



From the County Commissioner:

For some, August will have been a “quiet” Scouting month and for others it will have been the month in which one of the highlights of the year takes place – the annual camp or expedition. Whichever you are, welcome back to the start of a new Scouting year. I hope you’re looking forward to a year full of adventure, challenge, excitement and fun - for members and adults alike. Let’s be forward looking and “think positive” – we’ll be doing that this month at County when the County Management Team (DC’s and Core Team) meet together for a full day to look at the way forward in County and Districts. And of course we will all have the opportunity to reflect on some of our successes of the past months and highlight future developments at the County Annual Meeting at Linnet Clough on 28 September at 7.30pm to which all members of the County are warmly invited.

No doubt discussions and debates will continue for months if not years, and these will be written as to the causes of this summer’s explosion of riots and looting but one of the theories being given was that gangs were to blame – “*a well co-ordinated operation likely to have been led by young people in street gangs*” according to the Policy Director at the Centre for Social Justice. It is alleged that gangs suspended their turf rivalries to maximise the damage. Others will say that it wasn’t gang unity but friends looking for excitement – excitable young kids who were easily led; not all criminal young people are in gangs and that people see a teenager in a hoodie and think it’s a gang. In reality a wide spectrum of society took part - all sorts of people were arrested for taking part in the looting. In the post-riot interviews a number of interviewees who had taken part in the unrest said it gave them a sense of “belonging”.

“So what?” you may say. “What’s the relevance of that for Scouting in GME?” The events of the summer, played out through the media have once again given young people a terrible reputation which from our experience locally is totally undeserved. Well for me there are a number of issues to consider:

1. We need to be guiding our young people to encourage them to behave responsibly at all times, not only to avoid succumbing to any temptation to get involved in antisocial behaviour, but also taking responsibility for their own safety and not putting themselves into vulnerable situations.
2. Gang culture is not inherently bad. One of Scouting’s methods of working is based on “gangs” – Sixes, Patrols. Indeed BP expressly talked of using young people’s natural inclination to want to be part of a team or a gang. We are proof positive of the potential of gangs to be a force for good. What can you do to influence for the good at local level and to counteract the bad press young people have faced unjustly? What can you do to give “the other side of the story” perhaps by tapping into the community spirit encouraging local people help prevent similar situations in our community by helping us as volunteers. Or perhaps a letter to your local paper – or even better an item with photograph for them to publish with a positive good news story about your local Scouting.
3. Everyone needs to feel they “belong”. Could we do more to make that a reality in Scouting? Not only in attracting more people from outside Scouting to come and join us to belong to the family of Scouting but also in our own Groups, Units and Districts. That brings me back to my first point – now everyone is back after the summer break, are there any members who haven’t come back? Has anyone contacted them to see why not – wouldn’t that give them a real sense of belonging to a gang that cares –the message is: you belong to us and you are missed. “*A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts*”. Welcome back and here’s to a good Scouting year.

Andrew

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COUNTY AGM

The County Chairman and County Commissioner cordially invite you to the County Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 28th September at 7.30pm

At Linnet Clough

In the presence of the County President Lord Davies, and Vice President Peter Fahey

After the business of the meeting there will be several presentations celebrating the past year in the County

Refreshments and a good opportunity to socialise without worrying about whether you'll get the tents down dry or not!

Long Service Awards

Once again the County is pleased to announce the following people have been awarded their Chief Scout Long Service awards. Many congratulations go to all of you and also those who have received their 5, 10 and 15 year awards (not published here) for all of the hard work that you have given to Scouting for so many years.

Name	District	Award
Caroline Lisa McCann		20 Years Service
Frank Wild		50 Years Service
Simon Geoffrey Cashmore	Cheadle and District	20 Years Service
Julie May Bedwell	Glossop	25 Years Service
Regina Maria Broadbent	Ladybrook Valley	25 Years Service
Brian Gordon Dooley	Ladybrook Valley	40 Years Service
Niall Ballantyne	North Manchester	25 Years Service
Dean Howard Carroll	North Tameside	20 Years Service
John Anthony McKenna	Tameside South	25 Years Service
John Kevin Nolan	Tameside South	20 Years Service
Brian William Pugh	Tameside South	25 Years Service

In addition to the above long service medals we must also send congratulations to **Andrew Hardwick** from South Manchester Network who has gained his Queen Scout Award (the highest award in Scouting for youth members). Andrew will be able to attend the National Scout Parade at Windsor in April next year.

