

# SCOUTLOOK



## Altrincham & District Scout Council

**May-June 2008**

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

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### From the District Commissioner:

It's official. Scouting for boys and girls is making a big comeback. Around 13,500 more young people and 1,500 adults joined the Scout Movement last year. That was the biggest increase since 1986. The 14-18 age range saw the biggest growth with a 6.5 percent increase in numbers.

As all of you well know, scouting offers excellent activities and adventures. When so many young people are spending hours in doors in front of computers, Scouting provides a stimulating alternative. More parents are realising that Scouting offers opportunities for team- work and comradeship in a supervised environment.

According to H.Q., there are now 28 million Scouts worldwide. There are only six countries in the world without Scouting: China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, Andorra and Myanmar.

However, we couldn't do it without the leaders. As Peter Duncan, the Chief Scout says, "Scouting can only happen when there are enough volunteer leaders to support it. Children are the future, and there is unique joy in helping them discover talents they never knew they had. I believed that when I was working on Blue Peter and I believe it now.

"The great outdoors is where Scouting lives and breathes and I encourage you all to get involved in KidsOutdoors at [www.kidsoutdoors.com](http://www.kidsoutdoors.com) or join scouting at [www.scouts.org.uk/join](http://www.scouts.org.uk/join). Remember, it's not just the young people that have fun." In the District we were pleased to see a slight increase in numbers of young people. We are also delighted to learn about so many Nights Away camps, hikes, boating expeditions and other adventurous activities being planned. We couldn't do it without the leaders who give their time and efforts so willingly. We need more of you. Keep talking to your friends and neighbours and the parents of the young people in your sections. Tell them what fun the adults have.

So - thank you all for your efforts in providing stimulating indoor meetings, outdoor activities and keeping the OUT in Scouting.

Best wishes, Lucy

**Dunham Scout Camp County Rally News:** You might be interested to know that I received a call from the Secretary of Greater Manchester West who said that a man had phoned her from Pickering in North Yorkshire. He had found a ticket which had been on a balloon released at Dunham in May, '07. Good news travels far.

### District Information and News:

#### Frank Green

It is with sadness that I announce the death, peacefully on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 of Frank Green.

I first met Frank over 50 years ago when I was an Assistant Scout Leader at 2<sup>nd</sup> Timperley. Frank was an uniformed helper and QuarterMaster with the Group who supported his wife, an Assistant Cub Scout Leader. He worked tirelessly for the Group and Cub Warren and during this time he showed his caring nature, his wisdom and his eagerness to assist any of the members in any situation, He was very well respected by all the leaders and members whom he helped. He 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. Frank had the gift of sharing in challenging situations, and was always happy to help in the solution of problems and difficulties with extreme sensitivity.

His devotion to his family was legendary.

I regard it a privilege to have known Frank and to have been involved in many activities and projects with him over the years. I count it an honour that he numbered me as one of his friends. I would wish to join with his many friends from the Scout Movement and offer sincere condolences to his family for this sad loss.

***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

### Awards received 2007-2008:

#### **Silver Acorn**

Grahame Simmonds    GSL    1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns

### Bar to Award for Merit

Geoff. Ashdown      ACSL    1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns

### Award for Merit

David R Smith      SL      3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham  
David J Smith      CSL      4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon  
Frank Aldwin      ASL      1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns  
Gary White      ASL      1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns  
Bob Liddell      ASL      1<sup>st</sup> Timperley  
Robert Gresty      ASL      1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley  
Stuart Hodgson      CSL      1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley

### Chief Scouts Commendation

Harold Seed      ACSL    1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley

### Thanks Badge

Maria Davies    Badge/Minute Secretary      District

### LONG SERVICE AWARDS:

#### Bar to Long Service Award

Robert Gresty      ASL      1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley

#### 10 years

Jane Ford      BSL      6<sup>th</sup> Altrincham

#### 5 years

Katie Kristopherson      ASL      3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham  
Carol Hoyland      BSL      2<sup>nd</sup> Timperley  
Bill Ryan      ACSL    1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley

Congratulations to you all

### St George's Day:

Many thanks to all of you who took part in the St. George's Day parade and service. Thanks are due to all of the adults who helped during the service. Not only were beavers, cubs scouts and explorers in attendance, we were pleased to welcome Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. Although the weather was not on our side, the traffic management by the police was exemplary and the parade reached St. Mary's church in record time. We sang some rousing hymns, listened to readings and prayers, reminded ourselves of some campfire songs and renewed our promises. We were also pleased to applaud several leaders who were presented with awards by the County Commissioner, Haydn Worrall. Where else can you enjoy the warmth of fellowship generated by a large group brought together for a common peaceful purpose?

A total of £200.00 was raised through donations to the Adventure Farm Trust. Thank you to all who contributed

Remind your colleagues in scouting who were not there what they missed. We look forward to seeing you next year.

In Altrincham District we are fortunate to have a

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St. George's Day parade and service. In Wigan, where there are ten scout troops, the local police demanded a fee of £2000 to police the parade. Needless to say, Wigan District cancelled the parade and merely held the service. Sale District does not mark St. George's Day.

### Programme Planning:

International activities are an important part of the Scouting programme. If you are struggling to find interesting ways to include an international element, other than simply bringing in a bit of food with a foreign name, try the **Christian Aid** website. There are some excellent educational and thought provoking materials. Try playing the paper bag game, the Mali cattle herder game or several others. There are also suggestions for non-competitive, cooperative games.

### Cub Warren :

( Iris Emery, District Secretary, submitted this report: )

"The District Commissioner couldn't wait to make her first visit of the season to Cub Warren. So she planned a picnic for 2<sup>nd</sup> May. She invited members of her team who were available and willing to brave the elements. The day dawned quite bright and fine, so all was well.

Luckily we had been forewarned by our intrepid scout, Stuart Naylor. Wellies or "stout" boots were needed as the land was reported to be muddy and we needed to walk most of the way down the lane. Getting the car stuck in the mud was not a desirable option. Neither was backing out.

The campsite looked gorgeous. There were one or two mole hills and lots of dandelions. Rabbits were running around and birds provided background music. The trees were all coming into leaf and looked lovely. It was strangely quiet and peaceful. **THERE WERE NO CUBS!**

Everyone had brought food to share and we sat outside to have our lunch bathed in beautiful spring sunshine. What more could you want from a spring picnic? **PARADISE INDEED!"**

Why not take your beavers, cubs, scouts, explorers, leaders or committee members to **Cub Warren** for a day, night or a weekend? It is so safe there with no traffic and no passers-by. The kitchen has a gas cooker and a hot water heater. There are separate toilets for adults and children. You can make as much noise and/or mess as you want without disturbing anyone except for a few cows. Choose a date, phone Stuart Naylor to make a booking, and enjoy your visit.

### District Annual General Meeting:

Please put this date into your diaries  
Is to be held on Tuesday 8th July 2008 at 4th Hale. It will be in the Veranda Room, St Peter's House, Murieston Rd, Hale.7.30 for 8.00pm.

All leaders, instructors, parents and members of sections are welcome to attend. Take pleasure in chatting with your colleagues from other Groups. Share some ideas. Enjoy refreshments after the meeting. If it's a fine night we can linger on the church lawn. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Group AGM's:

Can groups please let the District Secretary or the District Commissioner know the dates of their Annual General Meetings. We will make every effort to send a representative from the District team. We enjoy hearing what has been going on and the plans for the future. We also like to take the opportunity to thank the leaders, helpers and members of committees for all of the work they have done throughout the year.

## The Giant Sleepover:

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers are all encouraged to take part in a 'Giant Sleepover' overnight on Saturday 14th June, with a view to setting a 'Guinness Record' for the biggest simultaneous sleepover. The Beaver Section is already organising such a sleepover for Beavers, after their 'Fun Day'.

