



From the County Commissioner:

I'd like to share with you a "Thought for the Day" from the Rt. Revd Graham James, Bishop of Norwich, which I heard recently on BBC Radio 4. He addressed two issues which have particular resonance for us in Scouting. The first was around sharing, and the second was to do with trust. In his thought he referred to a recently published book (*What's Mine is Yours* by Rachel Botsman and Roo Rogers), that made him think again about the way the internet is reshaping human behaviour. This book is the latest salvo in favour of a movement called collaborative consumption. Apparently we are all wealthier than we think because we've all got time, skills and possessions which can make us money. Have you got a spare room? Then get online to sell your accommodation for a day or a week. Want to let someone drive your car when you are not using it? There is a website for you. You can even let others use your bike. Apparently the fastest growing mode of transport in the world is bike sharing.

Two statistics have stayed in my mind. 1.6 million people in Britain are said to be planning house swaps for their holidays this year – more than 100% up on a year ago; and then there is the clincher, the average power drill is only ever used for twelve minutes in its whole lifetime.

So why shouldn't we share what we've got? Look at the success of E-bay. It now trades £1,800 worth of goods every second. We buy goods we have never seen from people we have never met and send them the money first. The internet has built trust in a world where it has been diminishing in almost every other way.

This isn't simply an economic phenomenon. It's also about the way we connect with each other. Why would the Egyptian Government have closed down the internet unless it thought it was destroying a community of shared interest, conveying trusted information?

We've grown up in a world where exclusive possession of property and goods has been regarded as a sign of independence, and we've valued that enormously. But we are now challenged by an increasing population, scarcer resources and disproportionate wealth in too few hands. Collaborative consumption makes sense.

Religious communities of monks and nuns have been sharing things for centuries. "What's mine is yours" is in their life blood. It is liberating and makes everyone equal before God. In the Acts of the Apostles we learn that the first Christians "shared all things in common". It didn't last, not least because the church grew and sharing things with thousands is more difficult than sharing them with a few.

All too often in Scouting we become territorial, and over-possessive of our resources – be they human, or material. Why don't we make more effort share our equipment with other Groups in the District or the County? We could all benefit from being lenders and borrowers. To me it beggars belief that one section won't allow another section in the same Group to use their games equipment for example. I've asked Mike Dolan (ACC Communications & Resources) to look at what as a County we could do to facilitate this.

Perhaps the internet has made communitarianism possible. It is helping us to trust one another again. The vast majority of users of e-bay have discovered that you can put your faith in other human beings. We are kinder, more honest and more to be relied upon than we think. – core values at the heart of Scouting; the Bishop's conclusion should be a reassuring and heart warming endorsement of what we are about, as well as a challenge to us all to ensure that we "walk the talk".

Andrew Corrie

Inside this Issue

- Join in Jamboree
- County Dates
- LC to BP
- Scout Activity Day
- Beaver's 25th Birthday
- News from the Clough
- National Notice Board



WWW.GMESCOUTS.ORG.UK

As the eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that the website has undergone a significant change since the 1st March, the Communications team have been working hard over the past few months (in particular Alastair Rainsbury aka Japan website) to ensure that they provide you with a website that meets all of your needs. Hopefully all the information that you require is close at hand you can even download copies of County Life every month from the site, including the back catalogue.

Please, when you have a moment can you take a look at the site, we are still making changes, but if you feel we can improve it in any way or we have missed something that you would like to see on the site, please let us know by sending an email to

Communications@gmescouts.org.uk

The new site includes a new Diary system, locations of Scout Groups, more detailed information from the Programme and Support for Adults Strand + the usual news and updates, so don't delay and visit today

GME's Join in Jamboree

The Join in Jamboree day isn't too far away and you need to start thinking about booking your places for the event that is to take place in June this year.

Having whetted your appetite with the poster last month we are pleased to announce that you can now start to book your places for the event. You should have received your information directly however if you have not please visit the download section of the website and you can get it all there.

Please don't delay as all bookings must be made by Sunday the 29th of May. If you wish to camp over the weekend then camping bookings should be made directly with Linnet Clough.

If you can help in any way with the activities below the team would also be very grateful:

CLIMBING
LOW ROPES
ARCHERY
SHOOTING
THE CUBE

Activities are to run between 10.00 and 16.45 and you'll get 30 minutes for lunch.

