

# COUNTY LIFE

REPORTING NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND GME SCOUTS



## From the County Commissioner:

### *Here We Go, Here We Go, Here We Go!*

Whether it's the just finished Eurovision Song contest, or the forthcoming World Cup there's plenty of evidence around of nationalistic pride and fervour – and plenty of opportunities to learn something of other people's cultures.

What a good peg on which to hang some international programmes in your weekly programmes, and camps. So too at Linnet Clough on 22<sup>nd</sup> May when over 1000 members of the County took part in the fantastic Join-In-Japan Day in which members of the 152-strong contingent from the County who will be going to Japan next month shared in a range of Japanese-themed activities and demonstrations. We were particularly pleased to welcome our newly-appointed Regional Commissioner for the North West, Chris Harris, to the Clough on only his second visit to a County event. It was a great day – thanks to everyone (particularly Claire Jarvis and her team of helpers) for the tremendous work that went into making the day such a success – helped too by the weather; hotter that day at Linnet Clough than Majorca!

Winning (be it singing, football, or Scouting) is unlikely to be achieved without prior training, practice, and teamwork –so over the next few months let's have these at the forefront of our minds – and use the good practices we will read about and see, in our everyday lives as examples for our members. Don't be afraid to hold up bad examples – as what not to do! (An obvious example - how many times do we see the Union Flag being flown the wrong way up: you and I know that's a sign of distress, but is that really why they are flying it like that? Probably not – probably just ignorance!) And talking of flags why not approach the pub in your neighbourhood that's flying the banners with flags of the world, and ask if you can have them when they've finished with them. That would be a useful resource for you – and what a strong visual impact that would make as part of your own international Scouting programme.

Andrew Corrie

## Scouts get Gold, Silver and Bronze



We have had another successful year of Explorers and Network members experiencing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There have been lots of expeditions in the Peak District, Lake District, the Howgills and Yorkshire Dales.

There are 25 Explorer Units in the County doing the DofE, with 119 new people joining during the year ending 31/03/10. 38 Explorers have gained an award, 22 bronze, 12 silver and 4 gold.

If you want to get involved with the DofE or ask any questions please contact Sheila or Bernard on 0161 330 9641/0776 567 6032/0780 308 4422 or have a look at our website [www.gmescouts-dofe.co.uk](http://www.gmescouts-dofe.co.uk) or click on the logo on the County website, or email [dofe@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:dofe@gmescouts.org.uk)

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## Join in Japan – What a Scorcher!!!!!!



What can I say about the day, it was everything I'd hoped & planned for, a total of 1063 plus Japan contingent descended on the Clough last Saturday, of this



number over 800 were Beavers / Cubs & Scouts. The day was an excellent example of the best in Scouting - everyone young and old, all the sections coming together to give the young people a positive experience through Scouting! Only possible by many peoples contribution.....

Thank you to all of you, for your positive comments re the day, and again I've passed on the thanks and comments to the main team - Barbara, Rick and Chris also to Carl, Ann, Andy and all on the service & activity teams who worked so hard at Linnet Clough. Plus not forgetting the reason we were there, thanks to the Japan Contingent Explorers and leaders, who took time out of their busy fundraising schedule to run the bases.

Last but by no means least thanks again to all the leaders/helpers for giving up your time again for Scouting, those smiling dirty faces as they went home is confirmation enough for me of time well spent!

As I've commented before, together we provided a very memorable day for the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts of Greater Manchester East, as they *joined in* with the *Japan* contingent, preparing for their trip this summer.

This time next year we'll be looking forward to the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, so please put next



years date of Saturday 25th June 2011 - Join in Jamboree, on your programme NOW!!!

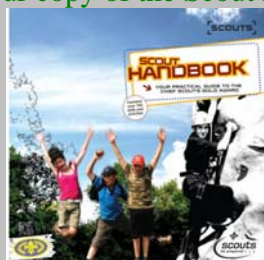


Claire Jarvis



## GME County Shop

Order your copy of the Scout handbook



GME Shop price of £4.50 – send you orders to [communications@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:communications@gmescouts.org.uk)  
Go to the web for more details on how to order from the Shop – [www.gmescouts.org.uk](http://www.gmescouts.org.uk)

