

# COUNTY LIFE

REPORTING NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND GME SCOUTS



## From the County Commissioner:

Let's begin with a favourite topic of conversation – the weather! During a summer that certainly didn't live up to the forecasts of heat waves, prolonged sunny spells, etc (even Mount Fuji was covered in cloud for a couple of days!) there was one particular day of dull grey rainy weather when suddenly a rainbow appeared; in an instant the "ordinary/" had become the "extraordinary". I don't think I'm stretching the point too far to liken that to Scouting. Do we ensure that in all our programmes and activities we build in the extraordinary often enough? Summer is an obvious time with camps, expeditions etc but what about the rest of the year? As the days shorten and the weather gets even worse let's make sure we put in plenty of special ingredients to our Scouting – in whatever role – to keep it fresh, exciting, challenging, and invigorating.

During the summer I read "*Playing the Game*" an anthology of Baden-Powell's writings. Particularly pertinent in view of the County's "international" programme this year was this piece:

*"The whole object of our Scouting is to seize a young person's character in its red-hot stage of enthusiasm, and to weld it into the right shape and to encourage and develop its individuality, so that the young person may educate themselves to become a good adult and a valuable citizen for their country. By so doing we may hope to take a useful part in bringing strength, both moral and physical, to the nation. But in developing national aspirations there is always the danger of becoming narrow and jealous of other nations. Unless we avoid this we bring about the very evil we are anxious to escape. Fortunately in the Scout Movement we have families of Scouts organised in almost every civilised country in the world and we have formed already the tangible nucleus of a World Family. And the potentialities of this are being supplemented by the wider development of the co-operative sister Movement, the Guides. In every country the purpose of the Scouts' training is identical; namely efficiency for Service towards others, and with such an object in common, we can as an International Family in Service go forward and do a far-reaching work. In our training of the young person we develop the individual in both spirit and efficiency to be an effective player in their national team of citizen hood. Acting on the same principle in the case of a nation, we should try to develop the right spirit and efficiency for helping that nation to work effectively in the team of nations. If each, then, plays in its place and "plays the game", there will be greater prosperity and happiness throughout the world, there will be brought about at last that condition which has so long been looked for, of*

***Peace and Goodwill among men"***

Good luck and every success as we start a new Scouting year, building on our past achievements, and developing all that we do so we can offer even better Scouting to even more young people. And as BP said: "Play the game – don't look on".

## Inside this Issue

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September 2010

## Japan: They're back

Our first week in Japan was a relaxed affair, in Nagano Prefecture. We stayed at a fantastic resort, who were very forgiving of 158 Explorers and Leaders who were desperately trying to remember their language and etiquette lessons! It was the perfect beginning, as it allowed everyone to slowly immerse themselves into the Japanese culture, and way of doing things.

We spent the week utilising the sports facilities, ahead of our Camp Olympics, as well as visiting the local village, to get a small taste of life in rural Japan. As with everyone we met in Japan, the resort staff were amazingly helpful, and nothing was too much trouble. They even put on a Karaoke session for us!

After Nagano, we travelled east for home-stay. The troops were split between Hyogo, Osaka, and Kyoto. For many, this was the highlight of the trip, two days with a Japanese family, experiencing their home, and family life.



From the home-stay, it was off to the Jamboree. 8 days of camping in the shadow of Mt Fuji. The four troops were split between 3 of the Jamboree's 8 sub-camps, camping with thousands of Japanese Scouts. Everywhere the Explorers went, they were mobbed for pictures or autographs.

The Jamboree was opened by Crown Prince Naruhito, heir apparent to the Chrysanthemum Throne of Japan. The Crown Prince has been a great supporter of Scouting in Japan over the years, and took a personal interest in the Jamboree. He asked for the opportunity to meet some of the overseas Scouts who made the journey to Japan, and GME's representative at the reception was George Wormald-Kelly.

In fact, GME Scouts met the Crown Prince not once, not twice, but three times! As well as Womble, he met Earth Troop on his tour of the campsite, and a group of 10 Leaders and Explorers were introduced to him when he visited the International displays at the Scout Centre. The superstition in Japan is that the arrival of a member of the Royal family changes the weather, and sure enough, 10 minutes before the Crown Prince arrived to tour the Scout Centre, the clouds around Fuji cleared, and we got our first sighting of the summit.



