



From the County Commissioner:

Well the New Year has got off to a good start with the County's Scout Winter Camp at Linnet Clough – numbers a bit lower than some years but no shortage of energy and activity all weekend. Scout Leaders – why not make a note to yourself to remember to offer it to your Troop next year (2nd or 3rd weekend in January 2012 exact dates tbc) so they don't miss out. County Explorer Scout Winter Camp – the second time we've run it - was a sell-out, and in fact over-subscribed with some late bookings being turned down. Plans are already in place to accommodate more Explorers next year. During the camp I was pleased to present Honorary Explorer Belts to our stalwart team who run Explorer Belt for us every alternate year – Steve Tickle, Brenda and Doug Graham, Josie and Chris Harbutt, and Jane Mason. At both of these Camps we were very pleased to receive a visit from Chris Harris our Regional Commissioner. Also in January two of our Jamboree Units held their training camp. Plans are progressing well for the Join-in-Jamboree Day at Linnet Clough on June 25th – this'll be an event not to be missed and is open to every Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer, Network member and Leader in the County. There will be something for everyone with programmes and activities tailored for each Section. Don't miss it - and more importantly don't let your members miss out on the opportunity to join in some of the fun of the jamboree. It is also a chance for us all to show our support for the 63 participants, 7 Leaders, and several members of the contingent and international service teams and to wish them well on what will be an experience-of-a-lifetime. There is yet more evidence of international Scouting in the County when over 20 members of the Linnet Clough service Crew head off to Kenya at Easter to undertake a service project at BP's grave at Nyeri and whilst they are there to renew their Promise on St George's Day. How special will that be? The Service crew would welcome your support – of gifts of pens, pencils, notebooks, and football shirts that they can take to give to local children over there. So once again this year international Scouting has a high profile across the County – with opportunities for everyone, regardless of age.

I'd like to welcome our 3 new District Commissioners – Tim Shaw for Cheadle, Pat Carey for Ladybrook Valley, and Phil Santana-Reedy for Stockport, and to wish them every success in their new roles. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Helen Berry who finishes as DC for Stockport at the end of March. Helen has led the District – the largest in the County - with immense dedication, commitment and energy. Not surprising that in last year's Census Stockport was one of the top 10 fastest growing Districts in the UK. Helen will continue with her Group, remain on the Camps Committee, and I hope, get involved in some other roles – watch this space! Thank you Helen for all that you have done in Stockport District – it's much appreciated.

If you've been to Linnet Clough since Scout winter camp have you seen the fantastic new wood carving outside the providore? It's the Linnet Clough logo/symbol cut with chainsaws from a huge log. It was fascinating to watch it being created and it brought to mind the story of an old Indian craftsman who carved elephants from blocks of timber. When asked how he did it, he would reply, "I just cut away the wood that doesn't look like an elephant". And that made me reflect that perhaps that could be the aim for all of us this year – to cut away all the rubbish that gets in the way of real Scouting.

Thank you for all that you do to help bring even better Scouting to even more young people. And make sure you continue to enjoy it.

Andrew Corrie

Inside this Issue

- Awards
- International News
- News from the Clough
- Explorer Team Dates
- Activity Badge Day
- CSG Awards
- Scout Section Dates
- Pike View Hike
- Technology Camp
- Pedal Cars
- County Dates
- Gang Shows
- National Notice Board



Awards

Once again we are able to bring you more awards this month. However before we do I must apologise for the following couple of mistakes with the last issue. Sadly we omitted to mention Pam Barrow (SAS Member Glossop) who was awarded the Award of Merit, we also spelt Adrea Morgan's name wrong as we printed it as Andrea.

Chief Scout's Service Awards

20 Years Service

Andrew Hill		Jacqueline Metcalfe	Cheadle and District
Edward Williams	Goyt	Charlotte Edmondson	Ladybrook Valley
Shane Nolan	Manchester South	Robert Ambery	North Manchester
Avril Frankl	North Manchester	Rodney Simpson	North Manchester
Richard Teale	North Manchester	Susan Frankish	North Tameside
Charles Hill	North Tameside	Andrew Morton	North Tameside
Christine Withers	North Tameside	Mary Mitchell	Stockport

25 Years Service

Michael Attwood	Ladybrook Valley	Ian McDermott	North Manchester
Paul Arrowsmith	Stockport	Glyn Smith	Tame Valley
Janet Goulding	Tameside South		

30 Years Service

Paul Hobbis	North Manchester
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40 Years Service

Stephen Hill	Stockport
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50 Years Service

Robert Hulley	Stockport
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Queens Scout Award

Congratulations also go to James Ripley of Manchester South Network (South Manchester District) who has gained his Queens Scout Award.

