



From the County Commissioner:

There can be nobody who wasn't profoundly moved and saddened by the recent events in Japan, and of course because of the special bond we have here in GME strengthened further by last year's trip for 152 Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders it had an even more poignant resonance. We are in touch, as a County, and I know individually, with our friends over there and have offered whatever help and support they might want over the coming months. Although we have not heard of any immediate casualties it is inevitable that with over 20,000 participants at the Nippon Jamboree some of those we met, befriended, and shared happy times with will have been directly affected to a greater or lesser extent. They know that they are much in our thoughts and prayers. Our thoughts are constantly with the people whose lives have been ended or changed forever. It's not clear at the moment what we can do to help but as a starter I want to launch an appeal for donations so that we can send them some financial support. We are planning a County fundraising event – details of which will be announced shortly – but in the meantime donations (clearly marked GME Japan appeal) can be sent to me at County Office.

We got to know not only the stunning natural beauty of Japan but also the generosity, warmth fun, and friendship of the Japanese people. Now we are seeing and learning of another of the qualities for which they are renowned – their *gaman* – their patience, endurance and perseverance. We have seen in the media the exemplary way they cope with dreadful adversity. That is something which should be an inspiration to us all.

As we approach St George's day I know you will join me in offering the County's congratulations to all those whom the Chief Scout has recognised in this years St George's Day Awards.

St George's Day will be celebrated in different ways (and at different times this year!) around the County but all will have one thing in common – the renewal of our Scout Promise. My hope is that everyone will use St George's Day, inspired by our Scouting friends in Japan, to strengthen our resolve to live up to our Law and Promise more readily, to act on them more willingly, and to show in our daily lives that they really do matter. Let's walk the talk and demonstrate that Scouting makes a better world.

Members of our Linnet Clough Service Crews will later this month head off to Kenya to undertake service projects including maintenance work at BP's grave at Nyeri, where they will renew their promise. Lets keep them in mind too as we reflect on what BP gave us which has resulted in the largest youth movement in the world.

I wish you all a blessed and happy Easter.

Andrew Corrie

Inside this Issue

- Awards
- Ski Trip
- Winter Camp
- Free Training
- Safe Swimming
- News from the Clough
- Go Outdoors
- 100 Years Young
- Abney centre
- Scout Events
- County Diary
- National Notice Board



St George's Day Awards



SILVER WOLF - for services of the most exceptional nature

[Sandra Marston](#), District Chairman, Tameside South District



BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN - for further especially distinguished services

[Brian Adshead](#), Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Hazel Grove, Ladybrook Valley District

[Les Cowell](#), District Commissioner, North Manchester District

[Stephen Davies](#), Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts), North Manchester District, Group Scout Leader 308th Manchester

[Maureen Etchells](#), District Secretary, Tameside South District

[Brenda Graham](#), Appointments Secretary, Assistant District Commissioner, North Manchester District



SILVER ACORN - for specially distinguished services

[David Davies](#), District Scout Leader, Ladybrook Valley District

[Brian Dooley](#), Group Scout Leader 3rd Hazel Grove, Ladybrook Valley District

[Barbara Murphy](#), County Secretary, Assistant County Training Manager, Assistant District Commissioner Ladybrook Valley District.

Congratulations to you all

February and March Awards

Once again County Life is pleased to announce a number of Awards of Merit, Bar to the Award of Merit and a Chief Scout Commendation for Good Service.

Award for Merit

Philip Leslie "Phil" Anderson	SASM	Glossop
Pamela Mary "Pam" Barrow	DSASM	Glossop
Darren Futcher	BSL – 2 nd /1 st Hurst	North Tameside
Charles Kingsley Hill	CSL – 2 nd /1 st Hurst	North Tameside
David Gordon McCracken	Group Chairman – 3 rd Heald Green (St Catherine's)	Cheadle and District
Andrea Marjorie Morgan	CSL – 1 st Longdendale	Glossop

Bar to the Award of Merit

Christine Anne Dunlop	CSL – 3 rd Newton	Tameside South
Gerald Pownall	DCH	Ladybrook Valley

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

John Anthony Grant	3 rd Heald Green (St Catherine's)	Cheadle and District
--------------------	--	----------------------

Scout Ski Trip

Details are now available for the 2012 County Ski Trip to Austria during the February half-term. The costs are fully inclusive and offer significant savings against similar destination school trips. This then offers parents a real alternative which can save them money!

