

# SCOUTLOOK



## *Altrincham & District Scout Council*

**March-April 2008**

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

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

How many times do we say, "Thank You?" What are the best ways to do so? There are many people to thank who help us with our Scouting today and have helped in the past. The leaders couldn't possibly manage without them. In addition to a short add-on when we say good-bye, some Groups arrange an annual event to thank their helpers. This is cheerfully anticipated and greatly appreciated by all who are invited. Some Groups have made a party out of their AGM. We hear about Bar-B-Qs and Fireworks events. The more events which bring adults and young people together the better.

At your Group meetings, section meetings and leaders' meetings keep thinking of ways to thank your helpers. You never know. Some people might want to become more involved and then they'll be thanking you!

It was with particular sadness that we heard of the death of Peggie Bowie, in December. She was a stalwart member of the District Exec over many years, and she will be sorely missed. There is a brief obituary of her life elsewhere in this issue of Scoutlook.

Best wishes, Lucy

### **Census**

We are pleased to report that Scouting in the District remains very healthy. Even though one Group closed and one Explorer section is undergoing a transition, overall numbers are up in all sections. We are also pleased that several Groups recently have attracted adults who want to go through the training process to become leaders.

We would like to give a huge vote of thanks to Iris Emery, our District Secretary, who has overseen the collecting, consolidating and sending of the census returns. She has done this job every year in January for many years. We are extremely grateful for her conscientious attitude and dogged determination to get the job done. Without her efforts to get the numbers out of some reluctant mangers, some groups would face hefty surcharges on their census returns.

Each Group is given lots of notice about the census. We ask for numbers every year in the middle of January. The census evening comes around regularly a few weeks after Christmas. We are exasperated with why so many groups find it difficult to get their numbers organised. Every Group throughout the country faces the same challenge. Is there any way that the District can make it

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easier for Groups to prepare for the Census? If so, please let us know. We want to help. We will be discussing this issue at the next GSLs meeting.

### **News from the County:**

#### **Uniform and Publications**

The Urmston District Scout Shop is open on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12:30 am at Dyson House, Newton Rd., Urmston. There is a range of new or updated publications available from February or as soon as possible thereafter. These are all improved to incorporate programme changes, new badges and new ideas. There are special offers on uniform trousers and shorts, uniform fleeces and waterproof jackets. Our District gets 10 percent from everything you buy.

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

#### **MARGARET BOWIE M.B.E.** **1923 – 2007**

Peggy Bowie started her scouting activities with 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley Scout Group. Her boys were in scouting and her husband John was Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Group was in need of a new Headquarters, and Peggy threw herself into fundraising with a great deal of enthusiasm.

The Bowie family lived on Ridgeway Rd, Timperley in a lovely house with a large garden which lent itself to "Garden Parties". Dining shelters and tents were readily available when the weather was not too kind. The whole family were involved and friends roped in to bake jacket potatoes, fruit pies and cakes, and to make salads and butter bread rolls by the ton.

John was an expert with the BBQ and with his home-made wine. No party was complete without a raffle.

Later John and Peggy joined the District Executive Committee and fund raising was carried on with the Scout Social Committee.

In 1970 the Scout Swimming Committee was re formed under Peggy's Chairmanship, and teaching cubs how to swim took off in a big way. First of all in the old swimming pool in Altrincham and later transferred to the new Leisure Centre. She was the mainstay of the Swimming Gala.

Peggy's other social activities included the Inner Wheel, the Rowans, the Conservative Association and the Darby

and Joan Club. No one escaped without a garden party or a raffle.

Peggy was awarded an M.B.E. for all her charitable works.

Her enthusiasm and energy will not be equalled. She excelled in "people skills" and made everyone feel special.

### **Fellowship Dinner**

If you weren't there you missed a treat. You missed good food and good company. A good time was had by all. Please put the date in your diary for next year you wouldn't want to miss all the fun.

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

This will be held on Sunday 20th April 2008, leaving from Regent Road car-park at 2.10 pm, for a service at St. Mary's Church, Bowdon at 3.00 pm. Further details are in the document attached to this issue of Scoutlook.

