

SCOUTLOOK



Altrincham & District Scout Council

July-August 2010

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

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From the District Commissioner:

Scouting is advertised as a movement for young people. However, when thinking about the recent funerals of Scouters, we are reminded that Scouting is a movement for people of all ages. The loyalty and friendship shown by many of the mourners was the result of companionship gained through Scouting activities.

Although the teamwork between leaders and their helpers is the most visible, the more desk based volunteers are also brought together by their scouting work. There are many jobs to be done in Scouting and we need people of many skills and capabilities. (For some, completing a Nights Away Form could be considered an adventurous activity.) So, look at each person you come across as a potential volunteer. You never know what skills and interests they might have. Encourage them to join in with this wonderful movement. You never know, they might get hooked and will treasure the companionship that Scouting nurtures.

Yours in Scouting, Lucy Natrass

Obituaries

It is with sadness that I announce the deaths, of Kevin Heap, who died on Wednesday 26th of May, and George Lowe who died on Thursday 3rd June 2010.

Kevin Heap

I first met Kevin over 30 years ago when he was Group Scout Leader of 4th Hale. He has been connected with the movement all his life. His first appointment as a leader in 1950 was at 1st Stretford and his final appointment was as GSL at 4th Hale in 1975 until his retirement in 1999. He was appointed an Honorary Scouter in 2001. He was appointed District Deputy President and was due to assume the Presidency this year. He was particularly looking forward to this and welcomed this new challenge with his customary enthusiasm and sense of humour.

The Chief Scout recognised his services to scouting and the community with the award of the Medal of Merit (1968), the Long Service Decoration, the Silver Acorn (1982), the Bar to the Long Service Decoration (1992) and the Bar to the Silver Acorn (1995).

He was very well respected by all the leaders and members who appreciated his wisdom, caring nature, and his eagerness to assist any of them, in any situation.

Kevin supported and promoted, on every possible

occasion, the ethos of the scout association and strove to live and practice the Scout Law and Promise in his daily life.

His work within the community, 'The Church,' and his pride in and devotion to his family made for a very full life.

I would wish to join with his many friends from the Scout Movement and offer sincere condolences to his wife Ann and family for their sad loss.

George Lowe

George was our District Treasurer for over 30 years and our District President from 2004 to 2007.

As Treasurer he kept the District financial records with the precision that you would expect from a bank manager. He was always on hand to offer any advice to individuals or groups whether it was in the nature of funds or leases. It became a standing joke that no-one should submit accounts to George unless they were accurate to the penny, or he would find it.

George was very active on the District Swimming Committee, the District Social Committee, and Fund Raising Committees, and it is thanks to his efforts and acumen, (along with many others,) that the site at Cub Warren was refurbished.

Even after he retired as treasurer, George was available for help and chaired financial sub committees to help ease the work load of the District Executive.

His work was recognised by the Chief Scout by the award of the Medal of Merit, the Bar to the Medal of Merit and the Long Service Decoration.

I would wish to join with his many friends from the Scout Movement and offer sincere condolences to his family and his close friend Iris for their sad loss.

These men are a great loss to Scouting and in particular Altrincham District. I regard it a privilege to have known both Kevin and George and to have been involved in many activities and projects with them over the years. I count it an honour that they numbered me as one of their friends.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23 Verse 6.

Hugh Davies - District Chairman

St. George's Day awards:

We are delighted to report that Hugh Davies, District Chairman, received the **Silver Wolf** award. This is the highest award that can be given to a Scouter. He has served Scouting for many years in the roles as SL, DC and District Chairman. We are continuously grateful for his wealth of experience in all scouting matters and his interest in securing the future for Scouting.

Derek Brown SL, and John Hunt ASL at 4th Bowdon Scout Group received their **Silver Acorn** awards for long and distinguished service to Scouting. Together, and with the help of others, they have run a most successful Scout Troop for over twenty years. Their present Troup involves more than 30 young people including Scout aged boys and girls plus Explorer aged young leaders. They are famous for their camps over the May Bank Holiday weekends, when they have demonstrated the building of rope bridges, aerial runways or other feats of rope construction.

Alan Marriott sent out photos of Derek and John in action at Windsor in April when they attended the St. George's Day festivities. All three will be officially presented with their awards at the District AGM on Tues. 13th July.