Hopefully James will head off to this year's St Georges Day Parade at Windsor Castle. This years service is to take place on Sunday the 1st of May due to the fact that Easter falls over the normal weekend of the service. It is a fantastic day out and is well worth the experience of joining up with all of the other Queen Scout's that attend the event. The picture on the right is of the 2009 colour party.



Woodbadge Scout Active Support unit'28 February County office 7.30 til 9.00

We will be launching the 'Woodbadge Scout Active Support unit'. The Active Support unit is being set up to allow us to have a group to which Training Advisers, trainers and anyone who supports training in any way can belong. Becoming a member of the unit will not cost you anything but will give us a forum to share all things training and keep in touch more easily.

Come and find out about volunteering opportunities to support training in the county. You would be welcome to bring along any queries or comments you have about how we provide training in the County. You will also have the opportunity to put names to faces and of course tea and cake goes without saying!! You don't have to commit to anything - just come along and find out about where we are going in GME. Do you know anyone who is a trainer as part of their job, but isn't yet involved in scouting? bring them along too. [Kay Hill - ACC Support for Adults](#)



8TH SERBIAN NATIONAL JAMBOREE

The 8th Serbian National Jamboree is being held this summer between the 10th and 20th August 2011. This will be a 10 day camp based at Sebac, Serbia and will combine traditional Serbian activities, culture and centenary celebrations.

The UK will be sending a Contingent to the Jamboree in August. When the last National Serbian Jamboree was held in 2006, over 350 British Scouts and Guides attended.

The cost for attending the Jamboree is £220 which includes all activities, food and transport to/from Belgrade. Please note it does not include travel costs from the UK to Serbia.

This event is a fantastic opportunity for those interested in attending an international event, it is open to Scouts and Explorers and their Leaders and there are opportunities for those 18+ to also attend as part of the Service Team

For more information go to: <http://www.samnet.org.uk/smotra2011> or contact Mike Flynn on 0161 439 2375 or myself.

Debbie Gallagher (ACC International)
07734 882 685

SCOUT VOLUNTEERING TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA DO YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED CLOTHES, BEDDING ETC?????

2nd/1st Hurst Scout Group, Ashton are going on a trip of a lifetime to South Africa in the summer where the scouts are volunteering on a cheetah and other endangered species breeding scheme sanctuary.

They are busy raising funds for their adventure and our doing a clothing collection. If you have any unwanted **clothes, shoes, handbags, bedding, towels or curtains** that you are getting rid of they would be very grateful for them.

Items can be dropped off at their Scout Hut in Ashton on a Wednesday between 7pm and 8.30pm or a Friday between 7.15pm and 9.15pm.

If you wish to discuss further please contact the trip organiser Heather Mawdsley on: 0773 931 703.

Please pass the word to work colleagues family and friends, the scouts are desperate to get to Africa and all of your help is greatly appreciated.

The address for the scout hut is
2nd/1st Hurst Scout Group
Kings Road, Behind Hurst Community Centre,
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL6 8EZ (The postcode is for the community centre)



News from the Clough

Campsite Services Badge Weekend

We are running a Campsite Services Badge weekend on 25-27th February. The cost is £15 per person and Scouts and Explorers will learn about maintaining the site, equipment and other requirements of the Campsite Services badge and Activity Centre Service badge. We currently have 3 places each for Scouts and Explorers. Please contact us for further details and to book any places.

Shooting Certificate

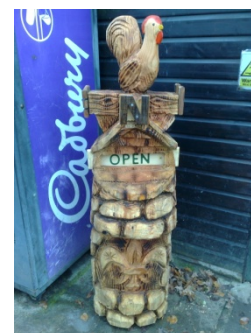
We have organised a weekend for Leaders to gain an airgun instructors permit which would enable successful candidates to run sessions for groups at the site. The course will be held in Buxton on 12th and 13th February. The cost is £45 per person. There are limited places available and will be allocated on a first payment received, first served basis. Please phone for further information.

Service Crew

We always welcome new faces to the Service Crew who work so hard at the site to ensure that it is clean, tidy and successful. If you, or someone you know, would like to see exactly what the Senior or Junior Crew do then why not come to one of our Crew weekends. The next ones are to be held on 25-27th February and 18-20th March. Come for an hour or the whole weekend. We would love to see you.

New Addition at the Clough

Those who were at the Scout Winter Camp will have seen our new addition being created. John Roberts carved it with a chain saw and it is now at home outside the shop. Next time you are on site come and see it. You will be impressed



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



Explorer Section dates 2011

Scout Leaders it's that time to get your diaries out and scribble down the dates of events for 2011 (you will of course be reminded through the coming months as events get a bit closer).

