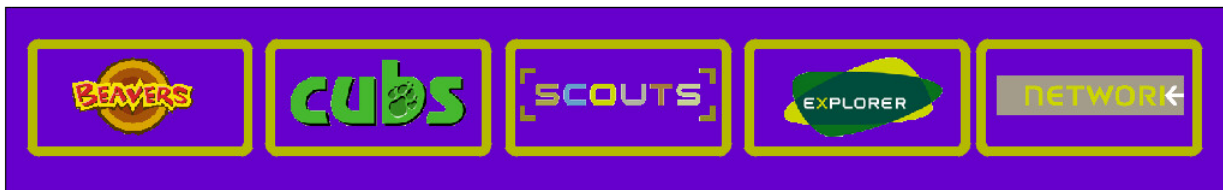




ANNUAL REVIEW 2010 - 2011

A safe, sound and exciting, quality programme across Greater Manchester East



County Commissioner's Introduction ...

Greater Manchester East is continuing to grow. We have achieved steady momentum with the growth in membership, recording an overall increase of 1.9% (slightly ahead of the national average of 1.2%). This growth is slower than in the previous year and we face a continuing challenge to achieve the national target of between 3% and 5% growth. As I said at some of the District AGMs although we don't have magic dust we can sprinkle across the County to increase numbers there are some things we can do which will help us achieve that target. Strengthening the links between the Sections is crucial. And inviting members to "bring a friend" is one of the most effective ways. It is said that in sport to stay at number one, you have to train as if you were number two. In other words, in the coming months we have to work even harder to deliver a programme that will first improve retention of our members as they move through the Sections and secondly so that their enjoyment attracts even more members. It is also a fact that Counties around the country that have hit the 3% growth figure have done it by opening new Groups and Sections. All of this of course will mean attracting more adults so that we do not overload the valuable volunteers we already have. This year we asked for postcode details of members because we need this information to enable us to look at our penetration into communities to help us plan our development and refocus County support. We now know from this year's Census that we have:

- low numbers of young people overall across our communities compared with the national average growth
- good numbers of Beaver Scouts compared to the national with high growth rates
- low numbers of Cub Scouts compared to the national but with high growth rates
- low numbers of Scouts compared to the national with declining numbers
- low numbers of Explorer Scouts compared to the national but with high growth rate
- Districts within City of Manchester have very low numbers compared to the national growth with growth below average
- Districts within Tameside MBC have low numbers compared to the national average with growth above average
- Districts within Stockport MBC have high numbers compared to the national with growth above average

So there's the challenge for each and every one of us. None of that is to devalue or ignore the tremendous work that happens locally week in and week out to provide a range of events and activities and programmes. The breadth of what can be achieved by a young person in Greater Manchester East Scouts is second-to-none. In addition to the weekly programme at local section level, and the regular District programme, every member of the County has had the opportunity to take part in County events which are there to supplement –not replace- local programmes. County events offer something that other events can't do either because of scale or speciality.

Nowhere this year has this been more clearly demonstrated than by the County Expedition to Japan – 128 Scouts and Explorer Scouts and 24 Leaders took part in the biggest and most ambitious overseas trip ever undertaken by the County. The rationale behind it was threefold:

- to build on the friendships and relationships that had started when we hosted Japan Scouts prior to the Centenary Jamboree in 2007
- to give Explorer Scouts on the County a "wow" event
- to raise the profile of "international Scouting" for everyone in the County

The three-week trip which included acclimatising in the Japanese Highlands, taking part in the 13th Nippon Jamboree, climbing Mount Fuji, home hospitality with Japanese Scout families in the Kyoto area, riding the Bullet train to Tokyo, and being guests at a reception hosted for us at the British Embassy in Tokyo was an experience-of-a-lifetime which could only ever have been achieved through Scouting. After the Japanese, Greater Manchester East was the largest contingent by far outnumbering any other country – not bad for a County! Add to that the "Join-in-Japan" day at Linnet Clough where literally hundreds of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network members, Leaders and helpers enjoyed a packed day of activities, displays, and challenges. I hope members of Greater Manchester East will be at the next Nippon Jamboree in 2013, and the next World Jamboree in Japan in 2015.



And at the same time we ran an Explorer Belt in Holland. The Explorer Belt is a hidden gem of Scouting which deserves a higher profile. We are very fortunate to have such an energetic, resourceful, and experienced team running this bi-annual event for the County.

These were just 3 highlights of the County's programme, and as you read through the following pages you will see the work done by the Strands, some of the highlights of the year under review (April 2010-March 2011), and importantly a summary of what is happening in the Districts – the County is the sum total of the Districts, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the District Commissioners for their leadership and management. We have welcomed two new District Commissioners this year – Tim Shaw for Cheadle, and Patricia (Pat) Carey for Ladybrook Valley. On a sad note we record the passing of Mike Vernon, DC for Ladybrook Valley. Mike started his Scouting as a Wolf cub in 1948. In April 2008 the Chief Scout awarded Mike the Silver Wolf "*for service of the most exceptional character*". Just before his death Mike's 50-year Long Service Award came through. Mike was an inspirational figure who personified Scouting's ideals and values and his fortitude in adversity and illness was a lesson to us all. Our condolences go to Ann and his family.

