

# SCOUTLOOK



## *Altrincham & District Scout Council*

**October-November 2008**

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

**Editor:** [alan\\_marriott@lineone.net](mailto:alan_marriott@lineone.net)

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

**Wanted:** beaver leaders, cub leaders, scout leaders, GSLs, adult helpers

This is a sign hanging in the Altrincham and District Scouting window. It is not new. That sign has been there for ages. While we have many excellent leaders and helpers, we could always do with many more. Three Groups are now without a GSL, a section leader or two is finding it hard to fit in the time with a new job and wants to resign and some valued leaders have recently moved out of the area. Vacancies will always be with us. Even in "the good, old days" that we hear about when most people active in Scouting seemed to stay in post for decades, there were resignations and relocations.

On the other hand, however, some Groups have employed strategies which have led to success in attracting some enthusiastic new recruits. Some Groups are welcoming not just one new leader to fill a post, but several. At a local beaver colony, for example, three parents have come forward, pursued their initial training, gained their warrants and are working together to share the joys of leading the colony. It is also terrific to see how many young people aged 18-24 are continuing with their Groups as leaders or are coming back into Scouting after having been away. One young SL has pinched his friend, a leader in another Group's beaver colony, to come to run a cub pack with him at his Group. There is great hope for the future.

And we all need to be actively trying to recruit interested, capable people into our Groups. Identify the responsibilities that need to be covered. Then if each of us tries to think of three people who might be interested and we work out a timetable of asking them, face to face, we never know, we might find success. Experience shows that general advertising for recruits doesn't work beyond letting people know there is a vacancy. Individuals need to be identified and approached.

After all, we have an excellent product to sell. Let's get out there and get more adults involved.

Yours in Scouting, Lucy Natrass

### **Was she ever surprised!**

When Iris Emery, District Secretary, was driven to the door of St. Peter's Assembly Rooms on a recent Sunday lunchtime, she was greeted by a crowd of over 50 well wishers. Members of the District Exec., the County Commissioner, the former County Treasurer, the former

DC and his family, many members of the Scouting Fellowship and their spouses and her immediate family gathered to surprise her on the occasion of her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. And was she surprised! We in the know were also surprised that all of these people, this talkative bunch, had been able to keep the secret for several weeks.

Like most successful enterprises, this wonderful party involved a big team effort. Our thanks go to Maria and Hugh Davies for the initial idea and the excellent cold buffet. The table decorations using green chrysanthems and purple ribbon, created by Graham Mathers, were in keeping with the Scouting theme. Jane Ford made a floral bouquet to present to Iris. The large fruit cake, made and decorated by Sylvia Cornish, with Scouting colours subtly touched onto white icing, was magnificent. Glenda Gould was a whiz with folding table napkins. Many others helped on the day.

We all sang "For she's a jolly Good Fellow" when Iris arrived. The big cheer was well deserved. Iris has been an active supporter and worker for Scouting at a Group level and for the District for more than 30 years. When she cut the cake, surrounded by her three grandsons, we sang "Happy Birthday". We all wish her a long and happy life and thank her for her continued help with Scouting.

### **National and County News:**

#### **Network**

The Scouting network for this area was set up to provide opportunities for young people involved in Scouting, aged 18-25, to get together. They aim to have one event a month, either fairly sedentary, such as meeting at a pub, or active such as walking or climbing. Michael Bracewell, a cub leader from Urmston, worked diligently trying to get some interest going in the Altrincham area. Now that he has gone to Italy for nine months as part of his Uni course, he has passed the networking mantle on to Rick Bentley.

What could be better than spending some time with like-minded people in your age group doing activities that you enjoy? Get in touch with Rick on [r\\_bentley13@hotmail.com](mailto:r_bentley13@hotmail.com) and find out what you've been missing.

#### **Dunham Campsite**

The Campsite is still without a permanent warden but there is a team of helpers who warden at weekends and

do some general maintenance work on the site. They would be grateful for Explorers and leaders to take part during their Winter Working Weekends. The site will be open from 10 am – 4 pm on the weekends of Nov.1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nov. 15/16, Nov. 29/30, Dec. 13/14, Jan. 10/11 and Jan. 24/25.

**ESL's:** Why not programme in a weekend of good physical activity? All of that axe and saw practise will stand the Explorers in good stead when they go to survival camp.

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

### **3rd Altrincham trip to Kandersteg : Leaders' Report:**

Having visited the European Centre for Scouting at Kandersteg in 1988 and 1998 it seemed only right for the Group to return in 2008.

A total party of 75 made the trip including stalwarts such as Red Moose and Tiger– 65 by coach, arriving some 2000 feet up in the Bernese Oberland 24 hrs after leaving Altrincham. We were greeted by damp conditions and an impressive rock fall which flattened a nearby residence!

The site hadn't changed in the ten years since our last visit, other than the "pinkies" (site staff) seeming a lot younger. Our pitch was reasonable other than it did hold water as we were to find out later in the week.

We had done a lot more planning for this trip than previously (it was needed with that many on camp) and it paid dividends as the programme ran smoothly and effortlessly through the week (mind you I had been training the other leaders for 10 years, so it was only to be expected!)

Activities were wide ranging, from high alpine walking and mountain biking to macramé (aka multi crafts), and everyone seemed to enjoy all that they did. Memorable moments include digging trenches one night and resiting a couple of tents, fantastic alpine views from the high mountain huts and passes, including the Eiger and the Matterhorn and a day trip to Bern.

A camp such as this does take a lot of organising and effort and I would like to thank all the leaders and adults for their work before and during the camp, in particular to Gordon and Karen who had the inordinate task of feeding us all and my did we eat well.

Remember folks - Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the coach drivers who did a great job of getting us there and back in one piece and who camped with us all week – much better than the last lot who thought they were on a mystery tour of wider Europe.