Experience the Deep

Steve Dixon a former Cub, Scout and Leader in Wythenshawe is now a Staff Instructor with Odyssey Scuba Diving Training Centre, a local Diving centre based in the Stockport Area. The centre is currently offering the opportunity to scouts to come along on a Friday or Saturday evening to participate in a Discover Scuba Diving Experience with their experienced staff.

The cost of the event would be £10 a head and is at present limited to those over 10 (sorry beavers and cubs). If you are interested in taking your section along for a session at Target Fitness - Cheadle Leisure Centre then please contact Steve directly on (07515) 423653 or info@odysseydivecentre.com and he will be able to help you further.

County Diary

September

Wednesday 28th

County AGM

October

Fri 14th to Sun 16th

Technology Camp

November

Monday 8th

Wednesday 16th

Saturday 19th

DC Team Meeting

Chief Scout Gold Award

Explorer Quiz Night

500 Club Winners

JUNE

Mrs Haddleton and J.Dawson

JULY

B. Bowen and R. Teale

AUGUST

G. Avison and K.Fraser

Congratulations to you all

22ND WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE SWEDEN 2011 UNITED KINGDOM

Jambo, Hello... (...and goodbye)

This month we are lucky to have not just one but two reports from two explorer Scouts that spent the summer at the Jamboree in two different units. The First Article is from Ivan Paul and the 2nd is from Peter Woodcock. It sounds as though they both had a fantastic time over the summer.

The Jamboree experience did not start when we finally reached the campsite in Sweden, but a year and a half earlier when we had all been chosen to attend the Jamboree after our selection camps. Around one hundred scouts participated in each of these camps, so the chances of being picked for one of the Jamboree units were not exactly massive. A couple of weeks after these events, letters were sent to all the scouts who took part detailing whether they had been selected to go to the Jamboree or not. I remember when I got my letter, feeling happy but not quite realising how lucky I was, and how mind blowing this experience would be.



After the first meetings of the selected participants, the fundraising began to scrape together £2000 per participant in order to pay. This seems (and seemed) to be a rather daunting challenge, but once you met up with fellow scouts and put your minds to it, the outstanding figure slowly started to get smaller.

Methods of fundraising included sponsored events (some of my friends got sponsored to cycle to Sweden on exercise bikes), second hand sales, Christmas fairs (we did one of these and raised about £1000 in total) and the infamous bag pack. These involve whole units meeting at supermarkets (dressed festively if applicable of course) and packing peoples shopping into carrier bags for donations. These bag packs were arduous but at the end of the day they raised money and gave the newly formed units time to get to know each other more.

As well as preparing for the Jamboree by fundraising, training camps (alongside other social and fundraising events) were being held to bond the unit members and prepare us all for living in a field and generally being outside for three weeks. The unit I had been assigned to was called *The Shires* and we were unit number 88. For three weeks in the July/August 2011, these forty people would come together and become one happy Jamboree family, in which lifelong friendships were being forged. Our unit had three training camps (and a Join in Jamboree camp) and each one was a great experience in itself. The first of these camps was held in January 2011 at Sandiway Camp Site, Cheshire. As *The Shires* is a composite unit made up of patrols from Cheshire, Greater Manchester East, Staffordshire and East Lancashire each camp was held in a different county. As the weather was still freezing, indoor accommodation had been booked and we mainly stayed indoors playing games and getting to know one another. Camp number two was at Bowley Scout Camp in Lancashire. At this camp we would take part in activities such as the Jacob's ladder and The Leap of Faith. On the Saturday night we also had a fancy dress disco complete with a DJ and glow sticks. Number three was at Barswood Scout Camp in Cheshire. Activities this time included a drop hike and sorting out our culture day activities (more about that later). After the training camps had finished, we had one last get together at the Join in Jamboree at Linnet Clough Scout Camp. This weekend comprised younger scouts and cubs getting in the Jambo spirit by participating in various activities and at our station making pizzas and bread twizzles (bits of dough on a stick). Once again, the weekend finished with a disco, sporting a beach-wear theme.

