



From the County Commissioner:

A report by UNICEF has concluded that British children are among the unhappiest in Western Europe. Attempting to explain the problem UNICEF has concluded that the reason is that we put too little store on family time and too much on material goods. As a country we have got our priorities wrong – trading quality time with our children for “cupboards full of expensive toys that aren’t used”. “Parents in the UK want to be good parents but aren’t sure how, the research suggests “they feel they don’t have the time, and sometimes the knowledge, and often try to compensate for this by buying their children gadgets and clothes”. The research compares Britain with Sweden and Spain. While the UK languishes in 21st, and last, place in the child well-being table, they come second and fifth respectively. And the reason according to UNICEF is that in both countries children all have greater access to activities. Pressures on the working environment and rampant materialism continue to damage the well-being of our children. They want our attention but we give them our money (how many times has a little Cub turned up with £20 spends for a weekend camp?). All the children interviewed said material goods did not make them happy. Parents work all hours to increase family income but then are too exhausted or too busy to give their children the attention they need and deserve.

Another problem is that British teenagers do not have enough to do – particularly within the educational arena. “In the UK, children’s time in active creative pursuits diminishes in secondary schools, compared to children in Spain and Sweden – this is particularly true among older, deprived children in the UK”.

I believe that, once again, Scouting finds itself in the position where it has the potential to be a really positive and helpful force in the lives of young people. We have a duty to ensure that Scouting is a transformative experience for our members. We are there for our members, we give them the time and the attention they need, and we provide a balanced programme of challenging and adventurous activities. When we are at our best we do it brilliantly – you only have to experience an event celebrating young people’s achievements (such as the recent 3-Greater Manchester Counties Awards evening for Queen Scouts, Gold DofE, Explorer Belt, and Chief Scouts Platinum and Diamond Awards) or the County Chief Scouts Gold Award Reception to see fantastic testimony to all of that.

And through initiatives like The Big Adventure, flexible volunteering, and encouraging parents to be more actively engaged with us we can, I hope contribute even more to helping our members have happier, more fulfilling lives. What will be your next step in achieving this?

Andrew Corrie

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Factsheet changes/Updates

AC120834	Assessment Checklist for Hill Walking (personal)	AC120913	Assessment Checklist for Hill Walking (Leadership)
FS120006	Aerial Runway Code	FS120085	Adventurous Activities Abroad
FS120415	Mountaineering with Scouts (the vital culture)	FS120454	Hill walking
FS200202	The 6-25 Program	FS950000	Promoting Good Sexual Health within Scouting
FS315074	Scout Skills – Compass		

National Awards

Congratulations this month go to the following people who have been awarded the Bar to the Award of Merit, The Award of Merit, The Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service and The Queen's Scout Award.

Bar to the Award of Merit			
Mrs Tanya Jane Cross	CSL / DEX / DAACM	2 nd Heald Green (Methodist)	Cheadle and District
Keith Ryan	SL / DEX / IST Member 22 nd WSJ	1 st Great Moor (St Saviours)	Stockport
Award of Merit			
Mark Timothy Baxter	GSL / CMDM / SASM / TA	1 st High Lane	Goyt
Mrs Helen Joan Lewthwaite	ADC Beaver Scouts		Goyt
Grant Robin John Mitchell	formerly SL / Group Chairman	1 st Disley	Goyt
Matthew Benedict Walker MBE	ACSL	1 st Marple Scouts	Goyt
Mrs Christine Watkiss	CSL	1 st Bredbury & Woodley	Goyt
Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service			
Gordon Ian Bestwick	ASL	1 st Heaton Norris	Stockport
Timothy 'Tim' Bowman	EXSL		Stockport
Mrs Karen Ann Brooke	CSL	1 st Great Moor (St Saviours)	Stockport
Miss Ruth Elizabeth Breeze	ACSL	1 st Offerton (St Albans)	Stockport
Andrew Gough	SL	1 st Davenport-Mile End	Stockport
Mrs Lorna Hough	BSL	1 st Great Moor (St Saviours)	Stockport
Richard Michael Muench	ASL	1 st Offerton (St Albans)	Stockport
Miss Elizabeth Mary Harrop Mitchell	ACSL / DAACM	21 st Stockport	Stockport
Mrs Sandra Murray	CSL	1st Davenport-Mile End	Stockport
Queen Scout Award			
Sam Humphrey		Ladybrook Valley Network	
Ryan James Spencer		Ladybrook Valley Network	
Megan Nelson		Ladybrook Valley Network	
Olivia Cohen		Ladybrook Valley Network	

