

# SCOUTLOOK



## *Altrincham & District Scout Council* ( Supplementary Issue ) **January 2011**

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

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

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and healthy 2011. May you have lots of adventurous activities with Scouting in the coming year.

Scouting is continuing to grow. There are now 31 million of us throughout the world. 2010 was yet another year of growth both nationally and locally. This means that more young people are benefiting from the adventure of Scouting. According to figures from Gilwell, the numbers were up 3.6% over the previous year. That is the biggest growth in 38 years. However, 33,000 young people nationally are still waiting to join. Within our District the waiting lists for places in beaver colonies grow weekly. Although we have welcomed some new leaders, we are always looking out for more.

Think what fun you've had with Scouting. Think how it has enriched your life. Tell your friends. Get the parents in your Group involved in a Big Adventure experience this spring or summer. Get them interested in becoming an Occasional Helper. Give them some responsibility, if they're keen. Show them how worthwhile it would be to commit to helping a section on a regular basis. Scouting is one of the most affordable out of school activities available for young people today. Help it to thrive. Recruit a leader!

Yours in Scouting,

Lucy Natrass

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

#### **Jamboree Activities**

4<sup>th</sup> Hale ( St. Peter's ) Scout Group invites you **all** to a Ceilidh with a live band, Olio, and caller on Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7:30 – 11:30 at St. Peter's Assembly Rooms, Cecil Rd., Hale. All tickets must be purchased in advance so we know the numbers for catering. All proceeds will go to the World Scout Jamboree Fund. Please see the flier attached. We look forward to seeing you there. It should be a great night.

What plans does your Group have to support the Jamboree Contingent?  
Let us know!

### **District Census Evening**

This will be held on Tues. 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 29 Ollerbarrow Rd., Hale, WA15 9PP. All Groups received the instructions several weeks ago from Iris Emery, the District Secretary. Please contact her directly to book a time to come to the meeting.

It is important that all of the names of all of the members of the sections are reported. This is for Scouting insurance purposes in addition to the payment for activities for the District, County and National headquarters and the statistical requirements. For example- say a Group or a Unit reported 15 names for a particular section and then there was an accident. If it transpired that more than 20 people were present on a regular basis, that Group or Unit could find itself in serious trouble. There is evidence that some Groups or Units have been trying to get away with reporting fewer than the numbers on their membership lists. This is putting members of the Group at risk as well as cheating Scouting as a whole.

The census happens at this time every year. It is the responsibility of GSLs to make sure that the information is collected correctly from within the Group. If your Group seems to be having difficulties getting your information together or complying with the format, please contact Iris. She is there to help!!! She would much rather help **before** the deadline than **after** it.

If Groups do not submit their information correctly before the deadline they will be charged a surcharge.

### **District Dinner**

This annual event will be held at the Bowdon Hotel on Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Why not bring your main squeeze and join us for an evening of excellent food, lively company and a chance to catch up with Scouting friends in a relaxed setting. Let someone else do the washing up! We are eagerly awaiting news of the menu, not to be revealed until the night. If the profiteroles at previous dinners are to go by, we will be in for a treat!

Please contact Iris Emery for tickets.

### **St. George's Day**

As reported in the last issue of Scoutlook, we have had to re- arrange the day of the St. George's Day celebrations because Easter falls on 24<sup>th</sup> April. Therefore we will be holding the District's annual celebration of Scouting on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**. We wanted to choose a day which is still within the schools' terms.

We look forward to seeing you at the car park behind the Jubilee Rooms in Bowdon, in parade crossing at the zebra crossing and then in St. Mary's Church for a 3 pm service. Parents and friends of Scouting are welcome to attend.

Further details will be sent out to all Groups nearer the time.

### **Beavers at 1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns**

Do you know anyone who would like to commit to helping a beaver colony on a regular basis? Two or more friends could work together. The warranted leaders are taking a well earned break and consequently there is a bunch of beaver aged children who would love to have a colony to attend.

The hut is available; it's large and warm. The GSL is welcoming and ready to help. The equipment is there; the District can supply resources galore. We just need a few people to offer to help. The day of the week can be negotiated.

Please contact Glenda Gould, ADC beavers, or Lucy Nattrass, DC, for more information. We would love to hear from you.

### **International Evenings**

With a bit of thought and advanced planning, these can be memorable for the young people. All sections should put on at least two International Evenings a year. Reminder: Scouting is a world wide movement. A castanet, and a bit of egg cooked with potato does not make for a Spanish night! Enlarge on it. Include the flag, some language, map study, a discussion about bullfighting, some history: the Armada or the Civil War. What about earning some steps towards the IT badge by doing some research and reporting back? .

