From the County Chairman:

I was privileged in July, to attend the Leavers Mass at my Primary School. A sea of young faces aged from 5 to 11 years old filled the Assembly Hall. It was an emotional time, as the children, who had been there for some 8 years left, facing that daunting transition to Secondary School in September. As I looked around it was interesting to speculate that within that Hall were possibly our future Members of Parliament, Local Councillors, Police Officers, Doctors, Nurses, Social Workers and Scout Leaders. Therefore how important was their formation which had rested in the hands of those teachers who had been at the centre of their lives during their formative years.

Fittingly the final hymn was ‘One more step along the world I go’. We will all recall those lines ‘More and More about the world I learn, all the new things that I see, you’ll be looking at along with me’. Those lines, a request for new experiences coupled with help and guidance. How important then as Leaders we give that to our young people.

Phil Horton
County Chairman

Almost an Olympian!

Les Cowell, who is the District Commissioner for North Manchester and Medvale district which we are part of, was nominated to carry the Olympic Torch. He carried the torch through the streets of Bury on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd June before the torch made its way into the centre of Manchester.

224th Manchester Scout Group has a lot to thank Les for as he took over the reins of the group when our previous long-standing Group Scout Leader, Keith Booth, became ill and could no longer run the group. He organised trying to get the group back up and running and then ran many of the beaver and cub nights until we could get leaders in place.

Over 100 members of the district (including Scouts, Cubs and leaders) lined the streets of Bury to cheer Les on, and as we waited for the torchbearer to arrive, a chant of ‘We Want Les!’ could be heard ringing along the A56!

And then the moment arrived! We could see Les trotting his merry way down the road - torch held proudly aloft. The cheers grew louder as Les approached - and he responded with an almost regal-like wave! and then he was gone... off into the distance... to hand the torch to the next torchbearer.

For Les, this was a job well done and probably deserved a celebratory meal and maybe some cold liquid refreshment! Les later told me “I can not believe how emotional this feels! Loved it! Huge thanks to everyone who came to watch”.

Well done Les - you deserve it!

Phil (Assistant Cub Leader, 224th Manchester)
Awards

This month we are pleased to announce that Keith John Burdon has been awarded the Bar to the Award of Merit. Keith is currently a SL at 4th Denton (St Anne’s) and has also been a DC in Scouting. Congratulations to him.

The queen has also honoured two members of the county in her Jubilee honours list. Sir Peter Fahy, QPM, County Vice President has been awarded a knighthood whilst Mr Peter Sexton, AGSL 2nd Bramhall, Ladybrook Valley has been awarded a British Empire Medal.

We also would like to pass on congratulations to all those that have been awarded the various long service awards. As always we cannot list them all however here are the 20 year awards onwards including two scouts who have achieved an amazing 50 years service.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brendan Hukin</td>
<td>Glossop</td>
<td>30 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Caroline MacLellan</td>
<td>Glossop</td>
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<td>John Michael Allerton</td>
<td>Goyt</td>
<td>50 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Elizabeth Snelson</td>
<td>Ladybrook Valley</td>
<td>25 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Matthews</td>
<td>North Manchester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Joyce Moores</td>
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<td>Kathleen Anne Dean</td>
<td>Stockport</td>
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<td>Irene Ball</td>
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<td>William Joseph Flint</td>
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<td>Thomas Eric Lowther</td>
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Duke of Edinburgh

This month we are also able to announce that Ryan Spencer from Ladybrook Valley and Mike Dent from Glossop have gained their Gold Award.

Tech Camp 2012

We are sorry to announce that there will be no Tech Camp this year. We do hope however that we will be able to run one next year over the weekend of the 18th to 20th of October 2013. For this to take place much more help will be required therefore if you are willing to help, please contact Keith Hampson as soon as possible (techcamp@keithhampson.co.uk).

The first planning meeting for Tech Camp 2013 will be held on the 15th of April 2013.

Summer 2012
Fancy spending your summer in Canada?

Want to meet thousands of Scouts from across the world? Like to experience high-adrenalin activities, share cultures, and join in with local communities?

Then think about attending the next World Scout Moot. It takes place in August 2013, when 5,000 young adults (aged 18 to 25) will converge on Awacamenj Mino in Canada for eleven days of outdoor adventure and expedition challenges in international patrols.