Congratulations Again

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CAMP AT LINNET CLOUGH

Friday 1st – Monday 4th June 2012



During the bank holiday weekend we will be holding a special camp to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Groups are invited to join us for this commemorative weekend. Activities will include:

- ❖ A day at Royal Ascot Races
- ❖ The Queen's Jubilee Street Party (with entertainment) – Bring your own food!
- ❖ Street Market (featuring stalls representing Great Britain and the Commonwealth)
- ❖ Royal Camp Fire and Beacon Lighting
- ❖ Royal Premiere (film night)
- ❖ Royal Hunt (laser game)
- ❖ Royal Tournament – your group can take part
- ❖ Jubilee Hat competition

....plus lots of other activities.

Groups will be invited to bring an activity/game and also to provide a stall for the Street Market (further details will follow booking).

COST: £35 per person - includes 3 nights camp fees, event badge and programme activities as detailed.

BOOKING: Places will be limited and allocated on a first come first served basis. Bookings will only be accepted in writing and accompanied with a deposit of £30.

For any further enquiries please contact Linnet Clough:

Telephone/Fax: 0161 427 1688

email: linnetcloughcamp@aol.com



BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT



News from the Clough

Christmas Weekend

Our Christmas weekend is on 10th-11th December, if you have not spent Christmas with us before why not come along. We are sure that you and your group will have a good time.

Site Services Weekend

We are pleased to say that the November Campsite Services weekend is now fully booked for Scouts, we could squeeze some Explorers in, so if they are interested please ring us.

We have now arranged a Site Services weekend for 17-19th February 2012. We are taking bookings now; the cost is £15 per person which includes food, instruction and the badge if they are successful.

Junior Crew

We are always grateful to our Junior Crew (aged 14-18) who are always so willing and helpful when they spend time with us. We asked some of them why they joined Junior Crew their answers included "because I like helping out and having a laugh", "to meet new people and give something back to the camp site" and "it looked like fun and I wanted to get trained in outdoor activities". Between them they have become more confident, learned how to instruct low ropes and other activities. Some come along to complete hours of service for Chief Scout's Award, DofE and the International Baccalaureate. According to them the worst bits of being on Crew are waking up early and cleaning toilets on a busy weekend! However they all say the best bits are having a laugh, making new friends and "just having a good time".

Would any of your Explorers want to join us? They will be made most welcome if they want to come just for one day to try it out and meet the others. The Juniors are looked after, trained in health and safety and join in social events. If you have anyone who wants to visit, please get in touch with us, we would love to see them.

2012 bookings

We have already had a lot of bookings for next year, if you are thinking of booking a building then please ring us sooner rather than later. We only have 18 weekends available in each building so they are going fast.

500 CLUB

The aim of the County 500 Club is to raise money to support future developments at Linnet Clough and to give members the chance to win a monthly prize. The membership fee is £2 per month. 50% of all membership fees are given as the prize fund and there are two winners each month. For further details and to download an application form please see the downloads section on www.gmescouts.org.uk alternatively contact Linnet Clough

Linnet Clough can be contacted on 0161 427 1688 and linnetcloughcamp@aol.com



Explorers Winter Camp

Shake off the Christmas excesses and get the New Year off to a good start by taking part in the County's Annual EXPLORER Winter Camp

WHEN? Friday 27th - Sunday 29th January 2012

WHERE? Linnet Clough Scout Campsite & Activity Centre



What have we got this year that
 QUAD BIKING
 LASER TAG
 SNAIL RACING
 THE CUBE
 SCRAPHEAP CHALLENGE
 WII
 FENCING
 AND MANY MORE



How Much? £20 per Explorer (under 18) £10 per Leader (18+)

If you would like to join us for this action packed weekend, please complete the booking form below and return along with a £10 per Explorer by Sunday 15th January 2011 to:

Greater Manchester East Explorers, 133 Eastern By Pass, Openshaw, Manchester, M11 1AX

Booking Contact: Lyndsay Bateman / Tel: 0161 223 3486, 0759 019 1064 / e-mail: lyndsaybateman@ymail.com

...X.....