As well as many on site activities, such as cultural displays, karaoke, and Earthquake survival skills, each of the troops was given the opportunity to climb part of the way up Mt Fuji. Whilst up there, Andrew Corrie took the opportunity to present Liz Slater with her Award of Merit, and Chris Kippax with his Gold Duke of Edinburgh.

After the Jamboree we took the Bullet Train to Tokyo, and then made our way to our final stop, a retirement home in Chiba! Using the luxurious surroundings as a base, the contingent split into two, with one half heading to Tokyo Disney, and the other half to the electronics district. Our final day in Japan was spent shopping for souvenirs, and was rounded off with a reception at the British Embassy in Tokyo.

A single page in County Life can't possibly do justice to the three weeks we spent in Japan. So for more pictures, videos, and first hand testimony from the Explorers themselves, head to <http://japan2010.org.uk> We're still editing the hours of footage taken, so keep checking the site over the next month or so.

Al Rainsbury

[al@rainsbury.com](mailto:al@rainsbury.com)

[www.japan2010.org.uk](http://www.japan2010.org.uk)

*Ed: More pictures are on page 4 and also the Japan Website*

## The Kenya moot 2010

The Moot journey began on the 24<sup>th</sup> July and we were to enjoy 17 days of adventure, friendship and more in Kenya. I arrived at Manchester airport excited. I met Vicky Cummins, also from 339<sup>th</sup> St Martins, and two others that I had become friends with during the pre-moot meetings. I was nervous; I was leaving the UK going to a very different country with a different culture, climate and beliefs.

25<sup>th</sup> went to the Bomas of Kenya and then went out for an evening meal.

26<sup>th</sup> went to the elephant orphanage and stroked baby elephants I then went to a giraffe house and where I got to kiss the giraffe. We then went to the Karen Blixen Museum and then a bead making factory. In the evening we went out to a restaurant called The Carnivore for a meal.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> left the hotel and went to Rowall for the opening ceremony of the Kenya 2010 that was held on the 28<sup>th</sup>. At the opening ceremony I was interviewed live on Kenyan TV. Once the opening ceremony was over we left for Embu.

We stayed on site on the 29<sup>th</sup> and played lots of different games and in the afternoon we went on a treasure hunt and had to do community work to complete it.

We visited St Lukes Special School for the deaf in the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> and then in the afternoon we went to the Masinga Power Station.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> I stayed on site (due to an injured knee) whilst everyone went on a hike to the water falls. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August we left Embu and went to BP house in Nyeri and where we visited his grave before returning to Rowallan.

2<sup>nd</sup> in the morning we had 'run with the stars' and then for the rest of the day we had global development village and went swimming in the freezing swimming pool. We went on a city tour on the 3<sup>rd</sup> where I went on a pedal boat and had to leave as a riot was starting around us. In the evening the UK contingent had pizza, pop and a party. Following the riot we had a site lock down on the 4<sup>th</sup> so we had a UK against Australia rugby match the UK won, the afternoon was taken up with various international activities.

Thankfully we managed to get off site on the 5<sup>th</sup> as we went to the Nairobi National Museum. The closing ceremony was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> and we started the day with contingent time before attending the closing ceremony and a Kenyan BBQ.

The 7<sup>th</sup> saw the leave site and head straight for the safari. When we got there we had a night game drive in the Masia Mara National Reserve. It was really exciting we saw zebra, wilder beasts and giraffes. The next day we spent the whole day put on a game drive that took us over the border into Tanzania just for a photo shoot

We continues the game drives on the 9<sup>th</sup> where we had a very early morning before going swimming in the pool and an evening game drive.

This sadly saw the end of our trip to Kenya and we headed back Nairobi (on the 10<sup>th</sup>) we did however have time to stop we stopped at Lake Naivasha for a water safari. We then headed home to the UK on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

I cannot believe how quickly the time went. Going to Kenya was a remarkable experience. The people, the way of life and the culture was so different then ours. At times I felt privileged to be in such a beautiful place observing some magnificent sights. At other times I felt sad that some of the people had so little in comparison to us in the UK. The experience has changed my life; I look at things differently and am thankful for the life I live.

Freya Jones.



## Explorer Belt Expedition – Denmark 2010

Early on 27 July fifteen Explorer Scouts and Scout Network (five teams) flew to Denmark to begin the expedition part of Explorer Belt. The Explorer Belt is often described as the 'antidote to the package holiday'. It is designed to help young people develop a real understanding of another country by travelling through that country, working as a small team to complete a series of projects, and, most importantly, by meeting local people.

