

SCOUTLOOK



Altrincham & District Scout Council

August-September 2008

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

Editor: alan_marriott@lineone.net

From the District Commissioner:

Congratulations for having completed another busy season of scouting activities. The weather has not been wonderful for camping, but we can be grateful that it was not as wet as last year. I would like to express my thanks to every one of you who helped create opportunities for enjoying the great outdoors for the young people in our care. It has been a pleasure to attend so many AGMs and bar-b-ques and find out how well you are all getting on and how hardworking you leaders are.

I hope that most of you are now having a good rest from Scouting and can come back in September with some fresh ideas and renewed energy. Remember to keep telling everyone you meet about how much fun the adults have in scouting. We need all the help we can find. With more leaders we can spread the responsibilities and offer more activities to more young people.

How about making some new resolutions for this autumn? How about planning to go on some training courses? Remember that when you accepted your warrant, you agreed to attend five hours of training a year. Please see the section on training.

May I wish you a peaceful break.

Best wishes, Lucy

In Memoriam

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death in the middle of June of Sue Sharples, GSL at 4th Bowdon, after a long illness, bravely borne. The large number of people at her funeral at St, Mary's, Bowdon, where she was a regular worshipper, including friends, family, colleagues and scouters was a tribute to her courage and determination throughout her life.

Her brother Dave spoke of her childhood in Paisley, Scotland, and the family's three year sojourn in New Zealand beginning when she was 13. After earning a degree in English at St. Andrew's she tried teaching but lacked "that ruthless streak." She joined the Inland Revenue and worked there for many years.

Sue became a brownie leader when her daughter, Laura, joined the brownies and the team needed more helpers. When Laura decided to join the Explorers at 4th Bowdon, she was the first girl. Sue went along on expeditions, was drawn into the 4th Bowdon team, led the Explorer Unit with help from her son, Tom, and accepted the post of GSL. In that role she always saw what needed doing, rolled up her

sleeves and got on with the job. She continued to manage an unusual Explorer Unit up to six months before her death when many of us with less patience with the unconventional behaviour of some teenaged boys would have quit many years before. One of the sentences which sustained her was, "Act as if what you do makes a difference."

After her first struggle with cancer, she was determined to live life to the full. Her brother said, "There never was a trace of self-pity, and she never shook her fist at this unfair world." She walked to Machu Pichu, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and undertook the 3 Peak Challenge in under 24 hours, cheering on those in the party who might have been feeling faint hearted.

At the funeral, Sasha Manning-Johnson, accompanied on the organ by Tim Kennedy, sang beautifully. We were treated to her tribute to Sue with Mozart's aria, "Ave Maria" and the Skye Boat Song. The Rev. Keith Hine led us in prayers reminding us that, "Sue lives in you and with your values: charity, courage and love." Sasha finished with such a heart felt rendition of John Rutter's "The Lord Bless you and Keep You" that we were all subdued in our grief.

But as the family stood up to leave, Tim Kennedy rushed from the organ to the piano and burst into Scot Joplin's "The Entertainer." We could all feel a rush of the warmth of Sue wash over us. She didn't want us to be sad. Barney Barns, District CSL, summed it up for many of us when he said, "I could almost hear her laughing."

She will be sadly missed.

National and County News:

Scouts Activity Badge: Angler

Lucy has received a letter from the Environment Agency which is offering partnership opportunities with the local Environment Agency Fisheries and Recreation team as well as with local angling clubs. These partnerships will enable Scouts to complete the Angler Activity Badge which is sponsored by the Environment Agency.

If you have any scouts who are particularly interested in angling, why not contact Andy Brown on andy.brown@environment-agency.gov.uk or Darren Birch on darren.birch@anglingdevelopmentboard.org.uk for more information. They are giving away books and can explain the requirements for the badge.