Congratulations to two members of the County who became Queen Scouts during this year - Freya Jones, 250th St Mary's, North Tameside District and James Ripley, Manchester South Network, Manchester South District.

Congratulations to all the recipients of the St George's Day Awards and other Good Service Awards (listed on page 5), as well as to the 101 adults around the County who have received Long Service Awards (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 years) who between them have recorded 3,020 years of service. Special mention should be made of Joan Fitzgerald (North Manchester) for 60 years, Frank Wild (County), Charles Hamilton (Stockport), Ann Marie Brook (Ladybrook Valley), and Bob Hulley (Stockport) 50 years. Wow!

Let me finish by thanking our legions of adult volunteers. Tireless work is undertaken by our Leaders who weekly offer a tremendous programme. If only it would stop with the weekly meeting but the cycle of meetings, weekend events and training often mean that Scouting is a second job. You don't have to be paid to be professional and it is noticeable that our Leaders approach their Scouting role with the dedication and the same professionalism they would in their own job. The same approach is taken by the ever increasing number of adults who commit to a non-uniformed role. Advisors, committee members and supporters with specialist skills are key to ensuring the safe, sound and exciting, quality programme across GME. We are lucky to benefit from the fantastic commitment, dedication, energy, enthusiasm, and sheer hard work of countless people in all roles, to whom I give our sincere thanks and appreciation.

It's been a good year for GME. If we approach the coming months with eager anticipation, enthusiasm, confidence, a positive "can-do" attitude, open-mindedness, and a willingness to co-operate and share, the young people with whom it is our privilege to work will have the time of their lives – and so will we.

Andrew Corrie
September 2011

Welcome to Greater Manchester East...

The following new Group, Colony, Troops and Units

464 th Manchester	North Manchester & Medvale District
2 nd Romiley Beavers	Goyt District
1 st New Mills Scouts	Goyt District
1 st Gatley Scouts	Cheadle District
Phoenix Explorers	Cheadle District
1 st Hadfield Explorers	Glossop District
1 st Hadfield Beavers	Glossop District
1 st Tintwistle Beavers	Glossop District

Our numbers...

2011 Census County Summary

<i>Section</i>	<i>2008 total</i>	<i>2009 total</i>	<i>2010 total</i>	<i>2011 total</i>	<i>Numerical change 10/11</i>	<i>Percentage change 10/11</i>
Beavers	1318	1390	1394	1450	+56	+4%
Cubs	1807	1788	1825	1887	+62	+3.4%
Scouts	1321	1443	1424	1378	-46	-3.2%
Explorers	379	407	457	488	+31	+6.78%
Network	55	66	52	68	+36	+30.77%
TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	4880	5094	5152	5271	+119	+2.31%
Adults	994	1213	1253	1258	+5	+0.4%
COUNTY TOTAL	5985	6307	6405	6529	+124	+1.94%

Units

Beaver Scout Colonies	100
Cub Scout Packs	115
Scout Troops	92
Explorer Scout Units	35
Local Scout Networks	7
Scout Active Support Units	7

Groups	102
Districts	10

2011 Census District summary

<i>District</i>	<i>Groups</i>	<i>Beavers</i>	<i>Cubs</i>	<i>Scouts</i>	<i>Explorers</i>	<i>Network</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cheadle	9	166	222	137	57	0	112	694
Glossop	6	70	145	107	48	4	83	457
Goyt	9	146	224	160	58	0	127	715
Ladybrook Valley	9	214	230	222	96	0	188	950
Manchester South	14	157	209	139	23	5	137	670
North Manchester	14	133	222	108	76	24	174	737
North Tameside	8	88	111	97	20	0	77	393
Stockport	15	227	278	241	52	0	160	958
Tame Valley	7	119	120	70	14	0	71	394
Tameside South	11	130	126	97	44	0	119	516

Good Service Awards... (1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011)

St George's Day Awards 2010

SILVER WOLF *"for service of the most exceptional character"*

Gaye Stevenson Goyt District

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

Joyce Mottershead Tameside South District

Viv Tipler Goyt District

SILVER ACORN *"for specially distinguished service."*

Bernard O'Flaherty Tameside South District

Pamela Hinks Stockport District

Patricia Plant Goyt District

Norman Bowling Stockport District

Kittie Curbishley Ladybrook Valley District

Other Awards during the year (1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011)

BAR TO THE AWARD FOR MERIT *"for further outstanding service."*

Christine Dunlop Tameside South District

Gerald Pownall Ladybrook Valley District

AWARD FOR MERIT *"for outstanding service."*

Phil Anderson Glossop District

Pamela Barrow Glossop District

Darren Futcher North Tameside District

Tony Gaunt Cheadle District

Ian Haskell Stockport District

Charles Hill North Tameside District

David McCracken Cheadle District

Adrea Morgan Glossop District

Helen Nightingale Stockport District

Simon Rowland Stockport District

Elizabeth Slater Stockport District

CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

Gillian Drabble Stockport District

Jacqueline Hodkinson Stockport District

Steven Kelly Stockport District

Caroline Lovell Stockport District

Richard Muench Stockport District

Paul Shepherd Stockport District

Programme ...

The programme strand has been delivering events and working on projects to support Scouting across Greater Manchester East.