Our previous trips have always been successful and are run in a very relaxed manner providing fun for everyone. We also see everyone moving on quickly in terms of learning to ski and we always end the week with every beginner gaining the ability to ski from the top to the bottom of the slopes (Blue and lower red)

A copy of the application form can be found later in this edition of County Life along with full costs. If anyone wants more information regarding this trip Phil (santanareedy@btinternet.com or 0161 485 4507) will gladly have a chat with them. Places are limited so and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

County Diary

April

Wednesday 20 th	Chief Scout Gold Award presentations
Saturday 23 rd	St Georges Day
Friday 29 th	Royal wedding

May

Sunday 1 st	St Georges Day Parade – Windsor Castle
Wednesday 11 th	Explorer Team meeting
Tuesday 14 th	6-14 Programme Meeting
Monday 30 th	Explorer Manchester City Challenge Day

June

Tuesday 14 th	DC Team Meeting
Sat 25 th – Sun 26 th	Join in Jamboree Day

July

Fri 1 st – Sun 3 rd	Scout Survival Weekend
Sunday 3 rd	WSJ Unit Fun Day
Sat 9 th – Sun 10 th	Gilwell 24
Sat 24 th – Wed 10 th Aug	22 nd WSJ - Sweden

GME County Explorer Winter Camp 2011

The 2nd Annual GME Explorer Winter Camp began its life as a piece of blank paper. The comments from last years (camp) had led me to believe that I have to make it totally unique for Explorers instead of borrowing ideas.

The activities booked were Quad biking, Laser Tag, The Cube, Crafts, Wii, and a Samba Band Workshop, some of which were suggestions from Explorers; some were my ideas and some were from other leaders.

Then there was the small matter of filling the camp, however before I knew it all 120 places were booked and Explorers were soon being turned away. Can I apologise to all those who couldn't attend however put the same weekend in your diaries for next year as it promises to be bigger and better.

The weekend started with everyone arriving as the temperatures were dropping below freezing and pitching of tents began as quickly as possible. I have never seen a site set up and fires lit so quickly. Friday night was a chance to relax, get to know everyone and watch a film in the storm hut. Everyone also achieved their polar bear badge in the freezing temperatures.

Saturday started with hot breakfasts and a brief flag break as someone left their notes back in their tent! Then it was on to the activities. The sound of drums was particularly striking throughout the day as the Samba band were intent on proving they could be the loudest activity on site, even with quad biking nearby. The Wii and team games in the Storm hut gave the young people a chance to warm up while the crafts helped them make bullroarers (the buzzing could be heard all weekend after that). We had investitures on The Cube and Laser Tag which the young people have all told me they want back next year.

Saturday night promised to be a ball, mainly due to the fact that there was a Bin Bag Ball being held in the Storm Hut. The frocks were out, suits were made and



even a top hat made an appearance: with everyone ready to start disaster struck a fuse blew in the DJ's equipment. Fortunately he was able to get the music on within 15 minutes and then the party really got started. Everyone was complaining when we had to end at 11pm as they wanted to continue well into the night.



Sunday saw the return of our very own version of the TV show Scrapheap Challenge with a brand new trophy up for grabs. The instructions had been given 1 week before the camp to give everyone time to collect the items needed. Their Challenge was:

"To build a human powered vehicle, capable of transporting 1 member of your team and 1 passenger of my choosing (each team will have the same passenger) around a set course in the quickest time. Each member of your team must be a passenger in the vehicle for at least part of the course however the passenger of my choosing must stay on / in the vehicle for the whole course and not suffer any injuries"

The passenger turned out to be Bob (and Egg) and the teams built their contraptions and started the race. Several broken eggs later and one Bob made it back in one piece swiftly followed by a few more meaning a total of 6 teams completed the course. The winners being the Aqueduct team from the WSJ RAIN unit



Overall a fun and an exciting weekend had by all with next years promising to be bigger, better and hopefully not as cold we all need a hippo badge now

Chris Kippax
GME County Explorer Leader
07513 300110

Greater Manchester East



Ski Austria 2012

Join the Adventure in Austria

10th - 18th February 2012 (Half Term)

Prices: Participants Under 18 Years £ 770
Participants 18 years & Over £ 840

Price includes: Transport to and from Resort, Full Board Accommodation, Equipment Hire, Lift Pass, Ski Instruction, Full Comprehensive Travel Insurance

DON'T MISS OUT - RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY!