County Hiking Competition- 12th October, Ashworth Valley:

This is a new event for the County. It will be based at the Ashworth Valley campsite. This will be a one day incident hike in the area around the campsite of approximately 10 to 12 miles.

Teams will be expected to fill in route cards and complete the legs as close to their predicted times as possible. To ensure that this is a safe event there will be checkpoints with radio contact and sweep teams with kit checks at the start. Troops/teams will be welcomed and encouraged to camp on the Fri/Sat nights . It will be good to have an informal camp where troop and teams can meet before hand. There are good facilities at the campsite.

There will be a maximum of 16 teams and leaders must apply through their ADC Scouts. Details have been circulated through the county Digest but anyone needing a copy can contact George Sharp for more information.

Omega Survival Camp 19th to 21st Sept. (at Middlewood Campsite.):

Applications for this event are now closed. However, if you have missed the deadline, and still want to attend, why not contact the ACC Scouts through the County Office and say how disappointed you are. If there is enough interest, the County might run another similar camp in the future. .

Skills Training Weekend - 17th –19th Oct. (at Giants Seat campsite in Radcliffe District.):

At the request of leaders in the county, the ACC Scouts has set up a scouting skills training weekend. Giants Seat is one of the few sites where you can learn how to and actually chop down trees. It is also good for survival and backwoods cooking skills.

Details have been sent from County Office but if you have not received information about this event, please do contact County Office. To apply to attend you will need to complete a County Training Form and send it back to the Office. (These are available on the GMW County Website under adult leader training.) The leaders of the event naturally would like to know what skills applicants would like to concentrate on so they have sufficient resources. So please include that information when you apply.

This will be open to all scout leaders and young leaders in the scout section to learn or extend their skills such as putting up tents, knots and pioneering etc. Leaders from outside of the scout section can also attend and learn these skills if they want to. This will be camp and indoor based.

We would hope to see a good turnout from Altrincham District. Some leaders at 1st Timperley have already said that they are keen to attend.

Scout Badge Activity Badge Training:

Scout leaders around the County have been suggesting a "Train the Instructor" training course for scouts who want to gain the Instructor activity badge. They have also been suggesting that the County put on specific activity badge courses that might not get enough support from an

individual troop or group. ADC (Scouts)'s have been asked to get feedback from the troops in their Districts. So if you are interested, or have some ideas about it, please contact George Sharp, ADC (Scouts).

Joint Police and Davyhulme Band Concert - Fri. 19th Sept. at Wellacre Technical College.

This should be a very enjoyable event. The Manchester Police band is absolutely excellent and the Davyhulme Scout Band offers a wonderful opportunity for young people to enjoy playing in a brass band and makes a very good sound. It would be great if people supported the concert. Why not take your Scout Troop to see and hear Scouts in action? You never know, some of them might be inspired to take up a brass instrument. If they stick with it and progress, they'll have fun playing music with others for many years to come.

Contact Dennis on 07970 465637 or Jim on 07973 80966

County Walking Permits:

We are pleased that the following leaders responded to George Sharp's invitation to all Scout leaders to gain walking permits to lead groups of scouts. They have been assessed by the Adventurous Activities County Walking Assessor, Keith Lang, and have been awarded T1 and T2 permits, non-winter conditions in England and Wales. They have also attended a theory session taught by Heather McBean about how to prevent, recognise, and treat hypothermia.

They are : George Sharp, Kenny Williams, David Smith, Colin Ellis, Tom Green, Andy Gravett and Chris Williams.

If you are keen to get your Scouts and Explorers out walking and go beyond 1500 m, sign up for the assessment. You'll feel more confident about taking young people out because you know you will be authorised to do it, and you will learn some useful skills.

Contact George Sharp for more information.

District Information and News:

Masons' Open Day:

The Masons, who meet in Timperley, are holding an Open Day on Sunday 21st September from 10 – 4. They are offering an excellent opportunity for a Scout Group or two to show what they can do by providing demonstrations or displays during that time.