The Team

We have been busy building the capacity of the county team to be able to do more and do it more effectively. Joining the team this year is Nick Steciuk, Ben Bowen, Mike Dent and Gerard Broughton.

Youth Programme event highlights

A number of county-wide activities have been run this year, including winter camps for Scouts and Explorers, 2 Chief Scouts Gold Award Receptions, Technology Camp, Ski Course to France, an International Evening for Explorer Scouts and Leaders at Stockport - Edgeley Park, Scout Activity Badge Day, Explorer Belt Expedition to Holland, and our Join in Japan weekend participating in many activities, sharing activities with a Japanese theme with the 152-strong contingent from the County shortly before they headed off to Japan.

If you have been following www.facebook.com/GMEscouts you will have seen:

Earlier this Summer 1st Bramhall went on camp in the Lake District with Danish Scouts. After the Danes stayed for 4 days of Home Hospitality Bramhall Air Scouts in Penrith, taking part in a week of Gliding and other fantastic activities. 409th Manchester on camp at Dunham Park.

This summer 3rd Hazel Grove Cubs have been down to the New Forest - cycling, visiting Brownsea Island and wild deer watching!

3rd Newton (Tameside South) Beavers held a summer sleepover at Boarfold. The theme was 'The Great Outdoors' and they gained lots of badges!

2/241st Mcr (Mcr South) have been to Sweden & Norway this summer. Including a day visit to the World Scout Jamboree!

22 Scouts from 2/1st Hurst in North Tameside have been to South Africa for an adventure of a lifetime!

Last week 5th Stalybridge (Tame Valley) celebrated their centenary with a week-long summer camp at Kibblestone.

308th M/cr, 1st North Manchester Explorers and our Network have been in Holland having loads of fun.

World Scout Jamboree units had great adventures in Sweden, Copenhagen & across Europe.

Dates of County events and meetings can be seen on the County website - Check it out at: www.gmescouts.org.uk/diary

Programme support

DofE training, advice and guidance have been given, with a steady increase in participants, from 27 units and 53 awards being made. Mountain Activity training including Climbing and Hillwalking has been provided to many leaders.

GME Live Scout Active Support Unit

Our county unit, launching this autumn is taking on the task of supporting and helping organise county programme events and attracting members who would like to share their skills wider. It will be a great place for experienced leaders to spread their knowledge and a great home for new people to Scouting that want to find out a little first. Watch out for it and join in with the growing team.

Our project work...

Top awards

- Raising the profile of the Chief Scouts Awards in each section
- Analysing completion of QSA and DofE - much work still to do
- Working with Explorer Scout Units on how to successfully run DofE
- New Explorer Belt Expedition launched
- New Awards Scout Network - online and in reality
- Chief Scouts Gold presentations
- Planning for a bi-annual Explorer Scout Awards evening (September & March)

Communications direct to your inbox

We now send monthly programme email to over 1200 adult volunteers keeping people informed about the programme and opportunities. This is followed by monthly sectional emails to all people involved in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers & Network to keep them up to date. We even have a team of proof readers.

Communications online

After the redevelopment of the website, we now have featured articles, ideas and leaders support material available 24/7. Linked to this is our Twitter feed, so far providing 269 pieces of information to our membership and beyond. If you haven't seen it, visit www.twitter.com/gmescouts or follow us at @gmescouts.

Facebook has over 150 active users and was even used as the hub of our home contact system for this summer's World Jamboree. Again visit www.facebook.com/GMEscouts to find out more.

Safe, sound, quality programme

- Event planning tool - to make sure nothing is missed, making the organising of activities easier
- InTouch - support & guidelines and examples have been produced
- Quality Balanced Programme Award – open to all Colonies, Packs and Troops to recognise the great work our leader teams do.

Things to come

Programme help, Retaining Cubs and Scouts, Young Leaders Scheme, World Scout Jamboree review, ADC support sessions, international & high profile events, Scouting for Adults day, New leaders induction pack & safety on activities.

Andrew Hill

Assistant County Commissioner (Programme)

Support for Adults...

This has been a year to focus on developing our training provision within the County, It is now recognised as an example of good practice nationally. Massive thanks go to everyone who has contributed to this success, whether they organise a residential weekend, visit leaders in their group to validate modules or make the tea for the newly-formed Wood Badge Café. We just couldn't do it without you.

The BIG question was -

Would County funded training make a difference?

The simple answer is **YES!!**

300% increase in attendance at courses from 2010

621 modules booked or attended of the 1000 places on offer

190 people have attended one or more County

77 people have attended more than one course.

19 people have attended **more than 5** courses.

Some courses **now fully booked**

Number of Attendees on Courses

Getting Started	80	/	19%
Getting Going	110	/	26%
Getting Out	73	/	17%
Getting On	54	/	13%
Safeguarding	66	/	15%
Supporting Adults (25 & 37)	33	/	8%
Residential Experiences (38)	8	/	2%

Highlights

61 essential resources distributed (Section Essentials, Section Programme and Nights Away)
Formation of Scout Active Support Unit - Wood Badge Café; attended by **over 100 leaders** for support in identifying training needs

100% increase in number of Wood Badges recommended from 2010

What else has contributed to our success?

