



SCOUTLOOK



Altrincham & District Scout Council

December 2009 - January 2010

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

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From the District Commissioner:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe, healthy and peaceful Christmas holiday. I hope you enjoy the break and come back feeling refreshed and ready to continue with some more excellent scouting.

While you are enjoying parties with your friends and families perhaps the thought might just pass through your minds that it might be fun to have a party for the family and friends of scouting in your Group. Some Groups already invite families and helpers regularly. One Group holds a yearly cold buffet Sunday lunch, another holds a three course banquet every Christmastime, another has a hot pot supper after an event, and another makes their AGM into a party in the summer with a bouncy castle, a Bar- B- Q and a bar. Another Group holds a Garden Party in the Vicarage garden next to their headquarters and another Group gets the leaders together every so often for a "Chinese Banquet" with take away Chinese in the hut or they invite all of the people who help with the jumble sales for a simple supper. There are many ways to do it. People really appreciate being asked, and people like to get together. That provides a perfect opportunity to ask for help with leadership.

At this time of the year we would like to thank especially those people who help behind the scenes to make the leaders' jobs easier. In particular, I would like to thank Hugh and Maria Davies for Chairing the District and running the badge shop, Iris Emery for her work as Secretary, and Sylvia Cornish for her work on CRB forms, help for new leaders and her tireless efforts in trying to make sense out of directives from Headquarters.

Yours in Scouting, Lucy Natrass

News from Headquarters

Home Contacts

You may have read that the Home Contact system has been under review and is due to change. Pilots were run in various parts of the country last year and the new system was announced at the beginning of November. The new system will be called **InTouch**. HQ decided that the current system was cumbersome because it did not allow for sufficient flexibility. Everyone, from beaver leaders to explorers, was supposed to be following the same procedure. However, the new system will encourage all leaders to consider their procedure for contacting parents/guardians for each activity they run

outside of their usual meeting place. Different activities will require different methods of contacting parents.

If you would like more information, please refer to Factsheet 120075 which explains it all. Or log on to <http://www.scouts.org.uk/intouch>.

Don't worry. The nation's Scouters will not be required to operate the new system, **In Touch**, until Sept. 2010. Over the next few months, we in Altrincham will have time to discuss it so that everyone understands it. Please discuss it in your Groups. Once they have had time to consider it, the ADCs will be willing to discuss it with you, as well. The Nights Away form will remain the same for the foreseeable future and will need to be completed as usual before taking any one for any nights away.

Please note: Any leader taking anyone for any nights away from the normal scouting meeting place must notify the DC in advance. If there is an accident the buck stops with the DC. Therefore the DC must be aware of who is away and where they are.

County News:

Day of Excellence, Sat. 15th May, 2010, Bispham Hall Campsite

Following the success of last year's Day of Excellence, the County decided to run another in the northern part of the County. Members of all sections who have successfully completed all of the Challenge Badges for that section, may be invited to attend. The County office would like the names of those children by the end of March, at the latest, so that invitations can be sent out. If a child has progressed on to the next section, please discuss it with the other section leader in your Group so that all who are entitled to go can get an invitation.

Jamboree - Sweden, summer 2011

The County team was delighted with the response to their presentations throughout the county inviting young people to apply for the 36 places allocated to GMW. Well over 100 young people have applied. Most will be attending a selection weekend at Bispham Hall campsite over the weekend of 20th-21st Feb. The team of four who are leading the Jamboree contingent have assured families of those who cannot attend the selection weekend that there will be another opportunity to demonstrate their merits. Places for the International Service Team also are over subscribed. Let's hope that lots of our young people will be chosen to attend the Jamboree.

Sale Gang Show

Sale District Scouts and Guides will present their Gang Show at the Altrincham Garrick Theatre from Tues. 16th Feb. to Sat. 20th Feb., 2010. They are offering one free adult seat for every 10 tickets booked. You can order tickets by phone from Jackie Eastwood on 07548 505387 or on line from: tickets@salegangshow.com. Why not take your pack, troop or unit to see them?

District and Group Information and News:

Census Evening

We are holding the Census Evening at Lucy's home, 29 Ollerbarrow Rd Hale, on Tuesday 19th January 2010.