The following leaders received long service awards since Jan '10:

5 Years Service Award-	
Richard White	ACSL 1 st Hale Barns
Richard Morgan	ASL 4 th Bowdon
Wendy Perkins	BSL 2nd Hale
Anthony Waters	ACSL 6 th Altrincham
10 years Service Award-	
Andrew Robinson	CSL 6 th Altrincham
Peter Ward	SL 2 nd Timperley
15 Years Service Award-	
Allan Gill	GSL 1 st Timperley
20 Years Service Award-	
Robert Liddell	ASL 1 st Timperley
Glenda Gould	ADC Beavers and BSL at 4 th Hale
Harold Seed	ACSL 1 st West Timperley
25 Years Service Award-	
Colin Lenihan	ACSL 1 st Timperley
40 Years Service Award-	
Geoffrey Ashdown	CSL (retired) 1 st Hale Barns

The following have received Awards for their outstanding services to Scouting over an extended period:

Bar to the Award for Merit-	
Diane Pendlebury	CSL, SL and GSL 2 nd Hale
Award for Merit-	
Simon Gould	District SL former District Treasurer
Eric Middleton	3 rd Altrincham supporter and helper

We are very grateful to all of them for their long and distinguished service to Scouting.

Vetting and Baring Scheme- As you may have read in the press, the new Home Secretary, Teresa May, has scrapped the widely advertised scheme that would have been in place this summer. We will have to wait and see what the present government decides to introduce. In the meantime, the Scout Association will continue to use the same CRB forms for anyone over 18 who helps out more than once a month or who would have "unsupervised" access to young people. Essentially this means any adult on a camp needs to have CRB clearance.

County News:

Karen Salisbury, ACC for Cubs, is inviting all cub leaders to a Creative Challenge Day on Sun. 3rd October in Stretford. There will be some ideas for Christmas crafts. More information available soon.

District and Group Information and News:

Website- <http://www.altrincham-scouts.org.uk>

We are pleased that Dominic O'Sullivan, ABSL at 1st Timperley, has agreed to take responsibility for the District Website. He has been sending on enquiries about joining Scouting which people have submitted to the website. He would be delighted for any new up-to-date material, especially pictures, to include. Please send your articles and photos to him at dominic.osullivan@gmail.com

St. George's Day Parade:

Despite the very wet day all except 2 groups were present at the service. Altrincham Grammar School for Boys provided the band for us and sheltered in the porch way of the church as we all paraded around. Once inside every leader was given a number of balloons to be used later in the service. The Rev. Roger Preece led the service in his usually enthusiastic way.

After the presentation of awards to several leaders the balloons were passed around. Andrew Bradley who is a Scout Leader as well as a minister gave an address which ended with all the balloons being blown up and released much to the delight of our younger members. Everyone seemed to enjoy the service.

Freda Clarke - DCSL

Home Contacts-

The DC is pleased to receive your Nights Away Notification forms by email or on paper. She is even more delighted when she receives the forms before the camp rather than after it! She likes to try to arrange to visit the camps, see the young people in action and complement the leaders on their good practice. If, in the unlikely event there were to be an accident, the emergency services might contact the DC. That is why it is essential to let her know where you will be when you

are away from your HQ overnight. This is spelled out in the Nights Away Permit literature, which all camp leaders have signed to say that they have read.

Leaders leading camps no longer need to provide **Home Contacts**. (Please see the previous two issues of Scoutlook and other Scouting publications about the In Touch Scheme) Leaders must give the parents of participants the mobile phone numbers of **two** leaders on the camp. Leaders do not need to keep their phones switched on throughout the camp. We would recommend that they switch them on at meal times, for example. As always, the leaders must have the contact details of the parents of participants.

Queen's Scouts

Robert Balfour and George Johnson, both members of the Panther Explorer Unit, have completed the requirements for the Queen's Scout's award and are waiting on the paperwork. They are both former members of 4th Hale cubs and scouts and were members of the GMW contingent to the Jamboree in 2007.

They gave an excellent talk, with power point photos, to the 4th Hale cubs about how they had fulfilled the various aspects of the Award. Robert has played sport at school and George took part in military-type fitness training. Robert volunteered with several agencies and acquired skills through martial arts. George helped with cubs at 3rd Altrincham. He is also a keen sailor and has crewed on ocean going boats. When George, who is well over 6 feet tall, produced his sailing waterproof jacket, the cubs fell over themselves to have a go at trying it on. With the hood up, even a medium sized cub was completely engulfed, to the delight of his peers.

We are very proud of them, thank them for all that they have given to Scouting so far and wish them a wonderful time when they go to Windsor to participate in the St. George's Day celebrations.

We would urge all scouts or explorers who have embarked on their Duke of Edinburgh Award work, to aim higher and try to fulfil the requirements of the Queen's Scout Award. Not only will the activities be challenging and fun, a Queen's Scout Award will be an excellent selling point on future job applications.

For more information, contact Lucy Natrass or Joyce Clarke, ESL at the Panther Unit.