With the UK contingent also enjoying a pre-Moot event in Ottawa and choosing from a range of post-Moot opportunities, it promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to explore this great country and make friends from around the globe.

Don’t miss out
If you’ve already been on a World Scout Jamboree, or have heard a friend talk about the Moot, you’ll know just how much an event like this has to offer. It’s not one to miss out on.

Registration for the UK Contingent is now open
If you were born between 9 August 1987 and 8 August 1995, you’re the right age to sign up go to
http://www.scouts.org.uk/moot2013/participants.php?pageid=3321 to register

Opportunities are also available to those who were born before 9 August 1987 who wish to attend the Moot as a member of the International Service Team (IST). Go to the link below for more information:

The Moot itself
Each person’s Moot will be different, with participants making a choice from four different paths – life, culture, adventure and eco – and three different expedition destinations. There’ll also be a fantastic opening and closing ceremony to experience together back at Awacamenj Mino base camp.

Find out more go to mootcanada2013.ca or email international@gmescouts.org.uk
**District Digest**

**Tame Valley District Olympics**

Since last year we wanted to get the whole district involved in London Olympics 2012. We applied for funding from Tameside You choose fund and received £1000! We started in October with a Swimming Gala held at Dukinfield pool. Through out the beginning of 2012 we held various other events around Tameside including Hockey at Astley sports collage and Stalybridge Methodist church, 5-a-side football at Copley and 2nd Stalybridge and archery and Air rifle shooting at Linnet Clough. Even the leaders took part in the swimming, archery and shooting! To top it all off we had an Athletics day held on the 24th June at Richmond Park, Ashton, and held events from throwing, jumping to 100m and even a 1500m race, as the Olympic torch made its way through Ashton on the day. The whole district met at Christ Church, on Oldham road, with our flags to give the torch a guard of honour. Little did the district know that it would not be the last they would see of the torch? After a short walk to the stadium, we set up for the day and our special guest arrived. Les Cowell DC from North Manchester carried the torch in Bury and brought it along to show us. One Scout was chosen to follow the parade at the beginning of the day. His Leader wrote a special recommendation and he was chosen to carry Les’s torch. The winner was Cameron Galbriath from 1st Mossley. His recommendation was “He recently broke both his arms on a cub camp; he remained calm throughout and allowed effective first aid to be administered. He even managed to turn up to cubs the following Tuesday, a truly amazing kid!”

All of the figures are in and over 90% of the district took part. That’s not just Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. That includes all explorers, Leaders, assistants and registered helpers. Basically everyone on the census! The whole Olympic event was a huge success! A very big thank you to Les for bringing the torch, all the leaders for helping, event venues and staff, officials and judges and Tameside council You choose project!

Graeme Stafford (Event Organiser).

**York Races**

This year the National Scout Car Championships were held in York. After a very wet Friday we set off to the Air field where we were supposed to camp, only to be met with a very flooded field. Lucky for us we were given accommodation at a local scout HQ not too far away. We had supper and went to bed ready for a very early start. Once at the Air field the explorers set up and were ready for the races. The weather was totally different than the day before, with brilliant sunshine all day thank goodness. During the day Les Cowell (North Manchester’s DC) went round visiting all the other Scout groups giving them an opportunity to have their photo taken with the Olympic torch even Wayne Bulpit (UK Chief Commissioner) had a photo with it.
After all the races Wayne also presented all the trophies to the participants. North Manchester NMX, Phantom Explorer Scouts and the 105th Manchester Scout Group had plenty of trophies to take back with them. It was a very long day but I'm sure everyone will agree it was worth it.

Sharon Davies (CSL 308th Manchester)

**Hurst Explorers: Active for 24 Hours**

To mark their 10th birthday (yes explorers are 10 years old now) Hurst Explorer Scouts (Ashton) took part in Gilwell 24. It took 6 hours for them to get to Gilwell due to many of the roads being flooded. On arrival at Gilwell with just under 5000 other Explorers and Leaders, and lots of mud they set up their camp.

The Challenge started at 9.00am on Saturday and ran for a full 24hrs. On Sunday morning there were some very tired and muddy Explorer Scouts. The Hurst Explorers took part in many challenges including mountain boarding, shooting, water rockets, wood turning, zorbing, climbing, many technology events, laser shooting, horse riding, diving, high ropes, circus skills and many more.