Next trip is in 5 years time before we're all too old to remember why we got up in the morning.

Mountain Elk - September 2008

### **Calling all Cub Leaders**

Want to chat about programme ideas? Want to try some new games? Want to discuss a District cub activity at the end of January? Let's get together. We have a lot to talk about.

Scoutlook -Oct-Nov08

Please plan to come to 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley scout hut on **Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> November at 8:15.**

### **Advance Notice:**

Census Night - Tues 20th January 2009.

District Dinner - Sat 24th January 2009.

More details of these two events will be given in the next issue of Scoutlook.

## **News from the Sections:**

### **Beavers:**

4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon beavers have been enjoying the new play equipment they acquired with Sainsbury's vouchers. This includes quoits, small basketball hoops and hula hoops. 4<sup>th</sup> Hale beavers got as much paint on their hands as on the paper in their recent autumn craft evening printing with leaves.

### **Cubs**

4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon cubs and several parents enjoyed a balmy evening at the Maize Maze at Red House Farm, Dunham, in mid September. Although the corn was as high as an elephant's eye, no one got seriously lost and they all enjoyed a bit of a "squirt out" at the end with super soakers.

1<sup>st</sup> Timperley cubs have been singing and practicing sketches for their Entertainers badge.

1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley and 4<sup>th</sup> Hale cubs have been working on their Fitness Challenge. The former pack has been using blood pressure monitors to test heart beats before and after exercises. The later pack has enjoyed an evening trying new sports, including basketball, hockey, table tennis and hockey on the all-weather pitch, at The Grammar Leisure Centre next to the Altrincham Boys' Grammar School. They are also planning some healthy eating by cooking stir fried vegetables.

3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham cubs have enjoyed a night hike and some theory about canoeing before their recent successful camp at Sandiway.

### **Cubs Chess:**

The season got off to a good start at 1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley Scout Hut. By encouraging many of his section of cubs to attend, Stuart Hodgson, CSL, managed to tip the balance of the scores for Groups well in favour of 1<sup>st</sup> West Timperley. Those cubs made up more than half of the numbers. We had some beginners as well as some serious intermediates. So there is a lot of potential talent to train up.

Our thanks go to Richard White, Instructor. at 4<sup>th</sup> Hale, Greg Barber, ACSL and John Natrass for running the event.

The next few dates are:

Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> Oct., at 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley 6:30- 8:15

Mon. 10<sup>th</sup> Nov., at 4<sup>th</sup> Hale 6:30 – 8:15

Thurs. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 1<sup>st</sup> Hale Barns. 7 – 8:30 pm

(Please note the later time)

Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. '09 at 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley 6:30- 8:15  
There will also be another evening session in February.

The District Championship will be held at 2<sup>nd</sup> Hale on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. in the afternoon. Arising from that, six or eight of the top players will represent the District the following week.

The County Championship is on Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> March in Swinton

All cubs throughout the District, of whatever standard, are welcome. Instruction is provided as well as all of the equipment. We look forward to seeing many more cubs.

### **Scouts:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Altrincham scouts, pitched out of their hut for jumble sale preparations, made excellent use of the new Grammar Leisure Centre next to their hut.

4<sup>th</sup> Bowdon scouts have been learning first aid and construction with pioneering poles.

4<sup>th</sup> Hale scouts have been to the climbing wall at Marple and on a night hike.

### **Explorers:**

No News this month

### **Leader Training:**

Please note the training courses which will be put on by the County. A schedule is included in this Scoutlook. If you want to apply for those you must complete a County Training 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.

In addition, we will be running a FIRST RESPONSE COURSE at 1<sup>st</sup> Timperley Scout Hut on Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> October from 7:30 – 10. First Response Certificates are valid for three years. Those leaders whose First Response Certs. have not yet expired may attend the first session only for a refresher.

The cost, which should be paid by your Group, is £6.00 for one session and £12.00 for two. As this course is being run by Altrincham District, you do not need to complete a County Training Course form. Just contact Lucy or Gordon Fyfe directly by email saying that you would like a place on the course.

A current Leader Training schedule for 2008 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)

We are awaiting details of the 2009 schedule and, hopefully, will have them for the next 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
<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

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>October/November</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Beavers</b>			
<b>Cubs</b>	Cub Chess Tues 14th Oct 6.30-8.15 pm 1st Timperley HQ Mon 10th Nov 6.30-8.15 pm 4th Hale HQ Thurs 27th Nov 7.00-8.30 pm 1st Hale Barns HQ  Cub Leaders Meeting Wed 12th Nov 8.15 pm 1st Timperley HQ		
<b>Scouts</b>	County Hiking Competition Sun 12th Oct		Mon. 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 6:30 – 8:15 cubs chess at 4 <sup>th</sup> Hale Scout Group
<b>Explorers</b>			Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 8:15 - Cub leaders meeting at 1 <sup>st</sup> Timperley Scout Hut
<b>District</b>	First Response Course Tues 7th Oct 7.30-10.00 pm 1st Timperley HQ  Team Meeting Wed 8th Oct 8.00 pm Warren Drive  GSL's Meeting Thurs 12th Nov 8.15 pm 1st Hale Barns HQ (Please note change of date)  Cub Warren Users Meeting Tues 4th Nov 8.15 pm Ollerbarrow Road  District Exec Meeting Tues 18th Nov		Census Night Tues 20th Jan 29 Ollerbarrow Rd., Hale  District Dinner Sat 24th Jan Quality Inn, Bowdon  St George's Day Parade Sun 29th April  District Exec Meetings Tues 6th Jan Tues 17th March Tues 21st April (Accounts Meeting) Tues 19th May Tues 15th Sept

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.