For More Details Contact:

Phil Santana-Reedy - 0161 485 4507, 07962 072888
or email: santanareedy@btinternet.com



Greater Manchester East Scouts

Ski Course – 2012

Name _____ Height(cm) _____
Address _____ Shoe Size(eu) _____
Previous Ski Experience _____
Post Code _____ Email Address _____
D.O.B. _____ Scout Group _____
Tel: No. _____

I would like _____ to take part in the 2011 ski course and I enclose the non-returnable deposit of £50. (Cheques made payable to Stockport Scouts Ski Account)

Name _____ (parent/guardian) _____ Date _____
Signature _____

Return to: P Santana-Reedy, 16 Musbury Avenue, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire. SK8 7AT

Free Training...or is it?

We were really pleased to inform all DC's, GSL's and the training community that for a one year trial period County would fund the provision of Wood Badge training.

A recent review by Kay Hill (ACC Support for Adults) has shown that across the County the take up of training amongst leaders has been patchy resulting in many leaders not having received the training necessary to receive the wood badge for their present appointments. This is clearly an unsatisfactory situation and one that needs to be dealt with urgently.

One of the issues that came to light was the cost burden to Groups particularly where there is a regular turnover of leaders, and also the huge variety in systems to fund training in different areas with the cost being covered to varying extents by districts, groups and even in some cases individuals. This pilot should remove any financial barriers that might be affecting the take up of essential training. Not all training is covered by the scheme excluded is skills development training including first response courses.

In the autumn the pilot will be evaluated. If it has been successful County may wish to put the central financing plans in place permanently. The question then arises as to how it will be paid for in the future. The most likely method would be to factor the cost into the County Levy. If this were done it is estimated that the increase in the County training budget would imply an additional £1 to £1.50 on the County Levy, over and above any other increase to the present £7.00 per head. Obviously, if this went ahead Groups and Districts would no longer have to find the money to pay for the required training.

How would you view such an increase? We would like to hear your views – positive or negative as part of the evaluation of the pilot and planning for the future. I would welcome feedback from group chairmen and treasurers as well as leaders or as a collective opinion from Group Executives or leadership teams email to gmelearning@gmail.com

Kay Hill, with great thanks to Roy Sturmy, District Treasurer – Ladybrook Valley .

Safe Swimming

As part of the ongoing review of all Scouting activities, the rules on swimming have been amended. The new, simplified arrangements will ensure that running such activities is easier for leaders. The details can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/swimmingupdates.

Main changes

- Paddling has been clarified and requires no qualification by leaders.
- No further qualifications are required in instances where a lifeguard is provided (including swimming pools and beaches).
- Swimming in pools and Class C waters are now managed in line with other Class C water activities. No qualifications are required by leaders.
- Swimming in all other open waters (B1 and higher) has been simplified and safety cover can be provided by either:
 - a water activities permit holder (when following the guidelines outlined in the swimming factsheet)
 - someone who holds the Royal Life Saving Society Water Safety Management Programme (WSMP) or any equivalent or higher award.



Why change?

The revised rules for swimming are determined by the classification of water location and required supervision. It ensures that you can continue to provide accessible activities for young people in a safe environment.



News from the Clough

Join in Jamboree Camping

If you are planning on camping over the weekend of Join in Jamboree please will you make sure that you book your group in to camp: So far the following have booked:

Tame Valley Cubs
1st Dane Bank Cubs & Scouts
250th Manchester Cubs & Scouts
339th Manchester Cubs & Scouts
4th Denton Scouts

1st Heaton Moor Cubs
Glossop District
GME Jamboree Unit
GME Explorers
GME/Cumbria Jamboree Unit

If you are not on the list we are not expecting you so please ring Linnet Clough now on 0161 427 1688 to ensure that you have somewhere to stay.