Rhianan Griffiths said “loved the driving lesson with the AA and I didn't hit anything.” Something the group had not seen before was brush boarding (surfing on a board on rotating brushes), Jack Mee said “it was great and I didn't fall off.” The police riot squad were there and the Explorers were allowed to attack them, but only with tennis balls rather than bricks. Naomi Flecture loved the horse riding but missed the Zumba dancing at 6.00am as she had fallen asleep however the fairground woke her up at 7.00am. Hannah Mee was amazed when she won the Bingo challenge and got an i-Scout hoodie, she had to take part in many bingo challenges with the unit, one being finding someone with the same birthday, even though there were thousands there; it was a hard one to complete.

Alex Mee Explorer Scout Leader said “it was such a great event we have got our names down for next year the only problem was the rain and the mud and lack of sleep, I did try a couple of naps but the fairground and all night discos were to loud, but we all really enjoyed it and after loading up they went to sleep on the bus when we left at 11.30am on Sunday”.

Alan Fish (Explorer Leader - Hurst)

*Editor: Gilwell 24 2013 will take place from Friday 12th July until Sunday 14th July 2013.

The core Gilwell 24 event is a 24 hour long day of activity and challenge running from 09:00 on Saturday straight through until 09:00 Sunday.

In addition there will be a warm up on the Friday night with one of the stages and fairground open to welcome those staying overnight in preparation.

Gilwell 24 is open to all Explorer Scouts and Senior Section Guides aged 14-18.

If you have any questions please email info@gilwell24.info
Here comes the Summer!?

As we find ourselves experiencing such beautiful weather, thoughts turn to our forthcoming Nights Away experiences; these for the majority of Cubs are the highlights of their Cub Scouting!

Why not share your best theme & programme?

Share with us what went well & why?
Where did you go?
What activities did you do?
Did you have any visits from other organizations?
Did you serve a special menu?

Please share your programme themes & ideas, so we can collate these into our own County Cub Nights Away resource for all Cub leaders in the County!

Please send directly to Claire Jarvis: cubs@gmescouts.org.uk

Please don’t forget the minimum requirements for a Nights Away experience including a Nights Away permit.

The fact sheets below are available from Scoutbase, these detail guidance & Rules around Nights Away:


Please refer to POR rule 3.8(g) re recommended adult ratios & POR rule 9.3 & 9.6. Beavers, Scouts & Cub Scouts Nights Away.
Retrak invites you to come and sleep out under the stars in support of the thousands of street children in Africa to which this is a reality for them every night.

**WHY SLEEP OUT?**

Many children in Africa are exposed to living on the streets due to multiple reasons caused by household circumstances, poverty and sometimes crises such as war and food insecurity. Retrak are hosting a sponsored sleep out to raise awareness about the plight of these children and to unite against the injustices and hardships they face daily. By supporting Retrak you will be helping towards our long term goals of helping these children realise their full potential and to provide them with an alternative to life on the streets.

We have an exciting evening planned... the programme includes:

* Constructing a home for the night * Games and activities * Live music *
* Retrak speakers * Street food *

Please contact Anna Richardson at Retrak for more information and to sign up: Anna.Richardson@retrak.org / 0161 485 6685.
At the Clough

Diamond Jubilee Camp
We had a very successful Diamond Jubilee Camp over the bank holiday weekend with over 300 on site. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fun and festivities.
It was a little damp at times but it didn’t spoil the enjoyment. We hope to let you see photo’s next time.
Thank you to everyone who took part and the service crew and instructors who worked so hard.

Mellor Lodge
Mellor Lodge is now open and we have had our first booking. The cost is £5.50 per person, per night.
Sleeping mats, pots, pans and crockery are supplied. Those staying will need to bring their own sleeping bags.
If you are interested in booking and want to look around the Lodge then please contact Linnet Clough

Schools and Summer Camps
We have had a number of schools with us recently, either staying for the week or coming on day visits. We have many more booked in for July. We then have lots of Scout Groups coming to stay in the summer. If you would like to come to help out over the summer holidays you would be made extremely welcome.

