

SCOUTLOOK



Altrincham & District Scout Council

March-April 2011

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

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From the District Commissioner:

Can you think of an occasion when everyone involved in Scouting in the District, as well as dignitaries and parents, can come together, parade their flags, praise God, join in prayers, renew their promises, sing some rousing songs, learn from religious leaders and others and celebrate the Movement? Yes, you got it: The St. George's Day Service. This year it will be held on **Sunday 3th April**.

Our theme will be "Helping Hands" and we have some particularly special awards to present. We will be taking a collection for the Mayor's chosen charity, Pictor School in Sale. Joining instructions have already been sent by email to all on the Scoutlook list. We look forward to seeing everyone there. What an excellent opportunity to get together.

As you can imagine, the District Executive thought long and hard about which Sunday to hold the service this year. The nearest Sunday to the English saint's day is Easter, which would have been impossible. The Sunday before that is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week and an inappropriate day in the Christian calendar for a celebration of Scouting. The previous Sunday, 10th April, is at the beginning of the holidays for many schools so we thought many families might be away. If we had moved the service to May we knew that many sections would be getting out and about on weekends and we want to encourage them to do so. Therefore, the third of April it is.

In 2012, Easter is on 8th April, so we should have a good chance at holding the St. George's day service nearer to the saint's day.

Yours in Scouting,

Lucy Natrass

From Headquarters:

Revvng up to 2018:

Stuart Hodgson, GSL at 1st West Timperley, and Lucy attended a training day for GSLs and DCs at Ribby Hall in Lancashire. We were impressed with the rousing presentations given by Wayne Bulpitt, the UK Chief Commissioner and the head of the Programme planning department. Now that Scouting seems to have achieved its aims for 2012 we are striving towards 2018. It seems that the government and the nation are more aware of Scouting than before. For example, when the Coalition government wanted to discuss changes to the CRB Scoutlook - March-April 2011

regulations, they turned to the Scout Association for advice. Allegedly, ten years ago, the Scout Association would not have been considered important enough to consult. The numbers of young people involved are rising, more want to join than we have leaders and more activities are encouraged. Lucy has a CD with the presentations on it if anyone would like to see them.

We would recommend that GSLs take advantage of these free days which are put on every so often by HQ. In addition to an excellent lunch, you get a chance to see the Regional Development Officers in action and a chance to discuss Scouting with like minded people from far and wide.

Awards:

On behalf of the Chief Scout, the following awards were presented recently. Congratulations and thanks to all of them for their hard work for Scouting over the years.

15 years service award-	Andrew Broatch AESL – Snowdon Explorer Unit
25 years service award-	Ken Quinlan ACSL – 1 st Timperley
30 years service award -	Stuart Naylor Active Support with responsibility for Cub Warren
Award for Merit-	Fred Warburton ESL Snowdon Explorer Unit
Award for Merit-	Andrew Broatch AESL Snowdon Explorer Unit
Award for Merit-	Keith Bury Treasurer of 3rd Altrincham
Award for Merit-	Richard Doherty ACSL 2nd Hale
Award for Merit -	John Reynolds ASL 1st Timperley

Adventurous Activities and Nights Away Permits:

Are you planning your spring and summer programmes?
Are you planning any overnight stays- camping or residential?

Will your group be participating in any of the scout run activities listed below
Caving, Canoeing, Kayaking, Sailing, Hill Walking,

Climbing, Abseiling, Mountain Biking, Scuba Diving, Power Boating and others

If the answer to any of the above is YES! Then:-

- a) Have you got a current Nights Away Permit?
- b) Do you have an Adventurous Activity Permit for the activity you intend to engage in?

Not all activities require permits but don't leave it to chance – check well beforehand and don't leave it to the last minute.

- c) Don't forget to notify our DC Lucy Natrass if the activity involves an overnight stay

Much more information is available on the scout web site www.scouts.org.uk. Select "Member Resources" followed by the resource or activity you require eg. "Activity Permits" or "Nights Away Permits"

Water Activities:

Ten leaders attended a meeting held at 1st Timperley HQ on Tuesday 15th February.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss all aspects of Canoeing and Kayaking enabling leaders to prepare for the oncoming spring and summer programmes.

Matters discussed included Leader Assessment, Activity Permits, Water Classifications, Canoe Inspection and Registration and a general look at POR Health and Safety requirements.

The meeting was grateful to Tim Crowther the water activities adviser and assessor from our neighbouring scout county Greater Manchester North for his expert input and for his offer to assist our leaders obtain their water activity permits. Our thanks also to 1st Timperley Scout Group for the use of their HQ

George Sharp

Don't Raise Our Rent Campaign:

If you are not already aware of it, the Chief Scout is leading a campaign against local councils demanding extortionate rent increases, which are threatening the closure of many scout groups.

He is urging people to support his campaign by signing his petition. Details are on the scout web site or go to:- www.dontraiseourrents.org.

From the County:

The County is holding a Celebration of Scouting Excellence on **Sat. 14th May** at Dunham Scout Camp. This will be the third Celebration and the second one at Dunham. The Lord Lieutenant, Mayors, representatives of the National Trust, business leaders and other notable people are invited to see what Scouting has to offer. Leaders are encouraged to send the names and contact details of the secretary, Sue, at County Office, of all beavers, cubs and scouts who have received their bronze, silver or gold awards. This means that they will have completed the necessary challenge badges for their section and received their awards. Those young people

and their parents will be invited to attend the Day of Excellence.