Working within a tight budget and writing up their projects and experiences was certainly a challenge. The young people rose to the challenge and everyone completed the expedition part of Explorer Belt. It only remains for each team to give a public presentation of their experiences in Denmark. If successful, they will be awarded the coveted leather belt with an Explorer Belt logo buckle.

Explorer Belt is one of the best kept secrets in Scouting. It is open to young people aged 16 to 25 years and must be completed by 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.



STOP PRESS

### County Conference postponement

The county conference and AGM is being postponed. We have taken this decision due to the number of bookings received to date and are responding to the memberships wishes that an event such as this is not required at this time. It is considered that the event would not be a good use of county resources this September. A new date will be distributed as soon as possible for the Annual General Meeting.

The team would welcome comments regarding the nature of county wide support and please email these comments to [supportforadults@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:supportforadults@gmescouts.org.uk).

Apologies for any inconvenience to either those who have booked on the event or to those who have volunteered to help.

STOP PRESS



More Japan Photos





## CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD RECEPTION

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010

The next Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception is being held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010 (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>

Please ensure Application Forms are submitted to County Office not later than 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

John Dawson ACC (Scout Section)

Tel: 07726 170875 e-mail: [scouts@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:scouts@gmescouts.org.uk)

## Troop Leadership Weekend

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010

Troop Leadership is about building a strong leadership team within your Scout Troop by using the skills and knowledge of adult leaders and young people who are in leadership roles.

This is a fun learning weekend for Patrol Leaders/older Scouts and Scout Leaders together.

Its aim is to help improve the quality of Scouting in your Troop by helping PLs/older Scouts and Scout Leaders to work in partnership. All the sessions are fun, interactive and creative.

The weekend will help you to:

- Recognise features of successful Troop Leadership
- Work in partnership to lead the Troop
- Value everyone's contribution to Troop Leadership
- Identify resources
- Help with programme planning
- Find out what your job as a PL/Scouter is all about

Dates: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010

Venue: Linnet Clough Scout Camp (indoor accommodation provided)

Times: 9:00am Saturday – 4:00pm Sunday

Total cost including accommodation, meals, activity materials and resources is £30 per person (cheque payable to GMECSC).

Places are limited to a total of 36 and so the maximum number of participants per troop is 1 Leader and 3 PLs/older Scouts. The recommended minimum age is 13 years.

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. It is expected that this weekend will be over-subscribed so early booking is recommended. Joining instructions will be sent to all participants nearer the time.

For more information and a booking form, please contact:

John Dawson ACC (Scout Section)

Tel: 07726 170875 e-mail: [scouts@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:scouts@gmescouts.org.uk)

# LINNET CLOUGH

## SCOUT CAMP AND ACTIVITY CENTRE



## News from the Clough

### Technology Camp

This year's technology camp takes place over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October. If you are interested in joining Scouts from all over the world at the Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) then please download a booking form from [www.gmescouts.org.uk/jota/2010](http://www.gmescouts.org.uk/jota/2010). Please note that there are only 200 places available do please book soon.

### Blast

The Stockport Guide District 100 Years of Guiding Camp, BLAST, went very well during August. It could not have taken place without the exceptional efforts of the Linnet Clough Crew and volunteers who gave up a week to work on the site. Thanks to you all.

### Summer Camps

We have had a lot of Groups stay with us during the holidays including 11 on their Summer Camp: 1<sup>st</sup> Burton-on-Wirral, 1<sup>st</sup> Kendal, 33<sup>rd</sup> Wallasey, 44<sup>th</sup> Blackpool, 9<sup>th</sup> Redcar, 10<sup>th</sup> North Leeds, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kirkham, 1<sup>st</sup> Aylesbury, Ashford District Explorers, Lowton Explorers and 11<sup>th</sup> Keighley.

### Service Crew

Would you like to join the Linnet Clough Service Crew? We would like more people to join the Crew who help maintain the site and run activity sessions. There are also lots of opportunities for fun and social activities. If you are interested please contact Carl for more information.

### Site Services Weekend

We are running a Campsite Services badge weekend from 19-21<sup>st</sup> November. The cost is £15 per person and includes all food and instruction for the weekend. It is suitable for Scouts wanting to achieve Campsite Services and Explorers wanting to achieve Activity Centre Service badge. If you have anyone interested please book them on as soon as you can as there are limited places available.

