

# SCOUTLOOK



## *Altrincham & District Scout Council*

**December 2010 - January 2011**

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

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

One of the government's new promotions is the Big Society whereby people are encouraged to volunteer in their localities to improve the health and wellbeing of their communities. Members of the Scout Association have been doing this for 103 years. Perhaps, with improved publicity, and the prospect of a gradual cultural shift towards a more positive attitude by employers towards volunteering, we might be able to attract more adults into helping on a regular basis. When parents contact leaders asking for places for their children in sections, don't forget to mention that every Group needs not only knowledgeable leaders but a chairman, secretary, treasurer and people to help with social events and fund raising. Emphasise that when a child joins a section, the whole family is joining the most successful youth movement in the world. Those Groups which involve the parents in parents' rotas, fundraising and social events tend to thrive.

I would like to publicly thank the members of the District Executive, and the officers in particular, for the hours and hours they devote behind the scenes to keep the paperwork ticking over. Without the dedication of Hugh Davies, Maria Davies, Brian Pastore, Sylvia Cornish and Iris Emery, this District would grind to a halt and we'd be in a terrible mess. If you change your contact details including a change in email address, please get in touch with Iris. Please demonstrate your support by **promptly** completing the paperwork they have given out and getting it back to them. If leaders have questions about forms, ask. They are knowledgeable and willing to help. They should not have to spend time and energy chasing leaders to return forms!

Yours in Scouting,

Lucy Natrass

### **Obituary**

**Ian Smith (Biff) 1938 - 2010**

Ian, better known as Biff, passed away on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2010 following a prolonged illness and the District extends its sincere condolences to his wife Joan, his daughters Alex and Totie and their families.

Biff was a member of the movement for over sixty years firstly as a cub scout with 1st Timperley and later as a member of 3rd Altrincham Scout Group where he went on to gain his Queen Scout Award. After completing his

national service with the Tank Corp he returned to the group and later took on the roll of Rover Scout Leader (now Service Team) a position he held for several years. It was a very vibrant Crew providing a diverse and active programme. Biff also played an important part in the formation of a district Scout and Guide Service Unit undertaking a variety of jobs for elderly and needy people in the community.

Although work commitments took him out of the area he continued to support scouting wherever possible and also gave immense support to his wife Joan who ran Guide and Ranger Units. Biff was a natural organiser and motivator and his talents were put to good use when he agreed to help run the Blackburn Guide and Scout Gang Show

When the family returned to live in Cheshire he continued his work with the Knutsford Gang Show helping it to become the success it was. He also, at various times, held the positions of DC for Knutsford, District Chairman, ACC Cheshire Venture Scouts and was a member of a county team responsible for camp sites, finance, fund raising and the County Chamboree

Biff received the Medal of Merit and Silver Acorn in recognition of his services to scouting, but only those who knew him and worked alongside him could really appreciate the immense contribution he made. He will be sadly missed

George Sharp, ADC Scouts

### **News from Headquarters**

#### **Programme booklets for Jamboree theme Activities:**

In the autumn Scouting Magazine, section leaders received a white booklet with suggestions for programmes on the themes of Sweden and the Jamboree. Section leaders are encouraged to consider those ideas carefully and use them to drum up more enthusiasm for the World Jamboree, Jamborees in the future and the great world family of Scouting. Lucy is looking forward to joining Explorers on an ABBA tribute night.

#### **GSLs' and Commissioners' training day :**

From time to time, Headquarters arranges meetings around the country to give information about the future and provide an opportunity for Scouters to meet up and

discuss issues. The next one is **Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. in Preston.** All GSLs and ADCs are **encouraged** to attend. The event is free and lunch is provided.

Please let Lucy know if you would like to join her and we can share transport. For more information and to register online look at: [www.scouts.org.uk/gslanndcdays](http://www.scouts.org.uk/gslanndcdays).

### **Adventurous Activity Permits:**

Several years ago these permits replaced the old "M" and "W" forms. Anyone who would like to be assessed for leading an Adventurous Activity such as mountain walking, rock climbing, abseiling, rifle shooting, canoeing in large bodies of open water and so on should contact George Sharp, ADC Scouts. People who have not been **RECENTLY** assessed and granted Adventurous Activities permits are not permitted to lead young people in these activities no matter what the conditions. If an accident were to occur, the Scout Association would not provide insurance cover.