Go Outdoors Now Open.....



A fantastic new Go-Outdoors store is opening in Manchester. The outdoor store opened on 2nd of April at Urban Exchange, Great Ancoats Street. The store has an indoor waterfall and also climbing wall and will dedicated areas to climbing, walking, camping, cycling, and much more.

Get yourself a discount card at www.go-outdoors.co.uk.

The pictures are of Scouts and Explorers from GME who went along for a photo shoot and to have a look round the new store 3 days before opening.



Green Fingers

2nd Romiley Scout Group Annual Plant sale will be held on the weekend of May Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th. We will be open for drop in business from 9.00am on the Saturday and 10.00 am on the Sunday.

We have a fine selection of quality bedding plants, tomato plants and hanging baskets. We have something for everyone and far better quality than the supermarkets. Please come along to browse and make yourself known, who knows, we may even find you bacon butty!

You will find us at The Canal Wharf, Stockport Road, Romiley, SK6 3AN





Something to Celebrate

5th Stalybridge Scout Group is proud to announce it is currently celebrating its Centenary. The Group would like to invite all ex members of the group to help celebrate this wonderful landmark achievement, we feel this achievement is made even more outstanding in this age of recession and money troubles. To reach 100 years is down to the outstanding dedication of many adults who give up their time free of charge to help turn youngsters into truly prepared adults, Doctors, politicians, teachers, nurses and even perhaps a prime minister, who knows?

The group are hoping to have small celebrations throughout the year, but need help from ex members to give their photo's and stories of the group so that we can put together a fuller history of the group.

We believe that the Scout movement is even more important than ever. We asked youngsters in different sections what 5th Stalybridge meant to them:

Darryl, a Scout, was overheard talking to a prospective new member and described scouting to them, "scouting is totally awesome", and needless to say we now have a new member.

Kieran said "Cubs is a great place and we play lots of fun games and make interesting stuff - it is a fun place at Cubs. At Cubs we go camping, have bonfires and football tournaments. This year in 2011 our Scout Group will be 100 years old and we are going to have a party to celebrate".

Nicholas said "Beavers are cool".

To help with the group we need adults to lead and develop the various sections, always we are in need of volunteers and funding. This coming year is so important to the area of Stalybridge because it shows the total belief that every child matters and with a little help and support this can be achieved.

Please contact us at our HQ (201 High Street, Stalybridge) where we have been since 1947, thanks to Frank Buckley for his kind donation of the building. Please help us achieve even greater things in the coming year and many more to come. Frank Buckley (aka "Skip Buckley") donated the building in honour of his late son John also a member of 5th Stalybridge who gave his life in the Second World War at the age of just 16, he was a telegraphist in the Royal Navy.

Considering a Residential Experience?

Are you looking for somewhere local for a Pack holiday, Beaver sleepover or Scout activity? Do you want a venue that provides first class indoor accommodation and secure outdoor facilities that can bring you a taste of the real countryside?

Try the Scout and Guide Residential Centre at the Abney Country Park, Cheadle.

Look them up at www.abneycentre.org.uk

The Centre offers a large activity/dining room, excellent kitchen facilities with all utensils, crockery and cutlery provided. First class toilet and showers including disabled provision. There is bunk bed accommodation, plus leaders' rooms and 3 acres of outdoor space which is exclusive to whoever uses the accommodation. This area is made up of mature woodland, wild scrub and mown grassland with a little brook snaking through the site.

The campsite is situated in a secluded corner of the Abney Country Park and, if you wish, you can use, explore and enjoy this very large public area. It has a selection of woodland, ponds and wetlands, cattle grazed meadows and the historic Abney Hall. By appointment the parks countryside rangers can provide accompanied walks, mini-beast hunts or pond dipping.

Ring Mark Brookes on 0161 485 6354 for a viewing.

SCOUT ACTIVITY BADGE DAY



Orienteer



Mechanic



Camp Cook

26 Scouts from across the County took part in this year's Activity Badge Day at Linnet Clough and they all successfully gained a 'Badge in a Day'.