If you have any questions then please contact Claire Jarvis (the event organiser) on: beavers@gmescouts.org.uk

**GME's JOIN IN JAMBOREE
FANTASTIC FUN DAY
SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2011
LINNET CLOUGH
ONLY £10!**

BEAVERS **cubs** **SCOUTS**

£10 per youth member. Price includes souvenir badge.

LC to BP, Kenya

22 members of the Linnet Clough Service Team are heading out to Kenya, leaving on the 16th April and returning on the 1st May 2011 they will be carrying out two charity projects whilst they are there as part of a "bushman's holiday".

On arrival at Nairobi they will be met by a coach for a 7 hour trip to Kisii, and the home of the charity 'Harambee for Kenya'. Harambee is Kenyan for all pull together, which is what they will be doing at a safe house for homeless young people whose previous home was on the towns dump. Our task whilst they are there is to build a set of steps into a footpath to the side of the house. The steps will benefit not only the safe house but the local village too.

The 2nd charity is a bit closer to the crew's hearts, as they are heading to Nyeri, the home and final resting place of Lord Baden Powell. Boy Scouts of Kenya built a three storey building in 2007 for the centenary, but sadly ran out of funds to complete it. The plan was to have a shop on the ground floor, offices on the 2nd and a hostel for visiting groups on the 3rd. The BP centre is next to the cemetery, which is the resting place of Lord and Lady Baden Powell.

The crew are fortunate enough to be arriving at Nyeri on 23rd April St Georges Day. At sunset they will be taking part in a service and renewal of promise at the graveside. Kenyan Boy Scouts have asked the crew to build a shelter in the grounds, for visitors to get shade whilst they have refreshments.

All 22 members of the team are paying their own way for the trip, with no funding from HQ, County, District or group.

They have been fund raising, to enable us to pay for the equipment to undertake the 2 projects. They have held a medieval banquet and did the Three Peaks Challenge in 24 hours, all at the same time as helping maintain Linnet Clough. They have received some personnel donations, and a very nice donation from the County to enable them to leave something in the name of Greater Manchester East.



Local groups are supporting them, collecting pens, pencils, t-shirts, underwear, small toys, toothbrushes and paste, soap, sponges and football shirts, all sizes and all teams. They been able to purchase some plastic cases (pencil case size), which they are handing out and requesting groups fill them with items from the list. Once they are out in Kenya they will be able to pass these cases onto the local children.

You can follow them on the trip, as they have our own blog! www.linnetclough.blogspot.com

If any groups or districts are interested in collecting goods for us, or making a donation to the project funds, please give us a call at Linnet Clough 0161 427 1688 they would be more than happy to explain the trip further.

County Diary

March		May	
Wed 16 th	Join in Jamboree Meeting	Sun 1 st	St Georges Day Parade – Windsor Castle
Fri 18 th – Sun 20 th	Service Crew Weekend – Linnet Clough	Wed 11 th	Explorer Team meeting
Sat 19 th	Scout Activity Badge Day	Sat 30 th	Explorer Manchester City Challenge Day
April		June	
Wed 20 th	Chief Scout Gold Award presentations	Sat 25 th – Sun 26 th	Join in Jamboree Day
Sat 23 rd	St Georges Day		
Fri 29 th	Royal wedding		

SCOUT ACTIVITY BADGE DAY

LINNET CLOUGH SCOUT CAMP AND ACTIVITY CENTRE

Saturday 19th March 2011

Give your Scouts the opportunity to come to Linnet Clough and gain a 'Badge in a Day'.

On this day Scouts will have the choice to have a go at one of the following badges: **Orienteer, Mechanic, Camp Cook and Camper*** (*for Camper Badge, you must have already camped in a tent as a Scout for at least 15 nights)

Date: Saturday 19th March 2011

Venue: Linnet Clough Scout Camp and Activity Centre, Gibb Lane, Mellor, Stockport. SK6 5NB

Time: Start: 10:00am / Finish: 2:00pm

Activity Badges: Orienteer, Mechanic, Camp Cook, Camper (*Scouts completing either Camp Cook or Camper may wish to camp overnight!*)

Cost: £5 per person to include day visitor fee, handouts and badge.
NB. Scout wishing to complete Camp Cook or Camper will need to bring own food, utensils, etc.

Closing Date: Please return the completed Booking Form with payment by 1st March 2011

For Badge Requirements, please enter the following into your Web browser:

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/badges/scout-activity-index.htm>

CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD RECEPTION

Wednesday 20th April 2011

The first of our Chief Scout's Gold Award Receptions this year takes place at the Gita Bhavan Hindu Temple, Whalley Range.

