

COUNTY LIFE

REPORTING NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND GME SCOUTS



As I write this, the leaves are already starting to fall off the trees and everywhere is looking a bit windswept so I'm thinking: the end of the summer – invigorating or sad?

Well in a way sad because all that's left of all the fun, adventure, and excitement of Scout Camps, Expeditions, and other activities are the happy memories (plus the soggy tents which have almost dried out and the muddy equipment which is nearly clean again), but at the same time invigorating because there's a feeling of harvesting and gathering in all the good things that have been nurtured over the previous few months. September for me always feels like a bit of a non-month but it soon gives way to October with its promise of good things to come. Very true for our County as we look forward to a myriad of things including:

What's in this Issue?

- *Chief Scout Gold Awards*
- *Kandersteg 2009*
- *Alton Towers Network Camp*
- *2010 County Programme*

And lots more.....

- an incredible County Expedition to Japan next Summer – 140 Explorer Scouts from GME signed up and the Leadership Team of 25 Leaders now appointed
- Join-in-Japan – opportunities for everyone in the County to get involved in the Japan experience, culminating in a day of activities with our Japanese contingent at Linnet Clough on 22nd May
- County Explorer Belt Expedition to Denmark next Summer which promises to continue the strong tradition of highly successful previous Explorer Belt expeditions.
- Selection and training of our 54 participants for the World Jamboree in Sweden 2011. We have just appointed our two Unit Leaders to head this up - Trevor Nicoll and Caroline McCann, and the Assistant Unit Leaders will be announced very shortly.
- The setting up of a new District – Tameside South – made up of the former Districts of Denton and Hyde
- The appointment of a new DC for Cheadle – Chris Wallace

There's much, much more for everyone so make sure you don't miss out by not being at COUNTY LIVE 09 – our County Conference on 31st October and 1st November at Egerton Park School, Denton. Details are being emailed direct to everyone on our database (so check that your details are accurate on www.scouts.org.uk). On Sat 31st there will be around 30 workshops and drop in sessions (from 10.00am til 4.00pm) and on the Sunday will be the full-day conference from 10.00 until 3.30pm at which our Vice President, Peter Fahy (Chief Constable GMP) will give the keynote speech.

We'll tell you of our future plans in the County. Booking essential for the Sunday (lunch provided), but "drop-in /drop-out" on the Saturday (refreshments available throughout the day). COUNTY LIVE 09 is for all Leaders, Helpers, Instructors, Supporters, Group and District Officials – there'll be plenty across both days for everyone. Hope to see you there

Andrew Corrie, COUNTY COMMISSIONER



Kandersteg 2009 County Camp.

29 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders visited the international Scout Centre in Switzerland this summer and all have a mass of wonderful memories of their trip.

The expedition left Marple on 21st August and was made up of Scouts and Explorers from Marple Cobden and Kinder Troops, Marple Explorers, Longdendale, High Lane and 1st Offerton Troops. After a long journey across 5 countries they arrive at Kandersteg 22 hours later. The Leaders take up the story...



After moving kit into our already pitched tents it was time for a quick dinner and then straight to activities with slides and diving boards of Kanderstegs outdoor pool.

Our seven days in Switzerland saw a massive variety of activities which the Scouts all seemed to enjoy, these included, Outdoor Swimming in the Alpine Lake with the hire of rowing boats featured on many peoples favourites list. Day three saw us discover the centre itself and meet many other groups from Germany and Portugal as well as British Scouts from Surrey, North London and Norfolk. Many Friends were made and badges and neckers swapped. Onwards through Switzerland to a day spent in the Capital Berne was a day for souvenir shopping and exploring. No sign of the towns famous bears, rumour had it the last ones had died from boredom.

The Kandersteg Valley is a fantastic area for hiking and climbing and all Scouts and Leaders well earned their three hikes away. The Cheesery hike was particularly challenging as the path had been washed away the night before. The other group having a memorable time hiking down the Gasterntal Valley in Sunshine and under Blue Skies.