A flyer about the 'Giant Sleepover' is attached to this issue of Scoutlook.

## News from the Sections:

### Beavers:

Several beaver colonies are making the most of the new badges. 4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon, 6<sup>th</sup> Altrincham and 4<sup>th</sup> Hale beavers have all been enjoying the Creative badge. This can involve finger painting, making masks, junk modelling, painting a large mural or making get well cards.

The Beaver leaders are planning a **Giant Sleepover** on Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with the Giant Sleepover organised by the charity, Save the Children. All of the Beavers in the District have been invited to spend the night in St. Peter's Assembly Rooms. The Sleepover will follow their annual Fun Day which will be held in the early evening at 3rd Altrincham, behind the Altrincham Boys' Grammar School. The leaders are really looking forward to many games, appropriate videos, a bit of badge work, supper, breakfast, tooth brushing and LOTS of sleep.

### Jokes:

More jokes supplied by ADC(Beavers)

Mummy mummy I don't want to go to New Zealand.  
*Shut up and keep swimming.*

What do ghosts eat for breakfast?  
*Dreaded wheat*

Why are graveyards so noisy?  
*Because of all the coffins*

And one from the DC:

What do Australians dial for the emergency services?  
*666*

Come on Beavers ( and Cubs ) Why not let Glenda have some more similar jokes.

[ Maybe you could have a joke competition during the Giant Sleepover, and we could print the best of them in Scoutlook. Ed ]

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## Cubs

### News of the packs:

1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley cubs have been working on the science badge. Many came clutching their jars with bean sprouts. 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley cubs have been constructing things. They had a contest to see which six could make the strongest structure out of drinking straws and cello tape. 4<sup>th</sup> Hale cubs have been looking at different kinds of maps and learning about compasses. They will soon be out in Hale recording various landmarks with the appropriate symbols on a map.

4<sup>th</sup> Hale and 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley cubs will enjoy an Outdoor Skills Day at **Cub Warren** on 10<sup>th</sup> May from 10 to 4. In addition to jolly games and cooking our own lunch, we will be doing pioneering, tracking, knots, fire lighting and erecting tents. We always have a wonderful day.

### Cubs Chess:

2nd Hale won the District chess competition, back at the beginning of March, but it was a very close thing.

In the County Chess Competition in March, '08 our team from Altrincham tried their best but came third. It was a good result considering the stiff competition and we were very proud of them. None of them had ever played at County level before. A.C.L. Greg Barber accompanied the team and we are grateful for this help.

We know the date of the next County Chess in March, '09 already. In the autumn we will be encouraging these experienced hands and those new to the game to take part in the District chess club which will continue about once a month until March. With more practise, some more good coaching from Richard White, Greg Barber and others, we should be able to produce a winning team.

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

Plans are shaping up for the Cub and One Camp at Dunham Scout Camp. Several packs are taking part. 4th Hale has signed up the biggest number of cubs and parents on record.

We are grateful to those who have urged the parents to complete their CRB forms. Sylvia Cornish, the wonderful person who processes these forms for the District, is pleased that many of these CRB forms are coming back already with clearance.

The theme, of course, cannot be revealed until the Friday night. However, we can tell you that we're planning a jolly campfire on the Saturday evening and offering canoeing to all of the cubs. There will also be inter-pack games on the big field. Freda Jackson, ACSL 6th Altrincham, and Lucy Nattrass, DC, are planning a trip to GRUMPY to collect a van load of interesting materials so Cubs and Ones can be really creative. So get sorting out your paint, glue, felt tips and wax crayons. You'll need them.

## Scouts:

The annual Five-a- Side football competition on Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> March at the Altrincham Leisure Centre was won by 4<sup>th</sup> Hale, in a field of 9 teams. It was good that 2<sup>nd</sup> Hale put in a team and they did very well considering that they are all only 11 years old and were at least a head shorter than the winners.

