Scout, who was received with appropriate ceremony. The 1970s were a decade of achievement. 200 Cubs attended a County Day in 1973 (which must have been just about every Cub in the County), and in 1977 the census figure broke 500 for the first time, rising further in the following year. In 1974 the administrative county was absorbed into the new construct of Powys, but in this case the Scout County did not follow suit. Nevertheless Scouting has been, and still is, strongly supported by the Local Authority.