Winter Camp Booking Form – 27th to 29th January 2012

I would like to book ___ Explorers and ___ Leaders on Winter Camp.

I enclose £10 deposit per Explorer (Cheques made payable to 'G.M.E.C.S.C.')

Unit Name _____ Unit Contact Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ E-mail Address _____

Contact Tel. Number _____



Information for Unit leaders

Welcome...

We are looking forward to welcoming you on site for Winter Camp. Without leaders and helpers, young people would not be able to attend Winter Camp.

To make your weekend as smooth as possible please read through the information below.

Explorer Winter Camp is an activity camp running right in the middle of winter. You can certainly expect the extremes of British weather. We may see snow, ice, torrential rain, and bright sunshine (although not all at once hopefully). Combine that with our activities and we've got ourselves a weekend of excitement and fun.

Arrivals and Registration:

Reception is located in the Storm Hut on the Scout Field. Please register upon arrival (Reception will be open from 6:00pm to 7:30pm). To assist with smooth running, we ask that only a single representative book your group in. To register you will need your Booking Confirmation, completed list of all Young People and Leaders attending and either cash or cheque to pay the balance. (Cheques should be made payable to (G.M.E.C.S.C.)

Please note that refunds cannot be given for lower numbers of attendees as activities and activity sessions will have been pre-arranged for the numbers booked.

On arrival you will be issued the Programme and map with activity locations and Badges. Once you have pitched camp please return to reception and let us know the location of your campsite.

Saturdays Programme: Activities will start at 10am and finish at 5pm on Saturday, with a designated lunch break between 1pm and 2pm.

Sunday's Programme: On Sunday we will again be holding the Scrapheap challenge for which you will require pioneering equipment. This year's challenge will start at 10am on the Sunday morning and you will have until 12midday to construct something adequate to deal with the challenge. The information will be sent to you by email on Sunday 15th January 2012 to give you adequate time to plan and prepare for it

Winter Camp will be popular, so don't delay – book today!

When? Friday 27th to Sunday 29th January 2012 (finish 2pm)

How much? £20 for young people (under 18) and £10 for leaders/helpers (+18)

Contact: Chris Kippax / Tel: 0751 330 0110 / e-mail:

Explorers@gmescouts.org.uk

Greater Manchester East Scouts ... Winter Camp

Welcome to the sub-zero adventure



When? Friday 13 to Sunday 15 January 2012
Where? Linnet Clough Scout Campsite & Activity Centre

Bored of being indoors in Winter? Want to get outside and do loads of activities?
Come along to Scout Winter Camp!



So what's lined-up for the weekend?

High Ropes / The CUBE

See how you react at heights. Teamwork and communication are key here to negotiate around the high level course.

Leap of Faith

You may have the guts to conquer the high ropes, but are you brave enough to throw yourself off a platform?

Either Archery or Air Rifle Range

Have a go or hone your skills at these activities.

Saturday Night Sports & Leisure

Visit a local leisure centre for swimming and sports.

Troop Activities

Drop-in activities organised by the Troops attending Winter Camp.

How much? £17 for young people (under 18) and £10 for leaders/helpers (+18)

If you would like your Troop to join us for the weekend, please fill in the slip below and return along with a cheque for £10 deposit per Scout and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by the 31st December 2011 to:

Greater Manchester East Scouts

County Office, Youth Service Resource Centre, Reddish Vale Road, Reddish, Stockport SK5 7HQ

Contact: John Dawson, ACC Scout Section / mobile: 07726 170875 / e-mail: scouts@gmescouts.org.uk

Winter Camp Booking Form – 13th to 15th January 2012

I would like to book ___ Scouts and ___ Leaders on Winter Camp.

I enclose £10 deposit per Scout (Cheques made payable to 'G.M.E.C.S.C.')

Troop Name & District _____ Group Contact Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ E-mail Address _____

Contact Tel. Number _____

Please note that we need to know numbers of attendees by 31st December 2011, as activities and activity sessions will have been pre-arranged for the numbers booked.

Information for group leaders

Welcome...

We are looking forward to welcoming you on site for Winter Camp. Without leaders and helpers, young people would not be able to attend Winter Camp.