Service Crew
The Service Crew and Junior Crew are a vital part of Linnet Clough. If you or any Explorers would like to come for the weekend to see what they do before committing yourself then please ring us. Martin and Rachael will be pleased to speak to anyone about what is involved.

Dates for your diary
Camp site services – 16-18th November 2012. The charge is £15 per person and includes instruction and food. If all goes well Scouts will earn the Camp Site Services badge and Explorers will be well on the way to earning Activity Centre Services badge.

Christmas at the Clough – 7-9th December 2012. We shall be holding Christmas parties, Christmas Social and Carols by Candlelight. Further details will be available nearer the time.
Linnet Clough can be contacted on 0161 427 1688 and linnetcloughcamp@aol.com

Great North Run
Sunday 16th September 2012
Tom Hornsby has been given an entry to The Great North Run representing The Scout Association.
The run covers 13.1 miles from Newcastle to South Shields
To make the training and the run worth while Tom is hoping to raise in the region of £500.
To do this he is asking supporters to donate the contents of their copper jars! Everyone has one, whether it’s a large whisky bottle or a pink pig, every home has one. If you would like to donate please contact Tom at Linnet Clough Camp Site

0161 427 1688
Tico7887@aol.com
GME County Explorer Belt Expedition – Netherlands 2012

23 July – 4 August

Explorer Belt is a challenging and interesting experience. Over the past year 11 young people (3 teams) have been preparing for the Expedition to Holland. They have attended two training evenings and two training weekends.

The rules for Explorer Belt are:

- You MUST be aged 16 before the start of the Expedition and be a member of an Explorer Unit or Scout Network
- If you are 18 or over at the start of the Expedition you MUST be CRB checked and provide your Disclosure number. (CRB checks are done through Scout Network, Scout Group or Scout District)
- Plan & train for an International expedition as part of a small team.
- Travel to another country and travel through that country for 10 days
- Complete a major project of your choice
- Complete at least 10 smaller projects
- Keep a diary during the expedition and work within a small budget
- Take part in a debriefing after the expedition
- Make a presentation about the Expedition; preferably within two months of the end of the Expedition
- The Award MUST be COMPLETED by your 25th birthday

On Monday 23 July the teams will travel to Amsterdam where they will be given their allowance for the 10 day expedition and a folder containing a number of surprise minor projects. Each team will travel around Holland meeting people, visiting towns and villages and completing their chosen projects. After 10 days they will meet with Expedition staff at the Scout Centre “Kruithuis”, Delft for de-briefing and initial assessment before returning to Manchester on Saturday 4 August.

The final step of the Expedition is to hold a public presentation about their experiences. At this event the quality and thoroughness of their work will be assessed and the Explorer Belt will be presented to the members of the successful teams. This is a TEAM effort and no one individual is awarded the Belt.

If you are interested in taking part in the next County Expedition please contact Steve Tickle, Expedition Leader at explorer.belt@btinternet.com

Look out for some of the teams experiences as they will be emailing their activities which will be posted on the International page of our web site http://gmescouts.org.uk/international-events/

Brenda Graham
Expedition staff member

West Lancashire Scouts are looking to recruit a new centre manager to lead the team at Waddecar Scout Activity Centre. This is an exciting opportunity requiring a flexible approach and a passion for Scouting and the development of Waddecar as a centre of excellence for activities for Scouts and other youth and school groups.

For further details (advert, job pack and application form) please visit the Waddecar website: http://www.waddecar.org.uk/staff_opportunities

The closing date is 31st July 2012.
Safety Corner

Hi everyone and welcome to the County Safety Committee.

We have been asked to provide a group of “experts” we use the term loosely to assist in the promotion of safety and advice on best practice in areas of Health and safety. As many of these topics are covered by “proper experts” we don’t do adventurous activities (which you would understand if you saw some of us) nor do we deal with major incidents (this is dealt with by HQ).

The first step is to identify Scouting, or related activities, which went slightly wrong ending in someone either getting hurt or a near miss. As you will see from the tail below not too serious but could have been. We are looking for all readers to send in their incidents (anonymously) in the hope that others will read, have a chuckle and hopefully, learn.

