

SCOUTLOOK



Altrincham & District Scout Council

April - May 2009

Web Site: www.altrincham-scouts.org.uk

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From the District Commissioner:

St. George's Day Service at 3 pm at St. Mary's Church, Bowdon.

We look forward to welcoming all of the members of our Scout Groups and local Guides and Brownies to our annual service. We will be joined by our MP, Graham Brady and other dignitaries. The Rev. Roger Preece, vicar at St. Mary's, will lead us. He's got some new ideas about how to honour our founder, Robert Baden-Powell, and to celebrate Scouting. The service will give us an opportunity to meet together under one roof, renew our promises, interact, sing, praise and pray.

On behalf of the Chief Scout, I also have the enviable duty of presenting awards to several distinguished leaders and helpers in the District. Come and cheer for your colleagues.

Parents are welcome to join us. All children are the responsibility of their parents until they are inside the church. If parents do not attend, they can collect the young people at about 4 pm from the church.

St. George's Day Parade

It is with regret that the parade before and after the service has been cancelled. We apologise for not giving you more notice. The District Executive is responsible for the parade and the service. Unfortunately they have had to make the decision to cancel the parade. We learned, only last week, from the Local Authority that the police were unable to provide marshalling support.

The root cause is an Act of Parliament. The police are not responsible for highways and traffic management. That is the responsibility of local authorities. Unless the organisation which requires policing is willing to pay a private company or the police to marshal it, the police are not available to work. The Act of Parliament was enacted in response to either one or a number of deaths in the Midlands during parades along public roads.

The safety of the people in our care is our primary concern. Without the police presence we could not be sure of a safe progression through the streets of Altrincham. We did not have time to consider other alternatives thoroughly.

As you may have heard, other Districts have lost their parades. Wigan's was cancelled last year and Sale has had no parade for several years. The parade we had last year was marshalled by the police but, technically, they

were in breach of the Act.

The issue of whether the District pays a private company or the police to provide the marshals for parades in future years is open to debate. It should be discussed in Groups and at the District AGM.

At the last minute there was a suggestion that Trafford might have monies available for policing the parade. However we would need to apply for these funds and there was never enough time for us to do so before the responsible person in Trafford was away on leave.

Accordingly, we have felt obliged to stick to our decision to cancel the parade for this year, but we have asked Trafford to write to us explaining the procedures for holding the Parade in future. We will look to see how viable this is in the next twelve months. The current situation is that if we met the full cost of the Marshals to comply with the act we would probably have to double the capitation to fund it. At the time of writing there is no guarantee that the Private Policing bill would be met by the Council.

Yours in Scouting, Lucy Natrass

News from Headquarters

Nights Away Notification

Now that more Groups and Sections are going camping, please remember to let Lucy know on the Nights Away Notification forms. It is important to include a Home Contact Person.

Remember also to inform the parents of the young people on the camp who that Home Contact person is. Technically the Home Contact should not be a relative of one of the members of the camp. I appreciate that it is often difficult to find someone else to agree.

Nights Away Permits

As mentioned in previous issues of Scoutlook, most Nights Away permits will expire in Dec. '09 after five years. Renewal is relatively easy. Just contact one of the Nights Away Advisors and ask him or her to visit your camp to discuss general camping considerations and how you have met them.

If your camp is going to be a distance away, please contact one of the Nights Away Advisors before you go to discuss your programme, menu and other camping considerations.

It would be a shame if Nights Away Permits were unable

to be renewed because leaders did not follow these simple instructions.

County News:

A Celebration of Excellence in Scouting

As you have read in previous issues of Scoutlook and other publications, this event will be held at Dunham campsite on Sat. 9th May. Young people throughout the county who have completed their Chief Scout's bronze, silver or gold awards have been invited. Local dignitaries and representatives of local businesses, industries and enterprises have also been invited to see what Scouting can offer. Districts are providing activities and events. Altrincham's specialist team of rocket launchers, George Sharp, ADC Scouts; Ken Williams, CSL; and Colin Ellis, ESL, will amaze the punters with their simulations. Altrincham has agreed to provide refreshments and help with logistics on the day. If anyone would like to join our team, please let Lucy know. The more the merrier.