One month later at 4:00 AM in Terminal 3 at Manchester Airport, forty excited scouts met to catch a plane to not Sweden, but Copenhagen for two days of fun before the Jamboree even started. Upon arriving, we dumped our cargo bags at the party venue for the following

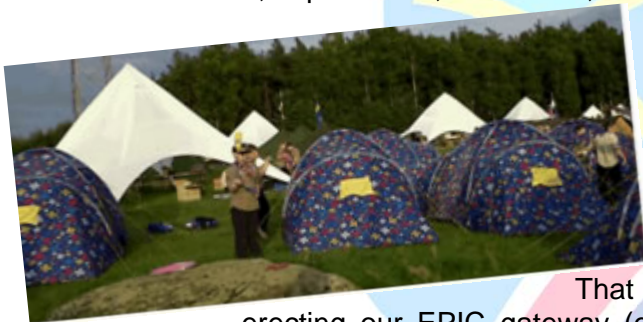


night, and headed off to a top secret activity. After a half an hour walk through the sodden streets of the Danish capital, we arrived at the city docks. The planned activity turned out to be powering around the harbour in power boats which reached speeds of 70mph. This was definitely a popular way to kick start our Jamboree experience. After this thrill ride, we carted our luggage to the hostel which we would be staying in for the two nights we were in Copenhagen. Taking our cargo bags anywhere required extreme endurance, as they weighed 20kg each and were extremely awkward to carry. A little while later, we all arrived, drenched in sweat, to 'Wake up Copenhagen', our accommodation.

After an hour of showering and exploring the hostel (which was almost exclusively occupied by British scouts) the unit headed off to Tivoli Gardens, the second oldest amusement park in the world (according to Wikipedia). After a quick burger, we spent the evening exploring the various rides and attractions around the Gardens. Hundreds of other British scouts were there, and even some Australians. This provided ample opportunity to exchange contact details before the Jambo had even started.

The next day, after an unimaginably lengthy queue to breakfast, we did 'Discover Copenhagen'. This was an activity which allowed us to see the city's main sights in our patrols. This took all day, and allowed us to explore Copenhagen at our leisure. In the evening, 3500 British scouts gathered at an old fish market to have a massive party. This send-off included music, magic, burgers, stage shows and a chance to get to know the rest of the contingent. The party lasted into the night, and made getting up the next morning painful...

The next day was Jambo day; we would be getting a coach to Rinkaby, and then the Jamboree site. Predictably the bus was around two hours late, but arrived in the end. After an arduous journey we finally glimpsed the arena stage over the horizon, and then, to our delight, the Jambo site. There were all shapes and sizes of tents; from the alien-like dining shelters to giant, black communal German tents. There were tents on stilts, tepees and, of course, the UK contingent tents.



As soon as we got off the coach, Swedish scouts eager to help (they had arrived before everyone else to get the site sorted) gave us a hand unloading the bus. Before finding our pitch, someone had the genius idea of making us walk in circles, in the boiling heat with our 20kg bags on our backs, before revealing that where we were to camp was, in actual fact, next to our coach's drop off point.

That evening and the next day consisted of putting up tents, erecting our EPIC gateway (of which there are pictures on the Scout Association's Flickr page) and generally getting settled in. This was the point at which we realised we would be camping not with 39960 strangers, but 39960 friends yet to be made. Everyone helped you, said hello and was eager to talk. That evening we had the spectacular opening ceremony (in the rain), featuring the UK Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, abseiling onto the stage. As this was one of the only times the whole camp would be together, so it allowed us to appreciate how many different people were actually camping alongside us. Following this we had the first programmed activity – Dream. This is a night-time journey through the stages of life and what you will find there. It also offers an opportunity to reflect upon what you have achieved, what you want to achieve, what is important to you and what you want to be important to you in later life. If it was enlightening; forty physically drained teenagers were not those to realise it.