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 completed in full by the Scout receiving the Award and submitted to County Office no later than 31st March 2011

For further details, please contact John Dawson (ACC Scout Section)

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

Happy 25th Birthday



Happy 25th Anniversary to all in the Beaver Scout Section. Now two months into their anniversary year

On the left is the special badge that has been designed just for our County Beavers, these are now limited edition, just to those ordered by the colony leaders. The Beaver team already know of & have received invites to several celebrations taking place for this special year, remember to send reports of your celebrations in to County Life, so that all in the County can see what our youngest section have been up to.



News from the Clough

New Go-Kart Track

Thanks to the generosity of Derek Mealey in memory of his scouting friend and the successful application by the Junior Crew to SKMoney for a grant we are opening a new purpose built track for pedal karts. The ground work has been done by Public Service students from Chesterfield College as part of a community project. We appreciate the generosity and hard work of all concerned. The track is located next to the low ropes course and is now available for bookings. The cost for Scout & Guide organisations to hire the track and three pedal karts for one hour is £30. Why not book a visit for your Group and stage your own Formula One Grand Prix tournament?

Golfing attractions

We are also developing a 9 hole pitch and putt golf course near the track and low ropes. The cost will be £1 per person and includes the use of the course, clubs and balls.

We have also purchased Tri-Golf sets which are suitable for the younger age groups, including Beavers. The cost is £10 per kit per hour which is suitable for up to 10 people. The kit can be used on the camping fields.



Site Services Badge

We have recently run another successful Campsite Service and Activity Centre Service badge weekend. We had 24 young people from various groups across the County learning how to run a campsite and activity centre and performing service to the site including a new fence around the incinerator. We were pleased to see young people from Groups who had not taken part in these weekends before. If you have anyone interested, our next weekend will be held on 18th-20th November 2011 at a cost of £15 per person which includes all instruction, food etc. Please contact the site for further information.

Availability

We are looking forward to a busy Spring and Summer. We have limited availability in buildings but although we have a lot of bookings for forthcoming Bank Holiday weekends and Summer Camps we still have room for more. Please contact us to book your spot.

Join in Jamboree

If your Group is intending camping on the Join in Jamboree weekend of 24-26th June then please don't forget that you need to book your camp direct with us.

Service Crew

If you would like to join the Service Crew at Linnet Clough we would be delighted to see you. The next weekend will be 18th-20th March, why not come along for an hour or two and see what they do? As well as helping the site run smoothly the Crew also have a lot of fun with monthly socials including bowling and meals out.

Linnet Clough can be contacted on 0161 427 1688 or linnetcloughcamp@aol.com

Ode to the Clough

We got this a bit late last month and therefore below is a Christmas Ode to Linnet Clough that was written by Dave Williams and he read it out at the Christmas Carol service.

Christmas Time is here again,
As we near the end of Twenty-Ten.

Twelve months of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts,
We look forward to the 25th and Brussels sprouts.
The year just gone was full of World Cup fever and
campsite Paraphernalia,
But where in POR does it mention the Vuvuzela?

Carl Hornsby is our Capello,
The consensus of opinion is 'he's not a bad fellow'.
Ann his wife, you could say is our campsite captain,
She makes Steven Gerrard look like the local
chaplain.

The Team picks itself from The Service Crew Squad,
They never miss training, no big salaries, it's your
toilets they rod.

Campsite maintenance, qualified instructors,
volunteers young and old,
Night cap drinks? Yes please, Crew Hut, line them
up and keep them cold.

The Clough Season is 52/7 365
It's SK6 5NB for you and all, that's kept alive.
They say 'All Roads lead to Rome'
But Gibb Lane leads all to the greatest roam.

Cub Field, Scout field, Lynmouth, Norlog,
Constant hot water in every bog.
Low Ropes, High Ropes, They call it the Cube,
And if you run out of toothpaste, there'll be a
spare tube.

Indoor bouldering, all colour co-ordinated,
You have plenty of time so don't get frustrated.
The outdoor climbing wall, in need of a little
tender loving care,
But what's in a look, it's safe for everyone and great
if you dare.

Abseiling, Orienteering, the Beaver Hunt,
Go-Cart Racing, and look a James Hunt.
A shed full of giant garden games and circus tricks,

Trying so hard not to look like a field full of
.....yes, fools.