Speaking with Confidence

We are relying on Scouts and Explorers to talk to dignitaries about scouting and show them around the activities at Dunham campsite on the day. Chris Maxted, who is involved with scouting in Sale, is running a one day workshop for Scouts and Explorers who are helping with the Day of Excellence. It will be held on Sat. 2nd May at Sale HQ on Marsland Rd. in Sale from 10-3 pm. Anyone who would like to take advantage of this useful training is asked to contact Lucy who will contact Chris. The training might come in very useful for things like job interviews, Uni. open days etc...

Dunham Scout Camp:

Paul Wilkinson is continuing to look for people to give a few hours at weekends for essential maintenance. Please contact him if you feel that your troop or unit down could help.

Dunham Park Scout Camp now has an updated website: www.dunhamparkscoutcamp.org (note no .uk) and the associated fotopic site: <http://dunhamparkscoutcamp.fotopic.net/>

Also, new for 2009:
Wet weather shelter / Dutch Barn: available for all : useful for shelter for mid week meetings and a Refurbished climbing tower.

Fees for 2009 are:
Camping is £3 per person per 24hrs.
Frank Harrop Lodge is £130 per 24hrs(includes 20 camp fees)

Booking agents:
Mick / Lesley 0161 748 0819:
dunham.bookings@virgin.net

District and Group Information and News:

District Directory:

The New Directory is now available. If you need any more copies for your group please contact the District Secretary

Iris Emery iris.emery@virgin.net or Tel 0161 980 6997

Can I remind everyone that the ONLY way it can be kept up to date is if you all let us know if you change your Address, Email Address or telephone Number. New email addresses in particular are very relevant as we do most of our communicating this way and Alan and I try to keep this up to date. Try being the operative word.

Cub Warren:

Are you looking for a near by, safe, secluded base for a camp for cubs, scouts or Explorers or a peaceful day in the country for beavers? There's a good solid hut, tables and chairs, toilets, hot water, a kitchen, a campfire circle and acres and acres of fields all around. Look no further than our own beloved Cub Warren near Plumley just off the A556.

Hurry, hurry to sign up while dates last! 4th Hale cubs, 1st Hale Barns Cubs and a Guide Unit have all signed up so far.

Contact Stuart Naylor. He'd be happy to have your booking.

Cub Leaders' meeting:

Wed. 29th April at 1st Timperley 8:15.

Please send a representative. We have a lot to discuss. Tell us which games have recently been successful. We look forward to seeing you there.

Cubs chess

The cubs of Altrincham District have been taking part in a series of six inter pack chess evenings between September and February during which they competed to win the District Cub Chess trophy for their pack.

The winners were:

Best Individual Score:	Mark Holland	2nd Hale
Best Pack Score :	1st West Timperley	

After the completion of the inter pack tournament we held an individual competition to qualify for the county cub chess tournament. The team selected then travelled to Swinton the next Saturday to compete in the tournament. On the day all of the team played incredibly well, 5 of the team were unbeaten, and Altrincham District came 1st. The team consisted of the following 8 cubs from across the district.

Guillaume Quesnel	1st Hale Barns
Victor Quesnel	1st Hale Barns
Sean Henry	1st West Timperley
Mark Holland	2nd Hale
Sean Patterson	6th Altrincham
Arun Denton	4th Hale
Patrick Chen	2nd Timperley
Christopher Kurkowski	1st Timperley

After such a fantastic achievement attention turns to next years chess which starts in September and a great opportunity for new players and old to come and join in and try to match the achievements of this year.

