



From the County Commissioner:

RETAIN, RECRUIT, and RELATE

At the County AGM we had an opportunity to get together to look back, celebrate our successes, learn from our disappointments and appraise what we've done but equally importantly to look forward, to set goals and prepare ourselves for the opportunities and challenges ahead. A couple of weeks ago the DC's and Core Team spent time looking at the Scout Association's Vision towards 2018 and discussing its implementation in Districts and across the County. There are 9 key elements to that:

Scouting in 2018 will:

- make a positive impact in our communities
- prepare young people to be active citizens
- embrace and contribute to social change

Scouting in 2018 will be:

- Shaped by young people in partnership with adults
- Enjoyed by more young people and more adult volunteers
- As diverse as the communities in which we live

Members of Scouting in 2018 will feel:

- empowered
- valued
- proud

One of my concerns is that in many areas we are too insular as an organisation. We need to be working in the wider voluntary youth sector, with local councils and with other key contacts. We need to be engaging more with other local organisations and businesses in our communities. Scouting cannot fulfil its purpose or make a lead contribution to offering a better future for young people on its own. To secure funding, services, resources, expertise and goodwill it is crucial that we are seen as relevant to today's young people and valued as a constituent element of any "Youth Provision". We should also be helping to shape that. I am confident that by being at the centre of this work, and with the ensuing challenges in budgets and availability of resources, Scouting will be seen as a high quality value- for- money organization that is at the forefront of what the current government is now calling the "Big Society". Developing our external relationships will be one of the County's priorities in the coming year, and Ian Carey as ACC Development will be leading that work for us; he won't be able to do it on his own and he will be putting together a team to help us.

Part of our approach when working with other organizations, is to explain what Scouting does. This is made easier by the fact we continue to offer a superb programme of activities, often with recognized outcomes but always with good humour and a sense of pride. The range of what can be achieved by a young person in Greater Manchester East is tremendous as you'll see as you read through the Annual Review (available as a download from the County website or hard copies available from County Office). We offer "stand out" moments in the lives of our young people. I recently heard Guiding UK's Chief Guide refer to giving members their "Mount Everest" experiences. We owe it to our present members to be the best that we can – to paraphrase what they say in sport "to stay as number one you have to train as though you were number two".

We are continuing to grow but not as much as we should; we must continue building our momentum. Whilst we often look to recruitment as the answer, let's not overlook "retention". If we offer quality balanced programmes we will achieve both – young people will stay, the moving on from one section to another will be more effective and new recruits will be beating a path to our doorsteps. The opportunities are there; let's not waste a second in turning them into results of which we can be proud. At the AGM we launched our Quality Balanced Programme Award. This is an initiative developed by Andrew Hill and

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the Programme Strand. Full details are elsewhere in this edition, and also on the County website. They have also been emailed directly to Leaders. I urge every section to aim for the award – it's a win win for everyone – most of all, our members

And to support the delivery of County events we have created a new Scout Active Support Unit. Ged Broughton is the Unit's Manager and we are now looking for a range of people to join the Unit. Full details can be found on the County website www.gmescouts.org.uk/GMEliveSASU.

And finally I welcome Chris Durrent as County Vice Chairman. Chris is also Chairman of Tame Valley District.

So the headline goals for all of us for the coming year:

RETAIN our existing members - RECRUIT new members - RELATE to and with the local community

Andrew Corrie

Following on from Andrew's message at the AGM and in his piece on the front page, our county Chairman offers some thoughts on how we can RELATE with our local communities.

If we ever had a doubt about the ability of scouting to enhance the lives of our young people, then such doubt was dissipated by reading the two accounts of the World Scout Jamboree in the September issue of County Life.

Of course, not everyone can attend a Jamboree, but the challenge is to ensure a balanced programme that produces the aims of the Association. That requires volunteers, planning, training, imagination and evaluation. So where these are absent the formation of a development plan to achieve these outcomes is essential

As ever, leadership and programme is the key, and, the more adults we can get to volunteer the easier will be our task. As the government has placed great emphasis on volunteering, as communities understand the benefit of community involvement, we need to draw upon that spirit. Scouting is after all a fundamental part of our local communities and can and does play a fundamental part in them. So we need to be involved, not spectators. Has the time come therefore for each group to have a community relationship officer?

Phil Horton – County Chairman

Scout Section NEWS

CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD RECEPTION
Wednesday 16th November 2011



The next Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception is being held on Wednesday 16th November 2011 at Stockport Art Gallery with Guest of Honour being Philip Britton MBE – Headmaster at Bolton School. 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://gmescouts.org.uk/downloads/>

Completed Application Forms need to be submitted to County Office not later than Friday 4th November

John Dawson ACC (Scouts) - Tel: 07726 170875 e-mail: scouts@gmescouts.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL

If any groups are considering taking their troops to an organised camp or thinking of spreading their wings further afield there are many opportunities and challenges available to you, below is a taster of some the events in the coming 12 months. Please give me a call if you require further details.