The Masons have been very supportive of Scouting over the years and have given generously to several projects. They have offered a considerable sum towards the new barn which is planned to be built in Dunham Park Scout Campsite.

Lucy would be delighted to hear from cub packs or scout troops who would be willing to take part in this event. The opportunity could be shared by two packs or troops. One could provide some activities in the morning and one could come in the afternoon.

Obituary

It is with sadness we hear about the passing of Mrs Jean Owen.

She has been active for the Scouts at 1st Hale for a very long time. Her son, Martin, was a cub and a scout there and even when he left to join the Venture Unit at 2nd Hale she stayed on the Executive Committee and was a valued member always there when anything needed doing.

Cub Warren:

This wonderful resource, set in lovely Cheshire countryside, has been enjoyed this summer by 4th Hale cubs, some 1st Timperley cubs, 1st Hale Barns cubs, Altrincham Guides and Swinton cubs. How about using it for a day for activities with your beavers, cubs or scouts, or for an over night stopping place on a long hike for scouts or explorers? It's so near to us and yet so far from hustle and bustle. Phone Stuart Naylor for availability and then go there and enjoy the great outdoors.

Group Accounts:

Could all Groups that have had their Annual General Meetings please make sure that a copy of the Accounts have been sent to the District Treasurer.

Group Secretaries:

Please could Group Secretaries let the District Secretary have the names of any new Executive Officials voted on to the Group Executive Committees.

Art and Craft Materials:

The District maintains membership of GRUMPY, a good source of useful, very cheap junk and all sorts of art and craft materials. We can have an unlimited number of additional cardholders for £2.00 each. If you would like an application form for a card, please contact Lucy.

There are now two big warehouses. One is in Salford, M6 6FL. The other one, in Gorton, is about to move to another building near the Gorton Monastery. No date has been announced but they are hoping to move before September.

District Exec Meeting:

Please note that the date for this meeting has been moved from 9th to 16th September.

News from the Sections:

Beavers:

Beaver Fun Evening and Giant Sleepover:

The '08 annual Beaver funday was an event with a difference. Instead of the usual activities on a Sunday afternoon in mid-June, the beavers began their fun in the early evening of a Saturday. After nearly 150 of them enjoyed obstacle courses, planting seeds, making fruit kabobs and other craft activities, some of them went home. However, some stayed at 3rd Altrincham's HQ to sleep over and about 70 beavers walked, crocodile fashion, through Hale to St. Peter's Assembly Rooms. They all found their sleeping bags which had been kindly left by their parents ahead of time, and began the process of settling down in the big hall to watch "Flushed Away." By about midnight all of them were asleep, having sagged Scoutlook -Aug-Sept08

gently down into their bedding during the film. Meanwhile the leaders were in the scout hut having a Chinese banquet and a chat.

When the Beavers began to emerge in the morning, which was later than most cubs creep out at a Cub Warren camp, they were treated to croissants, buns and a variety of spreads. Each was given a toothbrush, some toothpaste and half a cup of water. They all lined up against the fence looking out towards the railway line. On the count of three, they all had a good brush and then spat into the foliage in a concerted effort.

After they'd all received their badges, they were collected by their parents to go home for a good sleep.

Our thanks for an excellent event go to Glenda Gould, ADC beavers, Debbie Adcott for the films and projection equipment, and the team of beaver leaders who planned and ran the event.

Jokes:

More jokes supplied by ADC(Beavers)

Waiter do you have frogs legs?
Yes sir

Then hop into the kitchen and get me a stake.

Did you hear about the Wally who went skiing?
He skied up the slope and caught the ski lift down.

If I bought 100 buns for a pound, what would each bun be, said the teacher?
Stale shouted a student.

Cubs

Cubs Chess:

All cubs are welcome to attend all or some of the sessions. We aim to hold about six sessions between mid-Sept. and the end of Feb. Cubs needn't be good chess players to come. After all, one of the purposes of the club is to provide instruction and strategies. Cubs just need to have an interest in improving their chess game. Boards and chess pieces are provided.