Each section leader has received a booklet from HQ with ideas for activities based on **Sweden**. Why not use them this term? Try something new.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

to leaders for the following awards which were presented recently:

#### 25 years service award:

Simon Gould, District Scout leader  
Ray Starkey, Treasurer, Panther Explorer Unit

#### 30 years service award:

Colin Ellis, ESL, Panther Explorer Unit  
Keith Bury, Treasurer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham Scout Group

#### Awards for Merit:

Keith Bury, Treasurer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham Scout Group  
Tom Green, GSL, 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham Scout Group

More awards will be distributed shortly. Watch this space for more congratulations.

### **Urmston Scout Shop**

This is open every Saturday morning from 10 – 12:30 at Dyson House, Newton Rd., Urmston. They have a good stock of uniform clothes, novelty woggles, books and booklets, lapel badges, torches, map cases, scout range

fleeces, waterproof jackets and so on.

## **News from the Sections:**

### **Beavers:**

#### **Beavers trip to the Pantomime**

Once again Glenda Gould, ADC Beavers, and Jane Ford, District Beaver Leader, organised a wonderful outing to Altrincham's Garrick Theatre on the Saturday before Christmas. We appreciate that it is a hassle to collect the money and distribute the tickets and we thank them most whole heartedly for their trouble. Richard and Rebecca Gould did an excellent job of counting out all the sweets into bags.

We booed and hissed at the King Rat, clapped for Jack, laughed at Sarah throwing flour, sighed for Dick Whittington and the cat when they were banished from the Alderman's house, shouted at the shipwrecked stars to "look behind you" when the gorilla crept on stage, admired Sarah's colourful costumes and hats, cheered at the transformation scene and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The costumes, gags, lighting, acting and production were terrific. We can't wait until next year.

Thanks for organising the trip.

### **Cubs**

#### **Cubs Sixer Training Day – Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 12:30– 5pm.** St. Peter's Assembly Rooms, Cecil Rd., Hale

This afternoon of games and learning activities is geared to the older cubs in each section. They needn't be sixers already to attend. Each section is welcome to send five or six cubs. Please let Freda Clarke, District Cub Leader, know the numbers by about the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. We also need offers of help from leaders. If leaders offer soon, they can choose which base they want to run.

Cubs need to wear neckers, green tops, casual trousers and trainers. Each cub must bring a completed One Day Activity form. No form, no event.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **District Cubs Chess**

After four successful evening sessions in the autumn term, the following meetings have been arranged. Please tell all of the cubs in your section that they can come along. Beginners to budding Grand Masters are welcome. All equipment and instruction is provided and it's free. At present 4<sup>th</sup> Hale and 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham are running neck and neck but 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley is putting up a good show. Which pack will score the most points during the last two rounds of the season and receive the coveted trophy? It's a nail biter.

Round 5 : Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 6:30 – 8:15 at 2nd Timperley Scout Hut, Heyes Drive off of Heyes La.

Round 6: Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 6:30 – 8:15 at 1st Timperley Scout Den, Park Rd. Timperley

Annual District Chess Championship: Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1:45 – 5:30 at 3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham Scout Hut, behind the Boys' Grammar School, entrance via Heath Rd.

This is the chess event of the year!

The cubs with the top eight highest scores will represent the District at the County Chess Competition on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Altrincham District cubs chess players have won the County Competition many times. We plan to carry on our long tradition!

#### **Cub Pack Activities:**

##### **4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon Cubs Show**

On their last meeting of the term, 4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon's scout headquarters became a theatre. With a wire strung between the walls, some ground sheets as curtains and chairs for audience, we were transported to a land of performing cubs. The opening and closing numbers involved everyone singing. In between we were treated to jokes, a demonstration of rugby moves, a couple of sketches, and a demonstration of football moves. Several cubs played recorders, guitars and a keyboard and other talents were on display. It was an excellent send off for some of the older cubs who are moving up to scouts. Thanks to David, Anthony, Claire and the mothers who help on a regular basis.