You have plenty of time to get yourselves organised for the "BIG EVENT." Please do your best to have your group represented on the night as it makes the job so much easier.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Fellowship Dinner

This will be held on Sat 13th Jan at the Bowdon Hotel. Further details are in the attached flyer

Website Master

We are now getting around to advertising for someone to run the District Website. This was set up by our late Gordon Fyfe and has been neglected. Here is an excellent opportunity for anyone who is interested in web design and management. There is a lot going on in our District and we would like the world to know. Also people log into the website looking for Groups to join and they then get directed to me. If you or anyone you know might be interested in maintaining the website, please contact Lucy who would be happy to hear from you.

Local Training Manager

We are delighted to report that Anthony Roberts, CSL at 4th Bowdon, has agreed to take on this role. Not only is he a whiz with spread sheets, he watched his father, Alan Roberts, on the job before Alan moved out of the area. Anthony has taken it upon himself to meet members of the County Training team and to find out what is going on.

With the help of our late Gordon Fyfe's records, 3rd Altrincham's Chris Williams's IT skills and Sylvia Cornish's record keeping, the District's training records are mostly up to date. If you would like information about what courses you need to do, please ask Anthony and he'll probably send you an email in glorious technicolour. He will also be sending out reminders about imminent expiration of certificates.

The list of training courses taking place in the County in 2010 is attached at the end of this Scoutlook. Please look at it carefully and consider what courses you need to do and when you might be able to fit them in. Every leader who has not yet completed his or her wood badge has a Training Advisor in the District. This is usually an experienced leader in the same section or in your Group. Please make time to discuss your training needs with your TA. If you don't know who that person is, contact Anthony or Sylvia Cornish who will be happy to tell you.

They might also nudge the TAs to instigate conversations about training.

Anthony reminds everyone that the County Training team strongly requests that you sign up by completing the Training Application Form and sending it off to County Office in Tydlesley a good two weeks in advance of the course so they have time to make sure they have all of the materials. The trainers are volunteers too.

Remember that when you signed up to be a leader you agreed to do five hours of training a year. That doesn't sound much, does it? If you go on a course, you never know, you might learn something useful. At least you'll get the opportunity to chat to people working with the same age group. You might learn a new game. Let's see lots of you leaders progressing to your wood badges!

We would like to express special thanks to Sylvia Cornish, George Sharp, ADC Scouts, and Chris Williams who provided invaluable help for the District during this transition period before Anthony Roberts assumed his role.

Fame at last!

Do you want news of your activities in the Paper?

A reporter called Damien Gayle is working at the Sale and Altrincham Messenger until mid-January. He is interested in writing stories about local charities. If you have a story which you'd like to get into the Messenger, contact him on damiengayle@googlemail.com. With so much going on in this District, he should be flooded with suggestions for articles.

Cub Chess:

The four sessions of Cub Chess have been well attended this term with between 18 and 25 cubs. Every pack in the District has fielded at least one player. There's another session on 21st January at 4th Hale, and the last one for the Inter pack Competition will be in the beginning of Feb. Venue to be announced. At the end of Feb. there is all to play for on the Saturday afternoon competition as the six strongest individual players, plus one or two understudies, will attend the County Competition on 6th March. Altrincham District has a big reputation to live up to as we have won the cup several times. With 3rd Altrincham fielding such a strong team and 2nd Timperley and 4th Hale close behind, the rest of the County will have a big fight on their hands. Our thanks go to Greg Barber, ACSL at 4th Hale, Richard White, instructor at 4th Hale, and John Nattrass, who between them keep the scores, help to adjudicate matches and provide useful tips throughout the sessions.

Do you like to see cubs enjoying themselves? Do you like to see cubs enjoying themselves sitting down? **You** could be the facilitator for this skill- for- life activity. We are actively seeking a parent or a leader who would be willing to take on the organising of Cubs Chess. The person need not be a chess player. The time commitment is about 4 hours a month for the six winter months. Any suggestions or offers, please contact Lucy Nattrass.

