



From the County Commissioner:

The year has got off to a busy start – already we have held the Scout section Winter Camp at Linnet Clough – not for the fainthearted as temperatures on the Friday evening plummeted to minus 6! The following week saw the Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception at Linnet Clough to celebrate the achievements of 24 Scouts who has gained the top award. The guest of honour making the presentations was a former Marple Scout, Dan Pepper who is now a World Champion gold medallist swimmer. Dan spoke passionately about how the Scout Promise and Law are part and parcel of his everyday life. And then the following weekend 130 Explorer Scouts from across the County took part in the Explorer Winter Camp at Linnet Clough with activities ranging from quad biking to Laser games, and fencing to Scrapheap Challenge. In January at the invitation of the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester 12 Leaders and Young People represented the County at a Service in Manchester Cathedral on the eve of Her Majesty's Accession 60 years ago. As part of the Act of Dedication we all shared in the following prayer:

*As we remember with thanksgiving
Our Sovereign's dedication to duty and service
in these past sixty years of her reign,
we commit ourselves anew to follow her example*

*May we, in serving our communities,
our nation and the peoples of this divided world,
enrich our common life,
bring hope to those in despair
and help those who are in trouble - Amen*

I commend that to you as it is so much at the heart of what we are about. For me these four events have typified what Scouts do, and what Scouts are.

Looking forward now is the time to be getting two important events onto your "TO DO" list. First of all on Saturday 12th May we are holding our "**Scouting for Adults**" day at Linnet Clough. More details shortly but this will be a day of programme ideas, practical skills, "have-a-go" programme material, workshops, updates, networking, and fun. Book the date in your diary now and encourage your fellow volunteers to come to it.

Hot on the heels of that is of course **Scout Community Week** – a community involvement initiative that runs from 14-20 May. It's not too late to get your group involved – see the current edition of Scouting magazine to find out more – or go to www.scouts.org.uk/communityweek.

And finally a welcome to Craig Adamson who has been appointed District Commissioner for Tameside South, and in doing so I take this opportunity to thank Keith Burdon for the 10 years he fulfilled this role, and wish him well as he continues his Scouting as Scout Leader at 5th Denton.

Andrew Corrie - County Commissioner

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Chief Scout's Gold Award

Congratulations to the 27 Scouts from eight Districts across our County who were presented with their Chief Scout's Gold Award Certificate by Mr Philip Britton MBE, The Headmaster of Bolton School, Boys' Division, at a reception at The Stockport Art Gallery on the 16th November 2011.

Our special guest was Mr Ken Blakeman, Chairman of Kinder Mountain Rescue Team, who congratulated the Award Holders on their achievement in gaining the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

The Chief Scout's Gold Award is the highest award for Scouts in the Scout Section and all those who gain it have demonstrated considerable commitment and leadership skills. Let us hope we see all these young people taking on further challenges in Explorer Scouts and going on to gain their Queen's Scout Award in the next few years.



Cheadle and District

Anthony Bryan 2nd Heald Green

Glossop District

Cameron Greenough 1st Dinting
 Bradley Hughes 1st Dinting
 Luke Owen-Shaw 1st Dinting
 Paul Peters 1st Dinting
 Jack Sykes 1st Dinting
 Jonathan Whitehead 1st Dinting
 Philip Yorke-Robinson 1st Dinting

Ladybrook Valley District

Christopher Smith 1st Woodford & 6th Bramhall
 Ehren Barnard 1st Bramhall
 Melanie Beswick 1st Bramhall
 Holly Boxall 1st Bramhall
 Sam Driver 1st Bramhall
 Arron Greenwood 1st Bramhall
 Adam Musa 1st Bramhall
 Lucy Noblett 1st Bramhall
 Sarah Thornley 1st Bramhall

North Manchester District

James O'Mahony 308th Manchester Scouts
 Peter Woodcock 308th Manchester Scouts

North Tameside District

Alexander Mee 2/1st Hurst
 Isobel Glynn 6th Ashton (Christ Church)
 Jai Mistry 6th Ashton (Christ Church)
 Georgia Westbrook 6th Ashton (Christ Church)

Stockport District

Josh Docherty 1st Great Moor

Tameside South District

James Longbottom 5th Hyde
 James Reader 5th Hyde

Tame Valley

Callum Conway-Gambles 5th Stalybridge

Awards

The following have received their long service awards in the County over the past few months. Congratulations go to each of them and also to Alan James Marsh, ACSL at 3rd Hazel Grove in Ladybrook Valley who has been presented with the Award for Merit.