The joys of life are here free on the Clough,
You regularly here, "Skip you still here", you've
have never had enough.

Some say it's the fresh air, I now disagree,
It's the wanting to be here, by all, to help and for
free.

Many say the average life of a leader in Scouting is
about two years,

Maybe the internal politics, the training
residential, that's what fills them with fears.
But if they spent more time at the GME Scout
Mecca,

They would keep their warrants and continue to
wear their necker.

For me and for many, a genuine pit stop, recharge
to the core,

To not want to revisit, stupid, an ignorant, no
adventure, a total bore.

The place you are visiting tonight is the hub of the
County,

And if the woodpile is dry, go have fun and search
for your bounty.

Well I have said enough about Our Dear Linnet
Clough,

Many out there tonight and throughout Christmas
will be having it rough and tough.

So in true Scouting spirit spare a thought for others
at this time of year,

Some round the corner, some not so near,
And take from tonight a little piece of the magic,
But not the beverage from the Crew Hut, That
would just be totally tragic.

It leaves me to say from me and my group, some
you may have seen,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Team
Linnet Clough

From 1st Haughton Green.

Greater Manchester East



Join the Adventure in Austria

10th - 18th February 2012 (Half Term)

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

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

DON'T MISS OUT - RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY!

For More Details Contact:

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



NETWORK



31st BORDER HIKE

Would you like to compete in a demanding 'Incident Hike' based around the challenging mixed terrain of Gradbach Scout Camp, on the borders of Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire ?

Both competitions (the Border Hike and the John Bradbury Trophy) run side by side for both Scouts & Guides (11yrs to 14yrs old) & Explorers (14 yrs to 18yrs old).

If you would like to join us, the dates for your diary are

16th to 18th September 2011

The competition is based at Gradbach Scout Camp in the heart of the Peak District

Camp from Friday to Sunday
Teams of 4, plus a leader
Only £40

Prizes worth £100 for the winning team in each age group & trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each age group.

All teams receive a Hike Pennant & Certificate for each member who completes the event.

For further information, please contact Tony Rushworth on either 01625 431 006, tony@borderhike.co.uk, or follow the Border Hike links on www.gradbachscoutcamp.org.uk

National Notice Board

- **Emergency SMS** – A brand new service has been released that may help you when you are out and about and happen to get yourselves into a bit of bother. Chances are that if you are in trouble and in need of help you aren't able to get any coverage on your mobile phone to send out calls however you maybe able to send the information out by text. You have to register with the system before you can use it, full details are available on the website: www.emergencysms.org.uk
- **Gift Aid** – some of you with eagle eye may have already noticed but as of the 5th of April transitional relief to gift aid is being removed this will mean that £1 gift aided will be worth 25p (rather than the current 28p).
- **Open Air Laboratories (OPAL)** – the Met Office is hoping that this month Scouts will join the OPAL Climate Survey which they are leading as part of the Meteorologist Activity Badge. Information is available to download as a PDF from the Scout Website:
<http://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/3281/resource-pack-the-met-office-scout-meteorologist-activity-pack?cat=7,64,178>
- **Resources** – the association have moved the resources section of Scoutbase as part of their streamlining of the site. Resources can now be found in the member's area that can be found by using the following link <http://www.scouts.org.uk/supportresources>. Fact sheets and publications can be found by clicking on the "online catalogue" (in blue) in the second paragraph.
- **Support New Zealand Scouts** – following the earthquake in Christchurch at the end of February the NZ Scout Association are collecting donations for blankets. If you wish to donate money to help with the purchase of the blankets then please visit www.scouts.org.nz and donate just £4 to purchase a blanket.
- **University Volunteers** – The University of Manchester have student volunteers who are looking to help on a regular basis as part of your team or for an individual event tackling projects such as fundraising, campaigning, providing activities or event support. The students can provide fresh ideas and skill and possibly open the world of Scouting to so many more students. If you would like further information contact the volunteering team at the university on volunteers@manchester.ac.uk or visit their website at www.manchester.ac.uk/getvolunteers.

Message from the editor.....Andrea Dolan

The spirit of sharing is running through county life this month, from the wise words given to us by our CC (who I think has invented a new word in communitarianisum) to the time and effort everyone puts into scouting both as a Scout, as a leader and supporter.

Whether you are sharing your time with others or letting them lend your bike when you are not using it, we at County Life want to hear about it!

Special good luck wishes to the Linnet Clough service crew on their adventures in Kenya.

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

Andrea