### **County News:**

#### **Looking for funding for a project? Try the Manchester Airport Fund.**

"Charitable projects within a 10 mile radius of Manchester Airport are invited to apply for funding from the Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund. Applications for projects that enhance, protect and conserve the natural and built environment within the fund's area and are of benefit will be considered by the fund's trustees who meet four times a year. Generally awards of up to £5,000 are made towards the costs of a project. The trustees prefer to support groups that have volunteer involvement. The next deadline for submission of application for funds is 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec." Phone 0161- 489-5281 or email: [trust.fund@manairport.co.uk](mailto:trust.fund@manairport.co.uk) .  
<http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk/manweb.nsf>

#### **Sale Gang Show- Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb to Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2011**

Publicity material is already available. The Gang Show will be held at the Garrick Playhouse in Altrincham. One free adult seat is available for every ten tickets booked.

For more information contact Lynda Marsden on 969-1393 or [tickets@salegangshow.com](mailto:tickets@salegangshow.com). Why not book to take your pack or troop for a great night out. Support the local talent.

#### **Day of Excellence:**

Following the success of the previous two Days of Excellence, GMW County is planning another one on **Sat., 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011** at Dunham Scout Campsite. Any beaver, cub, scout or explorer scout who has completed the appropriate Challenge badges and achieved the relevant bronze, silver or gold Chief's Scout Award for that section, is eligible to attend the Day. If section leaders have young people who have achieved these awards, please tell Sue Ralph at County Office in Tyldesley with the name and contact details of the young people. Then she can make sure that they and their parents get invitations to the event.

As the Day is taking part at Dunham Campsite this year and Altrincham offered very few adults to help last year when the event was at Bispham Hall Campsite, we would be grateful for leaders to volunteer to organise and man activity bases. George Sharp, ADC Scouts, would be delighted to hear from you. George has offered to organise rafting on the pond. We have had one offer so far from 2<sup>nd</sup> Timperley to run a base. Hurrah. Altrincham has agreed to provide the refreshments. Any offers of help gratefully received.

#### **2Mad 4Leaders:**

Weekend camp for Young Leaders, Explorer and Scout Leaders will be held at Bradley Wood on **25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March**. It looks like a great event. Flyer attached.

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

At Dyson House, Newton Rd., Urmston. This is open every Sat. from 10 am until 12:30 pm. They stock uniform, camping equipment, badges, torches and so on.

What they haven't got, they will happily order. Take advantage of this facility.

#### **Shooting Competition:**

Ian Jones, a former 4<sup>th</sup> Hale parent, is organising a County shooting competition in conjunction with the County Scout and Explorer ADCs. The first heat for the District will be on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. and the County Competition will be in the middle of March.

#### **Network:**

This is the section for all those involved in scouting aged 18 – 24. Each District is encouraged to organise its own Network Unit. Leaders and helpers in Scouting can meet for social occasions and plan activities which they would like to do without the young people. If anyone is interested in helping to get such a section together, please contact Lucy. Urmston District has an active programme. Flyer attached.

#### **New Indoor Accommodation at Dunham Camp Site:**

The newly renovated **Blanchard Cabin** is ideal for small groups, who don't want the hassle of erecting tents or who want the comfort of a few mod.cons.

The Cabin sleeps nine in three bedrooms. It has a small dining/activity area and a small fitted kitchen with gas cooker, fridge and microwave.

The accommodation is fully central heated and is close to the toilet/shower facilities.

The cost of hiring the Blanchard Cabin is £90 for the weekend (Friday teatime to Sunday teatime) or £50 for 24 hours. This includes gas and electricity. The Blanchard Cabin will be available from spring 2011.

To make a booking contact the booking manager at [dunham.bookings@virgin.net](mailto:dunham.bookings@virgin.net) or telephone 0161 748 0819

To view the Blanchard Cabin, and the site in general, contact the camp site manager - David Vost - on 0161 746 9546

## World Scout Jamboree, Sweden, 2011

### Supporters' badges:

These large diamond gem shaped badges with a black border and a bee in the middle are now available from the GMW Contingent members costing £2.00 each. All of the profits will go to the County to help the Contingent Unit's fundraising efforts. It would be great to see all in the District wearing one above the world badge on their shirts. 6<sup>th</sup> Altrincham and 4<sup>th</sup> Hale members are showing them off already.