### **Swimathon 2008**

The Altrincham Rotary Club are running a Swimathon in the Manchester Aquatic Centre on Saturday 12th April. Details are given in the attached 'flyers'. Note, however that if you are interested you will need to book immediately.

### **Welcome**

Welcome to new leaders:  
Gregory Barber (ACSL 4th Hale)  
Samantha Wood (ABSL 2nd Timperley)

## **News from the Sections:**

### **Beavers:**

#### **Panto:**

What a wonderful time we had at "Cinderella" at the Garrick Theatre at the Sunday matinee just after New Year. More than 100 beavers joined in the booing of the green baddie and the cheering for the good fairy. Glenda Gould and her team of Beaver leaders invite all the colonies every year to take part in their annual trip to the panto. Make sure you don't miss out next year when she sends out invitations.

#### **Science Activity Afternoon- Sun 9<sup>th</sup> March:**

The Science teachers from Loreto Grammar School have promised a fun afternoon at St. Peter's Assembly Rooms. All beavers throughout the District have been invited to be amazed, entertained and educated about some of the wonders of science.

### **Jokes:**

The following jokes have been supplied by ADC(Beavers)

How do dinosaurs pass exams?  
*With extinction.*

My sister is so dim that she thinks a cartoon is a song you sing in the car.

What do you call an elephant that can fly?  
*a jumbo jet*

What do you call a cow that eats grass?  
*A lawn mooer*

Perhaps other Beavers ( and Cubs ) could let Glenda have some more similar jokes.

[ Could we have a competition for the funniest/most painful/corniest etc joke - Ed. ]

## **Cubs**

### **Sixer Training Day- 26<sup>th</sup> Jan:**

More than 40 cubs enjoyed an afternoon of games and bases at St. Peter's Assembly Rooms. These included the flag break and grand howl, a discussion on the law and promise, making Chinese lanterns, mini-pioneering and shooting off rockets in the car park. Our thanks go to the leaders who came to help.

### **News of the packs:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham cubs have been making bird feeders out of beech branches, winding up yarn dollies and tying parachutes. Nearly every pack enjoyed making pancakes and then eating them with sloppy syrup. 4<sup>th</sup> Hale cubs have been working on the Emergency Aid badge and will be learning about Uganda later in March. They held their annual Beetle Drive in February in lieu of a Christmas party. 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley cubs coloured in some special pictures and transferred them onto plastic. They put them briefly in a cool oven and, hey, presto, they shrank into key fobs.

### **Cubs Chess:**

At the six sessions held in several different huts between October and February, we've had a good turnout of over 20 cubs taking part each evening. Some older brothers have also come along and they've been kind enough to play matches with a cub when we had odd numbers.

We are grateful for the help of John Nattrass, who has mastered the complicated scoring system, and Richard White and Greg Barber, who have supplied the chess expertise. Richard has given clear, brief explanations of tactical moves every week. It has been wonderful to see the cubs incorporating the advice into their play. The pin, scholar's mate and the hedgehog have all been frequently employed. Next year we'll concentrate a bit more on how to resist these moves.

Seven cub packs have sent representatives. At the end of each session the best two scores from each pack are brought forward to make the total for their pack. The packs who have sent the most cubs therefore have had the best chance of scoring highest. At the end of the six sessions three packs were running neck and neck with only five and a half points between them: 2<sup>nd</sup> Hale, 1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley and 4<sup>th</sup> Hale. The top pack is only one and a half points ahead of the second. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hale won it last year. Who will get to hold the trophy this year? Nail-biting stuff.

The winning pack of the Inter-pack championship will be revealed on 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2<sup>nd</sup> Hale when we hold the District championship. This afternoon is open to all cubs

who like to play chess. Instead of playing for points for his pack, each cub will be playing for his own accumulated score. The top eight scorers will be offered places at the County Championship on 8<sup>th</sup> March. A Prize and trophy will be awarded to the top scoring player. The three runners up, who are all very close, will also receive prizes. An award will go to The Most Improved Player.