### Christmas Party Weekend

We will be holding the Christmas Party weekend on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December. The parties cost £5.50 per head and includes refreshments and a present from Father Christmas. Ring or email now for a booking form. We will also be having a Christmas Saturday Social at a cost of £5 per person including hot pot supper. On Sunday evening we shall be hosting Carols by Candlelight once again. This is free of charge but you will need a ticket.

### New Year's Eve Medieval Night

Come and join us on New Year's Eve for a Medieval Celebration. The cost is £40 per person and includes all food, drink and entertainment. The proceeds are going to the Service Crew's appeal for Kenya.

### Kenyan Boy Scouts

At Easter 2011 members of the Service Crew are visiting Kenya to work with Kenyan Boy Scouts on community projects and to restore BP's grave. They are raising money to buy equipment and materials to take with them. The Crew give up a lot of time to help the County so if you could help them it would be very much appreciated.

Linnet Clough can be contacted on 0161 427 1688 and [linnetcloughcamp@aol.com](mailto:linnetcloughcamp@aol.com)

## Instruments wanted

The Scouts in Ashton and Droylsden are looking at starting a band and are looking out for instruments that they can play.

There has not been a Scout band for many years due to no money available and no one to lead it, but at a chance meeting of Alan Fish with Michelle Wilson who happened to show an interest in bands. Michelle has said that she has worked with children in bands before but never actually led a band so it will be a new challenge for her, but she has some other people who will be helping start the band in September.

Alan Fish said "we are sending letters out to the Scouts to see how many of them want to play in a Scout band as we know some Scouts play in school bands". If you have any instruments gathering dust in your loft then the band would be most grateful of any donations. Please drop them off at Alan Fish Ltd, 87 Cowhill Lane, Ashton, where they will be gratefully received. If you would like to be in the band, you still have to be a scout 10 to 18 years old, or help in running the band then contact Alan Fish 07931765120 or [alan@alanfishltd.com](mailto:alan@alanfishltd.com).

So far the band has been lucky to receive a key board, recorders and drums however they would still be grateful of more donations.



## Winter Skills Weekend: SCOTLAND 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011

This year we are changing the format a bit in order to accommodate three types of people:

1. Those just wanting to go winter walking who have limited experience and would like to get a feel for what is involved.
2. Experienced winter hill walkers who want to just go for a walk/climb with other experienced people.
3. A workshop, as in past years to show those wanting a winter assessment what they need to know to pass the assessment.

There will also be an evening session for those attending before the weekend where we will discuss what kit is needed and what groups will be doing over the weekend. The evening session will be at GMN county HQ at 19:30 on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. The address is 380 Rochdale Road, Middleton, M24 2ST

There also will be the opportunity to arrive on Thursday 10th February and have an extra day in the hills.

The weekend will be held at the Hertfordshire Scout Centre at Locheanhead Station. Two Nights costs £45, for 3 nights it is likely to be £60. We will need a £20 deposit with your Booking.

For more info:

<http://www.keithhampson.co.uk/activities/winterskills/winterskillsindex.htm>

A promotional poster for a ski trip. The top features the text "Greater Manchester East Scouts" in white on a blue background, with a small Italian flag to the right. Below this is a photograph of a skier in mid-air against a snowy mountain backdrop. On the right side, the words "Ski Italy 2011" are written vertically in large, red, stylized letters. The bottom section contains text about the trip details, including dates, prices, and contact information. Logos for "SCOUTS", "EXPLORER", and "NETWORK" are at the bottom.

Join the Adventure in Italy  
18th - 26th February 2011 (Half Term)

Prices:	Participants Under 18 Years	£ 745
	Participants 18 years & Over	£ 845

Price includes: Transport from Stockport, Full Board Accommodation, Equipment Hire, Lift Pass, Ski Instruction, Helmets

**DON'T MISS OUT - RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY!**

For More Details Contact:  
Phil Santana-Reedy - 0161 485 4507, 07962 072888

[SCOUTS] EXPLORER NETWORK

## National Scout Car Championships Manchester 2010

A very proud day for everyone involved in the planning and organisation of this National Event. The event that attracted members of the Community to witness the local community, Scouts, local business and Manchester City Council coming together to make a difference to our members. The venue was provided by Mars Pension Ltd their Company car park opposite Hexagon Tower, Blackley.