The day trip to Trummelbach Falls, the highest in Europe featured as many peoples best trip out coupled with a trip to Interlaken. This day gave the leaders a good opportunity to prepare for our GCSE results party that night. Congratulations due to our three GCSE graduates who through their hard work ensured that our party was a celebration and not a commiseration, well done to all!

Saving the best till last is the way that I will always remember our last full day in Switzerland with a full day visiting the high mountains above Grindlewald. The Jungfrau Mountain Railway took us through the North Face of the Eiger to the Highest Railway Station in Europe at 3454m. Everyone had a great time tobogganing, taking sleigh rides and visiting the famous Ice Palace. Views across Switzerland were clear and amazing with the Alps largest Mountains and Glaciers framed under Blue Skies. The descent was just as impressive with a walk down the Eiger Trail under the famous North Face.

Finishing off with an hour swimming on the Saturday it was a day to pack and reflect on the week. Perhaps this can be summed up with the amount of awards gained by the group? Altogether a total of 261 nights away, 87 hikes away and 27 proficiency badges. In addition every Scout Explorer and Leader gained Kandersteg's High Adventure and Mini Adventure Award.

A massive amount of hard work on the part of all on the camp Scouts, Explorers and Leaders saw a very successful Expedition, thanks to all for making our trip to Kandersteg unforgettable. Those who missed out will just have to make up for it with the next International County Trip to Japan.

Pi, Acid, Chris & Rowly


snow·ball

A Night at the Oscars



Freemasons Hall, Bridge Street, Manchester

**Saturday 5th Decembar 2009
7pm till Late**

Over 18's Only

**Tickets £35
Only £30 if booked before end of September**

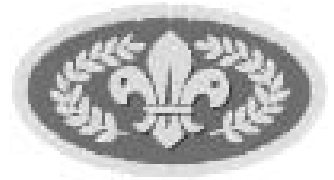
See our website for booking info

www.network-snowball.co.uk

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CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD

Congratulations to the 38 Scouts from seven Districts in our County who were presented with their Chief Scout's Gold Award Certificates by Jon Bintliff, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, at a special ceremony at Dukinfield Town Hall on the 23rd April 2009.



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 & District

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Luke Berry | 2nd Cheadle |
| Sam Cowhig | 2nd Cheadle |
| Sam Gibbons | 2nd Cheadle |
| Matthew Lawrowitsch | 2nd Cheadle |
| Daniel Pym | 2nd Cheadle |
| Benjamin Sydenham | 2nd Cheadle |
| Michael White | 2nd Cheadle |

Tame Valley District

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| David Padley | 2nd Dukinfield (St John's) |
| Abby Harrison | 5th Stalybridge |
| Blake Kennedy | 5th Stalybridge |

Hyde District

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Joseph Phoenix | 5th Hyde |
|----------------|----------|

Manchester South District

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sam Bolton | 2nd / 88th Manchester |
| Arun Flynn | 2nd / 88th Manchester |
| Nicholas Fryman | 2nd / 88th Manchester |
| Alex Kidd | 2nd / 88th Manchester |
| Dan Mizrahi | 2nd / 88th Manchester |
| Edmund Whitmore | 2nd / 88th Manchester |
| Andrew Rayner | 409th Manchester (William Temple) |

North Manchester and Medvale District

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Joseph Burke | 308th Manchester |
| Kieron Burke | 308th Manchester |
| Lewis Moore | 308th Manchester |
| Bradley Vickers | 308th Manchester |

Stockport District

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Tim Brandwood | 1st Great Moor |
| Ben Griffin | 4th Stockport |
| Niall Hegarty | 4th Stockport |
| Sean Jones | 4th Stockport |
| Paul Shannon | 4th Stockport |
| Daniel Smith | 4th Stockport |
| Adam Taylor | 4th Stockport |
| Jed Wilson-Salt | 4th Stockport |
| Mike Cavanagh | 21st Stockport |
| Michael Davidson | 21st Stockport |
| Andrew Fowler | 21st Stockport |
| Oliver Lewis | 21st Stockport |
| Matthew Worsley | 21st Stockport |
| Oliver Lanigan | 1st Heaton Norris |

Goyt District

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Robert Bailey | 1st Woodley |
| Gareth Humphries | 1st Woodley |

CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD RECEPTION ~ Monday 19th October 2009

The next Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception is being held on Monday 19th October 2009 (venue to be announced).