### Fund raising efforts:

**1st West Timperley scouts** have held a bag packing session at Sainsbury's on a Saturday afternoon and raised a tidy sum. They are also planning a car wash on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**4<sup>th</sup> Hale Scout Group** invite you all to a Ceilidh on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. at St. Peter's Assembly Rooms, Cecil Rd., Hale for dancing to a live band and caller, a hotpot supper, raffle, cash bar- all for £12.50 per person. The attached flyer gives more details and a form to order tickets ( which are limited to 180 in total ).

## District and Group Information and News:

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Timperley- Growing the movement:

Leaders at 3<sup>rd</sup> Timperley Scout Group have responded to the challenge set by Module 13: Growing the Movement. As they haven't had a beaver colony or cub pack for several years, they decided to reactivate these sections. They didn't have to go far to recruit new leaders: only as far as the Chambers' family home. Alex Chambers will move from ASL to CSL, ably assisted by his mum, Jackie BSL, and brother, Alistair ACSL. They have already started working towards their appointments and have signed up for the County courses. Sister, Kimberely, who has many years of scouting experience, will help out too. Following a leaflet drop and adverts in the local papers, they held a successful open evening and now report that a sizable number of beaver and cub aged young people have clambered through the doors. We congratulate them for their efforts so far and wish them every success in the future.

### Celebration of Scouting, Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2011:

Traditionally we have held a Celebration of Scouting as near to St. George's Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, as convenient. In 2011, Easter falls on 24<sup>th</sup> April and Palm Sunday is the one before so it would be inappropriate to hold our celebrations then. We have decided to hold our Celebration of Scouting on **Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at 3 pm before the schools break up for the Easter holidays. The logistics will be the same as in the last two years with Groups gathering in the car park of the Jubilee Rooms in Bowdon and walking across the zebra crossing to St. Mary's Church in Bowdon. More information and instructions will be sent out as usual in the early spring. Please inform your young people and parents of the date well in advance. We look forward to seeing you all there.

## Adventurous Activity Permits, kayaking and canoeing:

George Sharp, ADC Scouts, is trying to arrange a meeting with all of those leaders who would like to know about the assessments for kayaking and canoeing. Tim Crowther, a SL from GM East and an experienced water activity assessor, is willing to come to our District to discuss the requirements and organise an assessment afternoon. He is also willing to arrange for checks on kayaks and canoes in the spring.

If you are interested in joining the merry band of leaders who canoe, please tell George Sharp so he can invite you to the meeting.

### Science Badges:

Loreto Grammar School, Dunham Rd., Altrincham, is still willing to run Science badges events. However, Mark Baxter, who used to be the contact, has moved to another school. The person to contact is a science teacher, Ariadne Baker, at her email address: [aridane\\_b@hotmail.com](mailto:aridane_b@hotmail.com) or though the School, 0161-928-3703. 6<sup>th</sup> Altrincham cubs have recently enjoyed a science session at the School.

### Cub Warren:

The camp-site has been put to sleep for the winter and the water turned off. It will wake up again at Easter. Please remember Cub Warren when considering days and nights out in the spring and summer. For Scouts and Explorers it's an excellent venue for an overnight stop when hiking through Cheshire. For cubs, in addition to camps, it's an ideal spot for a day of practising making fires, tracking, nature study or just playing in the neighbouring fields. We'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Stuart Naylor and his team for looking after Cub Warren for the benefit of all who use it. Contact him for bookings.

### Solar Panels:

It has been suggested that we look into having Solar Panels on the roof at Cub Warren Camp-site. They are to be used for lighting.

Does anyone in the District have any knowledge or know anybody who does about these panels?

Please contact either Stuart Naylor 0161 980 8487 or Iris Emery 0161 980 6997

### Census Returns:

Please can all leaders keep their Registers up to date, ready for the Census. It should be done as a regular task not just for the census.