The event has never been held in the Northwest before and with a record entry of 60 teams competing to become National Champions the heat was definitely on. Manchester had 25 teams taking part in all divisions and the way all the racers conducted themselves both on and off the race track was a credit to their Leaders and Parents.



Making a difference to young people is something that Scouting thrives on and however physically or mentally challenged these young people are they are what make the Community a better place. With nearly 500 young people aged between 8 and 18 taking part and all their support crew we had in excess of 700 people in the middle of the purpose built race track , and a further estimated 1000 plus members of the public attended to witness some fantastic racing at all levels. We also had numerous councillors and the Lord Mayor attending the races and being impressed with what they saw with. One of the spectators said "(It was) a great day out with plenty of action. How can we join in?"

This event would not have been as big a success as it was without the support of Manchester City Council as the funding they gave truly make this an event one we would like to repeat as we made sure Manchester lived up to the title of "City of Sport". We would also like to thank the local companies that helped with either financial support, donations of products or time they were as follows: Mars Pension Ltd, Northwards Housing Association, Moston Cycles, Laura's Pits Stop, Stax Hair and Beauty, Marcel Guest Paints, James Briggs Hycote, Wordsworth UK Ltd, Tenants Distribution Ltd, Greggs the Bakers, Lubrizol, Hewlatt Packard, CO-OP, Tex's Tyres, Irk Valley Housing Association, SFD Welding and Fabrications, Bromley Transport and The Youth Opportunity Fund.

A special presentation was made at the end of the day to Mervyn Bonnett (who has worked tirelessly on our cars) his wife Marlene passed away recently without seeing our new car, which she named, win its first trophy. That trophy was also presented to the family in memory of Marlene a true Pedal Car Supporter.

I would like to hold this event again within the next 2-3 years and the positive comments and feed back has hopefully put us in the driving seat.

Gary Hollingsworth Event Organiser

105<sup>th</sup> Manchester Scout Group – 07970-885394



## Are you passionate about camping and Scouting skills?

Recent changes to the wood badge requirements with regard to overnight residential mean that I need to put together a new course to provide training for those who wish to gain a night's away permit. Module 38 - Skills for residential experiences will cover everything a leader needs to know to run sleepovers, holidays or camps.

If you love camping and are keen to pass on your skills to adults new to scouting then please come along to a meeting at county office on Monday 27th September at 7.30 for an hour. I am looking to build a team of people who can help set up and run this course which I hope will be even more 'hands on' than the current nights away.

If you can't make the meeting but would like to be involved please give me a ring Kay Hill 0161 681 8619. No previous training experience is required we will support you to develop the skills you need, just bucket loads of enthusiasm to share your skills and knowledge.

## New Term - have a look at training.

If you haven't quite finished off the modules for your wood badge. Have a look at the training opportunities for the rest of this year by following the link <http://www.gmescouts.org.uk/support-for-adults/course-schedule.aspx>

## Essential Information Training Opportunities. Free at County Office.

This is the training which is compulsory for almost every adult role in Scouting. It covers the essential information an adult needs to know about. The training is open to section leaders, occasional helpers and all those in support and management roles who have had their appointments approved.

- What scouting is all about?
- Who is there to help you in your role?
- Managing Risks and safeguarding young people.

Courses will run:

Monday 20th September 2010, 7:30-9pm  
Saturday 9th October 2010, 10am-12:00noon  
Monday 15th November 2010, 7:30-9pm

Additionally on Saturday 9th October we will run Module 3 tools for the job for section leaders 1-3pm.



## To book a place on Essential Information or Tools for the Job:

Email: [gmelearning@gmail.com](mailto:gmelearning@gmail.com)

Call: 07770 440016 and leave a message

...with your name, membership number, course date and any special requirements

## Can you help?

The 1st Heaton Chapel Scouts would have been celebrating their hundredth year in scouting on 10th October 2010. Unfortunately the group folded about three years ago, however, a number of past members have decided to celebrate the event anyway and are holding a reunion on Friday the 8th October 2010.

As a past member of the group (1946-1958) Dick Runson is currently researching the history of the group and is particularly interested in the years from 1970 onwards.

Dick would be most grateful if you could send him any photos, data or other information that would help him in his research then can you please contact him via Email on [dicktuson@googlemail.com](mailto:dicktuson@googlemail.com).