Thank to this first contributor, who, assured me everyone at his group would know who it is but is happy to share. Please send yours to cliff.meadowcroft@talktalk.net

Activity/Observation:

Every year my Scout Group puts on a large bonfire and fireworks for Guy Fawkes Night. My role is to organise and run the bonfire. These bonfires are very big; this year we burnt approximately 12 metric tones of wood over some 7 hours. The hazards and potential risks of such fires, especially when they are open to the general public, are many and can be severe, therefore they have to handled and control with great care. Anyone involved with the fire must wear suitable clothing, boots, gloves and hat. Clothing must be heavy duty and made of natural fibres, synthetic fibres can melt and stick to the skin.

I have run many bonfires, and smaller fires, over the years without any significant accidents or injuries.

When approaching a fire, for whatever reason, the method is to walk in do what you need to do and walk out as quickly as possible, only ever doing one action at a time. I did this to put an old wooden drawer on top of the fire, which then slid off the top and landed on the floor at the edge of the fire. I approached the fire again to retrieve this, but as I bent down a gust of wind blew the flames right across me. I didn’t see this as I was holding the side of my jacket up to protect my face, which it did very well. However, because I was holding my jacket up a gap appeared between the bottom of my upper clothes and the waistband of my jeans. I soon realized this when I felt pain and found that I had a burn approximately 2 inches in diameter just at the top of my bum. I immediately put a wet towel over it and swore at everyone who were laughing uncontrollably, telling them I needed sympathy not sarcasm; this just made them laugh even more.

My immediate first aid seemed to have worked, but a few days later I realised the burn had become infected. I then had to put a clean dressing on it daily for about two weeks, not very easy on your own, and only added to my embarrassment and my friends/colleagues amusement.

Commitment:

The serious bit - No matter how long you have been doing something, or how many times you have done it, if you ease up on the H&S it can always come back and bite you on the bum, (apologies for the pun).

My initial thoughts were that I had been lax, however on further reflection I realised that the safeguards I had taken meant that what could have been very serious accident, was only very minor.

Stay Safe.
Cliff Meadowcroft
Chairman County Safety Committee
National Notice Board

- **Jamboree on the Air** – This year JOTA and JOTI (Internet) will be over the weekend of 19th to 21st October. Why not see if you and your group can do something to join in with the fun.

- **Scout Shop Survey** – If you have a little time why not complete the Scout Shops Survey it only takes a few minutes and you can win yourself £100 worth of vouchers. The survey can be found at http://q.scouts.org.uk/s/nehP1ceDpHKuE02. You don’t even have to be a member to take part.

- **Scout Homepage** – Some of you will have noticed that the Associations homepage has been given a fresh look for the summer. They have updated the membership area where you can now find more relevant information to you and your section. There is also an area of exclusive member competitions and packages of interest. To view the main pages go to www.scouts.org.uk, if you haven’t got your own login yet then you can register using your membership number that is on your appointment card (and also on the address sheet of your Scouting Magazine).

- **Scouting Magazine** – The next issue of Scouting magazine will be out in early August. The issue has a feature on Safety which includes updates to both the “Purple (safe Scouting) and Yellow (Young People First) Cards”.

- **Cotswold Outdoors** – Don’t forget that leaders get a personal discount of 20% and youth members a 15% discount at Cotswold outdoors. Leaders need to show their appointment card (came in the last issue of Scouting Magazine)

- **Pioneering with the Discovery Channel** – The Discovery Channel is now sponsoring the Scout Sections Pioneering Badge. They have helped to produce a new resource for this which can be found on https://members.scouts.org.uk/discovery at the same time they are also offering £1000 to the troop that produces the best outdoor pioneering project. More details on the scout website.

- **Scouting Ambassador** – Guinness World Record holder Ed Stafford has joined the likes of Chris Evans, Ian Hislop and Lord Coe as a Scouting Ambassador. Ed was the first man to walk the length of the Amazon and took up his role at Gilwell 24. As an Ambassador it is his job to promote Scouting to everyone and in doing so encourage people not only to join as youth members but also to volunteer as adults.

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**Message from the editor…..Andrea Clark**

A bumper edition of county life I am sure you will agree, lots of articles from Scouts and leaders from all over the county.

This is the last County Life until September. We hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to your stories and pictures from you camps and activities over the break.

Please send your articles for the September issue by the 27th of August to Countylife@GMEScouts.org.uk.

Andrea

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COUNTY LIFE
REPORTING NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND GME SCOUTS

Summer 2012