Date - 2011	Event / Activity	Location
30th May	Explorers Manchester City Challenge	Manchester City Centre
16th - 17th July	Greater Manchester east Explorers Challenge Hike (GMECH)	<i>to be confirmed</i>
16th - 18th September	Venture Out. This would be a County Explorer Challenge Camp	<i>to be confirmed</i>
19th November	Quiz Night (hot pot or curry evening also)	<i>to be confirmed</i>

Also to add to the diary, are the dates for this years County Explorer support team meetings. These meetings are a chance for you to have your say on how the County supports your section. If you would like to get involved or just to let the county team know your thoughts on what we should be doing then come along. All meetings start at 7.30pm at County office in Reddish

The dates are as follows: -

Tuesday 18th January 2011
 Wednesday 11th May 2011
 Thursday 15th September 2011

SCOUT ACTIVITY BADGE DAY

LINNET CLOUGH SCOUT CAMP AND ACTIVITY CENTRE

Saturday 19th March 2011

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 19th March 2011

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 2011

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

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

CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD RECEPTION

Wednesday 20th April 2011

The first of our Chief Scout's Gold Award Receptions this year takes place at the Gita Bhavan Hindu Temple, Whalley Range. The Guest-of-Honour will be our Vice President, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, Mr Peter Fahy.

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 completed in full by the Scout receiving the Award and submitted to County Office no later than 31st March 2011. or further details, please contact John Dawson (ACC Scout Section) Tel: 07726 170 875 e-mail: scouts@gmescouts.org.uk

Scout Section dates 2011

Date - 2011	Event / Activity	Location	Who for
19 March	Scout Activity Badge Day	Linnet Clough	Scouts
20 April	Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception	Gita Bhavan Hindu Temple	Scouts
1-3 July	Survival Skills Camp	Boarfold campsite	Scouts
25 September	Z.A.P. Day (Zones Activities Programmes)	Linnet Clough	Scouts
30 Sept - 2 Oct	Troop Leadership Weekend	Linnet Clough	Scouts
16 November	Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception	<i>to be confirmed</i>	Scouts

Pike View Hike

It's that time of year where we start to accept entries for the 2011 young person's Pike View Hike events. The 2011 events are to be held on the 13th - 15th May 2011, and a copy of the rules and invite letter are now available for download from our website - <http://www.pikeviewhike.co.uk/>. (plenty of pictures from last year's event are also available!) Our website has been totally revamped since this time last year, and in a bid to reduce paper and postage costs, we will be taking all bookings online this year. To go straight to the booking page, please click <http://www.pikeviewhike.co.uk/book>.

Please feel free to circulate this information within your fellow Groups, Districts, Counties, and further afield if you like! I would urge you to get your entries in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment; last year we had to turn away several entries, weeks before the event, as we were fully booked



Technology Camp

Wow-ee, 10 Scouts, 1 Explorer and 1 Beaver set off on our October [Technology] Camp at Linnet Clough, Stockport. But there was a little change for once, it was absolutely freezing! Scout, Natalie Holland even found a frozen 'Quality Street' on the last day however this story isn't about the scouts; it is about one very special Beaver, Jon Proudman.

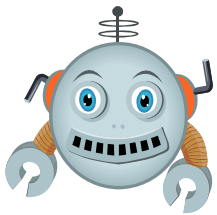
Barely 7, Jon came along with the Scouts for the weekend and wanted to camp out on the field like any other camper. However, it was so cold it reached under 0 Degrees. Just bearable for the 11 to 13 year olds, little Jon was nice and warm in his cosy sleeping bag and slept right through the cold, there was ice on every tent in the morning.

Anyway Little Jon received his polar bear award, a very incredibly special award which shows that they have slept in under Zero Degrees!

This means Jon Proudman is [probably] the only beaver in the Manchester [South] District (from Wythenshawe to Hulme) to get this really special badge. We had a little talk with Jon on the Thursday after the weekend camp, he said..."I am happy and proud about my award!

Congratulations Jon! You deserved it.

Bronte Appleby (Eagle.PL) 409th Manchester (William Temple) Scouts



Planning for this years Technology Camp has already started and Keith Hampson is looking for a few volunteers to help organise different bits of the camp.

In particular he is looking for people to take control of the following:

- Bookings Manager
- Booking Secretary
- Robot Car Challenge Co-ordinator
- Geo-cashing
- Scheduling and Activity Booklet
- Event Promotion and Publicity

If you are able to help then can you please contact Keith via e-mail, techcamp@keithhampson.co.uk he hopes to have the first organisation meeting on Monday the 9th of May.

Hut for Hire Rhos on Sea, North Wales.

The Scout Headquarters is just 10minutes walk from the beach at Rhos on Sea and is ideal for sleepovers.

The accommodation is modern and can cater for up to twenty with a large meeting room, small meeting room, climbing wall, kitchen, 3 toilets and shower.

Situated next to a park and close to the North Wales Coastal Cycle track for traffic free cycling.

