



From the County Commissioner:

April is the month in which we learn of Scouting's "new Year's Honours List" – the St George's Day Awards - and the County congratulates and thanks the following members whose unstinting service to /Scouting over many years has, quite rightly, been recognised by the Chief Scout:

SILVER WOLF *"for services of the most exceptional nature"*

Grace Stevenson – Appointments Secretary, Goyt District
George Sykes - Scout Fellowship, 1st Hazel Grove, Ladybrook Valley District
Michael Spreckley – GSL 1st Marple, Goyt District

BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN *"for further specially distinguished services"*

Joyce Mottershead – District Scout Fellowship Member, Tameside South District
Viv Tipler – District Commissioner, Goyt District

SILVER ACORN *"for specially distinguished services"*

Peter Bowling – CSL 239th Manchester (St Andrews), Stockport District
Kitty Curbishley – District Appointments Advisory Committee, Ladybrook Valley District
Pamela Hinks, District Appointments chairman, Stockport District
Ian MacArthur, Troop Assistant, 1st Bramhall, Ladybrook Valley District
Bernard O'Flaherty – District Explorer Scout Commissioner, Tameside South District.
Patricia Plant – District Badge Secretary, Goyt District

The Awards should be a reminder to us all of the countless hours of volunteer time that is given so willingly week in, week out, to ensure that quality Scouting is offered to all our members, which comes without a cost to us, is priceless, and whose value is beyond calculation. We see evidence of that all the time and occasions such as the County's Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception to be held later this month at the Fairfield Moravian settlement are for many Leaders are tangible evidence of the fruits of our Leaders' and Supporters' work.

I am pleased to report that our County continues to grow – the Census has shown a further increase – albeit small – in both our youth and adult membership. Although it's good that we have increased, we cannot afford to be complacent and much development work needs to be done to still have a long way to go to make up for the lost ground of a few years ago. The Core Team have started to look at the implications of the Census and how County can provide effective support to Districts, Units, and Groups. 4 Districts have increased their youth membership and 5 Districts their adult membership. Total numbers now:

Beavers – 1394, Cubs – 1825, Scouts – 1424, Explorers – 441, Network – 112, Adults – 1237

So to all 6356 members of the County I wish you all a Happy St George's Day and as you renew your Scout Promise, can I ask you to do 2 things – thank those without whose help your Scouting would be the poorer, and look again at the Scout Promise and Law and resolve that your daily life will embrace them more fully.

Andrew

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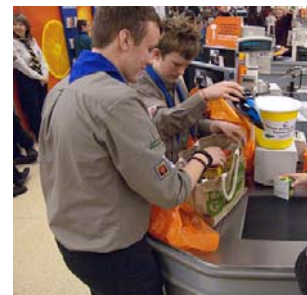
Japan Jamboree

The plans for this summer's trip to Japan are going well and the contingent are flying around the County doing a vast amount of fundraising to put the final coppers into the pot for the trip and April will see the contingent taking part in a number of different events. Don't forget that there is still time to sign up for the football competition in May but make sure that you get in quick. Along with the football next month there will be the Join in Japan day is at the Clough on 22nd May.

You can now book your place for the Join in Japan day with tickets costing £10 for all youth members (adults just £3). Activities booked so far in addition to those normally available on site include Sumo wrestling, inflatable's, Origami / Martial arts displays, visits from Kite association & Bonsai gardeners. Please note, that the Low ropes will be just for Beavers and both the shooting & The Cube, will be just for Cubs and Scouts /Explorers.

The contingent will be at various supermarkets over the next few weeks packing bags for all those poor unsuspecting shoppers.

In addition to the fundraising the 4 troops are still trying to lean Japanese and attending training weekends together so that they are ready to travel in just a few months time. As a unit they wish to thank each of you for all of your support over recent months and also for your continuing support in the future.



Winter Skills – Feb 2010

We held our second winter skills w/e at the Adventurers Escape hostel again which is near Aberfeldy on 12-14 Feb 2010. There were nine attendees and four instructors, 13 being the maximum the hostel could take.