##### **4<sup>th</sup> Hale Cubs**

Every year the cubs complete a wood work project. This time they made wooden lidless boxes to hold forced daffodil bulbs. Everyone had a chance to measure, saw, hammer, screw, and countersink, Each drilled holes using battery powered drills. Each box was decorated using a stencil and then varnished. We're sure that the families will enjoy watching the bulbs grow and then using the wooden box as an "in tray" or an "out tray" for years to come. We are grateful to Toby Tyler, who produces architect's drawings of the project and to Graham Mathers, instructor at 4<sup>th</sup> Hale and a District Vice president, who is a great inspiration for the wood work projects.

#### **Scouts:**

No Information this month

#### **Explorers:**

##### **Panther Explorers Christmas Party**

Lads in black ties and dinner jackets, a top hat, girls in party frocks, leaders doing the cooking and washing up? Was this an Explorer meeting? Yes! The Panthers celebrated Christmas by dressing up, eating an elaborate meal, and then playing party games. It was a terrific evening. Special thanks should go to the leaders: Colin, Joyce, Simon, Ken and Steve.

#### **Leader Training:**

Every adult, when applying for a warrant, has agreed to undertake five hours of training a year. Many leaders would enjoy the fellowship of a course, as well as appreciate the content of the training.

**First Response** qualifications last for three years. The certificates of many leaders have expired. Some are due to run out soon. Please check your own certification. Failing that, you can contact Anthony Roberts, ACSL 4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon, our Local Training Manager, who has an up to date record.

Lucy Nattrass will run a **First Response Course** on two Thursday evenings, 27<sup>th</sup> Jan and 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 2<sup>nd</sup> Timperley scout hut, Heyes Drive, off of Heyes Lane from 7:30 to 10 pm. The cost of £12.00 includes a first aid book, badge and certificate. Please make cheques payable to "Altrincham and District Scout Council."

If your cert. has expired you need to attend both sessions. If your cert. has not yet expired, you need to attend only the first session, which concentrates on dealing with conscious and unconscious casualties.

Please contact Lucy directly on [lucynattrass@hotmail.com](mailto:lucynattrass@hotmail.com) if you would like to attend. She will need to procure the books. Deadline for applications is Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

County **Getting Started** courses will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> September. So if your Group has any one who is interested in gaining a warrant, please let him or her know the dates as soon as possible so they can plan to be available. Attending a Getting Started Course is a requirement for gaining a warrant.

Remember that the County requires applications to arrive at County Office in Tyldesley a full two weeks in advance of the County training courses. Thank you for complying with the requirement in order to give the County Secretary, who works only three half days, time to send receipts and maps to candidates.

Many leaders have allowed their **Safeguarding** qualifications to expire. They last for three years. The next **Safeguarding** course will be on Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> Jan from 14:00- 16:00 in Trafford Metro. After that they will be held on Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Feb., Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> March, Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> April...Please sign up soon.

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

	January	February	Future
<b>Beavers</b>			GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site
<b>Cubs</b>	<p>Cub Chess Thurs 20th Jan 6.30-8.15pm 2nd Timperley HQ</p> <p>Sixer Training Day Sat 22nd January 12.30-17.30 4th Hale HQ, Cecil Rd, Hale</p>	<p>Cub Chess Tues 5th Feb 6.30-8.15pm 2nd Timperley HQ</p> <p>District Chess Competition Sat 26th Feb 1.45-5.30pm 3rd Altrincham HQ</p>	<p>County Chess Competition Sat 5th March pm Location tba</p> <p>GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site</p>
<b>Scouts</b>			<p>GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site</p> <p>2Mad4 Leaders Training Weekend 25-27 March Bradley Wood Camp Site</p>
<b>Explorers</b>			<p>GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site</p> <p>2Mad4 Leaders Training Weekend 25-27 March Bradley Wood Camp Site</p>
<b>District</b>	<p>District Exec Meeting Tues 11th Jan 8.00 pm</p> <p>Census Evening Tues 18th Jan 29 Ollerbarrow Road, Hale.</p> <p>4th Hale Ceilidh (in aid of Jamboree funds) Sat 29th Jan 7.30-11.30 pm St Peter's Assembly Rooms, Cecil Road, Hale Note: Tickets must be purchased in advance</p>		<p>Fellowship Dinner Sat 5th February Bowdon Hotel</p> <p>GSL and Commissioner Training Day Sat 5th Feb Preston</p> <p>Sale District Gang Show Tues 22nd-Sat 26th Feb Garrick Playhouse</p> <p>Celebration of Scouting Sun 3rd April 2.35-4.00 pm St Mary's Church, Bowdon</p> <p>District Exec Meetings: Tues 15th March Tues 19th April Tues 17th May Tues 20th Sept</p> <p>District AGM July tba</p>