

SCOUTLOOK



Altrincham & District Scout Council

February - March 2009

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

Editor: alan_marriott@lineone.net

From the District Commissioner:

What is the best way to say thank you? When is the best time to say thank you? We in scouting have so many people to thank. And every district, group and section would like to have more.

Everyone likes a bit of a gathering with food thrown in. Some groups hold annual events such as a buffet lunch to thank their leaders, committees and helpers. Some groups or section leaders go for a meal out somewhere or make a party meal at their hut. Others make a bit of a splash at their AGM, for bonfire night or at a summer Bar-B-Q. All of these are excellent ways to express appreciation for support.

Commendable as these events are, there are other ways that we can make people feel that they are appreciated. If people have offered to help, take time to find out what their strengths are and offer them something useful to do which gives them a sense of achievement. Follow the advice of the latest Scouting magazine supplement and think about your camp so that volunteers are planned in. If parents are helping on a rota, introduce them to the rest of the people at the beginning and thank them for coming publicly at the close. Thank those children publicly who are doing what you have asked of them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the District Executive for their hard work this year. These people, working in the background, make life a lot easier for the leaders. Iris Emery, in particular, has succeeded, yet again, in getting all of the Census Return sent off in good order and on time. That is no mean feat and we are very grateful to her for her determination to get the job done. We would also like to single out Sylvia Cornish to thank for processing scores of forms in a most conscientious way and for trying to extract meaningful answers to ticklish questions out of Headquarters.

Yours in Scouting, Lucy Natrass

News from Headquarters

GSL's meeting:

All GSLs will have received an invitation to this event at the end of March in Lancaster. There will be workshops on planning for growth and recruitment as well as other subjects. If you would like to attend, please contact County Office.

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.

Activity Permits

Now is the time to start planning camps and hikes in the warmer months. If you would like to discuss gaining activity permits, please consult George Sharp, ADC Scouts.

International Opportunities:

Attached is a Newsletter of International Scouting opportunities in such places as Russia, Czech Republic, Norway, USA, Mexico, Uganda and, nearer home, in Windsor, Yorkshire, Kent and Lancashire.

If any Scouts or Explorers are interested contact details are included in the newsletter.

County News:

A Celebration of Excellence in Scouting will take place on **Sat. 9th May** at Dunham Scout Camp. Planning is well underway. We are looking for the young people who have achieved the highest award offered for their section. In other words, the County wants to invite beavers who have achieved their Bronze Awards, cubs who have achieved

their Silver Awards, Scouts who have achieved their Gold Awards and Explorers or Network members who have achieved their Duke of Edinburgh Awards or Queen's Scouts Awards.

Please notify Glenda Gould, ADC beavers, Lucy Natrass, acting ADC cubs, or George Sharp, ADC scouts, if you have some young people who have gained these awards. They will receive invitations to attend the event with their parents. Lots of scouting activities will be laid on and the visitors will be encouraged to have a go at archery, using the climbing wall, canoeing, backwoods cooking and so on.

Altrincham District, being the nearest, has offered to manage the catering for the event. We will also be asked to help with the parking and general logistics. Some people have already offered to help on the day, but many more will be needed. If you are free, please offer to help. Thanks. Lucy will look forward to hearing from you.

Young Leaders

Anyone aged between 14 and 18 who is helping with a section of younger children is encouraged to attend the Young Leader Training Courses which are held in Sale District. The training is modular and includes first aid, how to teach games, child protection, and several other relevant topics. The Young Leaders will receive certificates for every module they attend. Upon completion of the scheme, they will also receive some other additional certification. People this age who are keen on scouting will, with encouragement, be our hope for the future.

If a young person is helping out with your section, please contact Judith Sommersgill, DC in Sale, for more information about these courses. Lucy can give you her details. The next course one will be held on

Sat. 14th March.

Lord Derby Scouts Challenge Hike

Please contact George Sharp, ADC scouts, for more information.

