

COUNTY LIFE

REPORTING NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND GME SCOUTS



ANDREW'S MESSAGE

Well the Census 2009 is completed and I thank everyone who has been involved in making sure that our census was finished in a timely manner and the headline news is that GME IS CONTINUING TO GROW. Beavers, Scouts, Explorers, Network and Adult numbers are all UP. Since last year's Census Beavers have increased from 1318 to 1390, Scouts from 1321 to 1443, Explorers from 379 to 407, Network from 55 to 66, and Adults from 994 to 1213. All that means that our total Youth Membership is 5094 and our total membership is 6307. So congratulations and many thanks to everyone who has helped to deliver the increase.

This is our second year of growth and it's a step in the right direction - but let's not be complacent – its still a long climb if we are to really counteract the steady decline over the previous years; we really need to grow quickly and we should be aiming for a 10% growth. Attractive, challenging, exciting, adventurous and fun programmes have to be the starting point for this – once we can guarantee this then we can go out and shout it from the rooftops in the certain knowledge that our performance will match our promise.

“Celebrating a Youth-Led Movement” is one of the Scout Association's key priorities in its current 10-year strategy. I have been concerned for some while that we are in danger of losing the voice of young people – not only in those Sections which do not have effect Forums – but in the management of sections, Groups, Districts, and County. To address this I have asked Chris Wallace from Manchester South District to join the County Core team with a particular remit to increase effective youth participation across the County and to help Districts to do so too. Chris is also a member of the County Executive Committee and our County's “young person” representative to the Council of the Scout Association. I hope that Chris and his team's work will be much more than tokenism and that young people will have a greater active involvement in the planning and running of the County and that they will have a real impact and opportunities to make a difference.

Linked to all of this I now feel the time is right to appoint a County Scout Network Commissioner and there will be an advert and further details of the role in next months County Life. If you are interested in applying for the vacancy or want to nominate someone you think might be suitable do please get in touch with me to discuss it informally. I hope that this appointment will be one of the first to be approved by our newly-formed County Appointments Advisory Committee. The members of this Committee are Kathleen Cleary (Chair), Barry Aitken (Secretary), Ged Broughton, Peter Halliwell, Charles Hamilton, Claire Nicol, Geoff Rawson, and Nola Smith.

Andrew Corrie, County Commissioner

What's in this Issue ?...

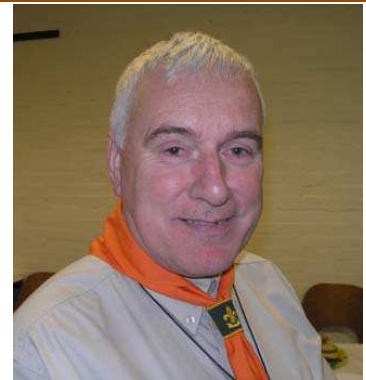
Japan 2010...

Brrr.. Winter skills weekend report....

National Network Gathering....

More Award winners.....

And Lots, Lots More...





We are planning a truly “once in a lifetime” experience for those who take part – camping in the foothills of Mount Fuji, ride the Bullet train, eat sushi in downtown Tokyo and meet 25,000 other Scouts from around the world! Make sure you don’t miss out.

District Road Show Presentation

We shall be holding individual District presentation evenings where the County will be promoting an incredible opportunity to take part in the 15th Nippon Jamboree being held in Japan in July/August 2010.

The Road Show will include a presentation about the event followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

Any Scout or Explorer who will be aged 13½ to 18½ on 1st August 2010 should attend. Leaders and parents are also strongly encouraged to come to the presentation.

The first District Road Shows are listed below:

CHEADLE DISTRICT – will be held at “The Cabin”, 1st Cheadle Hulme, Dundonald Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport SK8 6LL. This event will be on Monday 9th March from 8.00pm to 9.00pm.

LADYBROOK VALLEY DISTRICT – will be held at “The Bramley Centre” 1st Bramhall, Bramley Close, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 2DT. This event will be on Tuesday 24th March from 8.00pm to 9.00pm.

GOYT DISTRICT – will be held at 1st Marple Scout HQ, Memorial Park, Marple, Stockport SK6 6BA. This event will be on Monday 30th March from 8.00pm to 9.00pm.

If you require further information please contact.....

John King

ACC Scouts & Explorers

Tel No 0161 485 8548 or 07715 747 367

scouts@gmescouts.org.uk

John Dawson

ACC Programme

Tel No 0161 221 3869 or 07726 170 875

e-mail programme@gmescouts.org.uk

EXPLORER SCOUT EXPEDITION



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Greater Manchester East Faiths and Beliefs



County Activity Day June 27th 2009 Linnet Clough Animania

We would like a Faiths and Beliefs Zone at Animania.

Do you know anyone that could prepare and man a base?

We would like a base for as many of the different Faiths we have represented in our County.