To make your weekend as smooth as possible please read through the information below. Be brave, be challenged, and be amazed by this brilliant, if cold, weekend of thrills and spills for Scouts.

Winter Camp is an activity camp running right in the middle of winter. You can certainly expect the extremes of British weather. We have seen snow, ice, torrential rain, and bright sunshine. Combine that with 'on and off-site' activities, we've got ourselves a very exhilarating weekend.

Ensure each groups/sections attending send Nights Away notification to DC / CRBs required for all adults on site.

Arrivals and Registration: Reception is located in the Lynmouth Building, within the Cub field. Please register upon arrival (Reception will be open from 6:30pm to 8:00pm). To assist with smooth running, we ask that only a single representative books your group in. To register you will need your Booking Confirmation, completed list of all Scouts and Leaders attending and either cash or cheque to pay the balance (Cheques should be made payable to 'G.M.E.C.S.C'). Please note that refunds cannot be given for lower numbers.

Activities will start at 9:30am and finish at 4.30pm on Saturday, with a designated lunch break between 12.30pm and 1.30pm. The Leisure Centre is booked from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on Saturday evening. Please could Troops organise their own transport arrangements to and from Avondale Leisure Centre.

Certain activities require parental permission in order to participate and permission forms must be signed by the parent or guardian for an individual to participate.

Permission forms are available on the GME County Website
<http://www.gmescouts.org.uk/downloads/booking-forms.aspx>

Sunday Troop Programme: On Sunday activities will run from 10am to 1pm. Because of the nature of some events, participants may get particularly muddy, so please ensure that your group have adequate changes of clothes and shoes.

TROOP ACTIVITIES

We would like every Troop attending Winter Camp to organise and run an activity on Saturday and Sunday. Drop-in activities such as football/five-a-side, volleyball, orienteering, hot air balloons, kite making are just some suggestions (please advise us what activities your leaders are able to organise and run during Saturday & Sunday).

November 2011

National Notice Board



- **Birthday Time:** The Beavers have been celebrating over the past 11 months their birthday however 2012 is not only the Queen's Jubilee but also marks 10 years since Venture Scouts disappeared off our radars and in stepped Explorers and Network. The badge will be available for purchase from December and can be worn by all 36,346 Explorers and 4,885 Networkers (from the 2011 census) in the UK
- The first week of November was national Trustee week (yes trustees get a whole week to themselves not just a day) and the Scout Association has produced new resources for Group Executive positions (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Supporter) these are available from the Scout Association Website <http://scouts.org.uk/supportresources/1748/support-for-group-executive-members?cat=55,594&moduleID=10>
- **Activity Review:** The rolling review of activities has now made it to Motorised water, Kite surfing and White Water Rafting, you have until the end of November to get involved in this review. If you wish to know the general progress of how the activities are going then please see the updates through the following link <http://www.scouts.org.uk/activitiesreview>
- **Scouting Magazine:** There is an opportunity to have your say on Scouting Magazine through an online questionnaire, you never know what you suggest may just get itself into the magazine. Questionnaire is at <http://scouts.org.uk/noticeboard/369/help-us-to-improve-your-scouting-magazine>.
- **Modules 11 and 20:** What are your thoughts on these modules? It is review time for both of them. Would you like to be involved with the future development of these modules? If so can you contact the adult support team on adult.support@scouts.org.uk with Modules 11 and 20 in the subject line?
- **London 2012:** Have you been inspired by the Olympics coming to London (and Manchester) next year? If so then why not take part in "our sporting adventure" and give you group or section a new adventure. To register then go to <http://oursportingadventure.scouts.org.uk/>.

County Diary

November

Wednesday 16th
Saturday 19th

Chief Scout Gold Award
Explorer Quiz Night

Go to the County diary on the website for...

...up to date events
...and courses

Message from the editor.....Andrea Clark

Well the clocks have changed, there is a distinct chill in the air and there are Christmas adverts on the TV and radio already! That can mean only one thing its time to stop shaving boys and grow your moustaches for November.

For those of you who are more on the ball you will also realise that there are less than 7 weeks to go before Santa Claus comes to town... the biggest question on everybody's lips of course is when will it snow?

The November issue of County Life is the penultimate issue before the end of the year (there will be no issue in January). Please have your articles to me at Countylife@GMEScouts.org.uk no later than the 27th November for the Christmas issue.

Andrea