The event took place on Saturday 19th March 2011 and the Scouts had the choice of having a go at the Orienteer, Mechanic & Camp Cook Activity Badge.

Stephen Edwards from The AA took the Scouts through the principles of operation of an internal combustion engine and the functions of the clutch and gearbox. The Scouts had a go at removing and replacing a road wheel and learnt what to look for when checking that a tyre conforms to the legal requirement.

The 37 Point Orienteer Course at Linnet Clough was put to good use and the fastest team to complete the circuit was 2nd Cheadle Scout Troop.

The Camp Cooks prepared three dishes on an open fire. This included Bangers & Mash, Sweet & Sour Chicken and Sausage Risotto.

Well done to all that completed an Activity Badge.

Scout Survival Skills Badge

1st to 3rd July 2011

What does the word survival mean to you? Struggling across deserts or living for weeks in a small open boat at sea? Well, that is correct, but survival can also mean knowing how to stay alive in the British hills, which may not seem so exotic but which is probably more important for most of us.



So one simple definition of survival is the ability to look after your self with the minimum amount of equipment in any given situation.

It's time for our County Survival Skills Camp at Boarfold Scout Campsite.

It is open to those Scouts who have some experience of camping already and are able to cope with the conditions and weather.

Scouts are shown a variety of techniques that would prove useful in a survival situation.

They build and sleep in their own shelters and cook everything in a backwoods style.

The cost will be £20.00.



John Dawson
ACC (Scout Section)
Tel: 07726 170875
E-mail: scouts@gmescouts.org.uk

National Notice Board

- **Voucher Schemes** – as many of you are aware both Sainsbury's and Tesco's have started their school vouchers schemes again this year and Scout Groups are eligible for both. For information on the Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme www.sainsburys.co.uk/activekids/ or for the Tesco scheme visit www.tescoforschoolsandclubs.co.uk/
- **Don't Raise our Rents Campaign** – The future of some Scout Groups is vulnerable due to enormous rent increases from local councils. Don't Raise Our Rents! is a campaign to encourage councils for fair and affordable rent increases or rate changes. www.dontraiseourrents.org includes action advice and an online petition.
- **WSJ Planning Team** – Do you want to play your part at the 22nd WSJ? If so there is an opportunity for you to join the Planning Team for the 22nd WSJ. For more information and how to apply to join the team visit <http://www.worldscoutjamboree.se/2011/03/planning-team-application/>
- **My Body My Choice** – the Association feels that it plays an important part in the education of young people therefore a new factsheet is available for download entitled "promoting good sexual health in Scouting". The fact sheet is available on www.scouts.org.uk/shis.
- **New Activity Centres** – Great Tower in the Lake District and Woodhouse Park in S Gloucestershire have joined the Scout Associations Activity Centre families.
- **Cotswold Discount** – The Scout Association and Cotswold Outdoors have teamed up to offer you the chance to get 15% off purchases in store. As a special introduction offer you can get 20% off throughout April. There are two stores in Manchester (one on Deansgate the other on Oxford road).
- **Nomad travel** are offering Scout Groups 10% off this spring therefore you will be pleased to hear that you can download a voucher to save yourself some money from their website at <http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/upload/File/outdoor%20spring%2011%20e%20voucher.pdf>
- **Scout Holiday Homes** has changed its name in the past month to Holiday Homes Trust. By rebranding the Holiday Homes Trust now has opened its doors, allowing everybody with the opportunity of enjoying an "everyday adventure" regardless of the background of the family. The trusts accommodation is designed for everybody to use and all of the caravans that they have has wheelchair access. For more information about the trust and where the homes are then visit their website on <http://www.holidayhomestrust.org/>. The trust are always looking for ways to raise money therefore would be most grateful for your help in running events for them.

Message from the editor.....Andrea Dolan

The year is continuing to fly by and March has finally seen some good weather arrive, hopefully April will not be full of too many showers. April also promises to be a short month especially with school holidays, Easter and the Royal Wedding to look forward to. I'm sure however this will not interrupt your scouting too much?

As always I would like to thank all of you that have contributed to this months County Life, it could not be put together without your help.

Please send all of your articles for inclusion in the May edition to me on countylife@gmescouts.org.uk by the 27th of April