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 (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

Celebration of Excellence in Scouting:

The County are organising a day to celebrate excellence in Scouting at Dunham on Saturday 9th May. As part of this day, the 3rd Davyhulme Scout and Guide Band are being honoured for their musical achievements. They are suggesting that other members of the Scouting movement with musical skills may also like to be involved.

If you are interested, details are included in the attachment with this issue of Scoutlook.

District and Group Information and News:

St. George's Day Parade and Service – Sunday 26th April

This year we will be pleased to welcome all members of the Scouting Movement in Altrincham District plus Brownies and Guides in the area. The Rev. Roger Preece, newly appointed Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Bowdon, will lead the service.

Please give members of your sections as much notice as possible of the date. Details of the arrangements for the parade will be sent to section leaders soon. The format will be similar to that of previous years: meeting at Regent Rd. car park, walking through Altrincham, attending the service which begins at 3 pm at St. Mary's, walking back through Altrincham and dismissal at the car park. .

We look forward to seeing you there. It's a great afternoon for Scouting.

Census Evening

Many thanks to all groups for coming on the night. It is the first time for years that I have had a full turn out. Many thanks to all who came !!

Fellowship Dinner

What a fun night this was. The food was excellent and the company was too. A lot of catching up with old friends went on and making some new friends as well. If you weren't there you missed a treat.

Masonic Lodge, Timperley

The Masonic Lodge is holding an open day on **Sunday 14th June**. They would like to provide an opportunity for local charities to show what they do. Altrincham District has been asked to send some cubs or scouts to demonstrate Scouting activities. These could include erecting tents, cooking pancakes, demonstrating pioneering or whatever. If your section would be interested in this excellent chance to show the public what we have to offer, please let Lucy know.

Swimathon 2009:

Altrincham Rotary Club are organising a Swimathon at the Manchester Aquatics Centre on Saturday 28th March. If any Groups are interested, details and an entry form are attached to this copy of Scoutlook.

Cub Warren:

Looking for a place to camp for one night as part of a long hike with Scouts or Explorers? Looking for a safe, quiet place with only cows for neighbours for a days' outing in the countryside with beavers? Looking for an ideal location for a cub camp which includes a small camping area and a huge field out the back.? Looking for a place which is quite near by and cheap to hire? Look no further than our own beloved Cub Warren near Plumley.

For bookings contact Stuart Naylor whose number is in the District Directory. You'd better sign up quickly because at last one weekend this summer is already taken. It's a very desirable place.

Hilda Jordan Challenge Trophy Afternoon

Held at 3rd Altrincham, we had nearly a full house with 6 teams of 6 competing for the shield. Teams took part in a craft activity, some active games outside and a quiz.

After a brainstorming session, each team of cubs were asked to create things on the theme of "Chinese New Year". Each team had a large cardboard box to hold their creations. Some made dragons, some made Great Walls, some made hats, some made lanterns, some made Chinese scenes which included bridges and flags, some incorporated their boxes into the scene. And everyone used lots of red paint.

After the craft work, Richard White, CS Instructor, set up a wonderful relay type game called "Rescue". The ingredients were tyres, long lengths of rope, a good strong bowline knot and a team of cubs yelling and pulling their team mates across the car park. That was topped by a team game of "gladiators," which is also a very popular.

(Want to know more? Come to the next cub leaders' meeting)

During the outdoor games, the distinguished panel of judges, Hugh Davies and Sylvia Cornish, cast their critical eyes over the craft entries. They were aided by a representative from each team who explained the contents of their Chinese box. After refreshments and a quiz, the decision of the judges was announced. The shield was passed from the winners of the two previous Hilda Jordan events to the newly selected champions: 2nd Hale. They had worked so well together and had some original ideas about decorating their box. Many congratulations to them. We will have to wait for two years until the next Hilda Jordan Trophy event. What will the theme for the crafts be? And which Group will win the shield?

Our thanks go to the 3rd Altrincham for lending us their wonderful HQ, the judges, leaders and helpers who pitched in on the day. In particular we'd like to thank Freda Clark, District CSL, Phil Broadhurst, CSL, Sharon Caldwell, ACSL, Anthony Roberts, ACSL, and Chris Hinds, Young Leader from 1st West Timperley, who cleared up all of the mess.