Canada Moot: Also the International Department are currently advertising for the role of UK Contingent Leader for the Canada Moot. The next Moot will be held in August 2013 for young people aged between 18 - 25 years. The closing date is the 19th of October for this role. For more information on the Moot visit <http://www.mootcanada2013.ca/en/>

Organised by GME

Within GME we have the following opportunities organised

Ski Trip to Austria between 10th - 18th February

Explorer Belt 2012 between 23rd July and 6th August

Within the UK



Brum Jam, Worcestershire for 10.5 - 18yrs between 28th July - 4th August

Kibblestone, Staffs between 11th - 18th August

Essex International Jamboree between 18th - 25th August

Overseas



[Australia, Tasmania](#), age group 15 - 18yrs between 3 - 14 January

[Sri Lanka](#), Asia Pacific Regional Jamboree, 22 - 27 February 2012

[France](#), age group 10 -17yrs between 2nd - 4th June

[Switzerland](#), Punktceha age group 10 - 17yrs between 15 - 27 July

[Denmark](#) Jamboree between 21 - 29 July

[Netherlands](#), National Jamboree, scouts aged 11 - 17yrs between 23 July - 2 August

[Korea](#), scouts aged 12 - 17yrs (and IST) between 24 - 30 July

[Netherlands](#) NICES, aged 14 - 21yrs (and IST) between 28 July - 12 August

[Poland](#), scouts 11yrs+ between 31 July - 9 August

[Austria](#) aged 10 - 20 yes between 1 - 12 August

[Botswana](#) July - August 2012 community service work

Project Nepal



The Project Nepal team will again visit Nepal in autumn 2013 working on school and community projects. This is open to anyone over the age of 16yrs plus, their website address is www.projectnepal.org.uk

Roverway Finland



The next Roverway event will be held in Finland 20 - 28 July 2012. Applications are now open for Roverway, Finland for 16 - 22yr olds for individuals or Units who are interested in attending as a team, IST applications also open. The price for this trip has not yet been issued; more details are available through the website www.scouts.org.uk/roverway.

Venture Abroad and Jeka Holidays Ltd. Don't forget that the two companies Venture Abroad & Jeka Holidays Ltd offer organised trips for Scout Troops in the UK and overseas. These companies are used regularly by GME groups. For more information look on their websites www.jeka-groupholidays.co.uk and www.ventureabroad.co.uk

Debbie Gallagher - ACC International - 07734 882 685

Could your Section Programme win an Award?

Every week in Greater Manchester East Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network members get to take part in fantastic opportunities. Due to this the county would like to recognise the quality of activities being provided by the teams of leaders across the county.

So how do you gain this award?

To gain the award could not be much simpler. First you apply for the award using the application form that is available on the county's website www.gmescouts.org.uk/QBPA. Once you have completed the form you will need to attach some supporting information to show what you deliver. Some ideas for the sort of documentation required are included on the application form. We're looking to award excellence.

What are we looking for?

We want to see an exciting programme covering all of the Programme zones for your Section. This could be Beliefs and Attitudes one week and Outdoor the next.

We want to see a variety of methods used to deliver the programme. This could be a visit from a member of the community, then challenging your members to work together as a team the following week.

The final component is that young people achieve and develop through your programme. This could be by gaining awards or taking on more responsibility.

We are expecting to see some exceptional programme ideas and may look to share these with other leaders across the County.



County AGM 2012

We know that this year's one has only just past but we are pleased to announce that you can now put the 2012 AGM into your diaries as it is to be held on Wednesday the 26th of September at Linnet Clough.

There will be more details nearer the time so keep your eyes on the County Diary. For the current dates of what is happening you can find the current one on the next page.



Friends of Hazel Grove High School CHRISTMAS MARKET

Hazel Grove High School
Saturday 26th November
11am – 3pm

Friend of Hazel Grove High (incorporating 3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group) is running a Christmas Market and are looking for people to purchase stalls. The cost of a pitch is just £20 for this opportunity to make some pre-Christmas sales for you company. Spaces are limited so don't delay in getting in touch.

Please contact Claire Jarvis for more information or to book a stall on 0161 482 4481.



National Notice Board

- **Thanksgiving Service:** This year the event will take place on Saturday the 5th of November in Westminster Abbey, London. The event is for those of you who have gained your 50 years service (or more). Tickets can be applied for from anne.brown@scouts.org.uk
- **Windsor 2012:** Have you completed your Queen Scout and still 25 or under then maybe you will be able to be in the colour party or arrange the service. Alternatively if you are not (under 25) then why not become a section leader. Selection days are on 19th and 20th of November however you have to apply to take part. Applications are due by the 31st of October. For more information please go to www.scouts.org.uk/windsor
- **Queens Jubilee:** As you know next year is the Queen's Jubilee this of course means two things. The first we get an extra bank holiday next year however as a Scout you also get a new badge to wear on your uniform that can **NOW** be worn.
- **Adult Support:** There are a number of new people in posts in the Adult support team. They are: Colin Lammey (Adult Support Core Team), our own Andrew and Kay Hill (Managers – Regional Training Advisors) and Andrew Cooke (Manager – National Active Support Units).
- **National Vacancies:** There are a number of voluntary vacancies available on the National Board's Operations Committee. There is also a vacancy for a Regional Development officer in the North West, this is a paid position and is home based. Applications are due at the beginning of November. Full details and all other posts being advertised are available at www.scouts.org.uk/jobs.

County Diary

October

Fri 14th to Sun 16th

Technology Camp

Remember to go to

www.gmescouts.org.uk/diary

November

Monday 8th

DC Team Meeting

For up to date events, courses etc

Wednesday 16th

Chief Scout Gold Award

Saturday 19th

Explorer Quiz Night

Message from the editor.....Andrea Clark

Well I will be on my Honeymoon when you get to read this; hence the above name change and hopefully in warmer weather. As you know the clocks change at the end of this month meaning that the summer is officially over (although I think we all knew that at the beginning of August really).

We did have some good weather at the beginning of October, but I think that may be it for this year now.

The October issue of County Life also means that there are only two issues left in 2011. So please have your articles to me at Countylife@GMScouts.org.uk no later than the 27th of October for the November issue

Andrea