- Online booking – massive reduction in administration, easy and accessible for learners
- Accessible online course information
- Monthly email communication
- 33 more Training Advisers in role or in training
- Launch of the Wood Badge Scout Active Support Unit to support training in the County – 50 Members
- Appointment of County Training Administrator to manage membership services
- Launch of Manager and Supporter Scheme
- New Resources - Leaders Training Guide, Change of section booklet
- Resource base developed on County Website for learners and Training Advisers
- County First Aid Trainer – Trained and available to support District provision.
- Support for districts in identifying training needs

Comments from Leaders

“All of the courses that I have attended have been excellent. I would not have been able to attend the courses had the funding not been there. Thank you to all who are involved in the running of the Training Sessions.”

“I attended a Safeguarding workshop with some reservation; I have been a leader for many years and didn't think I would enjoy it. The discussions about how we handled situations with other leaders were really useful and I picked up plenty of practical tips about putting the Yellow Card into practice.”

“The training team have made my return to Scouting and made me think about a lot of issues I would not have thought of. Over the year I have completed all of the training for my Beaver Leader Wood Badge. The Nights Away weekend was a highlight of mine. I would recommend the course to some of the leaders in my group.”

“The online booking was easy peasy!”

“I attended the Essential Information training last month, very professional with a relaxed friendly vibe. I felt at ease and confident to ask questions and talk out loud in the group. The adult support team are fantastic and I feel very lucky to be a part of GME Scouts.”

Plans for 2012

Scouting for Adults Day - 12th May - A leader -focused day at Linnet Clough to learn new skills, share old ones, update and socialise

How long would you wait? A project to improve the time it takes to get new volunteers approved, into role and trained

Valuing Volunteering – support to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have their role reviewed and any support they need identified.

Manager Induction – for District Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders

Manager and Supporter Workshops

Increasing the number of validated presenters and facilitators to allow us to extend learning opportunities further.

Kay Hill

Assistant County Commissioner (Support for Adults)

Communications & Resources...

It has been another busy year for the strand with a variety of objectives being completed. One of the main challenges was the redesigning of the website (www.gmescouts.org.uk) and bringing the costs and functionality in-house. All previous documents had to be transferred from the old web site and a change of server provider had to be implemented.

Big thanks to Alastair Rainsbury for all his work in putting the new design in place and bringing over the historical documents. The website has a lot more functionality and we have incorporated Google maps showing most of the Scout groups within GME county as well as County Office and Linnet Clough. Support for Adults and Programme strands have put a lot of work into their various areas and we hope it has now become more of a one stop shop for information about the County.

As always there are still some minor issues, but the vast majority of work has now been done and I would welcome any feedback on how you find the site.

County Life continues to provide news and stories from around the County, the issue goes out ten times a year and all backdated issues can be found on the website. Andrea Dolan does a great job in pulling all the articles together, which is no easy task at times. As a distribution list we have been using HQ 's records, so if you are not receiving County Life then please check that your records on membership services are up to date, specifically your email address.

The County Shop has also been doing a good bit of business and since it's launch over 18 months ago it has turned over £18k with a small profit going to the County. A 10% discount on most items is made by shopping with the County Shop with the exception of tents, full details can be found on the website.

There is still a lot of work to be done and we are still looking for a Media Development Manager who can give more time to the role, Mark Baxter has been doing his best, but with a young family and a full time job, it's not always easy. So if you feel you can help out, then please let me know.

Thanks to everyone else who has helped out throughout the year, I have said this many times before that communications work both ways, if you feel your not getting the right information, then please let us know and we will try to rectify it.

Mike Dolan

Assistant County Commissioner (Communications & Resources)

Linnet Clough...

It is a pleasure to include in this Annual Report another very successful year for our County Camp Site. Linnet Clough continues to be a very popular choice for Scouts and non-Scouts from within our County boundaries and beyond. The highlight of the last year was 'BLAST' – when we delighted to welcome members of Girlguiding Stockport for their Centenary Celebration Camp. It was a marvellous event during August 2010 when our Guiding friends celebrated their 100TH birthday - in true Guiding style!

Many Scout Groups from within GME County visit Linnet Clough during the year and we value the work that Leaders put in to ensure that our young members have an adventurous and memorable residential experience. We are always looking to develop new activities for Groups and this year we were delighted to launch the new Pedal Cart track. This has proved to be another popular attraction and our grateful thanks go to Derek Mealey for donations in memory of Derek Toft, a former adult member from Stockport and Hyde Districts, and to 'SK Money' who also provided funding for building materials. We are also extremely grateful to the students and staff of Chesterfield College who provided the labour for the building work.

The Cube 'High Ropes' course continues to be a popular activity for many visitors to Linnet Clough and many Groups have taken advantage of summer evening visits to engage in this and many other of our activities. We were delighted to receive funding from the 'Trinity House' fund, Stockport Council and The Canoe Foundation to help with the purchase new canoes and kayaks which are used mainly on the Roman Lakes.

Other major events at Linnet Clough included 'Join in Japan', Technology Camp, Site Services Badge Weekends and the traditional Christmas parties weekend. We also hosted selection weekends for the World Scout Jamboree and 'Young Spokesperson' training events organised by Gilwell.