Greg Barber - ACSL 4th Hale

News from the Sections:

Beavers:

1st Hale Barns beavers have been learning about beavers in the wild.

4th Hale beavers learned about healthy eating by assembling and eating healthy food.

Cubs

1st Hale Barns cubs have been working on Emergency Aid and have completed their Stage 1 and Stage 2 badges.

1st Timperley cubs had an Easter egg hunt and made pigs of themselves afterwards on chocolate.

2nd Timperley cubs decorated hard boiled eggs, rolled them down the slope and tried not to crack them.

2nd Hale cubs have completed their science badge with sessions led by the teachers at Loreto school.

3rd Altrincham and 4th Hale cubs enjoyed an excellent illustrated talk by a woman who had set up and now administers schools in Sierra Leone.

4th Hale cubs are working on the Community Challenge. One section learned about our Muslim neighbours during a questions and answer session with a member of the Muslim Community Centre on Grove La. The other section listened to and asked questions of a member of the Sharston Synagogue.

Scouts:

2nd Timperley scouts have been learning how to look after and maintain their bikes. They are lucky to have leaders who are particularly interested in cycling. They stayed in hostel- like accommodation for one night and enjoyed riding on the Tissington Trail.

2nd Hale scouts completed their science badge and made rockets at Loreto School. On the first meeting after the clocks had changed, they were out on the field in Timperley playing rounders until they could no longer see the ball.

Explorers:

No news this month

Leader Training:

Please note the training courses which are being put on by the County. A schedule is attached to this issue of Scoutlook along with a County Training form. If you want to apply please complete the form and send it with a cheque for the appropriate amount to the County Office. Your Group should refund the fee. You will get a receipt when you attend.

The County course leaders would like people to apply as soon as possible for courses and at least two weeks before the course. Turning up on the night will not do. You might also find that the course was cancelled because leaders, although intending to attend, never got around to applying.

Up-to-date details of courses can be checked on the County Website:

www.gmwscouts.org.uk

Costs for the Training Courses are as shown below:

Cost of Training for 2009	
Getting Started 10.00-15.30	£30.00 (bring packed lunch)
Evening Course 19.00-21.30	£5.00
First Aid 09.30-16.30	£10.00 (bring packed lunch)
Residential Weekend (GCA)	£50.00
Nights Away (2 weekends)	£80.00
Modular Days 09.30-16.30	£10.00 (bring packed lunch)
Afternoon Courses 13.00-15.00	£5.00

District Diary			
	April	May	Future
Beavers			Beaver Funday and Sleepover Sat 20th June
Cubs			
Scouts	Lord Derby Challenge Hike Sat 18th April		
Explorers			
District	District Exec Meeting Tues 21st April (Accounts Meeting) St George's Day Service Sun 26th April 2.45-4.00 pm St Mary's Church, Bowdon Cub Leaders Meeting Wed 29th April 8.15 pm 1st Timperley HQ	"Speaking with Confidence" workshop for Scouts & Explorers Sat 2nd May 10.00 -15.00 Sale District HQ, Marsland Road County Celebration of Excellence Sat 9th May - pm Dunham Scout Camp District Exec Meeting Tues 19th May	Masonic Lodge Open Day Sun 14th June GSL's Meeting Thurs 2nd July 8.15 pm Ollerbarrow Road District AGM Wed 8th July 1st Hale Barns HQ District Exec Meeting Tues 15th Sept

Scoutlook is planned to be sent by email at the end of the first week of each alternate month, if there are sufficient news items available. This information sheet is intended to improve communications within the District. Please feel free to send in any material which you think might be useful for others connecting with Scouting, preferably by email to Alan Marriott by the last day of the previous month. If you are going to change your E-mail address please let Alan Marriott know, otherwise you will no longer receive Scoutlook and your address will be deleted from the Scoutlook e-mail address book.

Please remember: This is YOUR newsletter. Please send in information about what you have been doing. Anything interesting planned for next term?