## Jumping In

**Chris Brewster an Explorer Scout from Stockport took a leap into the unknown.**

**In fulfilled a lifelong ambition by doing his first parachute jump. Chris (on the right in the picture) has managed to raise over £600 to help him on the experience of a life time to Japan.**

**Chris, of Edgeley, is one of the 140 Explorer Scouts from the county who is heading east for the 15<sup>th</sup> Nippon Jamboree alongside more than 20,000 others from around the globe.**

**“It was so exciting,” said Chris. “I’ve always wanted to be a skydiving instructor and now I’ve done my first jump I just want to do it again.”**

**“We are all working hard to raise as much as we can as we wanted the jamboree to be available to any Scout who wanted to go, not just those who could afford it,” said Chris. “All four troops – called Earth, Wind, Water and Fire – have been working hard to raise funds with supermarket bag packs, car washes and curry nights.”**



## National Scoutcar Championships (2010) – Manchester.



This year is the 71<sup>st</sup> National Scoutcar Championships and it is the first time the Event has been held in Manchester. The 105<sup>th</sup> Manchester Scout Group is proud to be organising this event and an Exciting Days Racing.

The event is taking part in Blackley Village on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. For Sat Nav. purposes it is M9 8ES this will bring you to Old Market Street the address is the Hexagon Tower, Blackley once on Old Market St follow the road round to Delaunay's Rd and first left the Track in on the Car Park opposite the Tower.

The Races will start at 10.00am and the Presentations around 6.00pm so a long day ahead. We have a record number of Teams this year with 57 and this will bring together around 450 Cubs, Scout, Explorers, Network and

Leaders to race for the coveted titles of National Scoutcar Champion 2010. Winning is not so important but the taking part is as this is a National Event there is a lot of hard work in building the cars and an activity that does cost quite a few pounds.

Each competitor will receive a souvenir badge (picture above) for taking part but there will be a few on sale to spectators for collecting. Please come along a support this Fantastic Event and then maybe you will badger your leaders and Group to build your own car ready for next years races.

Gary Hollingsworth – Event Organiser



## News from the Clough

### Barn Available

The barn has become available for booking due to a late cancellation for the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June. If you are interested in booking the Barn for this weekend then please get in touch with the wardens.

### Activity Fest

We had a great weekend with over 300 campers staying with us. We are planning to rest Activity Fest in 2011 but don't worry it will come back with a new, improved, format in 2012

### Join in Japan

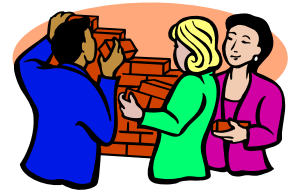
We had hundreds of campers and day visitors for Join in Japan. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful weather and seemed to have a good time.

### Medieval Night

It is not too soon to book your New Year's Eve entertainment. We are holding one of our famous Medieval Nights on New Year's Eve. There will be a 4 course banquet, mead, ale, champagne, entertainment and fireworks at midnight. All at a cost of £40 per person. Contact us for a booking form.

### Team Building Days

We are hosting an ever increasing number of organisations as they hold team building days. These include CIS, Wythenshawe Hospital, Tesco and Real Radio. If your company is considering organising one of these days then remember Linnet Clough, we offer very competitive prices.



### Risk Assessments

We have recently updated our risk assessments and therefore would like to draw your attention to them. The assessments cover a wide variety of our activities and are available to view them online at <http://www.linnetclough.co.uk/risk/risk.htm>. The Risk Assessments cover Archery, Climbing, Kayaking, Low Ropes, The Cube, Shooting, Pond Dipping and the Obstacle Course.

### New Kayaks

We have taken delivery of our new fleet of kayaks. They look very impressive so why don't you book a session on the lake to try them out.

### Canoe Course

Congratulations to those who successfully completed the Canoe Course at the beginning of May. They are now able to take groups on to Roman Lakes.

### Thank you

Once again, can we thank all the Service Crew, Junior Crew and instructors for all the time that they gave us in May. We could not have held Join in Japan and Activity Fest without them.

If you would like more information about Linnet Clough then you can contact us by telephone on 0161 427 1688 or via E-mail at [linnetcloughcamp@aol.com](mailto:linnetcloughcamp@aol.com).