Remember that Altrincham won the championship three years in a row. Although none of the members of the winning team from last year was eligible to play this year, we have some strong contenders. So the rest of the County had better watch out!

### **Cub and One Camp – 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Dunham Campsite**

All cubs in the District have been invited to bring a responsible adult to camp that weekend. It should be great fun. We hope that all Packs have planned to call a meeting with interested adults to tell them about this camp. Please remember that all adults taking part must have completed a Scouting CRB check within the past five years. If they have CRB clearances from another organisation it doesn't count. Sylvia Cornish, our hard-working Adult Appointment secretary, who is responsible for checking and sending off all of the CRB clearance applications, would be grateful if all forms could be completed as soon as possible. Some Groups are holding "CRB surgeries" so that the adults can come with their documents. Get those black pens ready.

We are holding a meeting for representatives of the adults from each pack at 4<sup>th</sup> Hale Scout hut on Mon. 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 8:15 to answer any queries they might have.

### **Scouts:**

The annual Five-a- Side football competition on Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> March at the Altrincham Leisure Centre always proves a popular event. Plan to come early so you can grab your ring-side seat and cheer on your favourite scouts. Thanks to George Sharp and his team for organising this every year.

### **Multi Activity Days for Leaders 28<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> March at Dunham Park Campsite**

The first of these is the **2MAD4** Leaders. The MAD stands for Multi- Activity Days . If recent experience is anything to go by, these are non-stop. The idea is to obtain scouting skills, try new things, mix with other leaders and carry on a project for the campsite, all in a fun team competition.

This is for the scout leaders in the county. Everyone who has been on this kind of event has thoroughly enjoyed it. For details of this and other activities see your ADC, George Sharp, the County website or contact ACC Scouts Andy Connelan on [andy.connelan@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:andy.connelan@tinyworld.co.uk).

### **Explorers:**

Some members of the Panthers Explorers spent a weekend at Dunham campsite helping with general maintenance and working to clear foliage. They enjoyed themselves on one of those weekends with dry crisp

weather.

N.B. – The managers of Dunham Campsite are desperate for people to help with general maintenance. If any Troop or Unit would like to give an afternoon, please contact Mick or Leslie Wright, bookings secretaries, on 748-0819.

### **Explorer Belt expedition**

By now, any Explorers interested in the Explorer Belt Expedition to Portugal in July, should have contacted GM West County Admin. But there may still be places left. For details see the attachment to this issue of Scoutlook.

### **Leader Training:**

Up to date details check the website [www.gmwscouts.org.uk](http://www.gmwscouts.org.uk)

Note additional Child protection course in Altrincham 11th March and a Getting started Course modules 3,5,13,15 on the 18th May at Altrincham

Please try and get to the courses on Saturdays the 8th And 15 March, at Swinton and Golborne respectively, as this will get 90% of the wood badge in two days