Name	District	Award
William Michael Flynn		20 Years Service
Kate Jeanette Cookson	Cheadle and District	15 Years Service
Tanya Jane Cross	Cheadle and District	30 Years Service
Adrea Marjorie Morgan	Glossop	40 Years Service
Sylvia Winterbottom Parker	Glossop	20 Years Service
Norman Redfern	Glossop	40 Years Service
Neil Darren Bennett	Ladybrook Valley	20 Years Service
Allan Shaw	Ladybrook Valley	25 Years Service
Elizabeth Ambery	North Manchester	20 Years Service
Patricia Susan Birtles	North Manchester	20 Years Service
Andrea Maria Dolan	North Manchester	20 Years Service
Edward Partington	Stockport	40 Years Service
Nigel James Slater	Stockport	25 Years Service
Michael Henry Dennis Vidler	Tame Valley	40 Years Service
Christine Anne Dunlop	Tameside South	30 Years Service
Susan Elizabeth Hulley	Tameside South	20 Years Service

Even Better than Going for Gold: Becoming a Queen Scout and a Gold DofE



Megan Nelson, Olivia Cohen, Sam Humphreys and Ryan Spencer, all from Ladybrook Valley District, received their Queen Scout Award and three of them also received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Andrew Corrie (CC) awarded them with their Badges on 4th January, in front of their parents and leaders who had helped and supported them along the way. They had all worked hard to achieve this great feat.

Their next step is to prepare themselves for attending the St George's Parade at Windsor Castle in April. They will receive their DofE Certificates when they attend another ceremony at St James Palace London.

The next step for the District is the next batch of 20 to achieve the same golden goals.

[SCOUTS] WINTER CAMP



This year's Winter Weekend Camp was a great – but cold – experience. This was our 13th Winter Camp, and it has become firmly established in the County's Calendar.

Scout Troops from across the County descended on Linnet Clough for the weekend. The Scouts took part in a wide range of activities, from archery, shooting and martial arts, to taking the high-adrenalin experience of high-ropes challenges on "The Cube".

On the Saturday evening over 100 Scouts and Leaders went to Avondale Leisure Centre for an evening of swimming and football.

It is a fact that more Scouts quit Scouting during the winter months than at any other time because they don't get opportunities for outdoor fun and adventure. Well this camp certainly gave them the opportunities.

The temperature dropped to below zero on Friday & Saturday night and the Scouts were awarded the Polar Bear Badge. All the Scouts had a go at Aikido (合気道, Aikido) and were awarded a special Activity Badge. Aikido is a Japanese martial art.

If you were there this year I'm sure we will see you again next year – and if you missed out this year, make a note of it for January 2013.

And finally, a huge thank you to all the leaders and members of the Linnet Clough Service Team who helped throughout the Weekend.



John Dawson ACC (Scouts) & Photos from Alan Fish

Olympic Torch Bearers



Members of the County along with Glossop and District would like to congratulate Jonathan Whitehead from 1st Dinting, upon his selection to carry the Olympic Torch later this year.

Jonathan organised and completed a 250 mile cycle ride, raising £1700 for charity.

When he runs past, they will not only be cheering the Olympic Torch but also Jonathan for his charity work.

Congratulations Jonathan – a well deserved honour.

SCOUT ACTIVITY BADGE DAY



Orienteer



Mechanic



Camp Cook

LINNET CLOUGH SCOUT CAMPSITE AND ACTIVITY CENTRE Saturday 17th March 2012

Give your Scouts the opportunity to come to Linnet Clough and gain a 'Badge in a Day'.

On this day Scouts will have the choice to have a go at one of the following badges: **Orienteer, Mechanic, Camp Cook and Camper*** (**for Camper Badge, you must have already camped in a tent as a Scout for at least 15 nights*)

Date: Saturday 17th March 2012

Venue: Linnet Clough Scout Camp and Activity Centre, Gibb Lane, Mellor, Stockport. SK6 5NB

Time: Start: 10:00am / Finish: 2:00pm

Activity Badges: Orienteer, Mechanic, Camp Cook, Camper (*Scouts completing either Camp Cook or Camper may wish to camp overnight!*)

Cost: £5 per person to include day visitor fee, handouts and badge.

NB. Scout wishing to complete Camp Cook or Camper will need to bring own food, utensils, etc.