The next day (after resting and drinking lots of coffee) we had dinner with a Japanese troop (of which the leaders had had previous contact with our leader at the Nippon Jamboree). This was an experience which showed us the contrasts between our culture and theirs. For a start they are much more organised, and

laid out exactly what would happen during the night (their way of putting us at ease). Also (more obvious) they used chopsticks. After enthusiastic lessons, we were all eating plates of sweet corn (yes, one grain at a time) with them. We also partook in a green tea ceremony after the meal, which is a traditional ritual partaken with guests. After dinner, we played games and exchanged songs in a massive circle. Highlights included a massive hokey-kokie and, of course, the infamous bungalow song (this became our mantra). The evening finished with everyone exchanging gifts and contact details. I'm sure we will remain in contact with this troop for a long time.

The other programmed activities we did over the ten days (one a day) were: Earth, a module about the planet we live on; People, a module about the people and cultures who live here; Quest, a module revolving around physical challenges and practical team work; the Global Development Village, an area devoted to different activities run by people from all over the world and Hike/Camp in Camp. This final activity was either an overnight camp at one of Sweden's many other camp sites or a hike exploring the beauty of Sweden's nature. You only did one of these two, but each one was done with an internationally diverse unit, including Swedes to show us all what to do.

But for one of the days, Cultural Festival Day happened. This was a massive celebration of all the different cultures and nationalities at the Jamboree. Each unit put on a patriotic display and the rest of the camp came and experienced a little bit of that country (we did scones, cucumber sandwiches and of course, tea). This was many people's favourite day because it (at least in my opinion) really captures the Jamboree spirit; meeting new people, discovering about their cultures and having a chat. The day culminated in a celebration at the main stage, where music was played and everyone had a great time.



Sadly the next day was that of the closing ceremony. The mood was blue as we packed everything but our sleeping bags. But the spectacular display in the evening brightened the mood. More singing and dancing featured, with an address from the King of Sweden and a performance from the Swedish rock group, Europe. The night ended with a truly awesome firework display. The arena was lit up to literally day light.

The last (half) day on site was adorned with torrential rain, the kind that drenches you even if you brave it for a matter of seconds. Once fully packed, we lugged our bags to the coach again, to begin our adventure to Poland, for Home Stay.

In response to the sad faces, our leaders kept telling us that Home Stay would be as good as or better than the actual Jambo. I do not think anyone really believed this until we had experienced it for ourselves. It was amazing.



As for the sleeping arrangements, we were split into small groups and allocated to polish families. As soon as we got into the car on the way to our new homes, my group immediately realised how wonderful this week would actually be.

Throughout the week we saw all the sites of Ostrow Wielkopolski on foot, by coach and we even went for a day's bike ride. This was all naturally with the Polish scouts who were kindly putting up with us for a week in their homes.

This amazing week finished with a party and all-nighter at the local scout hut. This was

the last time we would see our new families so e-mail addresses were exchanged and parting hugs were given. At around 6 the following morning, we got on the coach which would take us home, and end this truly awe inspiring journey.

But it was only after the Jamboree, in the next couple of weeks, when we began to reflect on what a life changing experience we had actually had. One of my strongest memories from the whole trip was that

being a scout is more than wearing a necker and attending weekly meetings, it means you belong to a 30,000,000 strong, world-wide family. Wherever in the world you go and see the scout sign, you are welcome. And the overwhelming hospitality of scouts became apparent after we spent a week staying with a truly amazing bunch of Polish ones. All in all, I am afraid to say that the only way of properly understanding a World Scout Jamboree is to have attended one. But I hope I can help you glean some comprehension of the event by saying that it is totally mind blowing, awesome and, I think, a life changing experience.