Please ensure that any of your Scouts who have gained this award – the highest in the Scout Section, have the opportunity to attend.

For a copy of the application form to attend, please go to the County Website and download the form / or enter the following into your Web browser: <http://www.gmescouts.org.uk/downloads/booking-forms.aspx>

Application Forms to be submitted to County Office not later than Monday 12th October 2009.

John Dawson ACC (Programme)

Tel: 07726 170875 e-mail: programme@gmescouts.org.uk



'Sometimes It's Cancer'

The Christie Crew are a group of 16-24 year old young people who are, or have been treated for cancer at The Christie hospital in Manchester. The group are facilitated and led by NHS staff: the Youth Support Coordinator and the Nurse Consultant.

The group consists of 15 patients, past and present. They work on various projects to try to help improve services for 16-24 year olds who are being treated for cancer, and issues that affect young people in this age group in the hospital, wider community and nationally. This often involves presenting at conferences (regional and national), working with the Teenage Cancer Trust, CLICSargent and MacMillan as a consultation group and various media work (Radio, TV, magazines, newspapers etc).

The latest Christie Crew campaign is called 'Sometimes It's Cancer' or S.I.C. for short. The campaign consists of an extraordinary film, learning package and poster campaign alerting young people to the symptoms of cancer.

Although rare, cancer is the most common cause of death in young people after accidents. The improvement in survival for cancer in children and adults has not been observed in the Teenage and Young Adult population. A further problem in this age group is there is very often a late diagnosis of cancer. This is due to GPs not recognizing symptoms and young people delaying seeking medical advice as they don't think their symptoms are anything to worry about.

Four of the main symptoms of cancer seen in young people are pain, fatigue, weight loss and a lump or swelling. The film, learning package and posters are to be circulated to as many schools, youth services and young people as possible so that they have a good understanding of the main symptoms of cancer and are made aware that it does affect people their age.

The campaign has been rolled out to colleges, schools and youth services around Manchester and other areas of the North West, but we are now looking to alert other professionals to its existence so we can get the message to as many young people as possible. Citizenship and PSHE Coordinators or anyone educating young people about health matters would find this a very worthwhile resource. If you would like a pack or more information about the campaign please contact Lorraine Case on 0161 918 7034 or lorraine.case@christie.nhs.uk



Scouts of the World Award

The UK Scout Association is currently running a trial of The Scouts of the World Award. It is currently being administered by Head Quarters and feedback from the first two trials has been very good. This award is something that no Explorer Scout will have had the opportunity to gain. It is unique for Scout Network. Scouts of the World Award is available to every member of World Organisation of Scout Movements and Scouts across the globe have earned it.

So what does the Award involve?

The award consists of three parts, Discovery, Reflection and Voluntary Service.

Discovery: This is a 4 day and 3 night residential experience in which participant will get to explore different issues surrounding the Millennium Development Goals. They will also have the opportunity to visit a project and express their personal opinions on this, during the Discovery there will also different workshops being run on a range of different subjects. The initial Discovery will be focussed on the Common environment with Woodland Trust and others have worked with Severn Trent Water.

Reflection: This period is where the participants will be feeding back the issues into their local community. This means that they may run programmes in their local Scouting community or set up a project.

The Scouts of the World Community Service: During this period Scout Network members must help in a project that deals with issues raised in the Millennium Development Goals. It may be that they are setting up their own project or taking part in somebody else's. However, the project must be based around the Millennium Development Goals and also be the equivalent of 14 days work.

What are these Millennium Development Goals?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight specific goals to be met by 2015 that aim to combat extreme poverty across the world. These goals were created at the UN Millennium Summit in New York in 2000. The largest gathering of world leaders in history.