District AGM , Tues. 13th July at 7:30 at 1st Timperley Scout Hut:

Come One, Come All. You are cordially invited to attend this event which combines business with a social. Awards will be presented, accounts discussed and we hope to have a short presentation about what the six members of the Jamboree contingent have done so far. After that, you're free to mingle with your friends and make some new ones.

From the District Chairman:

I thought I might take the opportunity to write to you for this issue of Scoutlook:

The last few weeks have been most unusual we have celebrated the lives of George Lowe and Kevin Heap. During this time Ron Fenner who was an ASL at 2nd Timperley sadly died, after a short illness. It is at times like these that we are reminded that we are all only stewards of the values and culture of this great movement.

All these leaders tried to live and put into their daily lives the promise and law. They would be pleased and proud that their mantle is being taken by our new leaders and our youth members are a shining example to the values we try to share.

It is AGM time again and I have been fortunate to attend some meetings this year and am pleased to hear of your successes. I will look forward to seeing many of you at our District AGM which will be held at 1st Timperley HQ on 13th July at 7-30pm.

Some groups have already held their annual camps and some groups have theirs to look forward to over the coming weeks. I wish that you all have a memorable camp with favourable weather and take this opportunity to thank you all for the hard work that you have done over the past year and the support that you have received from your partners.

Hugh Davies - District Chairman

Football Jokes - from Glenda:

Some flies were playing football in a saucer, using a sugar lump as a ball. One of them said, 'We'll have to do better than this, lads. We're playing in the cup tomorrow.'

Harry Redknapp arranged to send all his Portsmouth players on an all expenses paid holiday to Florida to prepare for the next season, but they said they'd rather go to Blackpool so they could see what it's like on an open top bus.

**Everton have a new sponsor: EASY JET.
In and Out of Europe in 90 minutes.**

A little boy took his parents to court because he did not want to live with them anymore. The honored judge said to him "So why don't you want to live with your dad?"

"Because he beats me" said the little boy.

"Why don't you want to live with your mum then?" asked the judge.

Because she beats me aswell.

"Oh" said the judge "Well who would you like to live with then?"

The little boy replied "I would like to live with Southampton FC, because they don't beat anyone!!"

News from the Sections:

Beavers:

Beaver Fun Evening:

Once again we had a wonderful time for the Beavers Fun Evening and Sleep Over on Saturday 19th June.

It was a great success largely due to all the help that we had on the day. Thanks to all those that came to help.

There were 140 beavers for the evening of which 70 'slept' over night.

The late afternoon was spent making crafts and doing skills under the theme football. Supper followed and then a brisk walk to St Peters HQ. They were soon in their sleeping bags (some in the same clothes!) ready for the films.

There was very little sound and by midnight they were all asleep.

After breakfast in the fresh air the parents arrived ready to collect their happy, full of energy Beaver.

When asked, the things that they liked best was the football shoot out, as they all strive to be footballers of the future. Maybe they would get better results if they played for England.

Do they want to do it again next year? – it was a definite **YES.**

Leaders, please pencil it in your diary – Fathers Day next year, 2011.

NB

Please could all leaders get the outstanding money to me ASAP

The next thing for the beavers on the calendar is the PANTO at the Garrick.
More details to follow.

Is there anything else that you want to have organised?
A badge night / evening with bases?
Snakes and ladders competition?
Beetle drive?

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Open to suggestions

Glenda

Cubs

Cub and One Camp- 25th-27th June at Dunham Campsite

Once again the District hired the whole campsite for a fun filled weekend. Eight of the ten packs were represented. We were pleased to welcome Cubs and Ones from 3rd Altrincham and 1st West Timperley who have not attended for several years.

On a weekend with glorious hot sunshine, there was canoeing on the pond, play on the new adventure equipment, games on the field and lots of arts and crafts
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centred on the theme of "Dr. Who." Our MC for the campfire on Sat night was Alan Gill, GSL at 1st Timperley. His reputation for running a wonderful campfire has spread far and wide and he lived up to it by getting us to dance to "The Muffin Man" and get muddled singing "The Grand Old Duke of York" leaving out both "up" and "down" Try it.

The Grand Parade on Sunday featured many large Tardises, one including a flashing light and the theme tune supplied by a mobile phone, large and small daleks and fanciful planet scapes. Parents had wondered why they had been encouraged to bring so much cardboard. Now they know why.

Our grateful thanks go to Sylvia Cornish, District Appointments Secretary, who has processed an enormous number of CRB forms recently so that adults can attend camps. We'd also like to thank Freda Clarke, District CSL, who did the admin on the District side. All of that forward planning really paid off. We had a wonderful weekend. The next one will be in June, 2012.



