

# SCOUTLOOK



## *Altrincham & District Scout Council*

**December 2008 - January 2009**

**Web Site:** [www.altrincham-scouts.org.uk](http://www.altrincham-scouts.org.uk)

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### **From the District Commissioner:**

It is a great pleasure to go around the District visiting Groups and see excellent examples of Scouting. Soon there is going to be an opportunity to celebrate the holders of the Chief's Scout's Award for each section. The County is organising a **Celebration of Scouting Excellence** at Dunham Park Scout Campsite in the afternoon of **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, '09**. Beavers who have achieved their Bronze Awards, cubs who have achieved their Silver Awards, scouts who have achieved their Gold Awards and explorer and network members who have achieved their Duke of Edinburgh Awards or Queen's Scout Awards will all be invited to attend. Parents and friends are also welcome. The County plans to invite some local dignitaries as well. There will be refreshments and activities.

It would be wonderful if Altrincham District could send a big delegation to this celebration. We know that some leaders plan thoroughly and their sections diligently work towards the fulfilment of these Awards. Here's an opportunity to gear the planning of the next term's meetings towards achieving the Award. Most of the young people in your section have probably done most of the requirements for the Challenges. At your leisure, have a look at the list of the things they need to do, figure out what you haven't covered, and then slot that activity in. That's helped your programme planning for next term as well. We look forward to seeing lots of young people gaining their Awards.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work for Scouting this term. I wish all of you a peaceful and healthy holiday season, as well as a merry one.

Yours in Scouting, Lucy Natrass

### **News from Headquarters**

#### **Nights Away Permits:**

The validation period for these permits is five years. Most of these permits held by leaders in Altrincham will expire in Dec. '09. Therefore, during the next camping season in the spring and summer of '09, please plan to get in touch with one of the authorised Nights Away Advisors to invite him or her to come along to one of your camps. He or she will ask some pertinent questions and consider the answers. Then, if satisfied with the standards of camping, he or she will recommend that the leaders involved should receive new Nights Away Permits.

If a camp visit is not practical, the Nights Away Advisors will want to see that the relevant paperwork including menus, equipment lists, programmes including wet weather and dry weather activity plans and the letters to parents are all up to a good standard.

We appreciate that this may seem like just one more bit of bureaucracy to contend with. However, most leaders already demonstrate a high standard in their camps so a visit from an Advisor will be nothing to worry about. Inexperienced leaders should welcome the chance to discuss camping with a knowledgeable scouter. After all, we want to make sure that every young person in our care has the opportunity to experience an excellent camping environment.

### **County News:**

#### **The Sale Gang Show :**

This will be held at the Garrick Theatre in Altrincham during the Feb. half term week. Discounts for parties over ten people are offered. More information is available from the Theatre. Why not plan to take your troop or pack to the show and see what they get up to? It's a great night out.

#### **Dunham Scout Camp:**

Paul Wilkinson is always looking for people to give a few hours at weekends for essential maintenance. Why not take your troop or unit down for a bit of physical exercise cutting brush and shifting logs? One Group in Salford takes their older cubs and young scouts away for a weekend at Dunham, sleeping in the Harrop Lodge, to help with the integration into the Scout troop. How about that for an idea for your Group?

Dunham Park Scout Camp now has a new updated website: [www.dunhamparkscoutcamp.org](http://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.

They are now raising funds for new Beaver / Cub Adventure Playground

There are slight rises in fees for 2009: 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

### **The Urmston District Scout Shop:**

This is open on Saturday mornings for scouting equipment, uniform, badges, scouting greetings cards and many other things. Find the directions using Google.

### **The County Network team:**

All leaders of Network age, 18-25, are invited to a New Year's Eve Party at 3<sup>rd</sup> Davyhulme Scout HQ. It starts at 8 pm and people can stay over in the hut if they want. The cost is about £10 and that includes food and drink. It sounds like a good evening with like minded people. Drag some friends along. If you'd like to go, contact Rik Bradley on [r\\_bradley13@hotmail.com](mailto:r_bradley13@hotmail.com) or Michael Bracewell on 0161- 408-6126.

### **District and Group Information and News:**

#### **The Annual Census:**

This has been arranged for Tuesday 20th January 2009 @ 29 Ollerbarrow Rd, Hale, starting at 7.00pm.

A "Special Plea" from the District Secretary, Iris Emery, to gather all the information you need to fill in the forms as soon as you can.

She would like it to go well this year. Please arrange for someone to attend on the correct evening with all the details ready.

If your Group would like a bit of advice or some help with this **please ask** Iris Emery, District Secretary; Gordon Fyfe, GSL at 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham; or Simon Gould, former District Treasurer. Please don't struggle in silence. We're here to help! We would be pleased to help **before** 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. in order to try avoid last minute problems. Every Group must send a representative. Please phone Iris to make an appointment.

#### **Fellowship Dinner:**

The Fellowship Dinner is being held on Saturday 24th January 2009 at the Quality Inn Bowdon at 7.30pm.

Make sure that you are still in a "Party mood" and come and join the fun. There will be good food and good friends to meet up with.