The Millennium Declaration, adopted by the world leaders, promised to: "free all men, women, and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty."

The MDGs are drawn from the Millennium Declaration. The declaration was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state.

The eight Millennium Development Goals are: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development. (taken from <http://www.dfid.gov.uk>)

How do you get involved?

Headquarters have advised that future dates are in the pipeline and we will inform you of these by email. If you have any queries you can contact Emma Saunders at the Scout Info Centre (0845 300 1818).





Have you booked yet for ATC09, the last big Network camp of the year?



Over the weekend of **16-18 October 2009**, why not come and join Derbyshire Scout Network for a fun filled weekend, including access to the Alton Towers Scarefest event, cooked breakfast both mornings and two nights of entertainment, now including – new

band Zephyr on Saturday night and the return of the legend himself: our very own DJ Spud.

Plus of course there will be our famous fancy dress competition; with an open theme arguably attracting the most original entries of any Scout Network event. Can you beat last year's Joker, air traffic control tower (ATC – get it???) and zombies?

>> BOOK NOW <<

The event is open to all members of Scouting and Girlguiding over the age of 18 (and subject to certain rules U18 Network members linking up after Explorers).

All the following is included for just £36, which is less than the normal cost of park entry alone. Alternatively if you are using your own park tickets or are coming for the evening entertainment and overnight stay only, it will set you back just £8 per night.

Camping Friday & Saturday nights

Cooked breakfast both mornings

Entry into Alton Towers – open late for the Scarefest – on Saturday

Late-opening bar, disco and entertainment (including live covers band “Zephyr” & DJ)

Sunday activities/competitions TBC

Bookings that include park tickets must be made by 4 October, but you can book right up to the event if you don't want tickets from us (but a polite request: please help us as event organisers by booking as soon as possible!)

You can find full information and booking forms on our website at www.derbyshirenetwork.org.uk/atc and can visit the Facebook event at <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=67440991790&ref=ts>.



Mersey Valley Scouts

On September 8th 2009, the Mersey Valley Scout Group opens its doors for the first time. Mersey Valley is the next stage in the journey of 370th Manchester Scout Group, which over the years has been known as St. Peters, 1st Baguley Hall (twice) and now Mersey Valley.

The group will be run by Mike Thompstone (GSL) and Jon Handby (SL), who together have over 15 years of experience with the 370th group. We are excited about this, the next chapter in the life of our Scout Group.

We are pleased to announce that we are opening at St. Wilfrids primary school in Northenden, and will be operating as a separate group from the Cubs which currently run at St. Wilfrids School.

We will be running a fun filled programme, with the first term already planned consisting of activities such as Astronautics Badge and Astronomers badge, to tie in with 2009 being the International year of Astronomy. We will be launching our very own rocket at our first camp in November 2009. Alongside this we will complete the Outdoor Challenge and be working on Scouting Skills, Emergency Aid, and the Promise Challenge.

The Promise and Outdoor challenge is part of Mersey Valley's main goal – Our **Going for Gold theme** – which will see many of our members achieve the Chief Scouts Gold Award while they are with us.

Being in a central location in the South of our District we are hoping that Mersey Valley will attract Cubs from the local areas and those groups which don't currently have a Scout Section eg. Sacred Heart, Northenden Scout Group and the new group in Northern Moor.

We are developing a moving on programme which we can run with local groups who wish to work with us to ensure their Cubs can continue in Scouting. We too, want to harbour strong links with the Viking Explorer unit.

We have a brand new identity with a colourful neckerchief of purple, white and navy blue (retained from our 1BH days).

We will also be launching a new website shortly which will launch towards the end of 2009. Visit www.merseyvalleyscouts.org.uk for more information.