The young people would be encouraged to visit the base which would display artefacts from the Faith, provide some information and a hands on craft activity.

If you think you can help. Please contact Liz Jacklin for more information.

E-mail: faithsandbeliefs@gmescouts.org.uk





Adventurous Activities News

Winter skills workshop

The Activities Team recently held a very successful winter skills workshop which was attended by 6 leaders and three instructors, it was enjoyed so much that there are calls for another next year. Here is a short report from Keith Hampson....

The first county Winter skills workshop was held at Aberfeldy with the mountain sessions being held in the Ben Lawer area (Loch Tay).

The first day we had to contend with very high winds and driving spindrift, it was quite a good day for Scotland though as there was a view. We managed to cover all the basic techniques needed for travelling in snow using ice axe and crampons before we decided the excessive wind chill was too great and retired to the hostel to warm up.

The following day dawned one of those very rare days in Scotland, a clear, sunny and calm day. We put most of the skills learned the previous day to good use on our ascent of Meall nan Tarmichan at 1044m, which was the first "winter Munro" for all but the instructors.

There will be a more comprehensive report on the website once everyone's photos are collated.





Adventurous Activities News cont....

Dates for the diary

Activity Team Meeting

The next activity team meeting will be held at county office in Reddish on 2nd April at 20:00, Please can all districts ensure at least one person attends

Climbing

- Artificial wall workshop at Linnet Clough 14 & 21 May at 1900.

Hill walking

- Basic hill walking (terrain 1) workshop to get you ready for an assessment 18th June at 1900 county office. Practical day on the fells, Sunday 21st June. Contact Keith for a place.
- Terrain 2 security on steep ground workshop. 12th July.

Please note that there is an administration charge of £5 for all workshops.

For more details about the activities team go to the County web site and follow the links or go directly to their web site at...

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



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WOOD BADGE



Congratulations to the following adult leaders who have recently been awarded their wood badges,
Daniel Kenny, Chris Plumb, Mark Statham, Anna Tognarelli and Matthew Walker.

More Congratulations.....

It seems that every month we have people from all over the County achieving great things, this month is no exception.

Andrew Sidwick and Matthew Goodwin both of 1st Hazel Grove, Ladybrook Valley, have gained their Queens Scout Award (the highest training award available for our youth members). This is a fantastic achievement and your hard work and dedication is greatly admired. Well done to you both.



Thanks to Joanne Charlton for sending in the details *Ed*

Even More Congratulations.....



Well done to **Gabi Brown** from 1st Dinting Explorers for gaining your D of E Gold Award.

WELL DONE TO YOU ALL

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NETWORK

**EXPLORER SCOUT and NETWORK
AWARDS RECEPTION ~
Saturday 18th April 2009**

We are holding an Awards Reception Evening for Explorer Scouts and Network members who have recently gained their Chief Scout's Platinum or Diamond Awards, Queen's Scout Award and/or Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Explorer Scouts and Network members receiving awards are each invited to bring along two guests plus Unit Leaders. The event is to be held at St George's Church, Windmill Lane, Dane Bank commencing at 7.45pm and will include a hotpot supper. If you have any members who wish to attend please contact your DESC or local Network administrator.

Names to be submitted to County Office with award details not later than 31st March 2009

Full details will be distributed to those attending the Reception in due course.

For further information, please contact John Dawson (ACC Programme)

Tel: 07726 170 875 e-mail: programme@gmescouts.org.uk

NIGHTS AWAY TRAINING

27th to 29th March

Linnet Clough

The County Training team are yet again offering a residential weekend course and this time it's aimed at leaders who are experienced campers.

This is very much a 'hands on course' and will be great fun and will provide participants with much needed guidance on how to give our young people the camping experiences that are so popular.

These Modules are also open to experienced leaders who might like to develop their skills in a particular area, please contact Kay Broughton at kay_broughton@btinternet.com - to discuss your requirements.

Residential Course weekends at Linnet Clough are as follows: Friday Evening- Sunday Afternoon cost £50 per course inclusive of accommodation, food and course materials.

If you wish to book a provisional place, please contact Kath Cleary County Training Administrator on Tel. No. 0161 338 2978. Email: kathleen.cleary@talktalk.net





The 2009 National Network Gathering

with a Children's TV theme will be on

10th - 13th April 2009

only £17



The entertainment this year is going to build on the success of previous years. This year The Gathering has a Children's TV theme for the whole weekend, there will be prizes for the best (and worst) costumes from the whole weekend.

Friday Night

Will be your night to entertain everyone, with karaoke on the main stage. This year we have a larger selection of music for you to choose from.

Saturday Night

There will be a monster live band for you, playing classic tracks from the 60's thru to the present day!

Sunday Night

Sunday night we will be having prizes for the best costumes from the weekend and various other prizes, there will be entertainment on stage and all this will be topped off with a Disco to end the evening.

While all this is going on the Trough 'n' Off and the Bar will be open serving you with all the food and drink you need at a very reasonable price.