The price is £22.00 per person. Please let either Hugh Davies 0161 928 4175 or Iris Emery 0161980 6997 know if you will be joining us.

[ Ed: There is a Flyer advertising this event attached to this copy of Scoutlook. Please display it on your HQ Noticeboard ]

#### **Cub Warren:**

When planning your nights away next term and beyond, why not consider spending a night or two at cub warren? You could also use it for a day's activities or as a camping

place if you're going on a long over night hike. Why not take the beavers out for a picnic and a walk in the country? It's only about 20 minutes south on the A556 near Plumley. It's down a track, well away from a main road and surrounded by fields. Although the facilities are particularly excellent for cub packs, every section could make good use of the location. There's a small field, a campfire circle, a brick built hut, a kitchen with cooker, toilets and hot water.

For bookings contact Stuart Naylor whose number is in the District Directory.

#### **Cub leaders' meeting:**

At the recent cub leaders' meeting held at 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley's hut, 1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns, 4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon, 6<sup>th</sup> Altrincham and 4<sup>th</sup> Hale sent representatives. We would have liked to have seen more of you! The science teacher at Loreto School, Mark Baxter, came and talked about the activities he could offer. We have planned to run a Hilda Jordan Activity Day including games, quizzes, physical activities and a craft activity on the afternoon of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan, at 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham Scout Hut. Packs will be invited to send teams of four. More information will be sent out in early January. We hope that many will want to participate. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timperley holds the cup.

#### **1st Timperley:**

1<sup>st</sup> Timperley are the proud owners of a new white van. The GSL, Alan Gill, put a note at the bottom of one of the Group's letters to parents asking if anyone could help. A beaver parent came forward and offered them one that was due to be replaced from among his work vans. It's only three years old and in very good nick. It's a big improvement over the old one because they had to stick a screwdriver into the ignition to get it to start. Many thanks to the parent who donated it. Take a leaf from their book: if you want something, ask. Enquiries about the possibility of borrowing it should be addressed to Alan Gill.

1<sup>st</sup> Timperley's beavers, cubs, scouts, explorers and leaders have recently put on a Gang Show. By all accounts it was a great success. Our intrepid ADC for Scouts, George Sharp, was hauled up on stage to take part in a sketch and got squirted with a water pistol. Many thanks to all the leaders and young people who gave so much time and energy in rehearsals and performance. Congratulations to all of the participants. I'm sure that parents and other supporters were delighted to see so much enthusiasm on stage. Thanks go also to all of those who donated raffle prizes and other prizes to the cause.

#### **New Leaders:**

Altrincham District would like to give a warm welcome to the following new leaders, who have all completed their pre-warrant training. Their appointment certificates have now arrived and will be presented over the coming weeks:-

Linzi Davies - A.B.S.L. 4th Bowdon  
Linda Waddington - A.B.S.L. 4th Bowdon  
Mary Fraser - A.B.S.L. 4th Bowdon  
Stephen Marsh - A.S.L. 1st Timperley  
John Rowlinson - A.S.L. 1st Timperley  
David Botterill - A.S.L. 1st Hale Barns

## Christmas Jokes:

The following jokes have been supplied by Richard Gould. Please feel free to wince at them as appropriate:

1. What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?  
Claustrophobic
2. Why does Santa have 3 gardens?  
So he can ho-ho-ho.
3. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
Snowflakes.
4. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?  
Frostbite.
5. Why was Santa's little helper depressed?  
He had low elf esteem.
6. What do you call Frosty the Snowman in May?  
A puddle.

Tongue twisters:

1. How many deer would a reindeer rain if a reindeer could rain deer?
2. Eleven elves licked eleven little liquorice lollipops.
3. Kris Kringle chose to climb the chimney at Christmas
4. Ten tiny tin trains toot ten times

## Christmas Quiz:

Attached to this copy of Scoutlook is a Christmas Quiz that you may want to use in any Christmas parties etc that you have. It is simple, in principle, giving a list of the starting letters of the titles of a number of Carols and Christmas songs. (e.g. SNHN = Silent Night Holy Night). There are 25 questions in all and they are not as obvious as they seem at first sight.

Here are the answers, printed upside-down. Enjoy the quiz !!

1. Once in Royal David's City, 2. Ding Dong Merrily on high, 3. While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, 4. O Little Town of Bethlehem 5. The Holly and the Ivy 6. Jingle Bells 7. O come all ye faithful 8. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer 9. Joy to the World 10. Brightest and Best ( of the sons of the morning) 11. Away in a manger 12. We wish you a merry Christmas 13. See amid the winter's snow 14. O come O come Immanuel 15. As with gladness men of old 16. God rest ye merry gentlemen 17. We three kings of Orient are 18. Good Christian men rejoice 19. Christians awake salute the happy morn 20. Hark the Herald Angels sing 21. The first nowell 22. Angels from the realms of glory 23. It came upon the midnight clear 24. In the bleak mid-winter 25. Good King Wenceslas.