Many other organisations visit Linnet Clough during the year and we have been particularly pleased to welcome members of Stockport Cerebral Palsy Group. We have seen an increase in the number of organisations visiting the site during 'mid-week' for school visits and team building days. These include Wythenshawe Hospital Burns Unit, Tesco and the RAF. It was also another successful year for the Stockport Schools programme. Although the contract with Stockport has now ended we continue to run this programme directly from schools in the Stockport and other Local Education authority areas.

A new venture for Linnet Clough this year has been the launch of our Apprenticeship Scheme. As part of a scheme managed through Walesby Forest Scout Camp we were delighted to enrol Gareth Hunter as our first recruit to the 12 month training programme. Gareth continues his training until December 2011.

Linnet Clough is extremely fortunate in having a fantastic 'army' of Instructors, Helpers, Service and Junior Crew members supporting our activities. Many of them take time off work to help at major events and to ensure our site and facilities are safe and clean. We are truly grateful to them and of course to Carl, Anne and our Staff members for their valuable and much appreciated work during the year.

'Thank You' to all our visitors during the past year. If you haven't been to Linnet Clough recently come and see how your site is developing. You are always welcome.

John Smith
Chair, Camps Committee

Around the County...

CHEADLE DISTRICT



Although numbers are constant, we welcomed 13 new Leaders and achieved 66 Chief Scouts Awards. Our eight Colonies' outdoor activities included welly walks, pond dipping, assault course, Maize Maze, sports days, and Colditz fun; and had trips to Join in Jamboree, the Plaza, Chill Factor, Pets at Home, a synagogue and the National Children's Museum. We slept over at Abney. Indoors we junk modelled, tossed pancakes; and celebrated Chinese New Year and a Scottish Night.

Our eight Packs are very active sometimes joining for camps together. But 15cm snow blocked the road and caused a Christmas Camp cancellation. District organised 6-a-side football, badge days, outdoor challenge and a skills day. Packs presented Group Shows, and supported local festivals.

All six Troops camped at least once. District organised a night wide game, camp cooking competition, water fun day, 5-a-side football and ten pin bowling. 1st Gatley re-opened their Scout Troop in May.

Our four Explorer Units had a busy programme of camping, hiking, kayaking and other water sports. The highlight was 40 Explorers attending the Nippon Jamboree.

All sections raised funds benefiting Shoebox Appeal, Marie Curie, Seashell Trust, Age Concern, Help the Heroes, RNLI and Royal British Legion.

Abney Scout & Guide Residential Centre - retiring Chairman Muriel Cunningham was awarded an etched glass teardrop for all she has done. Our 3-year work plan started with the bedroom windows, repainting outside and a spring clean by 47 helpers. We re-laid paths and the gardens are pristine. 2010 bookings were good and 2011 is filling fast, due to its increasing national use.

Tim Shaw
District Commissioner

GLOSSOP DISTRICT



It is true what is said about time flying when you are having fun. It doesn't seem that long ago since I agreed to take over the position of District Commissioner from Jack, yet here we are with a year completed.

The year as a whole has been very good. We held an appreciation event for Jack Hewitt, Phil Anderson and Christine MacLennan who all stepped down from roles at the end of 2009. We pass on our thanks and appreciation for their efforts over many years.

There have been some people taking on the roles of Assistant District Commissioner. For Scouts Martin Clayton and for Cub Scouts Brian Gray. Both are very capable leaders in their own right and having them as part of the District Team will benefit us greatly.

There are still some roles within the district that need people to help with. Beavers need an Assistant District Commissioner. We also need people to help with training our new leaders.

The St Georges' Day parade this year was one with a difference. The guides were 100 years old this year. To help celebrate this guides took over the organising and running of the day. They did a fantastic job and changed the service around with a colourful slideshow of famous scouts and guides, as well as a taste of what Scouts and Guides in Glossop get up too. We all showed that we are able to continue whatever the weather. The rain just before the parade changed our plans completely but we were able to show that we are adaptable and resourceful. It was a successful parade and showed once again the strength of our youth movements in Glossop.

Each section has had a fun packed year. With various events to allow the young members to excel and develop. Football, swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, canoeing, golf, archery, expeditions and camps are just a taste of what has been on offer around the district.

It has been unfortunate that 1st Melandra in Gamesley has had to close as a group. The Beaver Leaders have joined 1st Hadfield and opened a much needed beaver colony there, along with the majority of their young members. The cubs were also integrated within the district.

Over the year we have made a loss of 3 members from last year's census. While it is disappointing to have dropped numbers, the reassurance is there that we do have waiting lists for some sections. The biggest problem seems to be getting willing and able adults to support the existing leaders with the sections. Without the adults we are unable to provide the excellent programs and fun activities that all members enjoy. I will appeal on behalf of the leaders for your support as parents. This can be anything from an adult helping out every once in a while at a meeting or on an activity, to helping on a regular basis and even becoming a uniformed leader. Please help wherever and whenever you can.

The hard work of the leaders and the young members is shown tonight in the number of awards that are being presented. Every young member should be very proud that they have achieved their award. I know each leader is always proud of their young members.