We aim to move the club around different huts and different weekday evenings so that cubs only occasionally miss their cub pack evening if they are playing chess instead.

The dates and venues booked so far are:

Wed. 24th Sept at 1st West Timperley 6:30 – 8 pm

Tues. 14th Oct. at 1st Timperley 6:30 – 8 pm.

Sat. 28th Feb. '09 afternoon District chess competition venue t.b.a.

Sat. 8th March '09– County Chess Competition venue t.b.a.

We can cater for about 30 cubs, so it would be great to have a good turnout. If anyone knows of an adult who might like to help with the chess club, please let Lucy know.

Cub and One Camp:

Dunham Park Scout Camp, June, '08

Nearly two hundred cubs and their parents from seven

packs turned up on the Friday night and started to pitch tents, erect dining shelters, carry boxes of food and gear and settle in. When the theme of "The Circus" was announced, parents and cubs got together to plan their crafts and costumes. On Saturday morning after flag break the creativity began in earnest in between football matches, cricket tournaments, opportunities to play with the circus skills equipment, canoeing and meals.

Colin Ellis, ESL, the Stopford family, James Bell, ASL, and Greg Barber, ACSL, kindly ran canoeing sessions on the pond. Each cub had about forty minutes in a canoe learning how to steer the thing away from the weeds at the side. Then each group of canoes came together in a line. Each cub, each braver than the last, was asked to run along the line of boats and get back into his. Most fell in, but some managed the passage and kept dry. Many cubs thought this was the highlight of the camp.

In the evening we gathered around the campfire and enjoyed a good sing and shout led by Time Henstock and Mike Timmins, scouters from the Warrington area.

On Sunday the day dawned warm, sunny and windy. We took advantage of the weather and got all of the tents down dry. Meanwhile Ken Balfour, CSL and Ant Waters, ACSL, organised a grand session of relay races which ended with several tugs of war including one with only the adults and the cubs cheering them on. At about 3 pm the cubs donned their costumes and props for the grand parade to show off what they had been making. We were all impressed by how each group had interpreted the theme and created colourful and imaginative costumes and props using bin liners, paint, glitter, orange wool, cardboard strips and cardboard boxes. Certificates and prizes were distributed and we all had a big cheer for a wonderful weekend.

Our thanks go to all of the cubs and parents who prepared and took part, all of the leaders who helped to organise the equipment, the duty wardens at Dunham Park Scout Camp Site and to Freda Clarke, District Cub Leader, who did all of the paperwork and most of the donkey work.

How can we wait until 2010 for another Cub and One Camp. What will the theme be then?

Scouts:

3rd Altrincham's trip to Kandersteg, Switzerland

We are delighted to report that about 70 members of the greater 3rd Altrincham family are travelling to Kandersteg by coach in August. Gordon Fyfe, GSL and IT Supremo, has made a website about the trip so we can see what they are up to while they're there. We are also looking forward to hearing more about it when they get back. Look at the District website and follow the links.

Explorers:

No News this month

Leader Training:

Please note the training courses which will be put on by the County. A schedule is included in this Scoutlook. If you want to apply for those you must complete a County Training 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.

In addition, we will be running a FIRST RESPONSE COURSE at 1st Timperley Scout Hut on Tues. 30th September and Tues. 7th October from 7:30 – 10. First Response Certificates are valid for three years. Those leaders whose First Response Certs. have not yet expired may attend the first session only for a refresher.

The cost, which should be paid by your Group, is £6.00 for one session and £12.00 for two. As this course is being run by Altrincham District, you do not need to complete a County Training Course form. Just contact Lucy or Gordon Fyfe directly by email saying that you would like a place on the course.