Editing the list is not an option as you will make invalid the Insurance for the whole Group

Iris Emery

### Court Leet Carol Service:

This is on Thursday 2nd December 2010 at St George's Church Altrincham at 7.30pm Refreshments in the hall after the service

## Fellowship Dinner:

This is being held at the Bowdon Hotel on Saturday 5th February 2011. Further details are contained in the attached flyer

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham Scout Hut:

The scout hut has a new roof! Work began in July and was finished before scouting recommenced in September. The fund raising committee, ably organised by Nikki Smith and The Service Team, has held several successful events over the past 18 months including a salsa evening and jumble sales. To their credit, 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham has kept in touch with many alumni living all over the country. When contacted, several sent donations for the roof fund. Several "old boys" travel some distance to attend the annual banquet in December. This year's banquet is planned to be extra special. We congratulate them on their hard work and success.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley:

The Group is planning a Gang Show in the spring. It will be held at the Methodist Church in Timperley village.

## News from the Sections:

### Beavers:

#### Beavers annual trip to the Pantomime at the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse:

Glenda Gould, ADC beavers, and Jane Ford, District Beaver Leader, have booked a block of seats at the matinee performance on **Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> December**. Please let them know as soon as possible how many seats your section will require. Hurry while stocks last! Our thanks go to them for dealing with the money, the refreshments and the hassle of last minute changes. Dick Whittington is bound to tickle your fancy. We all so enjoyed the panto last year. The dame and her henchmen, Elf and Safety, guaranteed laughs.

### Cubs

#### Sixer Training Day- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 2011

Due to popular demand, Freda Clarke, District Cub Leader, is arranging a Sixer Training Day on **Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.** at St. Peter's Assembly Rooms on Cecil Rd. in Hale from 12:45 – 5 pm. Each pack is welcome to send about six cubs aged 9 and above. More information, application forms and One Day Activity form blanks will be sent out soon to all cub leaders.

### Cubs Chess

Cubs chess has got off to a good start this term with three rounds played and three to go before the selection session at the end of February. There's a shield for the winning pack at District level, and a cup to share around for the 8 who are chosen to represent Altrincham at the County Competition. It is always at the beginning of March. The next District session will be on **Tues. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov** at 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley Scout hut at 6:30. Please encourage your cubs to take part. It's free, instruction and all

equipment is provided and it's a game for life. Some pros have even made a living out of it.

Seven Groups have sent cubs making a total of 13 to 15 players at each session. It's too bad that these numbers are down from over 20 during every session last year. If anyone has any suggestions as to how we could entice more participants, we would be pleased to hear from you. All cub leaders receive notification of the chess sessions and information to give out to the cubs. Please make sure that you let the cubs know about it.

Players have included some absolute beginners and some of the champions who were on the team who beat the best of the County last March. With the expert help of Greg Barber, ACSL at 4<sup>th</sup> Hale, and Richard White, Inst. at 4<sup>th</sup> Hale, the beginners have all come back for more. John Natrass has done a fine job of keeping score and charting who plays whom. The scoring is based on the sum of the scores of the top two players for each pack. Therefore if a pack sends only one player, that pack loses out. A team of three or four from a pack does best. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timperley proved this last year by sending a good handful of cubs every session.

At the end of the second round, 2010, 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham was a squeak ahead of 4<sup>th</sup> Hale. But at the end of the third session, 3<sup>rd</sup> Alt and 4<sup>th</sup> Hale are running neck and neck. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hale is doing well and would do better if they sent more cubs. But it is not too late. Any pack could win if they sent a team of cubs.

### Cub Pack Activities:

**1<sup>st</sup> Timperley cubs** spent the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov at the Harrop lodge at Dunham Scout Campsite after enjoying the bonfire and fireworks put on by 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley Scout Group.

**6<sup>th</sup> Altrincham cubs** have been working on their First Aid badges. They borrowed the Resusi Annies which belong to the District, and every cub had a go at resuscitation.