In conclusion I would like to say thank you to Leaders around the district that have put in many hours of dedication to provide an enjoyable program throughout the year. Thanks also go to you the parents and families of our young members, and leaders! You have allowed them to get involved and supported them through out. Thanks also goes to the young members for whom we work so hard to provide the scouting they enjoy, but they allow us to enjoy it with them. WE are all so proud when they achieve their awards. Well done.

Andy Wilson
District Commissioner

GOYT DISTRICT



It has been quite a successful year for Scouting in Goyt. We have seen an increase in our overall membership by 2.0% and are one of only two Districts in Greater Manchester East to show an increase in the Scout section; this is also against the national trend.

When I was asked, at a recent D.C's meeting to what I attributed this increase, the only possible answer I could give was that Goyt Scout Leaders are offering an attractive programme suited to the children of Scout age. I am sure that most leaders would agree that if we could recruit more leaders, then we could have an even bigger increase.

I am aware that practically every Beaver Colony has a waiting list and indeed some Groups, could even start up another colony if only they had the leaders.

I know I say this every year, but I believe we have excellent leaders here in Goyt, in every section across the board.

I am pleased also to report that every leader in the District has now completed his/her CRB form, for which I must thank Gerald Fletcher for his invaluable help. I know he has often resorted to tearing his hair out, but it has been a worthwhile exercise.

I would like to thank Mike Nolan, ADC Cubs for his organisational skills in preparing for the six District events which run throughout the year. The overall winners for 2010 were 1st Bredbury & Woodley, congratulations to them.

The Explorer section continues to expand with the revamped Werneth now at 15 members and High Lane also on the increase. Marple are holding steady at 25 and Disley with around 11. As a lot of these youngsters are our future leaders I think Goyt will be in safe hands.

Viv Tipler

District Commissioner

LADYBROOK VALLEY DISTRICT



We were all saddened by the death of our District Commissioner Mike Vernon in September. Despite missing strategic leadership in the District because of the gap left by Mike Vernon, he will certainly be a hard act to follow, the leadership in the District remains very strong. We were very pleased to welcome our new District Commissioner in December.

We have had great successes with training of our Adults this can be attested to the amount of certificates received; there is also a vast amount of service awards to be presented.

Without the leaders that maintain the very high standards of scouting in the groups, The District Team with their imagination and enthusiasm, the District Executive members who give of their time willingly, and not to forget the Fellowship soon to be **The LADYBROOK Scout Activities Unit**, these activities would not be as successful as they have been. Scouting in LADYBROOK VALLEY maintains a high community profile and I feel privileged to be part of the District scouting community.

The District continues to promote the development of Scouting in LADYBROOK VALLEY principally through support for the nine individual Scout Groups and five Explorer units. Throughout the year all sections have been active.

Ladybrook Valley District is an exciting place to be for scouting activities.

The District has maintained the profile of scouting in the community by attendance at the annual Remembrance service in Bramhall, Woodford and Hazel Grove, and by organising an annual parade and service to mark St George's Day at St Michaels in Bramhall and have assisted the local Round Table in fund raising.

As in the past, a number of District events and competitions have been organised. A joint Swimming Gala was held in November.

Sainsburys' supermarket again allowed us the opportunity to advertise Scouting by letting us use their shop for a few days before Christmas where we bag packed and promoted Scouting activities to the public.

These events supplement Group activities, and provide opportunities for youngsters in areas not possible at Group level.

The District Appointments sub-committee has met regularly to interview applications as leaders, consider Criminal Records Bureau reports and make recommendations to the Executive Committee

The number of proficiency badges obtained by the youngsters in the Groups, especially the number of Chief Scout awards and Duke of Edinburgh awards is a testament to the commitment of the leaders in the District.

The Scout Fellowship has continued to provide support to the Groups, District and County in running activities, and has held weekends away for Fellowship members. It also continued the tradition of holding "Sam's Hike". Most of these events have continued even though the name Fellowship is no longer. It is hoped to start up a Scout Active Support in the future.

I would like to thank all in the District for their unfailing support to me as the new District Commissioner and look forward to the next year

Patricia (Pat) Carey
District Commissioner

MANCHESTER SOUTH DISTRICT



We saw growth again for our 5th consecutive year. All the sections have run a comprehensive programme during the year with lots of great fun activities. An example of the fun activities was the beavers District Craft Competition having to make a beaver made up from a pile of waste material. They had great fun rummaging through the waste.



The cubs section grew just over 5% with an increase in female cubs. These numbers were helped by the starting of a second Cub Pack at 392nd Manchester Chorlton. They had tremendous fun at the annual District Swimming Gala which is proving very popular with the cubs. This event is open to all sections and is run entirely by the Manchester South District Network who does a fantastic job each year. One of the many highlights the Scouts and Explorers was their trip to Japan which was an amazing experience had by all. Another was the County run Tech Camp which is always well attended by Manchester South Scouts.

Explorers have seen growth this year too with the opening of a second Unit call the "Templars" based out of William Temple Scout Group. Several of the explorers were attending the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden too.

Overall the District is doing extremely well. There is always room for improvement but the fact that we have seen year on year growth since the District was formed 5 years ago is a testament to the great programmes and activities the Leaders run as the children vote with their feet.