22nd World Scout Jamboree, Sweden 2011

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TEAM (IST) APPLICATIONS

If you were born on or before 24th July 1993 then you can attend the World Scout Jamboree as a member of the International Service Team (IST). They are the volunteers responsible for delivering the Jamboree, from running activities washing up! The applications process is about to start (19th October @ 10am) and all applications will be on line. For more details go to

<http://www.ukcontingent.org.uk/ist>

2010 Programme

Greater Manchester East Scout County



| Date | Event / Activity | Location | Who for |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 22-24 Jan 2010 | County Scout Winter Camp | Linnet Clough | Scouts |
| 29-31 Jan 2010 | County Explorer Winter Camp | Linnet Clough | Explorer Scouts |
| 5-7 Feb 2010 | Campsite Services Badge | Linnet Clough | Scouts |
| 13-19 Feb 2010 | Ski France | France | Scouts / Explorer Scouts / Network |
| 20 March 2010 | Scout Proficiency Badge Day | Linnet Clough | Scouts |
| 9-11 April 2010 | Explorer Challenge Hike | TBA | Explorer Scouts |
| 16-18 April 2010 | World Scout Jamboree Sweden 2011 Contingent Selection Weekend | Linnet Clough | Scouts / Explorer Scouts |
| 17 April 2010 | Explorer & Network Reception | TBA | Explorer Scouts / Network |
| 21 April 2010 | Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception | TBA | Scouts |
| 22 May 2010 | Join-In-Japan Activity Day | Linnet Clough | All Sections |
| 28-31 May 2010 | Activity Fest | Linnet Clough | Scouts |
| 3 July 2010 | National Scout Car Championships | TBA | Scouts |
| 9-11 July 2010 | Survival Skills Camp | Boarfold campsite | Scouts |
| July – August 2010 | GME County Explorer Scout Expedition to Japan | Japan | Explorer Scouts |
| 12 Sept 2010 | City Quest | Manchester | Scouts |
| 17-19 Sept 2010 | Bush Craft Weekend | TBA | Explorer Scouts |
| 26 Sept 2010 | ZAP Day | Linnet Clough | Scouts |
| 1-3 Oct 2010 | Troop Leadership Weekend | Linnet Clough | Scouts |
| 13 Oct 2010 | Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception | TBA | Scouts |
| 15-17 Oct 2010 | Technology Camp | Linnet Clough | Scouts |
| 12-14 Nov 2010 | Campsite Services Badge | Linnet Clough | Scouts |
| 19 Nov 2010 | Explorer Quiz | TBA | Explorer Scouts |
| 10-12 Dec 2010 | Christmas Weekend | Linnet Clough | Beavers / Cubs |

Young Leaders Training Weekend at Linnet Clough

Friday 25th to Sunday 27th September 2009

Unfortunately the Young Leader Training has been cancelled due to a lack of participants

Sexual Health Training

Would you like to take part in some informal training to explore ways of working with young people discussing issues around sex, sexual health and relationships with young people. We are delivering some training on Saturday 17th October at Reddish Training and Development Centre from 10.00 - 3.00 pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. This will be an interactive session and all resources will be provided, so no pens needed! This training is provided free of charge and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so if you are interested and you want to book a place log on to www.stockportsavy.org.uk, click on training and fill out the booking form or you can ring either Tracy Ryan 0161 218 1144/0161 477 0246 or Robin Tryon on 0161 218 1143 for a booking form.

County AGM

The AGM will be on the 30th September at 7.30

at

the education and research centre at Wythenshawe Hospital.

Technology Camp 2009

Technology camp this year is 16 - 18 October. The event is primarily aimed at the scout section but explorers are also welcome. The event is limited to a maximum of 200 scouts, several groups last year were unable to attend due to being too late with there booking.

Booking forms can be down loaded from www.jota.org.uk and further info can also be found here.

For this event to be the success it has been over the years we need a vast amount of leader help. If you are able to help please contact Keith Hampson 0161 442 8334 / techcamp@keithhampson.co.uk

Message from the Editor

Yet again I'd like to thanks all those who have contributed to this months 'County Life', I hope you have all had a great Summer and are looking forward to a fun packed Autumn and Winter. Please continue to send in your pieces for inclusion and remember to distribute copies to all those Who don't have easy access to computers etc. Thanks for reading and your continued support...

Nick Steciuk