Beavers visit to the Garrick

All of the District's beaver colonies were invited and over 100 beavers looked forward to attending a performance

of the Altrincham Garrick Theatre's annual pantomime on Saturday, 19th December. This year along with Snow White, they joined in singing "Hey ho, hey ho, it's off to work we go" and booing the wicked queen. A 4th Hale Scout, Matthew Forbes, was on stage as a munchkin. Naturally his experiences in 4th Hale Campfire Shows provided him with the necessary edge to win over the competition with other actors. Our thanks go to Glenda Gould, ADC Beavers, and Jane Ford, BSL at 6th Altrincham, for organising this wonderful event again. It's terrific that volunteers are supporting local volunteers. [We hope to provide a report of this visit in the next issue of Scoutlook: Ed]

Cubs Sixer Training Afternoon- Sat. 23rd Jan.

Once again cub leaders are invited to bring their potential sixers to St. Peter's Assembly Rooms from 1:30 -5 pm. In addition to games and craft activities, cubs will learn how to lead the Grand Howl, fold the flag, arrange an inspection and discuss other sixer responsibilities. There will be a charge of £2.00 per cub to cover the cost of materials, refreshments and a donation to the hall.

All cub leaders have already received an invitation giving the date and time. Soon they will also receive a copy of a letter to give out to cubs and a One Day Activity Form which must be completed by all cubs who take part in events outside of their own hut. We would be grateful if every cub leader could let Freda Clarke, ACSL at 6th Altrincham, know by 11th Jan. whether or not he or she will be available. Activities can be pitched to the enthusiasms of the leaders. We look forward to a fun filled afternoon.

Cub and One Camp- 25th – 27th June

All cubs and his or her responsible adult are invited to Dunham Campsite for a fun filled weekend. The adult need not be a parent; he or she could be a relative or a good friend aged over 21. The Ones take charge of the catering, games and craft activities; the leaders, if they delegate properly, can enjoy a stress free weekend.

Every adult who comes to the camp must have received Scouting CRB clearance. Unfortunately CRB clearance from another organisation will not suffice. The checks are free.

The District strongly recommends that each cub pack hold a meeting for all of their cub parents and Ones early in the New Year to sell the idea of the Cub and One camp. This might also be an opportunity to emphasise the fun of leadership in scouting to the parents and Ones. We must always be looking for our own successors. Show pictures of previous camps. Serve refreshments. Find someone who can tell anecdotes about a previous camp in a positive and humorous way: offer some stand up comedy. Every past participant has a story to tell. Make the meeting a fun event. You might get a leader out of it.

To get the CRB forms completed with the minimum of fuss, many packs have held "CRB surgeries" during cub meetings when members of the District team, or other qualified people, have helped to get the forms completed correctly. Parents and Ones just come along with the appropriate documentation. As you can appreciate, the sooner these CRB forms are completed the better. Last minute anxiety can so easily be avoided. Just let Lucy or Sylvia or George Sharp or Glenda Gould or Simon Gould

or Freda Clarke or Bob Liddell know the dates that you are planning to hold these surgeries and one of us will be there.

We look forward to hearing that each cub pack has entered into the spirit of the Cub and one Camp early in the New Year.

Jokes

The following are a selection of Jokes provided by Glenda. They are all very Beaver/Cub level. (Please feel free to wince, as appropriate - Ed)

What did the earwig say as it fell down the stairs ?

Ear we go !

How do you make a butterfly ?

Flick it out of the butter dish with a knife !

What's an insects best chat up line ?

Pardon me, but is this stool taken !

What do you get if you cross a glow worm with some beer ?

Light ale !

Why did the skeleton stay home from the party?

He had no body to go with.

(More to follow next time - Ed)

News of the Groups:

1st Timperley held a most successful Bonfire Night party at Dunham Campsite on the Friday evening, 6th Nov. They sold burgers and sausages and held a wonderful fire work display. Lots of people attended and the financial reward was such that they are seriously considering running it again next year.

4th Hale's members, parents, and friends enjoyed a matinee and evening performance of another of their famous Campfire Shows in November. The show was dedicated to the honour of Graham Mathers, Instructor at 4th Hale and former CSL. He turned 80 earlier in the month and was celebrating 67 years of close connection with the Group. After sketches and songs on stage involving at least 50 young people, we retired to the small hall for a delicious hot pot supper made by committee members and friends.