For more details visit the County website or the event website at www.networkgathering.westlancashirescouts.org.uk/

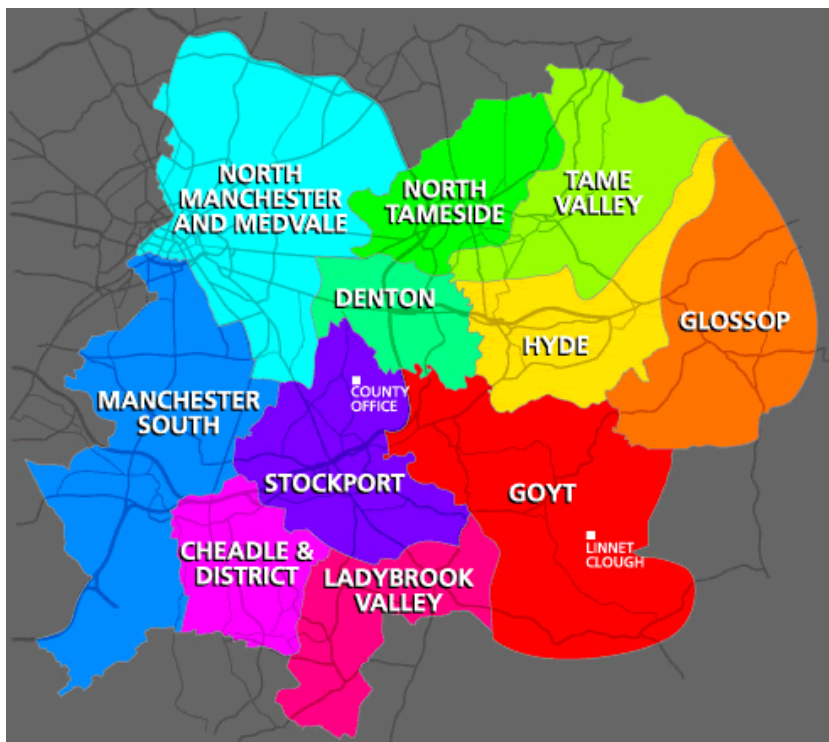


Activities available include

ARCHERY - CANADIAN CANOEING - BREWERY TRIP - CRAFTS - GT HIGH LEVEL ROPES COURSE - GYHLL SCRAMBLING - HIGH LEVEL SCRAMBLING - HIGH LEVEL MOUNTAIN WALKING - HORSE RIDING - KAYAKING - LOW LEVEL MOUNTAIN WALKING - MOUNTAIN BIKING - ROCK CLIMBING - SAILING - SEA KAYAKING - SHOOTING

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DID YOU KNOW ?

Greater Manchester East County Scout Council comprises 120 Groups in 11 Scout Districts, these are:

- North Manchester and Medvale
- Manchester South
- Cheadle
- Stockport
- Goyt
- Ladybrook Valley
- Glossop
- North Tameside
- Denton
- Hyde
- Tame Valley

For this and even more interesting items, why not visit the County web site, it's full of up to date news and information about the County with pages dedicated to each District and Sections

GME SCOUTS.ORG.UK

GREATER MANCHESTER EAST



COUNTY OFFICE

We told you last month that the County Office is now open every Monday night (except bank holidays) The County Commissioner himself, or a member of the Core Team will be present to answer your telephone calls and emails and obviously personal callers will be most welcome! County Office is at

Youth Service Resource Centre
Reddish Vale Road
Reddish
Stockport
SK5 7HQ

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Issue 6, March 2009



Explorer Scout Leader in Wilmslow Triathlon.....

Dave Cracknell, an Explorer Scout Leader from Offerton Explorers and a Firefighter from Stockport, will be taking part in the Wilmslow Triathlon to raise money for Wish Upon A Star based in Stockport. Wish Upon A Star grant wishes for children with terminal illnesses.

Dave will be joined by Kev Downey and the pair will be doing the race in three different fancy dress costumes, they will be dressed as mermaids for the swim, a Bernie Clifton ostrich for the run and they are doing the bike ride on a tandem bike in their fire gear and B.A. sets!!

If you would like to support Dave in his fund raising please get in touch with him at Offerton Explorers or through County office, It's a fantastic effort and for a very good cause.



BRYAN CLEE

We have recently received the very sad news of the death of Bryan Clee, a former County Secretary.

Bryans' funeral was held on 3rd March, please remember Bryan, Betty his wife and his children in your prayers.

Phil Horton, Country Chairman

Message from the Editor

A big thank you to all those who have contributed to this months 'County Life', we've had lots of varied material so please keep it up.

Remember to visit the web site or pop in to County office on any Monday evening and If you have any suggestions for improvements to County Life or any other comments please let me Know.

Thanks again, Nick Steciuk

Countylife@gmescouts.org.uk



Ps. If you're coming to the nights away training I see you there!