Cubs chess

Our sixth and final evening session was held at 1st Timperley HQ in mid-February. Once again the team of cubs from 1st West Timperley swept the board due to their strength in numbers. They have been consistently well represented. However, 2nd Hale and 1st Hale Barns, in spite of having smaller teams, have shown their worth. It is gratifying to see that cubs have been using tactics which have been explained to them.

The District Individual championship will be held on **Sat. 28th Feb.** at 4th Hale Scout Hut, Cecil Rd., Hale, starting at 2 pm. Prize giving will be at about 5 pm. All cubs with an interest in chess are welcome to attend. They needn't have attended the evening sessions. Please encourage your cubs to come along. There will be prizes and refreshments and a chance to run around outside in between matches. From that event the eight top scorers will be chosen to represent the District at the County Championship in Worsely on 7th March.

Cubs chess will start up again in late September. We try to hold six evening sessions between then and mid-February. We aim to hold the chess sessions on different nights of the week so that cubs don't miss their own cub night too often. We also like to move the sessions around the huts in the District.

We would like to thank the leaders who have encouraged their cubs to come along. Thanks also go to John Natrass for keeping the records. Richard White, CS Instructor at 4th Hale, has been giving interesting tips on the intricacies of the game and Greg Barber, ACSL, has helped with strategies and adjudications.

News from the Sections:

Beavers:

4th Hale beavers have been looking at healthy eating.

Cubs

4th Bowdon cubs have been working on their Personal Safety badge. They have been discussing how to keep safe near railway lines, bridges and canals.

4th Hale cubs have been earning their Creative Challenge Badge. They made excellent bird feeders out of wood before Christmas, learning new skills of measuring accurately, hammering, sawing and screwing in screws. Since then they have practised mini-pioneering and also pioneering using staves. At their annual Beetle Drive evening, they performed some sketches for their visitors.

1st West Timperley cubs have been working on first aid badge and using the resuscitation dolls which belong to the District.

1st Hale Barns cubs recently visited the Sunrise Care Homes Development which overlooks their HQ.

Everyone was provided with hard hats as they were shown around the different areas and talked to about the place. They were also given refreshments and "goodie bags" and had photos taken. Copies of these were given to the leaders who said that the cubs had really enjoyed the visit.

So how about putting your names down for one of these homes. It's only £1200 a week. Gulp!

Scouts:

Cooking seems to be a popular activity during this time of year. 4th Hale Scouts cooked fish and 4th Bowdon scouts made delicious high energy flap jack sort of cake outdoors.

Explorers:

The young people of Explorer age who participate with 4th Bowdon scouts held a "ready steady, cook" competition.

Leader Training:

Please note the training courses which are being put on by the County. A schedule is attached to this issue 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			
	February	March	Future
Beavers			
Cubs	Cub Chess Tues. 10 th Feb 6:30 – 8:15 1 st Timperley Scout hut Sat. 28 th Feb. -District cubs chess competition at 2 nd Hale Scout Hut in the afternoon	Sat. 7 th March- County Cubs Chess competition in Swinton in the afternoon	
Scouts		5-a-Side Competition Altrincham Leisure Centre Sat 7th March	Lord Derby Challenge Hike Sat 18th April
Explorers			
District	District team meeting Wed. 11 th Feb 8.15 pm Sylvia Cornish's house	GSL's Meeting Thurs 12th March 8:15 pm 4th Hale HQ Young Leaders' Training module Sat 14th March, Sale District Exec Meeting: Tues 17th March Cub Warren Users' Meeting Tues 23rd March 8:15 pm 29 Ollerbarrow Road, Hale Altrincham Rotary Club Swimathon Sat 28th March 6:00 pm Manchester Aquatics Centre	St George's Day Parade Sun 26th April District Exec Meetings Tues 21st April (Accounts Meeting) Tues 19th May Tues 15th Sept County Celebration of Excellence Sat 9th May - pm Dunham Scout Camp Masonic Lodge Open Day Sun 14th June District AGM Wed 8th July 1st Hale Barns HQ

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?