## Sleep Over (or should that be Wake Over?)

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 63 Scouts and Explorers from Ashton and Droylsden hiked to, and stayed overnight at Hartshead Pike for an all night campfire. Tents were pitched despite uneven ground and strong winds. The campfire was started (although lighting was made tricky by the wind) with a wonderful view of the sunset at 9:20pm;. The singing went on until the early hours of the morning with some of the Scouts disappearing to their tents as they couldn't keep awake and the wind was bitterly cold.

The Explorer Scouts and some leaders had to stay awake, as three Explorers were being invested into their units at sunrise (5.20am). They all managed to stay awake (with the help of a few nudges, songs and short showers); although the sun did rise it was sadly covered by clouds. Mike Bailey (ESL Droylsden Unit) brought his two Explorers Oli Murray and Joe Vaughan, and Alex Mee (Hurst Unit) brought Richard Gaskin to be invested by DC Ken Marks. They were invested at a very short investiture due to the ice cold winds around the Pike.

120 bacon butties followed for breakfast. The final task was to move piles of stones down the hill for John Courtman (warden) to carry on repairing the walls around the Pike, this took about an hour for the chain gang of Scouts passing stones down the hill.



## Diary Dates

### June

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Climbing Badge Weekend (Scouts & Explorers)

### July

2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Japan Exp. Training weekend

3<sup>rd</sup> National Scout Car Championships – Blackley

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Scout Survival Camp – Boarfold

25<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Japan Expedition

### August

31<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 100 years of Guiding (Camp at the Clough)

### September

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Bush Craft Weekend

25<sup>th</sup> County AGM

## 500 Club

The winners for the past two months are:

April – Jean Slater and Mike Dolan

May – John Smith and Phil Horton

Greater Manchester East Scouts 

**Ski Italy 2011**

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

## National Notice Board

- Big Green Scavenger Hunt – as part of the Shelterbox's Big Green week (12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June) the Scouting Association are hosting a Scavenger Hunt round London based at Baden Powell House. The Event starts at 10am and finishes at 3pm. Teams are challenged to navigate round London (with a Big Green Shelter Box) following a series of clues. The event is open to Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. Visit [http://shelterbox.org/event.php?id=8&cur\\_month=6&cur\\_year=2010](http://shelterbox.org/event.php?id=8&cur_month=6&cur_year=2010) for more info.
- World Scout Conference – The Scout Association are looking for two Network Members to attend the World Youth Forum (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> January) and the World Scout Conference (10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January) in Curitiba, Brazil. As part of the UK delegation you will take part in all of the discussions and seminars. You will also be involved in debating how the World movement moves over the next three years. The application deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of June so visit [www.scouts.org.uk/worldforum](http://www.scouts.org.uk/worldforum) for more info and an application form.
- Chief Scout DVD – A new DVD is available to buy that commemorates the 5 years that Peter Duncan was the Chief Scout. The cover features the official Scout portrait of Peter Duncan that was unveiled in March at Gilwell Park. You can buy a copy of the DVD from the County Shop.
- Scouts.org.uk Redevelopment – Over the coming months when you log onto [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) you will start to notice a few changes.
  - Updated menus leading to better navigation around the site
  - Enhanced searches
  - Close down and redeployment to Scout Base onto the main Scout Site
  - More up-to-date information
- Gilwell 24 – Once again this year Gilwell Park are running their annual 24 hour activity camp over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July. The camp is open to all Explorer Scouts and activities include quad-bikes, go-karts, boat racing, laser clay pigeon shooting and much much more.
- Muslim Volunteers in Scouting – During May the Scout Association along with HRH the Prince of Wales' Charity Mosaic have launched a campaign to get more Muslim Volunteers into Scouting. By gaining more Muslim leaders both the Charity and the Scout Association believe that they can increase the membership of Scouting in communities throughout the UK.

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

Well the weather has really heated up which has meant that the camping over the past month for the most part has been good. The good weather of course has been beneficial for all those that have been camping. It looks like everybody that went to the "Join in Japan" event enjoyed some of the hottest temperatures of the month.

Having commented on the ash clouds last month I got caught out on a trip to Dublin a couple of weeks ago. Thankfully the ferrys were still running so managed to get back without too much of a delay.

July is the last issue for the summer as there isn't a County Life in August. Please can you send me all of your articles by the 27<sup>th</sup> of June for me to put into the July issue. Please note that the deadline for the September issue is the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. Please send all of your article to [countylife@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:countylife@gmescouts.org.uk)

Thanks for all of your continued Support

Andrea Dolan