Ian Carey
District Commissioner

NORTH MANCHESTER & MEDVALE DISTRICT



The District have had a very successful year, growing in numbers overall – Cubs in particular saw good growth, and we opened a new group in an area without Scouting provision 464th Manchester in Openshaw. This group has been so successful that it has waiting lists in both Beavers and Cubs as they have a full colony of Beavers, a full pack Cubs, and has now opened a Troop which is filling up fast, of which we expect great things.

The District team have supporting another group in the District due an illness on the part of the GSL who ran all sections. This group (224th Manchester) now has a full colony and a leadership team, a full Cub Pack and a leadership team and a very active parent's rota and has just re-opened the Scout Troop with a new leadership team.

Beavers have had some great activities going on, not least the RUNAROUND Quiz and the now annual fun days, plus sports, football and pool parties and a million other things that Beaver leaders provide each. I have been running Beavers of late and have gained new respect for leaders in this section. It is a hard age.

Cubs are awash with new members, many packs are full or nearly and having to run waiting lists or increasing leader support to allow new members in. Numbers are mostly great; most packs have been on several camps in the year including a District camp at Linnet Clough. They have many competition activities in the year; cookery, arrow (cub skills), camping, quiz, football, sports, wide games, and inter pack.

Scouts section has a solid set of adult leaders and some new blood at the 464th with the brand new troop and the revitalised Troop at 2/230th again with a brand new leadership team.

In scout section we are building upon previous success with a project for Summer Camp for scout section, the last being Summer 2010 and are hoping to make this into a Biennial event. Scouts and leaders from any troop will be offered a summer Camp to support troops that are unable to make it happen for themselves for whatever reason or where only 2 or 3 Scouts from the Troop are wishing to attend. We have run two now and both been fantastic and really worthwhile.

Explorer Scouts have grown in Unit numbers to four active Units, each have individual programmes and identity and are successful in their own ways.

Scout Network in the District is now a serious force of adults. This is a large pool of young men and women working towards their Scouting and the Duke of Edinburgh's awards while helping out on events and activities for all other sections where their time allows. Many of the Network adults also hold a leadership role in a group or Unit as well. I am very optimistic for the future of North Manchester Scout District. Thank you to everyone who is part of it.

Les Cowell

District Commissioner

NORTH TAMESIDE DISTRICT



This year has been one of consolidating from the previous year, when we had a dip in numbers. This year we have slightly increased the number of members in the District.

I am pleased to say that we have stabilised the numbers by having a great core of Leaders in each of the Sections.

With the consolidation of Leaders and Helpers it has shown a great increase in the number of Nights Away Experiences given to our younger members. This is shown very clearly in the chart below:

	Beaver	Cub	Scout	Explorer	Leaders	Total
2008	168	388	672	217	458	1905
2009	111	475	734	278	608	2206
2010	93	353	619	99	510	1733
2011	94	460	711	145	519	1929

I would like to thank all the Leaders and Helpers within the District for their help and devotion to their Groups. In our District I think we have a great set of Leaders. We have over 1000 years of experience between 92 Leaders and Appointed Helpers. This ranges from 42 and 41 years respectively for Dave Ashton and Alan Fish to under one year for Mark Lomas. All the Leaders are exceptional in their skill base. They do not just have the knowledge but are more than willing to help the newer Leaders to gain the skills and confidence they need to encourage and enthuse the younger members of their Section. All the Leaders have put extra work into their Sections to enable them to take part in additional Nights Away Experiences.

The activities run for pages and pages but this only shows what happens District and County wide and a few of the activities in the Groups, what it does not show is the week to week, day in and day out activities that happen in all the Beaver Colonies, Cub Packs, Scout Groups and Explorer Units around the District. Activities including games, trips, camps, badges and progress awards etc etc. If I had to list all the activities that happen around the District you would be reading all night.

Again many thanks to all the Leaders and Helpers who have helped me enjoy my Scouting. I hope they have enjoyed their Scouting as well because once you stop enjoying your Scouting, you cannot pass on the JOY of Scouting to others.

Ken Marks
District Commissioner.

STOCKPORT DISTRICT



This last year seems to have been a little strange and somewhat out of the norm, especially when programme planning came into consideration. Holidays literally falling on top of each other, additional

Bank holidays springing up creating longer family holiday opportunities, without taking additional time from work, all conspired to create unusual criteria when considering programme and events.

This was no better highlighted than having our St Georges Day Parade and Promise Renewal on 8th May! Given the situation it would be all too easy to put our collective feet up and say, let's forget it for this year and focus on next! Thankfully that is not our way and the year saw another active calendar providing varied opportunities for our young people to grow and experience the many challenges on offer.

Each section within the District took part in a large variety of activities both at Group and District level ranging from a day at Magna to the David Slater Camping competition and much more between. These activities prove both fun and challenging – exactly what scouting is all about....getting out there and taking part.

It is absolutely no surprise then that all our sections continue to grow and benefit from what is on offer. The Stockport Carnival provides us with a fantastic opportunity to express this activity and subsequent growth. Certainly in Stockport scouting is very much THE thing to be part of and something for which we are proud to shout out aloud.