We ran two workshops an initial one for those who had not been before and a consolidation one. We had excellent weather for both days.

The snow level was from 700m which meant we had to walk a bit before we could get started. Although this did mean that there was no snow on the road as last year so we had none of that excitement which put out Ken as he did not get to use his new chains.

Both groups covered all the basics and the consolidation group even topped out on Moel Corronaich 1069m before all meeting back at the cars at the same time (amazingly)

The following day (Sunday)

We consolidated the skills learnt the previous day and all topped out on Meall Nan Tarmachan 1044m. Before returning to the cars for 14:30 and heading home

For more information about future events that the Activities team are running visit

adventurousactivities@gmescouts.org.uk



SCOUT ACTIVITY BADGE DAY



50 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 20th March 2010 and the Scouts had the choice of having a go at the Orienteer and Mechanic (a good number of the Scout Troops attending stayed overnight and most of the Scouts managed to fit-in both Activity Badges during the day).

The Mechanic Badge was provided by Stephen Edwards, AA Mechanic, who explained to the Scouts the principles of operation of an internal combustion engine and the functions of the clutch, gearbox and rear axle differential. 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 3rd Reddish Scout Troop.

Well done to all that completed an Activity Badge.

John Dawson
Assistant County Commissioner (Scouts & Explorers)



A Model Railway & Transport Show

AT
Astley Sports College Yew Tree Lane
Dukinfield Gr. Manchester

on
Sat 8th May 10am until 5 pm

Sun 9th May 10am until 4.30 pm

Model Railways in all scales, Thomas the Tank Engine,
All forms of Transport Displays in all scales,

Vintage & Veteran Vehicles, Motor Cycles, Live Steam Engines, Craft
Stalls, Refreshments Available, Trade Stand Modelling Competitions,

Ample Free Car Parking. Full Disabled Access

LOTS TO SEE & DO FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Prices held for another Year

Adults £3 Children £1.50 Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) £7

For further information: Tom Lowther 12, Mostyn Street Dukinfield Cheshire SK16 5JS
0161 338 5097. Mobile 07719259638 Email superscout@tiscali.co.uk

IN AID OF SCOUTS FUNDS



Scout Survival Skills Camp 9th to 11th July 2010

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 yourself with a minimum of equipment in a 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 £15.00.

John Dawson

Assistant County Commissioner (Scout & Explorer Scout Section)

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Racing to Gold



EXPLORER Scout John Harrington has a need for speed and has his sights set on gaining Gold – the Duke of Edinburgh Gold.

For the 16-year-old chose to build a racing car as part of the requirements to gain the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Silver award.

Now John, of 1st Hazel Grove's Myrmidon Explorer Scouts, plans to learn how to race the car properly as he steps up a gear and races ahead to try and achieve the ultimate Gold award.

John was one of 13 Explorer Scouts from Ladybrook Valley district in Stockport who were presented with hard-won Duke of Edinburgh awards at a prestigious ceremony in March at Stockport town hall, alongside more than 100 other young people from a wide variety of youth organisations.

He said: "Building a racing car seemed a different challenge to do. It's been great fun. I've learnt a lot about team work and it's been great to do something different."

The lightweight car houses a huge Chevrolet V8 engine and John is looking forward to learning to race it properly as part of Team Smith Motorsport in the Brisca Formula One Stock kart events.

To gain the highly-prized Duke of Edinburgh awards, young people must compete a series of challenges, which as well as developing a skill, include community service, a sport and completing a gruelling expedition.

John, who has been in Scouting since joining as a six-year-old Beaver Scout, completed a 30-mile trek in the Peak District – complete with carrying all necessary equipment – as well as playing basketball and volunteering as a Cub Scout Leader.

Other activities completed by the Explorer Scouts from Ladybrook Valley district's units included golfing, working with the homeless, interior design, martial arts and one girl even made her own prom dress.

Scouting Duke of Edinburgh advisor Ann Vernon said: "We are so proud of what our young people can achieve while having fun. Scouting provides young people – and the adult volunteers who support them – with an everyday adventure."