Ivan Paul – Explorer Scout

22ND WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE SWEDEN 2011

UNITED KINGDOM

After several years of preparation and practice a 40 strong crew of 36 explorers and 4 leaders arrived at Manchester Airport ready to set off on their Jamboree adventure. Despite the excessively early start everyone seemed awake and ready to go. After several goodbyes, more hugs and only one problem with checking in we were on our way to Copenhagen. After 2 flights, a 4 hour coach trip and a walk across Copenhagen city centre we arrived at our hostel. With another 4,000 British scouts in Copenhagen we knew we were in for a good time...

After a fun filled night in Tivoli Gardens with the UK contingent including heap loads of oggy oggy oggy, spontaneous hi 5's and a certain group's obsession with lying on the floor we returned to the hostel when it started to dawn on me that the jamboree was going to be 10 times bigger than this. Our second day in Copenhagen saw us participating in a Sportsarama (various sports which helped us meet other people in the UK contingent) and a trip on a speed boat around the docks in Copenhagen. Later that evening was the UK party in the city centre. With 4,000 people and live music from Kings Ov Leon (deliberate misspelling (they were a tribute band)) Alphabeat and the K.M.K I can say that a good time was had by all.



The next day we set off to the Jamboree site where it would all begin. After a couple of hours on the coach with a particularly happy unit joining us and teaching us some new songs we arrived in Rinkaby. Our first day consisted of putting up tents and getting used to the jamboree site which was MASSIVE!!!! After meeting several new people and making some early badge swaps I returned to our unit site in summer town where I went quickly to sleep... The second day was when the opening ceremony took place with a special appearance from Bear Grylls and the first performance of the Jamboree song.

Our first day of scheduled activities saw us participating in quest- 4 separate challenges which challenged the brain and body. Despite heavy showers for most of the day it was still an enjoyable experience. The following day was when we did People. Several small activities which helped people learn about the difference in people's cultures and how we could learn more about them. This taught me a lot about how things which seem normal to me could be strange or possibly offensive to others.

From the 31st of July to the 1st of August I went to stay at camp Exen for a traditional Swedish camping experience. The site had spectacular views which could be put on a postcard and people who were warm and welcoming. That experience is my most memorable of the Jamboree and I miss staying there.

On the 3rd of August I participated in the Global development Village (GDV). The activity had several bases varying from HIV awareness to what we can do in our local communities. The following day was the cultural festival day; an entire day which allowed you to go visiting the sites of other countries and learn about their food and pastimes. This day showed me how different other cultures are, and how tasty their food is! The day finished with the cultural ceremony with more singing and dancing till late at night, this day was another of my particular favourites...



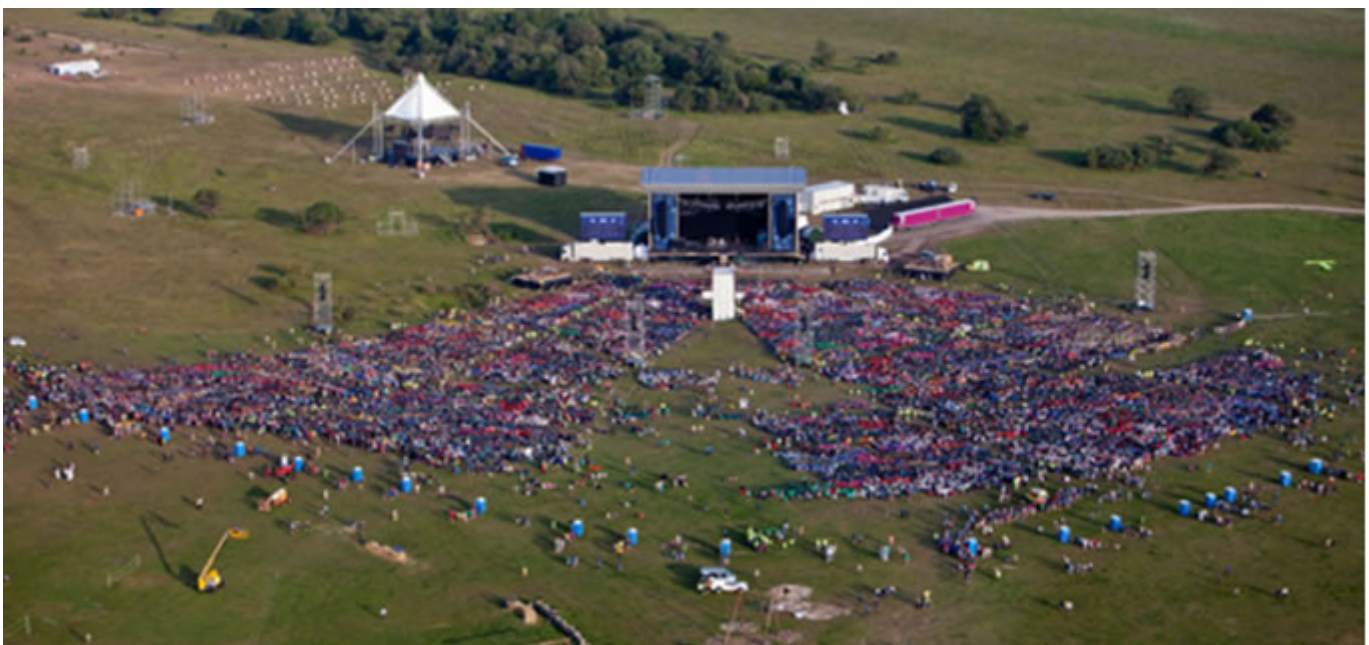
The penultimate day had us taking part in activities based around the elements- Earth. It made me aware of several issues which affected me locally yet I had nether done anything to tackle them. The final day was the closing ceremony which rounded of the jamboree. With more live music, a huge Mexican wave started by the king of Sweden and a dazzling fireworks display it was a wonderful conclusion to a wonderful experience, which wasn't over yet...