## News from the Sections:

### Beavers:

6<sup>th</sup> Altrincham beavers made a lovely Christmas present for their mums using a face cloth, nice soaps, florists' paper, card and ribbons. The cubs joined them for a Bingo evening which was a great success

4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon beavers have planted bulbs and made Christmas crafts. They are looking forward to their Christmas party.

### Beavers visit the Garrick Theatre:

A party of 150 beavers from throughout the District, and their adult support teams, are going to see "Aladdin" on Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. It should be a wonderful afternoon. We certainly enjoyed it last year. Many thanks go to Glenda Gould, ADC beavers, and her loyal helpers who organise this each year.

### Cubs

1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns cubs held a Hallowe'en party and enjoyed grisly and gruesome things to touch, smell and eat.

4<sup>th</sup> Hale cubs have been making bird feeding tables with roofs using proper tools which have been purchased over the years. The tables were designed by Graham Mathers, honorary scouter and former craft teacher at Lymm High School, and Toby Tyler, a cub instructor who is an architect. Such professional looking plans for bird tables have seldom been seen! The staff at Atlantic Timber, where they bought the wood, were very impressed. All of the cubs finished their tables to a high standard and also made lardy cake to feed the birds.

4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon cubs have made stretchers and have carried their team mates across the hall. They have tried twice to have a night hike, but have had to cancel because of icy conditions.

### Cubs Chess:

Between 13 and 18 cubs have been turning out to cub chess meetings this term. The most active group by far are those from 1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley. It is wonderful to see how they are starting to think more strategically. During every session Richard White, cub instructor at 4<sup>th</sup> Hale, always gives a short presentation about how to begin the match or end it or, indeed, how to proceed in the middle.

Our thanks go to John Nattrass for keeping the stats., and to Richard White and Greg Barber, ACSL, for their chess knowledge and interventions when draws need to be adjudicated.

The next cubs chess will be on Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan at 4<sup>th</sup> Hale, St. Peter's Assembly Rooms, Cecil Rd. Hale. It is not too late to send anyone new along. Please encourage your cubs to take part. Remind them that it is a game for life and they can play it with people of any age in any country.

### Scouts:

4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon scouts have been acting out scouting activities using mime. They have also been discussing what they would do if they were caught in a snowdrift. They had a most successful weekend away with a stay in a hostel and a long hike on one of those lovely sunny weekends we had in the autumn. They deserved some sunshine since the hikes in previous years have been very wet.

1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley Scouts entered two teams in the County hiking competition on Scout Moor beyond Rochdale. They placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all who took part.

2<sup>nd</sup> Timperley Scouts have trained at the Velodrome in Manchester. They got instructions on how to ride with the fixed wheel and they were strapped into the saddles.

They had to pedal hard until they got back to the starting position and could grab hold of the rail.

3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham Scouts went cycling in Wales during the half-term holidays. Since then they have been to the climbing wall in Marple and worked on some first aid.

4<sup>th</sup> Hale scouts camped in a field in Dunham Town in early November and practised their survival skills. They skinned, cooked and ate rabbits and slept in bivouacs. They returned to civilisation to take part in force at the Remembrance Day parade in Hale.

### **Explorers:**

The Panther Explorers had been planning on putting on a Pantomime during the Christmas holidays. Unfortunately, it has had to be cancelled. However, we would like to thank all of those who put in a lot of time and effort especially James Parums. They are thinking about doing something next year.

Also, Panther Explorers have been on several night hikes, have cooked and been to the climbing wall in Marple.

They are looking forward to their annual Christmas party to which the girls wear frocks. The lads, for one night of the year, shed their jeans and trainers for something smarter.

### **Leader Training:**

Please note the training courses which will be put on by the County. A schedule is usually included in each issue Scoutlook. However, we are still awaiting details for 2009. 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.

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As stated above, we are still awaiting a Leader Training schedule for 2009, but up-to-date details should soon be available and can be checked on the County Website:  
[www.gmwscouts.org.uk](http://www.gmwscouts.org.uk)

Hopefully, will have more details to include in the next issue of Scoutlook.

<b>District Diary</b>			
	<b>December/January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Beavers</b>	Pantomime Sat 4th Jan pm		
<b>Cubs</b>	Cub Chess Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan 6:30 – 8:15 4 <sup>th</sup> Hale Scout hut  Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan Hilda Jordan cub competition at 3 <sup>rd</sup> Altrincham scout hut in the afternoon	Cub Chess Tues. 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6:30 – 8:15 1 <sup>st</sup> Timperley Scout hut  Sat. 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb. -District cubs chess competition at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hale Scout Hut in the afternoon	Sat. 7 <sup>th</sup> March- County Cubs Chess competition in Swinton in the afternoon
<b>Scouts</b>			
<b>Explorers</b>			
<b>District</b>	District Exec Meeting Tues 6th Jan  Census Night Tues 20th Jan 29 Ollerbarrow Rd., Hale  District Dinner Sat 24th Jan Quality Inn, Bowdon	District team meeting Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 8.15 pm Sylvia Cornish's house	St George's Day Parade Sun 29th April  District Exec Meetings Tues 17th March Tues 21st April (Accounts Meeting) Tues 19th May 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?