County 500 Club winners

Congratulations to the following people whose 500 Club numbers have come up over the past four months

December - P Skipworth and K Fraser

January - T&K Ryan and M Ford

February - Joan Fitzgerald and Richard Teal

March - David Armstrong and Alan Norris

County Life Deadline dates

May 25th April

June 30th May

July 27th June

August No Edition

September 29th August

October 26th September

November 24th October

December 28th November



News from the Clough

Linnet Clough is in a lovely location, we share the area with the Golf Club, Roman Lakes and of course the local residents. In order for us all to live in amicably together we need to respect each other.

Following a meeting with local residents please can we ask all visitors to Linnet Clough for their help?

- Please drive slowly when passing the houses on the lane
- If possible arrange car sharing when bringing groups to the Clough
- Keep your group together at all times
- Don't allow anyone to throw stones
- Leaders are responsible for their group at all times

Medieval Night

Thank you to everyone who supported our Medieval Night on 20th March. We raised a wonderful £943.77 for Boy Scouts of Kenya.

Volunteer Instructors

Thank you to all our volunteer instructors who have worked so hard and given us so much time in recent months. We do appreciate you.

Canoeing Course

Don't forget our canoeing course that will be held on 8th and 9th May. The first session will be held at Glossop Pool and the second on Roman Lakes. The cost is £15 per person and the aim is that you will learn how to run a safe and enjoyable session with your group on Roman Lakes. Please let us know if you want to attend.

Improvements at Linnet Clough

Over the winter we have been working hard on improvements to the Clough. These include:

- New skylights in the Barn
- Refurbishing the Shop
- Painting the main toilet block
- New urinals in the Lynmouth and Field toilet blocks

Come and visit us to see what has been done.

Senior and Junior Crew

We are always looking to welcome new members of the senior and junior crew. The Crew look after the site, instruct on activities and have a lot of fun. If you would like to join them then please contact us

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.



Diary Dates

April

- 9th – 11th Explorer Challenge Hike
10th – 11th APEX Overnight Challenge
(Explorers)
16th – 18th WSJ Sweden 2011 Contingent
Weekend
17th Explorer and Network Reception
20th DC Team Meeting
21st Chief Scout Gold Award Reception

May

- 8th Linnet Clough Canoe Course –
Glossop Pool
8th County 6-aside Comp go to
<http://www.japan2010.org.uk> for
more details
9th Linnet Clough Canoe Course –
Roman Lakes
15th Mega Team Meeting
18th Core Team Meeting
22nd Join-in-Japan Activity Day
28th – 31st Activity Fest

Good News



We are pleased to announce that after 10 months of meetings Manchester North District and GME County officially opened its arms to the 464th Manchester (Openshaw) Scout Group on the 3rd of March following the arrival of the group's registration certificate.

The Group Scarf will have a base colour of Emerald Green with a 2cm Black Border.

At present there is just a Cub Pack however it is hoped that a Scout Troop can open soon and that a beaver colony will also follow shortly.

It is hoped that once the group can find some leaders that the Beaver Colony can open up on Wednesday Evenings between 1730 and 1830.

Cubs meet in the New Roundhouse on a Wednesday evening between 1830 and 1730.

As for the Scout Troop negotiations are still taking place on what night that they can meet. Initially it is hoped that the Troop will have the opportunity to go along and join in events with other troops in the District so that the members can learn first hand how to become Scouts.

Any offers of help will be greatly appreciated so please contact North Manchester's DC Les Cowell lescowell@hotmail.com for more information.



Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception

Wednesday 21st April 2010

The first Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception of the year is being held on Wednesday 21st April 2010 at the Fairfield Moravian Settlement, Droylsden. 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>

Application Forms to be submitted to County Office not later than Monday 12th April 2010.