The next day we left for Holland where we were to stay with a Dutch family as part of home-hospitality. The five day stay saw me going canoeing, swimming hiking and most importantly eating some delicious Dutch food. The family who I stayed with were wonderful hosts and will be sorely missed. After the five days were over we flew back to Manchester after our once in a life time experience.

The Jamboree has been an eye opening experience for me. I have met loads of new friends from around the world, tried food which I didn't know existed, and realised that I'm part of something huge. This experience will unfortunately never come again but I ask that all people eligible for future jamborees apply as it will change the way you think about the world.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who helped me to go on this jamboree especially my unit leaders: Trevor, Rachael, Morgan and Graeme. Without your help it wouldn't have been possible.

Peter Woodcock, North Manchester Explorers



African Safari

Going on camp is usually a great adventure for any Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer however a group of Scouts from 2/1 Hurst had a bit of a different adventure this summer as they headed off a little further than the average group ever does. This year after 2 years of planning the group headed off for a two week trip to South Africa.



Starting at Cape Town they spent a few days camping at Appleton Campsite on Signal tower which had fantastic views over the city as it is located near to Table Mountain. During their stay at Appleton the Scouts went on trips to Robben Island (where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned), to the top of Table Mountain and also a day sailing.

Having spent a few days in Cape Town the Scouts embarked on a further 9 hour trip to the African Dawn Sanctuary near Port Elizabeth where the Scouts were able to work with a range of animals and also other young people as part of an awareness campaign. The sanctuary has over 250 species of birds including the illusive Knysna Loerie and the majestic Black Eagle; there are also Cheetahs, Servals and Blue Duikers as part of the endangered animal breeding program. Many animals are brought to the sanctuary injured or as unwanted pets and the ones that cannot be rehabilitated are kept at the sanctuary.

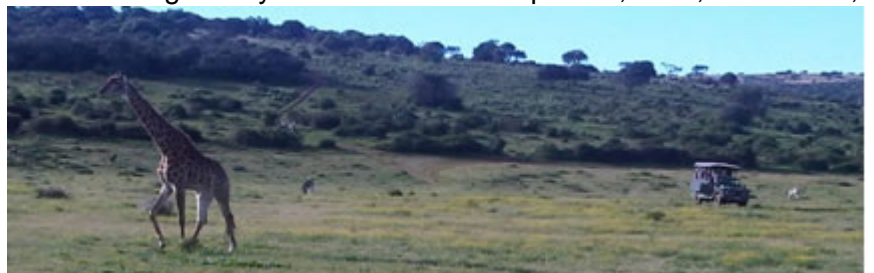


Some mornings the Scouts had to be up at 4am getting the food ready, then feeding the birds and animals, all before the Scouts had their own breakfast around 9am. The projects set for the Scouts over the week were clearing a new area for Cheetahs and making an enclosure for them. They also have been laying new grass turf for the Impala, Zebra and Giraffes on the game reserve. During the week the Scouts have led elephants by their trunks on walks and brushed them down, they