## County Diary

### September

12 <sup>th</sup>	Scouts City Quest
17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Bush Craft weekend
20 <sup>th</sup>	Training – Essential Information
26 <sup>th</sup>	Scout ZAP Day
27 <sup>th</sup>	Training – Module 38

### October

1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Troop Leaders Weekend
9 <sup>th</sup>	Training – Essential Information and Module 3

### October (Continued)

11 <sup>th</sup>	Training – Getting Started
13 <sup>th</sup>	Chief Scout Gold Presentations
15 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	Technology Camp - Linnet Clough

### November

4 <sup>th</sup>	Training – Local Trainers Support Meeting
12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>	Campsite Services Badge - Linnet Clough
15 <sup>th</sup>	Training – Essential Information
19 <sup>th</sup>	Explorer Quiz Night

**Please note that the AGM date will be rearranged shortly so please keep an eye on both the website and future issues of county life for the new date.**

### CITY QUEST Sunday 12th September 2010

This hunt takes place on foot in the heart of Manchester city centre.

On this hunt, Scouts will need to put on their sleuthing hats as they comb the city for clues and work closely together to creatively complete our puzzles and missions. This hunt is a great way to get out and have fun exploring Manchester. No advance knowledge of the city is needed to enjoy or succeed at this hunt.

Great times lie ahead as teams discover Manchester in new ways. It is perfect for all members of the Troop (Adult Leaders will accompany Patrols during the day).

Patrol size: 4 or 5 Scouts  
Start Time: 9:00am (meet at YHA Manchester) / Finish approx 2:00pm  
Cost: £4 per Scout

For more information and a booking form, please contact:  
John Dawson ACC (Scout Section)  
Tel: 07726 170875 e-mail: [scouts@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:scouts@gmescouts.org.uk)



### ZAP Challenge Day Sunday 26th September 2010

Hot off the press for the Scout Section, is the ZAP Challenge Day (Zones Activity Programme) on Sunday 26th September at Linnet Clough.

This is something to look forward to after the summer break. Scouts will have the opportunity to try out different activities and challenges. The Booking Form is available from the County Web Site. John Dawson ACC (Scout Section)  
Tel: 07726 170875 e-mail: [scouts@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:scouts@gmescouts.org.uk)

## National Notice Board

- The Scout Association have been at it again. The following fact sheet and resource have been updated over the summer:
  - Accidents – Leaders'/Commissioners' Guide (FS120079)
  - Module 30: Trainers Notes
- Electronic CRBs are now here. More information can be found about the eCRBs on the Scout website at <http://www.scouts.org.uk/ecrb>. It may also be worth reminding yourself on information contained in FS321004 that was updated back in March.
- The brand resource section of the website is also growing quickly you can now create posters, flyers, banners, invitations and signage via the website [www.scouts.org.uk/brand](http://www.scouts.org.uk/brand). Year books and camp photo books are due to come soon.
- Leaders you will be possibly quite excited to hear that you can now buy new design Scout trousers. Ladies you will be happy to hear that they have redesigned the ladies ones so that they fit better (please however don't blame me if you are still not happy with them!!!)
- There has been an increase in the cost of subscription to the Scouting Association for the payments due in the new year therefore we will keep you posted over the next few issues how this will affect you.
- What to be a dragon? A BBC's Dragon's Den champion has helped launch the Scout Associations brand new Entrepreneur Award. The award is open to members of the Scout Section. If you have any budding entrepreneurs then visit [www.scouts.org.uk/entrepreneur](http://www.scouts.org.uk/entrepreneur) for more information.
- Bear Grills ran a survival skills weekend for 8 Scouts on his own island. To view the highlights of the weekend then go to <http://scouts.org.uk/news/317/scout-survivors> and watch the video.

### Message from the editor.....Andrea Dolan

Can you believe that its been a whole two months since our last issue, no neither can I. It looks like whilst we have been away for the summer everybody in the county has been very busy with over 150 scouts and explorers away with the county to Kenya, Denmark and of course Japan. Im also sure that there have been many more on there own trips abroad over the summer and all those that have had camps here in the UK, its exhausting just thinking about it.

Once again I hope that you have enjoyed this issue. Thank you to all of you that have supplied me with articles for this issue as after all if you didn't do that there wouldn't be an issue for me to put together. So please keep all of your stories coming in for our future issues.

Talking of future issues October is the next issue of County life so please can you send me your articles to me for the issue by the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Please send all of your articles to [countylife@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:countylife@gmescouts.org.uk)

Thanks for all of your continued Support

Andrea Dolan