A team of 4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon Scouts came fourth in the Lord Derby competition organised by the County Team. We thank their leaders for preparing them. We congratulate them for taking the trouble of taking part and on their success.

Some scouts, cubs, leaders and fathers from 4<sup>th</sup> Hale enjoyed a Sunday in Lyme Park recently following the orienteering routes. It was an excellent opportunity for the older cubs and scouts to mingle, for the cub leaders to brush up their map and compass work, and for the Dads to see what fun we have in Scouting.

Scouts at 1<sup>st</sup> Hale are looking forward to their first ever adventure camping weekend at Tawd Vale Scout campsite. They will be enjoying kayaking, abseiling and archery. To get ready for camp, they intended to practise putting up tents. Part of the project was matching sections of Niger ridge poles from amongst all the equipment that had come from the 1<sup>st</sup> Hale. Unfortunately, in the available time, in spite of several trips up and down the ladders up to the stores, no group of four sections of ridge poles could be found to make the correct length.

This is why we practise putting up tents before we go to camp!

## Explorers:

At 4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon the young people of Explorer age have been working with the scouts practicing their camping skills before going on camp at Sandiway the first weekend in May. Back woods cooking is a particular favourite.

A new resource for Explorer leaders, entitled 'The Baby Borrowers', has been produced by the Scout Association in partnership with the BBC. A flyer about this is attached to this issue of Scoutlook.

## Leader Training:

Gordon Fyfe, Leader Training Manager, has been notifying GSLs that a First Response course will be held on Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> and Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> June from 7:30 to 10 pm. Venue to be announced. Cost is £6.00 for the first session for those who need a "refresher" and £12.00 for those who need to requalify by coming to both sessions. This price includes a first aid book, certificate and badge. Pay by cheque, get a receipt and collect the fee from your Group's treasurer. To book a place please contact Gordon or Lucy at [lucynattrass@hotmail.com](mailto:lucynattrass@hotmail.com) . Please do not book through County Office.

The District can't make it any easier for leaders to maintain this important qualification.

A current Leader Training schedule is on the next page, but up-to-date details should be checked on the County Website:

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

A Training Application form is attached to this issue of Scoutlook

## Leader Training Courses - 2008

Day	Date	Course	Venue	Course type
Tuesday	18 March	Child Protection	1 <sup>st</sup> Timperley	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
Thursday	12 June	Child protection	Sale Central (5 <sup>th</sup> Sale)	Evening
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
Weekend	27/29 June 08	Nights Away Module 16 1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend	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

COST OF TRAINING FOR 2008	
Day Course 10 am - 3.30 pm £10.00 (bring packed lunch)	
Evening Course 7 pm - 9.30 pm	£5.00
First Aid 9.30 am - 4.30 pm	£10.00 (bring packed lunch)
Residential Weekend (GCA)	£50.00
Nights Away (2 weekends)	£80.00

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

<b>District Diary</b>			
	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Beavers</b>	Beaver Leaders Meeting Wed 21st May 8.00 pm 4th Hale HQ	Beaver Fun Day - early evening Sat 14th June - 3rd Altrincham followed by Sleepover at St. Peter's Assembly Rooms.	
<b>Cubs</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Hale and 1 <sup>st</sup> Timperley cubs to Cub Warren Sat 10th May	District Cub and One Camp 20-22nd June 2008 Dunham Scout Camp	
<b>Scouts</b>		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>	District Exec Meeting Tues 13th May  6th Altrincham AGM Tues 13th May 6.30 pm	Team Meeting Wed 4th June 8.00 pm  District AGM Tues 8th July 7.30 pm St Peter's House, Ashley Rd, Hale  4th Hale AGM Wed 25th June 8.00pm  GSL Meeting Thurs 26th June 8.15 pm 4th Hale HQ	District Exec Meetings: 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.