Bikes can be hired locally and the group has their own 17 seat mini bus available to users for a small donation.

Only 1.5hrs from Manchester and half an hour from central Snowdonia.

For more info contact Geoff Powell (GSL) 01492 532349

Pedal cars

We have two separate events to tell you about this month that involve those trusted pedal cars.

The first one is the Shenington 24Hr Challenge that takes place on the 25th – 26th June at the Shenington Kart Track, racing starts at midday on the Saturday. Last year 105th Manchester finished in an impressive 18th position and I'm sure that they will be looking to improve on that this year. As the name suggests it is a 24hr race that is competed in teams of 6. Free camping is available from the Friday evening as well as a 24hr café for the weekend.

The second event is in the South East for the 2011 Blackbushe Pedal Car Races, to be held on September 3rd and 4th at Blackbushe Kart Circuit (near Camberley, in the north-east corner of Hampshire).

Pedal Car Racing is a team sport which actively encourages groups of people of all ages to learn team working and race craft, along with a good dose of physical fitness, whilst having a whole load of fun along the way - as such it is an activity that many Scout, Guide and Explorer troops and units are already part of.

For more information on either event then visit the website at www.pedalcars.info.

Gang Shows

We have 3 Gang Shows to tell you about this issue that are taking place during February and March that aren't too far away.

Knutsford Gang Show takes place in the Mobberly Victoria Hall from 22nd to 26th February. Tickets cost £7 for the evening performances and £6 for the Saturday Matinee performance; for more details visit:

www.knutsfordgangshow.co.uk.

Chester & District Gang show also takes place between the 22nd and 26th February at the Catholic High School, Handbridge. Tickets cost £8 for each of the shows; for more details visit:

www.chestergangshow.net

Marple Scouts and Guides have their gang show 17th – 25th March at the Carver Theatre, Marple. There are shows every night (except the 20th) at 1930 and 1430 matinees on both Saturdays. Tickets cost £5 (£6 for the Saturday evening shows); for more information about the shows visit:

www.marple-uk.com/community/gangshow.htm



**GME's JOIN IN JAMBOREE
FANTASTIC FUN DAY
SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2011
LINNET CLOUGH
ONLY £10!**

BEAVERS **cubs** **SCOUTS**

£10 per youth member. Price includes souvenir badge.

National Notice Board

- Games – many of you may have heard recently that there was a court case with regard to games in the dark. You will be pleased to hear that the judge did not ban games in the dark however you should do a risk assessment for all games that you do.
 1. You should in summary make sure that you consider the space an environment
 2. the age and ability of those taking part
 3. Do they know the rules?
 4. Adequate supervision
- The January update of POR is now available for download from the Scout Association website. It can be found at <http://www.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/71>. The update includes 27 substantive amendments and changes to the Beaver Scout Rules (rule 3.7) and International Trips (Rule 9.64)
- This year the format of the Founders day service has been changed. This year the founder's day service will take place on Tuesday 22nd February and will directly follow the public service of evensong (which commences at 1645). The service at Westminster Abbey will be prayers, the renewal of promises and the laying of flowers on the memorial for Robert and Olave Baden-Powell in the abbey.

On Saturday the 5th of November there will be a service of thanksgiving for Scouting and Guiding. The focus of the service will focus on giving thanks to and recognising the service of adult volunteers. The service although in a Christian Abbey will be inclusive for people of all faiths.

- This year Gilwell 24 will take place between Friday 8th and Sunday 10th of July. Booking for this year's event opens on Tuesday the 1st of February. This is an exclusive event for Explorers and activities include bush boarding, speed climbing and a disco.
- Do you have what it takes to mentor 12 teenagers? "The Challenge" is looking for people to act as Team Leaders, Senior Mentors and Team Mentors to work with twelve 16 year olds from a local community to help them connect with others that are different from themselves, to do this the teenagers will take part in a personal, team and also a "real" challenge... "The Challenge" aim to offer places to as many 16 year olds in London, the Midlands and the North West as possible and therefore need 500 people to take up the various positions as mentioned above. If you are interested and would like to find out a bit more about the opportunities there are in Manchester then please visit their website at www.the-challenge.org/work-with-us

Message from the editor.....Andrea Dolan

I hope that you have enjoyed reading the first issue of County Life for 2011. December and January have already proven to be busy months and I thank you for all of your articles and information for up and coming events.

Once again this year is gearing up to be exciting and adventurous with the Jamboree in Sweden and Linnet Clough Service crew off to Kenya, the chance to attend the Serbian Jamboree and Scouts excited about getting to South Africa. We are interested in all things Scouting that happen within the County at all levels and look forward to hearing from you.

Please remember that February is a short month and only has 28 days therefore the deadline is the 24th, if you could send me your articles for inclusion for the March issue to countylife@gmescouts.org.uk.



Andrea