Closing Date: Please return the completed Booking Form with payment by 1st March 2012

For Badge Requirements, please enter the following into your Web browser:

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/badges/scout-activity-index.htm>

John Dawson AAC (Scouts) - Tel: 07726 170875 or e-mail: scouts@gmescouts.org.uk

Friends of Scouting Society

Friends of Scouting are a society which has been set up to provide social activities for ex Scouters or anyone with an interest in Scouting. It provides members with the opportunity to keep in touch with existing friends and to meet new friends.

Members meet for lunches, trips and rambles. The Society also makes donations to Scout Groups and other associated organisations.

We would welcome those with an interest in scouting to join us by becoming members. There is a small annual fee and membership includes receipt of a magazine which is published approximately three times per year.

For further information please contact the Secretary Mrs M Cheetham on 01706 366439



Winter Camp 2012

The 3rd Annual GME Explorer Winter Camp started on Friday 27th January with a flurry of snow that stopped as most of the Units were arriving and setting up site. This set the scene for an action packed weekend of muddiness with a little bit of frost thrown in for good measure meaning everyone achieved both their hippo (which was predicted in last years report) and polar bear badges.



This years activities included the favourites from last year, Quad biking, Laser Tag, The Cube and the Wii, which were joined by Fencing in the Lynmouth, a Friday night race night with homicidal snails, Team building, Giant Hook a duck and Survival Skills from GME's bush craft Expert, "Fletch".

The programme for the weekend started almost immediately with a race night. This race night had a little twist though with the racers being none other than snails. Not much fun I hear you say however it was all done on a screen with several twists including flying snails, pirate snails and even one snail that

drinks red bull. The bets were placed, money (printed by ourselves to make sure everyone had some) was won and lost and a good time was had by all in the relative warmth of the storm hut. Unfortunately one team had to emerge victorious by winning the most and that was the Madhatters ESU

Saturday was started with a hot breakfasts and a brief flag break as someone had left their notes back in their tent, again!. On to the activities, the Quads managed to cover all participants in mud while those coming away from the laser tag looked just as muddy in most cases. There was a fencing base in the Lynmouth with Tameside Fencing club offering the explorers a chance to warm up slightly and try something new with some of the countries top coaches. The giant hook a duck proved so popular even our own County Commissioner had to try it.



Saturday night was a night where everyone went back to their scouting roots and we had a good old fashioned campfire. I cant say everyone who was there will be on next years X factor however there was some good singing, some songs that brought back memories of when I was a scout (only 10 years ago, I promise) and some warmth from the fire of course. I would like to thank Keith and Tracy for leading it as they have done with so many others. I have already been asked several times to keep that on next years programme.



Sunday saw the return of our very own version of Scrapheap Challenge into its 3rd year with the trophy up for grabs again. The WSJ RAIN unit even came down for the weekend to defend it having taken it last year with their egg transporting sedan chair. This year the instructions were given 2 weeks before the camp to give everyone time to collect the items needed. Their Challenge was: *"You will need to build a free standing vegetable launcher capable of firing vegetables accurately at targets and also further than everyone else."*

The vegetables supplied were not explorers (although some people suggested this would be the case), they were jacket potatoes given out at flag break on Sunday morning. There was also an independent judging team brought in to assess each team's performance. The contraptions this year proved to be some of the best and most inventive yet, including medieval style catapults, a pressure cannon, water bomb launchers and even a frying pan on a stick. After nearly an hour of flying spuds the winning team was XBU with their huge catapult.



Overall a fun and exciting weekend had by all with next years promising to be bigger and even better. I won't hope for a hippo badge as I am still finding mud days later... but the cold can return

Chris Kippax

Diving opportunity

March 3rd – 5:30pm

1st Dinting Scout Centre and Glossop Pool

Over the last two years a group of SCUBA diving and Snorkelling Instructors from local branches of the British Sub-Aqua Club have been running “Try Dives” and “Try Snorkelling” sessions for Groups in the GME County. Now it’s the chance for Leaders to have a go too and find out about this exciting activity and see what might be available for your Group.

This is being run by experienced diving instructors from the Chaumont and Tameside Branches of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) and members of the BSAC North West Regional Coaching Team. Many of these instructors are also Scout Leaders with Groups in County.