Not only did the children enjoy getting on stage, the audience got a good old sing of "Crest of a Wave", "Bring me Sunshine", "When You're Smiling" and "The bumble bee". All of the participants received their Entertainer badges and took part in some of the wonderful traditions of Scouting.

News from the Sections:

Beavers:

1st West Timperley beavers started making Christmas decorations early. They were grateful to the wood working tools and skills of Mr. Hinds who cut little trees out of wood for them to decorate.

Cubs

4th Bowdon Cubs demonstrated their pioneering skills by erecting shelters in the hut using staves, ropes, plastic sheeting and a weight.

6th Altrincham cubs enjoyed junk modelling.

1st Timperley Cubs cooked mini-pancakes on tin cans heated by candles. They also enjoyed a woodwork project.

1st West Timperley cubs made towers out of newspaper and are working on their DIY badge.

4th Hale Cubs made hedgehog hibernation boxes designed by Graham Mathers and Toby Tyler, instructor at 4th Hale, who is an architect. Parents and leaders have seldom seen such professionally drawn and printed plans. On St. Andrew's day they celebrated a Scottish night with the help of Jamie Stewart, parent at 4th Bowdon and his son, who came in their full Scottish regalia including the knife in the sock. They talked about the flags in the Union Jack, played some Highland games and cooked Scottish pancakes.

Scouts:

No News this month

Explorers:

Panther Explorers had an exciting weekend when many of them cooked dinner and slept in their hut in preparation for a 5:30 am start on the Sunday morning. They went by mini-bus to North Wales and climbed Snowdon. At the top it was blowing a gale and the snow was over a foot deep. What a terrific adventure.

They have also been cooking with fairly exotic ingredients. One night they cooked hares and venison for the eating pleasure of the Unit.

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 included in the attached schedule:

CRB forms

You will probably all be aware of the new directive that states that CRB checks need to be updated every five years. As most of the leaders in the District were checked about five years ago, you all need to have completed new CRB forms. Please help Sylvia Cornish, our Appointments Secretary, by completing those she has distributed and getting them back to her with a minimum of delay.

First Response

First Response qualifications last for three years. If you are clever and plan to update your qualification before the three years is up, you can get away with doing only the first section of the course which includes Managing an Incident, DRAB checks and resuscitation. If you wait until your certificate expires, you will need to repeat the whole course.

Child Protection

As you may have heard, the title of these courses is now following the national trend and is called **Safeguarding**. Leaders and helpers need to attend these courses every three years. Even if you have attended **Safeguarding** courses for another organisation, it is important that you attend a Scouting one. They are held almost once a month throughout the County and last only two hours. The facilitator, Jacqui Aspinall, is well informed and runs interesting sessions. Please see these as an opportunity to learn about adult protection as well.

Nights Away Permits

The Nights Away Permits last for five years. The permits for almost every leader in the District will have expired in December '09. Those leaders who were visited at camps by the Nights Away Advisors during the last 9 months or so will receive new Nights Away Permits. Lucy has the forms. She just needs to process them. No passport sized photographs are necessary this time.

District Diary			
	December 2009	January 2010	Future
Beavers	Snow White Pantomime Garrick Theatre - afternoon		
Cubs		Chess Club Thurs 21st Jan 6.30-8.00 pm St Peter's Assembly Rooms Cecil Road, Hale Sixer Training Day 1.30-5.00 pm St Peter's Assembly Rooms Cecil Road, Hale	District Chess Competition Sat 27th Feb 2.00-5.00 pm Venue: tba County Chess Competition Sat 6th March Venue: tba District Cub and One Camp Fri-Sun 25-27th June 2010 Dunham Campsite
Scouts			
Explorers			
District		District Exec Meeting Tues 12th Jan Census Evening Tues 19th Jan 29 Ollerbarrow Road, Hale Team Meeting Wed 10th Feb 8.00 pm Warren Drive	GSL's Meeting Wed 10th March 8.00 pm Ollerbarrow Road District Exec Meetings Tues 16th March 20th April 18th May 21st Sept District AGM July 2010 Exact date and Venue: tba St George's Day parade and service St Mary's Church, Bowdon County Day of Excellence Sat 15th May 2010 Bispham Hall

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?