have also taken Cheetahs on leads on walks. Daniel Ord aged 13 said "I couldn't believe that their trunks were so soft and it just put it's trunk in my hand and followed me." Some Scouts have had a few injuries from pecking parrots and scratches from Cheetahs. Rhinnon Swindells aged 13 said "it didn't hurt much, it just made me jump, but it was great stroking a Cheetah."

Some of the days were very long but the Scouts did get some time off and went to Gantoosmond beach rolling down the massive sand dunes and swimming in the Indian Ocean but still had to work to do collecting cuttle fish shells for the parrots. Jack Spence aged 11 said "I have never seen such high sand dunes and the sea was very cold."

Following their hard work at African Dawn Sanctuary the Scouts finally got a day off and went on a canopy tour in the Tsitsikamma forest and a safari at Schotia in Algoa Bay. The canopy tour is on ropes suspended from trees 25m high and the Scouts are clipped onto pulleys and zip through the trees seeing the animals on the forest floor (if they were brave enough to look down). The runs varied from 15m to 92m long. During the day and night safari at Schotia in Algoa Bay the Scouts saw elephants, lions, rhinoceros, giraffes and lots of impala, zebra and wildebeest and at the night time they saw the animals eyes in the light of the search lights. Gerard Fletcher 12 years said "I have never seen so many animals in one place and we got within 2m of the lions."



Geocaching

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment.



There are 12 geocaches hidden around Linnet Clough. They are all well hidden, but with the aid of a GPS and the clues provided, a well prepared patrol or group should find them in no time! All of the 'caches around Linnet Clough are tupperware containers, each containing a logbook and a number of small 'swaps'. Groups may take one item out of each 'cache, but have to put something back in. It shouldn't be valuable, some good suggestions are small toys or scouting badges, group nametapes are ideal. There is a logbook to sign with the date and group name. Each cache has a letter inside the lid; the aim is to collect them all to reveal a secret word.

The GPS device is simple to use, it works just like an electronic compass, but instead of pointing north, it points at where you need to go! Each geocache has its own waypoint. The waypoint is essentially the magnetic co-ordinates of the location. What this means is that once the waypoint is entered, wherever in the world you are, the GPS will point directly at it! Our GPS' have already been set up with the waypoints numbered 1 – 12. Groups choose the waypoint on the device, press OK and it should take them to the cache.

One of the most important rules of Geocaching is that the 'caches stay secret and stay hidden. Groups are asked to replace the 'caches as they find them and try to stay out of sight of non-geocaching 'Muggles'!

The cost of the kit is £8 for two hours. Why not give it a go.

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 (venue to be announced). 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 2011.

Scout Support Team

I am forming a support team for the Scout Section and looking county wide for leaders and adult supporters who think they could provide experience and/or assistance in any of the various forthcoming events, such as; Survival Skills Camp / Activity Badge Day / Chief Scout's Award Receptions / Troop Leadership Weekend / Winter Camp ... and other ideas.

If you feel that you would like to be part of the Scout Support Team, please give me a call :)

John Dawson ACC (Scouts)

Tel: 07726 170875 e-mail: scouts@gmescouts.org.uk



News from the Clough

Summer Camps

We have had a good summer with many groups choosing to stay with us for their summer camps. We have had visitors from:

1 st Bishshopsthorpe, York	5 th Bolton
1 st Borough Green, Kent	13 th Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees
1 st Denholme, Bradford	15 th Matlock
1 st Hammerwich, Staffordshire	32 nd Rochdale Guides
1 st Rustington Explorers, West Sussex	33 rd Allerton, Liverpool
2 nd Marham, Norfolk	33 rd Sheffield
4 th Antrim, Northern Ireland	
4 th Stockport	



We have also had stays from other youth organisations including Habonim Dror, West Midlands Boxing Academy, a youth football team and other youth clubs.