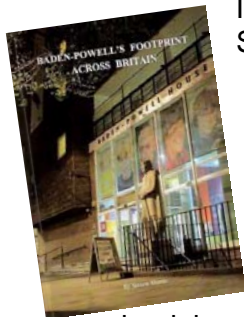
This event will be limited to people over 18 and everyone must be able to swim and be confident in the water. They must also be in general good health. All the equipment will be provided but bring swimming costume and towel. A tee shirt or shorty wetsuit to wear in the pool will help to keep warm and prevent rubbing from the straps of the equipment.

The cost of this activity will be £5 per person (most BSAC branches charge more than this, and schools even more!)

Anyone who is interested should contact Andy Procter (County Advisor for Water sports – SCUBA and Snorkelling) at gmesubaqua@gmescouts.org.uk or phone 07710291118

Numbers will be limited because of kit and pool space but another event can be run if there is enough interest. The event is indemnified by the BSAC so participants will need to sign a medical form to confirm their good health.

A Book not to be missed



There is a wonderful book published that should not be missed by those of us in Scouting.

It is “Baden-Powell’s Footprint across Britain” It is a beautifully illustrated book, with accompanying text, telling of all the places with which B.P. and his wife were associated from his family background up to his death and beyond.

It is written by Steven Harris (2010) ISBN 978-0-9513168-8-7

The book is available from a variety of places (cheapest that I have found it is at www.waterstones.com for £17.99). Please note that according to Scout Shops this book is a special order item so may take a bit longer to get to you.

David Shepherd writes in the Foreword

“How can any man or woman have left a greater legacy than Baden-Powell and Olave Baden-Powell in the wonderful work of the Scout and Guide organisations over so many years?”

Steve Harris has now brought out another book “Baden-Powell Country” (Best Price £23 Waterstones and Amazon) See Scouting Dec2011–Jan 2012 page 72

County Diary

February

Wed 15th to Sun 19th

Leaders Winter Skills – Scotland

Fri 17th to Sun 19th

Scout Campsite Services Badge – Linnet Clough

March

Fri 2nd

Sunday 11th

Thur 15th – Sat 24th
Sat 17th

Network and Explorer Awards Reception

Award Scout Network meeting

Marple Gang Show
Scout Activity Badge Day – Linnet Clough



G.M.E. Scout Out & About Challenge

Has your Scout Troop registered for the OUT & ABOUT CHALLENGE?

There are 6 separate badges for your Scouts to gain in this Challenge:

The 'GME County Scouts' badge is awarded when signing-up for the award.

Badge 1 - Complete any 6 of the challenges.

Badge 2 - Complete Badge 1 and then complete a further 8 different challenges.

Badge 3 - Complete Badge 2 and then complete a further 10 different challenges.

Badge 4 - Complete all 36 challenges.

The final 'out & about badge is awarded on completion of all previous badges.

Badges are worn on right sleeve – below Group Award

To register for this Camping Challenge, available only to Scouts in Greater Manchester East, all you have to do is complete the registration form (available for download on the County Scout Section website) and send it together with £1.50 (cheques payable to "GMECSC") to: *Greater Manchester East Scout County Office, Youth Service Resource Centre, Reddish Vale Road, Reddish, Stockport SK5 7HQ*

You will receive a Camping Log, full details of the Challenges, and the six badges.

OUT & ABOUT CHALLENGE

Minimum 1 night each of following (*Each night counts towards 1 challenge only*):

1. Camp at 1 degree centigrade or below
2. Camp below 500 metres as part of a hike or incident journey
3. Camp outside England
4. Camp on an island
5. Camp as part of organised patrol camp
6. Camp at Linnet Clough
7. Camp in a bivouac
8. Camp jointly with Cub Scouts
9. Camp at a District, County, or national event
10. Camp as part of an activity badge, or Challenge Award
11. Camp as part of an expedition on water
12. Camp as part of an expedition on bikes
13. Camp as part of an incident challenge
14. Camp with another Troop
15. Camp outside British Isles
16. Camp at Gilwell Park, Brownsea Island, or at an International Event
17. Camp with your troop for 5 consecutive nights
18. Camp as part of a community service/conservation project
19. Camp jointly with Explorer Scouts
20. Camp at another District or County Campsite
21. Camp at sea level
22. Camp at least 2 metres above the ground
23. Camp with another Youth Organisation
24. Camp with a new recruit you have brought to Scouts
25. Camp in a forest
26. Camp as part of an activity to promote Scouting
27. Camp in a type of tent you have not used before
28. Camp in an unusual place
29. Camp near a historical ruin
30. Camp in the snow
31. Camp beside a lake
32. Camp in a front garden other than your own
33. Camp out eating only dehydrated/lightweight/survival foods for at least 2 meals
34. Camp out under the stars
35. Camp on a beach
36. Camp with someone who has never camped before