John Dawson

Assistant County Commissioner (Scouts & Explorers)

Tel: 07726 170875

E-mail: scouts@gmescouts.org.uk

Nick's Jambo Blog

Jambo Everybody,

Things in 'Jamboree Land' are moving along at some pace now with the whole UK Contingent pretty much in place. The CMT, CST, Unit Leaders and Youth Participants and the IST have all been selected and it will be all systems go from here on in.

Additional Units

Since my last blog the UK Contingent has been increased by 3 new UK based units, These are composite units made up of 4 Patrols from 4 different Counties, I'm delighted to tell you that Greater Manchester East have been chosen to provide one of the extra patrols! We will be forming a unit with Scouts from Cheshire, Staffordshire and East Lancashire Scout Counties.

International Service Team

By now all those people who were invited to the IST selection days should have been told if they were selected or not. The applicants from Greater Manchester East yet again did us all proud and I'm pleased to tell you that ALL our applicants who attended selection were successful. It's a fantastic achievement for our County and it brings our total number of attendees to the Jamboree to around 85.

Can I also remind the successful IST applicants that their deposit payments are due, obviously if you've already sent it I apologise but anybody who hasn't paid is running out of time. Remember if you don't pay your deposit your place will be offered to somebody else.

News from the CMT/CST Meeting

I attended a CST training weekend at Gilwell in March, I came back with lots of information and news that I will share with you in later blogs, however, some of you may know that historically UK Scouting has supported a number of developing countries to help send their young people to World Scout Jamboree's. The 22nd WSJ is no exception.

This time we will be helping Scouts from Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea and Armenia. The UK Contingent are about to launch a Nation wide fund raising appeal as part of the 'Join in Jamboree' programme. It's a great opportunity for all of us to help to develop Scouting across the globe, so I urge all of you to help out where you can.

I'm going to be Jamboree free for 2 weeks as I'm off to Egypt on holiday over Easter, but I'm sure I'll have lots to tell you all next month.

Take care and Happy Easter!

Nick Steciuk

UK Contingent Support Team

National Notice Board

- Scouting Skills: A new book introduced by Bear has just been published and is now available from all good book shops (apparently) RRP£14.95 or £9.99 from Scout Shops Ltd **or even £9 from the County Shop**. The book contains practical advice from navigating by the stars to identifying wildlife; packing a rucksack to building a shelter.
- Diana Award: Have you a Scout that stands out for the work that they put into the community? If so have you considered putting them in for an award? The Diana Memorial Committee reward youngsters in 3 different categories. More information is available on their website at www.diana-award.org.uk.
 - The Diana Award is for exceptional individuals aged 12-18 who make a sustained, selfless contribution to their communities.
 - The Diana Certificate of Excellence is for groups aged 12-18 who work together to make communities a better place.
 - The Diana Anti-Bullying Award is for individuals and groups aged 5-18 who have tackled bullying in their communities and schools.
- Sainsbury's Active Kids is this year not only offering Scouts the chance to collect vouchers but also have announced that they are this year sponsoring the Scout Association's Big Adventure for 2010. This will allow you to convert your Active Kids vouchers into Active food vouchers for your camp feasts.
- Unity Insurance are the company that the Scout Association use to under write their Insurance. Unity can help you as a group cover everything from your members through to your premises. For more information about Unity Insurance visit www.unityins.co.uk/scouts/.
- The scouting association have now launched their new communications centre. Here you will be able to create all of your scouting stationary from letters to posters and from invitations to vehicle livery. For more information about this new service then visit the website on http://www.scouts.org.uk/comms_centre/index.php?pageid=2814.

Message from the editor.....Andrea Dolan

Well the year is rolling in and I hope you all had a good Easter. Once again we have a jammed packed issue that I am sure that you have all enjoyed reading. Thanks must go to all of those who have once again sent in articles after all without you we would never be able to put the Newsletter together at all.

Please continue to send in your pieces for inclusion and remember to distribute copies to all those who don't have easy access to computers etc. If you could please send your articles to me on countylife@gmescouts.org.uk by Sunday 25th of April for the May edition, I will do the rest.

Thanks for your continued support.

Andrea Dolan