Activity and Reward Days

At the end of the summer term, as well as our usual visitors from Stockport primary schools we had many other schools coming in for a day of activities. Some had glorious sun; others kept on smiling despite the rain but all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Residential Help

We have been helped this summer not only by our wonderful Junior Crew, but by young people completing the residential element of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. They have all worked extremely hard, not complained about the yucky jobs and enjoyed the good times. We have loved having them here and they were invaluable in the running of the site. So thank you to Alice, Jack, Luke and Ryan.

Mellor Scarecrow Competition

If you came to the site at the end of July/beginning of August you will have seen our entry into the Mellor Scarecrow Competition. Sadly we did not win a prize but we have received a lot of kind comments about our group.

Birthday parties

We have recently had a lot of young people celebrate their birthdays with us by having sessions on the Cube, pedal karts or climbing wall. We are happy to run sessions for birthday parties and can even do the food if you want.



Campsite Services Badge Weekend

We are running a Campsite Services Badge weekend on 18th-20th November 2011. The cost is £15 per person and Scouts and Explorers will learn about maintaining the site, equipment and other requirements of the Campsite Services badge and Activity Centre Service badge.

Thank you

Thank you once again to our ever helpful instructors and service crew. We know that we ask a lot of them. We do appreciate them and also their families' patience with us.

Christmas Weekend

Christmas at the Clough will be held on the weekend of 9th-11th December. We will be holding Christmas parties, a Saturday night social and the Christmas by Candlelight carol service.

National Notice Board

- **Scout Awareness Course:** The Association is running a series of courses throughout the UK that will teach people on how to tell others about Scouting. Manchester is hosting one of the weekends a Linnet Clough on the 26/27th November. Fill out the booking form that is available at <http://www.scouts.org.uk/documents/6to25/Combined%20info.pdf>.
- **Twitbook:** You can follow the Scout Association and also GME Scouts on both Twitter and Facebook. On twitter search for @UKScouting and @GMEScouts on Facebook look for "The Scout Association" and "Greater Manchester East Scouts".
- **Minibus Insurance:** Scout insurance is now offering short term insurance for the hiring of minibuses over the periods of 3, 7, 14 and 21 days.
- **Activity Survey:** The Oct/Nov issue of Scouting Magazine Supplements is to include a Survey about activities please look at <http://scouts.org.uk/noticeboard/337/section-survey-activities-now-online> to be slightly ahead of the game about what is going on.
- **Fundraising:** A great way to do some fundraising for your group is by downloading the Shop2Fundraise gadget. It is estimated that one shopper can bring in £150 with 90% going to your group and the remainder going to help HQ.
- **National Membership fee:** the national fee for next year will be £21 per member. This is how much as a county we will have to pay for each member to HQ, there will be a District and County fee to add to this also.
- **Kindest Kid:** do you know the UK's kindest kid? If so you only have until the 5th of September to nominate them to win £1000 for them and a charity of their choice (hopefully yours). To do so go to <https://www.cafonline.org/britains-kindest-kid.aspx>.
- **Adventure Annual:** The Scouting Adventure Album is back for 2012. You can order yours from the County Shop now. The book is aimed at Beavers and scouts and would make a great stocking filler.

Message from the editor.....Andrea Dolan

The Scouting year is just about to start again it's been a busy summer for Scouts of all ages in the County with members at the Jamboree, Holland, Switzerland and South Africa (to name but a few) and many more a bit closer to home.

I'm sure that some of the leaders are hoping that the summer weather will return to us over the next couple of months so that they can manage a few more evenings outside or even a weekend out walking or under canvas.

We need you to let us know about your latest adventures.

Please send all of your articles for inclusion in the October edition to me on countylife@gmescouts.org.uk no later than the 27th of September.



Andrea