## Leader Training Courses - 2008

Day	Date	Course	Venue	Course type
Thursday	24 January 08	Child Protection	Sw and P District	Evening
Wednesday	23 January 08	Module 25	Atherton and Tyldesley HQ	Evening
Monday	4 February	Child protection	Wigan District	Evening
Wednesday	13 February 08	9, 13 & 6 module training	Atherton and Tyldesley HQ	Evening
Sunday	17 February	1 <sup>st</sup> Response	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
Tuesday	26 February	Child Protection	1 <sup>st</sup> Timperley	Evening
Wednesday	27 February 08	8 and 18 module training	A and T HQ Wigan Metro	Evening
Wednesday	5 March	Child Protection	43 <sup>rd</sup> Salford	Evening
Saturday	8 March 08	Modules 6,7,8,9,13,15 and 18	Swinton and P District	Day 9.30-4.30
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> March	1 <sup>st</sup> Response (ADD on for AD ACT)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
Tuesday	11 March	Child Protection	1 <sup>st</sup> Timperley	Evening
Wednesday	12 March	Child protection	A and T HQ	Evening
Saturday	15 March 08	Getting Started (3,5,12 & 14)	Wigan Metro 1 <sup>st</sup> Golborne	Day
Tuesday	8 April	Child Protection	Stretford District	Evening
Sunday	13 April	1 <sup>st</sup> Response	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
Wednesday	16 April	Modules 7 & 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Davyhulme	Evening
Monday	28 April	Child Protection	7 <sup>th</sup> Wigan	Evening
Thursday	15 May	Child protection	Leigh District	Evening
Wednesday	30 April	Modules 17 & 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Davyhulme	Evening
Sunday	18 May 08	Getting Started (3,5,12 & 14)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Altrincham	Day
Sunday	18 May	1 <sup>st</sup> Response	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
Saturday	14 June 08	Modules 6,7,8,9,13,15, and 18	Ellesmere District	Day 9.30-4.30
Sunday	15 June	1 <sup>st</sup> Response (ADD on for AD ACT)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
<b>Weekend</b>	<b>27/29 June 08</b>	<b>Nights Away Module 16 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend</b>	Bispham Hall Scout Estate	Weekend
Sunday	13 July	1 <sup>st</sup> Response	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
Sunday	21 September	1 <sup>st</sup> Response	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
	21 or 28 September 08	Child Protection	Sale District	weekend
Sunday	14 September 08	Getting Started (3,5,12 & 14)	Salford Metro	Day
Weekend	19/21 September	Nights Away Module 16 2nd Weekend GCA Course Modules TBC	Bispham Hall Scout Estate	Weekend
Monday	6 October	Child Protection	Wigan HQ	Evening
Sunday	19 October 07	1 <sup>st</sup> Response (ADD on for AD ACT)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
Tuesday	11 November	Child protection	3 <sup>rd</sup> /1 <sup>st</sup> Eccles	Evening
Sunday	16 November 08	Modules 6,7,8,9,13,15 and 18	17 <sup>th</sup> Stretford	Day 9.30-4.30
Sunday	16 November	1 <sup>st</sup> Response	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day
Wednesday	26 November	Child protection	Urmston District	Evening
Saturday	29 November 08	Getting Started (3,5,12 and 14)	TBC	Day
Sunday	14 December	1 <sup>st</sup> Response	3 <sup>rd</sup> Worsley	Day

For up to date details check the website  
[www.gmwscouts.org.uk](http://www.gmwscouts.org.uk)

<b>District Diary</b>			
	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Beavers</b>	Beaver Science Afternoon Sun 9th March 1.00-4.00 pm St Peter's Assembly Rooms		Beaver Fun Day Sat 14th June Venue and details tba
<b>Cubs</b>	District Chess Competition Sat 1st March 1.45-5.30 pm 2nd Hale HQ  Cub and One Camp - Representatives Meeting Mon 3rd March 8.15 pm 4th Hale HQ  County Chess Competition Sat 8th March - Wigan	Cub Warren Meeting Tues 8th April 8.00 pm 29 Ollerbarrow Rd  Cubs Construction Challenge Afternoon: Sat 6th April 1.00-5.00 pm St Peter's Assembly Rooms	District Cub and One Camp 20-22nd June 2008 Dunham Scout Camp
<b>Scouts</b>	Five-a-side Football Competition 1st March Altrincham Leisure Centre	Lord Derby Scouting Challenge Sun 27th April Middlewood Camp Site	County Camping and Backwoods Competition Weekend 27-29th June Bispham Hall Camp Site  Omega Survival Camp Weekend 19-21st Sept Middlewood Camp Site  County Hiking Competition Sun 12th Oct Venue tba
<b>Explorers</b>			
<b>District</b>	4th Hale Jumble Sale Sat 1st March 1.30 pm St Peter's Assembly Rooms  Child Protection Course Tues 11th March 7.00-9.00 pm 1st Timperley HQ  1st Timperley Ceilidh Fri 28th March 1st Timperley Den.	District Exec Meeting Tues 22nd April  St George's Day Parade Meet 1.30 pm Regent Road Car Park (Service 3 pm St Mary's Bowdon)	District Exec Meetings: Tues 13th May 2008 Tues 9th Sept 2008

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.