**4<sup>th</sup> Hale cubs** have worked on the Fitness Challenge. As part of their studies of a healthy heart, they enjoyed the dissection of a beef heart performed by parents who happened to be doctors. A real heart gives the words tendons, cartilage, muscle chambers, valves and arteries some meaning. They would also like to thank Richard Morgan, ASL at 4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon, who transported the heart from 4<sup>th</sup> Hale to 4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon to demonstrate there. Vince, the butcher at Hale Butchers on Ashley Rd., was happy to help with the unusual order of a beef heart.

They have also embarked on their annual wood work project by making small wooden troughs to hold flowering bulbs.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hale cubs** made chocolate covered apples and had a long discussion about keeping safe with fireworks.

**1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley cubs** have enjoyed the activities for the naturalist's badge. They did some tree identification and leaf rubbings as well as some paper airplanes.

**4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon cubs** are planning a concert at the end of term as part of their entertainer badge activities.

## Scouts:

### Scout Activities:

**4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon** have been preparing for their hiking weekend through bases on hiking boots, map reading, appropriate equipment and clothing and personal hygiene.

**1<sup>st</sup> Timperley** have made small wooden cars which they've raced across the room, and have been doing some fitness work.

**1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley** scouts enjoyed fireworks on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. after a talk about firework safety. They have been looking at the history of Timperley.

**4<sup>th</sup> Hale** scouts enjoy cooking and have cooked mussels.

**1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns** scouts have been working on some First Aid.

## Explorers:

No News this month

## Leader Training:

### Changes to Training Scheme:

As you might have read in the August / September 2010 scouting magazine publication, there was a change on the 1st November 2010 to the training scheme for all leaders. The current module 16 (Nights Away) is being split into two separate modules. These are Module 16 (Introduction to Residential Experiences) and Module 38 (Skills for Residential Experiences). For wood badge applications only module 16 will be required and module 38 will be an optional extra. This does NOT change anything to do with the nights away permit scheme. The change to the training means that leaders will only have to do the introduction to residential experiences for wood badges, and this covers the administration and planning of residential experiences. Any leader who has already been validated for module 16 previously is automatically validated for the new module 16 and module 38.

### Training Reminder:

All leaders need to be reminded that a pre-requisite of all leaders is to ensure that their first response and child protection is up to date. These 2 modules are required to be re-validated every 3 years, and with first response if completed before the expiry date of the last certificate means only half a course. If you feel there is training completed outside of scouting that covers these modules, you can contact me directly; I can clarify if these cover the modules.

In addition to this all applications for training modules need to be received at county office two weeks prior to the module being run. Applications after this date will not be accepted, and leaders will not be able to just turn up on the day as they will be turned away. If you are booked on the course, you will receive a letter from county office confirming the date, time and location of the module.

Anthony Roberts  
Local Training Manager – Altrincham District

There is no update to the Leader Training details this month.

Up-to-date details of courses can be checked at:

[www.gmwscouts.org.uk](http://www.gmwscouts.org.uk)

## District Diary

	December 2010	January 2011	Future
<b>Beavers</b>	Beaver Trip to Pantomime Sat 18th Dec Garrick Playhouse		GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site
<b>Cubs</b>		Sixer Training Day Sat 22nd January 12.30-17.30 4th Hale HQ, Cecil Rd, Hale	GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site
<b>Scouts</b>			GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site  2Mad4 Leaders Training Weekend 25-27 March Bradley Wood Camp Site
<b>Explorers</b>			GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site  2Mad4 Leaders Training Weekend 25-27 March Bradley Wood Camp Site
<b>District</b>		District Exec Meeting Tues 11th Jan 8.00 pm  Census Evening Tues 18th Jan 29 Ollerbarrow Road, Hale.  4th Hale Barn Dance (in aid of Jamboree funds) Sat 29th Jan 7.30-11.30 pm St Peter's Assembly Rooms, Cecil Road, Hale	Fellowship Dinner Sat 5th February Bowdon Hotel  GSL and Commissioner Training Day Sat 5th Feb Preston  Sale District Gang Show Tues 22nd-Sat 26th Feb Garrick Playhouse  Celebration of Scouting Sun 3rd April 2.35-4.00 pm St Mary's Church, Bowdon  District Exec Meetings: Tues 15th March Tues 19th April Tues 17th May Tues 20th Sept  District AGM July tba