A current Leader Training schedule is on the next page, but up-to-date details should be checked on the County Website:

www.gmwscouts.org.uk

Leader Training Courses - 2008

Day	Date	Course	Venue	Course type
Tuesday	18 March	Child Protection	1 st Timperley	Evening
Saturday	15 March 08	Getting Started (3,5,12 & 14)	Wigan Metro 1 st Golborne	Day
Tuesday	8 April	Child Protection	Stretford District	Evening
Sunday	13 April	1 st Response	3 rd Worsley	Day
Wednesday	16 April	Modules 7 & 15	3 rd Davyhulme	Evening
Monday	28 April	Child Protection	7 th Wigan	Evening
Thursday	15 May	Child protection	Leigh District	Evening
Wednesday	30 April	Modules 17 & 19	3 rd Davyhulme	Evening
Sunday	18 May 08	Getting Started (3,5,12 & 14)	3 rd Altrincham	Day
Sunday	18 May	1 st Response	3 rd Worsley	Day
Thursday	12 June	Child protection	Sale Central (5 th Sale)	Evening
Saturday	14 June 08	Modules 6,7,8,9,13,15, and 18	Ellesmere District	Day 9.30-4.30
Sunday	15 June	1 st Response (ADD on for AD ACT)	3 rd Worsley	Day
Weekend	27/29 June 08	Nights Away Module 16 1st Weekend	Bispham Hall Scout Estate	Weekend
Sunday	13 July	1 st Response	3 rd Worsley	Day
Sunday	21 September	1 st Response	3 rd Worsley	Day
	21 or 28 September 08	Child Protection	Sale District	weekend
Sunday	14 September 08	Getting Started (3,5,12 & 14)	Salford Metro	Day
Weekend	19/21 September	Nights Away Module 16 2nd Weekend GCA Course Modules TBC	Bispham Hall Scout Estate	Weekend
Monday	6 October	Child Protection	Wigan HQ	Evening
Sunday	19 October 07	1 st Response (ADD on for AD ACT)	3 rd Worsley	Day
Tuesday	11 November	Child protection	3 rd /1 st Eccles	Evening
Sunday	16 November 08	Modules 6,7,8,9,13,15 and 18	17 th Stretford	Day 9.30-4.30
Sunday	16 November	1 st Response	3 rd Worsley	Day
Wednesday	26 November	Child protection	Urmston District	Evening
Saturday	29 November 08	Getting Started (3,5,12 and 14)	TBC	Day
Sunday	14 December	1 st Response	3 rd Worsley	Day

COST OF TRAINING FOR 2008	
Day Course 10 am - 3.30 pm £10.00 (bring packed lunch)	
Evening Course 7 pm - 9.30 pm	£5.00
First Aid 9.30 am - 4.30 pm	£10.00 (bring packed lunch)
Residential Weekend (GCA)	£50.00
Nights Away (2 weekends)	£80.00

For
r
up to date details check the website www.gmwscouts.org.uk

District Diary			
	August/September	October	Future
Beavers			
Cubs	Cub Chess Wed 24th Sept 6.30-8.00 pm 1st West Timperley HQ	Cub Chess Tues 14th Oct 6.30-8.00 pm 1st Timperley HQ	
Scouts	Omega Survival Camp Weekend 19-21st Sept Middlewood Camp Site	County Hiking Competition Sun 12th Oct Venue tba	
Explorers			
District	District Exec Meeting Tues 16th Sept County AGM Wed 17th Sept Formby Hall, Tyldesley First Response Course Tues 30th Sept 7.30-10.00 pm 1st Timperley HQ	First Response Course Tues 7th Oct 7.30-10.00 pm 1st Timperley HQ Team Meeting Wed 8th Oct 8.00 pm Warren Drive GSL's Meeting Thurs 30th Oct 8.15 pm 1st Hale Barns HQ	Cub Warren Users Meeting Tues 4th Nov 8.15 pm Ollerbarrow Road

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.