None of this happens by chance and it would be wrong not to mention the significant impact and driving force of Helen Berry who retired as District Commissioner earlier this year. Her time within that role has seen Stockport District enjoy a complete reversal in its direction and into the position it enjoys today; the foundations she has laid certainly leave us in superb shape to develop tomorrow. For that she carries with her our eternal thanks and gratitude for a job well done.

Moving forward it's all about providing every member the opportunity to take part and experience all that is good about Scouting. This focus is very much on adventure and with that in mind we have launched our own continuous fundraising scheme to help fund International experiences. This supports our current fund that helps those who need assistance to enjoy scouting at a more local level. This proved very useful when helping the 11 young members attend this year's World Scout Jamboree in Sweden where none of those applying were faced with the restrictive burden of finances.

Whatever the age, whatever the section, we firmly believe that Scouting is about providing the opportunity and letting the individual make their own choice. We intend to use this next year to lay further foundations that can help us meet these aspirations, turning them to reality and keeping Scouting at the forefront of young people's minds for all the right reasons. Only time will tell but we are confident that the numbers we report will show more people taking part in our great adventure.

Philip Santana--Reedy
District Commissioner

TAMESIDE SOUTH DISTRICT



It has been an eventful second year for Tameside South District with the final preparations and actual trip to Japan for nine of our explorers, the preparation and fundraising for the WSJ in Sweden, which sees nine of our young people being selected as well as three of the ten unit leaders coming from our District and that's not to mention the several members we have had accepted onto the International Service Team and one leader on the Contingent Service Team. That's a large contingent from Tameside South heading to Sweden this summer.

We also had what has now become the traditional St George's Day camp, Beaver and Cub sports events, the swimming Galas, the Christmas Panto trip and that's on top of all the Group and County events. It all added up to an exciting, adventurous and a busy year for all the leaders and young people.

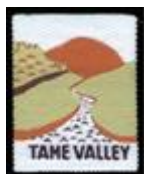


The year was not without its sadness with the passing of Bill Mabey who has been a member of the District for over 40 years. Bill will be sadly missed by all who knew him. I was particularly pleased and proud by the smart attendance at his funeral where the District formed the "Guard of Honour" before and after the Service at St Anne's Church. My thanks to all who took part.

I am pleased to be able to report that the District consolidated itself this year after the upheavals of the last couple of years and our census figures, while not showing an increase did hold steady. We continue to retain the young people in the top two sections which are testament to the programmes that the leaders manage to put on each and every week. We continued to make great strides towards our goal of all leaders having the right Wood Badge for the role they are in, this has been helped this year by County making the Module training available free of charge.

Keith Burdon
District Commissioner

TAME VALLEY DISTRICT



As a District we are small in area and manageable with seven groups operating around Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Mossley. We had a good increase in leaders and in youth membership approx 10% but we still need more adult support.

We have to work together to support each other and put on some worthwhile Scout events in our district programme.

There are leadership challenges within the Scout section, but despite these, Scouts within our District do not miss out on scouting activities. Every scouter working within this section supports each other and each others troops. We provide a balanced, active programme within our district for the scout age range. We started out with a lot of ideas on the programme for the year, but it was stressed these needed supporting for them to take place. It was decided to do quality events not quantity. One of the biggest problems is communication and hopefully this is now improving through using e-mail system of all leaders..

During the early part of the year we had a good turnout from the District for both County winter camps for Scouts and then the Explorers.

We were very fortunate to have 8 explorers and 1 leader selected as part of the county contingent to the world Jamboree. In October there was a further selection for International Service Team and again we had 2 leaders selected. Thanks must go to everyone who fundraised tirelessly to send our

representatives to the Jamboree; the bed push we did was fantastic and generated good publicity.



April brought St Georges Day and this year we celebrated it at St Johns church in Dukinfield. The weather wasn't kind to us and we had to abandon the parade and we reassembled at the church where the service went ahead. It was a good talking point for a few months but the weather did not dampen our spirits.

Some groups support Railroad, especially setting up and taking down, and some members have joined the model railway club, and put on their own displays for the exhibition.

Mottram show is well supported from the older members of the district, with some camping over night we erect the fences and put up all the advertising signs; this raises our public profile and raises funds.

The Explorer section has grown and carried out an active varied programme including pioneering, chocolate night, mini Crazy golf, mystery Can cook, fire lighting with a difference and Bouldering to name a few.

We support and use Youth Adventure Tameside who provide instructors and equipment to do canoeing, climbing and caving. The explorers enter the Apex challenge and this year they won their first trophy coming in 3rd place in the extreme challenge in October.

There are six scouts to my knowledge on target to gain their Chief Scouts Gold, good luck to these scouts. During the summer months a lot of camping was undertaken by the different groups in the district and again report backs were all very good. We have this year run activities along side each other the swimming gala the cub and scout five a side and long may these be successful.

We have a project in Swineshaw camp site which will inject some new dimension into the district and we are putting on a 'show' like a gang show in 2012 and we have people working hard on this project already.

We will be saying a big thank you and well done as District Commissioner to Tom Lowther and we will be building on the success of growth of 10% under Tom our outgoing D.C.

Our district has worked together over the year and is very successful at attracting young people and supporting them in scouting with fun and plenty of quality activities and we will continue, with the help of all the supporters and devoted leaders, to these people a big Thank You.

Bob Taylor
District Commissioner.