Ken Balfour, CSL 4th Hale (Rowallan) has provided over 100 photos from the camp, one of which is shown here. These can be viewed via the following link, but only until the school holidays start:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/jforrest00/CubOnePlusOneCamp>

1st West Timperley - Birds of Prey Evening:

Chris Hinds, CSL at 1st West Timperley recently ran a Birds of Prey Evening. A picture of one of the birds is shown. He writes: The man was from Gauntlet- a birds of prey centre in Cheshire. It was a fantastic evening and I would recommend him if you were thinking of doing this sort of thing. He managed to keep the beavers/cubs/scouts entertained for an hour and 10 minutes and let them stroke the owls and some had a go a calling the hawk using food. It was also surprising to find out how much the boys already knew about birds. He also brought a baby ferret and a baby pole-cat - so cute.

Let us know about your successful meetings. This is YOUR newsletter. Share!



Scouts:

County Scout Activities:

As announced in the previous issue of Scoutlook, the following County Scout Activities are taking place over the summer.

For further details contact: George Sharp, ADC Scouts
email: georgesharp@sky.com

31st July to 7th August – Cheshire County International Camp – to be held at Tabley, near Pickmere. Go to www.chamboree.co.uk for more details

31st July to 7th August – Red Rose Challenge at Great Tower in the Lake District. This is an action packed international adventure camp. Go to www.redrose.org.uk for more details

10/12th September – Omega Survival Camp – To be held at Giants Seat campsite near Kearsley. Patrols of 3 – 5. It is a part training and part competition event covering backwoods skills and bivvie building . Contact me for more details or look at the county web site

26th September – County Hiking Competition This is a combined Scout and Explorer Scout Event. Sections will compete separately and the hike will take place in the Ashton area of Wigan.

The event was won by 1st West Timperley last year so I hope we can get a few more groups from this district interested and keen to take part. Contact me for more details

1/3rd October – County Chariot Race at Bispham Hall

23/24th October - Steam Sleepover Train from Rawtenstall or Bury stations. Further details were on the flyer attached to the previous issue of Scoutlook.

Explorers:

No News this month

Leader Training:

Basic Skills Training

Training was held over several weeks at 1st Timperley HQ and eight leaders plus our venerable DC Lucy, took the opportunity to extend their knowledge of scouting skills with help and guidance from a number more experienced leaders. The sessions took place in a very convivial and friendly atmosphere with a good exchange of humour and banter throughout.

The training covered basic knots, lashings, pioneering structures, compass and mapping, axe and saw, fires and fire lighting, tents and tent pitching. The plan now is to have a day at Dunham camp site to put some of the skills into practice.

Instruction was not all one way and there was a good exchange of ideas, useful and practical tips between all leaders. For instance, we had a variety of ideas for starting a fire from the traditional birch bark to rubbing two sticks (not two scouts) together and they all worked. The latter was in fact demonstrated successfully by an explorer scout. Another trainee happened to have worked as a tree surgeon so his skills were put to good use when we got on to axe and saw.

You also learn by your mistakes. One leader, whose name I will not mention, now knows that it is not a good idea to take a compass bearing with your compass placed on a metal framed table. She was puzzled to know why she was facing one way when the remainder of the course were facing in the opposite direction.

The sessions were very relaxed, informal and wherever possible practical and I hope those who attended will have found them beneficial. Skills training is available to leaders from all sections and the district will be happy to look at running further courses if there is the demand. Please contact Lucy or me if you would like help or training on specific subjects or skills. If you don't tell us we don't know!

My thanks to 1st Timperley Scout Group for the use of their HQ and to all my fellow helpers and instructors for their support.

George Sharp, ADC Scouts

Module 18 - Practical Skills for beaver and cub leaders:

We are proposing to hold an autumn craft / Christmas craft skills event on Sat. 9th October from 2-5 pm. Venue to be announced. All leaders will be invited to attend and bring some craft activities which have been successful with their cubs or beavers. We'd also like each leader to provide a sort of recipe for the craft so other leaders can take a sheet away with them. Please save the date and think about the crafts YOU'D like to demonstrate.

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

District Diary

	July	August	Future
Beavers			
Cubs			GMW Cub Leaders Creative Challenge Day Sun 3rd Oct Stretford
Scouts	Cheshire County Int'l Camp 31st July-7th Aug Red Rose Challenge 31st July-7th Aug		Omega Survival Camp 10-12th Sept County Hiking Competition Sun 26th Sept County Chariot Race 1-3rd Oct Steam Sleepover Train 23-24th Oct
Explorers			
District	GSL's Meeting Tues 6th July 8.00 pm Ollerbarrow Road District AGM 1st Timperley HQ Tues 13th July ALL WELCOME		GMW County AGM Wed 15th Sept Ellesmere District District Exec Meetings 21st Sept Team Meeting Wed 20th Oct 8.00 pm Warren Drive