LINNET CLOUGH

SCOUT CAMP AND ACTIVITY CENTRE



At the Clough

Site Services Weekend

We are taking bookings for our next site services weekend which is to be held on 17-19th February 2012; the cost is £15 per person which includes food, instruction and the badge if they are successful. The young people will learn how to do all the requirements for Campsite Services badge. We also have places for Explorers on the Activity Centre Services badge the same weekend. Please ring the site to book your places now.

Winter Camps

We had two successful Winter Camps in January, it was very cold so there were polar bear badges for everyone and the Explorers also received hippo badges due to the mud. The site is recovering!

Christmas Weekend

We had a lovely Christmas weekend and it was good to see so many of the young members enjoying themselves. Thank you to everyone who came, dressed up, played games and catered for them. Make a date in your diary – Christmas weekend 2012 is 7th – 9th December

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Camp

We are holding a celebration camp at Linnet Clough on the weekend of 1st – 4th June 2012. The cost is £35 per person and includes all camp fees and special activities including street party, street market, and film premiere. Bookings must be made in writing and accompanied by £30 deposit.



Service Crew

We would welcome new members to the Service Crew and Junior Crew. If anyone is interested then please contact Carl at the site who will explain what you need to do. Although there is an amount of hard work all the current Crew say it is good fun and they have made new friends as it is very sociable.

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

Marquee Required

Ruth Chadwick is looking to hire a Marquee/tent for a family wedding in September. She is wondering if there are any Scout Groups in the county that would be able to help her out. At the same time she is also looking to hire tables and chairs for the wedding also.

If your group can help then please contact Ruth direct on:
thechadwicks@lineone.net.



February 2012

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

Scout Section Dates

Scout Leaders it's that time to get your diaries out and scribble down the dates of events for 2012 (you will of course be reminded through the coming months as events get a bit closer).

Date - 2012	Event / Activity	Location
17 March	Scout Activity Badge Day	Linnet Clough
12 th May	Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception. Please submit application forms to the county office by 27 th April Guest of honour will be Wayne Bulpitt – UK Chief Commissioner	Linnet Clough
22-24 June	Scout Survival Skills Camp	Boarfold campsite
13-15 July	Scout I. shout! Camp	Linnet Clough
22 September	Scout Activity Badge Day	Linnet Clough
14 November	Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception	to be confirmed

National Notice Board

- **Environmental Funding** – The DECC (Dept of Environment and Climate Control) have recently announced that they are offering grants of £50K - £130K for non-profit organisations that are looking to run a green project. There are some criteria that has to be covered to get the grant. Summary on www.scouts.org.uk/noticeboard/400/environmental-sustainability-funding-available, full details on www.decc.gov.uk and www.greencommunitiescc.org.uk/.
- **Music Licence** – Do you play music in your Scout Hall or at the gang show? If so you may need to purchase a licence to cover the copyright. If you use music in your premises you maybe required to purchase a licence at a cost of £42 or 1% of income (if greater that £10,000). The Scout Association are updating the factsheet Scout Shows – The Legal Aspect (FS120162). For more information about licences go to <http://www.prsformusic.com/> and <http://www.ppluk.com/> you can also contact PRS on 0800 068 48 28.
- **Scout Community Week** – Scout Community week is 24th – 20th May and gives you a chance to raise awareness and also raise some funds. It being described as taking Scout Job Week to the next level. You can also use it to gain a number of badges. Register for the Community Week at <http://www.scouts.org.uk/community/cms.php?pageid=3226>.
- **6-25 Program** – The Association are planning a number off extra resources to help with your program planning this year these include Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Olympics, Beaver residential experiences, creation of support for young people in articulating the skills and experiences Scouting has given them to name just a few of the highlights.

Message from the editor.....Andrea Clark

Firstly may I say Happy New Year to everyone; hopefully you all had a very happy festive season.

The first County Life of 2012 has got off to a great start with lots of articles sent in telling stories of camps and up and coming events, once again its going to be a busy year.

I need your articles for the March issue by the 24th of February. Please send your articles to Countylife@GMEScouts.org.uk