On the day, different Districts will put on activities at the campsite so the young people can have a go. Previously activities have included raft building and raft sailing, the climbing wall, back woods cooking, rocket making and crafts. The Daveyhulme Scout Band always cheers up the occasion with rousing music. All leaders are welcome to attend. Parking in the campsite will be limited, so please consider other options.

This year Altrincham has volunteered to run the refreshments from 11 am until the distribution of certificates at about 3 pm, as well as some other activities. We will be asking for help nearer to the time. If you can give a few hours on the day, please contact George Sharp or Lucy Natrass. Thanks.

Cubs Chess:

Once again the Altrincham District team trounced the opposition and won the annual County Chess Competition.

This year it was held in Tyldesley on 5th March. Four of the eight members of the team won every match they played. One could attribute this to the superior native intelligence of Altrincham cubs, but the six rounds of training with the District chess club held from September to February may have had something to do with it. For six evenings, an average of 16 cubs from some of the packs in the District, got their heads down and played four games of chess in rapid succession. The pairings were arranged so they never played a cub from their own pack. Richard White, Inst. at 4th Hale, and Greg Barber, CSL at 4th Hale, provided instruction and helpful suggestions.

For several weeks the teams from 3rd Altrincham and 4th Hale were neck and neck on points with Arun Denton and Harry Savage from the 4th and Sam Hey and Monty Harrison- Sterling from the 3rd shifting back and forth between all out check mates or adjudicated wins. But 3rd Altrincham pulled ahead in the final session and won the District winners shield. Well done to all who took part.

The winning team to represent the District at the County Competition was:

Sam Hey	3rd Altrincham
Monty Harrison-Sterling	3rd Altrincham
Arun Denton	4th Hale
Harry Savage	4th Hale
Casper Johnson	4th Bowdon
Thomas Diffley	1st Timperley
Harry Sidall	1st Timperley
Eddie Harding	1st Timperley

Many congratulations to all who took part, and also to the leaders Richard White, Greg Barber and Dominic O'Sullivan, ABSL at 1st Timperley, and to John Natrass who recorded the scores and arranged the pairings.

We were disappointed that some Cub Packs sent so few representatives during the season. I suppose we will have to go around the packs in the autumn and sell the chess club directly to the cubs. We would be pleased if all of the

cub leaders actively encouraged their cubs to take part. The chess club will start up again in September and will meet once a month on a week day evening. It would be great to see cubs from every Group there.

District and Group Information and News:

District Development Plan:

Every District in the country has been encouraged to discuss and formulate a Development Plan. About fifteen years ago leaders in Altrincham researched and made a Plan with a long view which has not been recently updated. During the past month a group of leaders and members of the District Exec. has met twice to discuss what we are doing well in the District, what needs to be improved and what we should be looking at doing in the future. We plan to meet at least once more to try to finalise the Plan which will be snap shot of where the District is now. In the future, at approximately six or nine month intervals, we can look at it again and see how the District is faring.

If anyone has any issues which concern the whole District, which he or she think should be discussed, please contact Lucy Natrass. Of course, our major preoccupation is with the largest and most urgent issue of all: the shortage of leaders. Any ideas for leader recruitment would be gratefully received.

Jamboree Activities

4th Hale held a Ceilidh in January in aid of Jamboree Funds. Over 100 people thoroughly enjoyed themselves dancing to the excellent caller and band, Olio, at St. Peter's Assembly Rooms. Hot pot followed by apple crumble made on the premises was served. We were delighted that, in addition to the fun and good fellowship had by all, the evening made a profit of about £800.00. There was so much positive feedback, 4th Hale might run another one in the near future.

Census:

Census time has been and gone once again and was fairly successful considering the new questions. These needed time to sort out and with the census there never is long enough these days, but we did our best and "Thank you" to everyone. Our numbers are up slightly again on last year so County will be pleased with our efforts I'm sure.

Fellowship Dinner:

Once again it was "Party Time" at the Bowdon Hotel as the "Fellowship Team" met to enjoy good food and good company. The hotel once more did us proud and the meal was excellent. We were decorated beautifully by Jane as we celebrated the Chinese New Year and Glenda stirred the "grey matter" up with one of her quizzes. Lucy was on hand to give Stuart Naylor his 30year Service Certificate. Congratulations to him.

The profit from the evening was about £180.00 which will be donated to the Jamboree Fund.

Missing Banner:

The District are trying to locate the banner that has all the group scout neckers on. Does anyone know where it is? If anyone has it could they please let Glenda Gould know so that she can collect it. It is needed for St Georges Day.

St. George's Day

As pointed out by the DC, we have had to re- arrange the day of the St. George's Day celebrations because Easter falls on 24th April. Therefore we will be holding the District's annual celebration of Scouting on **Sunday 3rd April**. We wanted to choose a day which is still within the schools' terms.

Details have already been sent out to all Groups, but a copy is also attached to this copy of Scoutlook.

District Directory:

The 2011 District Directory is now available. Please see the attachment with this issue of Scoutlook.

We can only begin to understand the hours of work and patient attention to detail which Iris Emery and Sylvia Cornish put into this document. Think of checking through all of those email addresses! We are extremely grateful to them. Every time you look someone's contact details up, give them a "thank you" and a virtual pat on the back. We couldn't manage the District without them.

Upcoming events:

Cub Warren:

Our beloved Cub Warren will be the setting for a spring afternoon party on **Sunday 7th May** in aid of Jamboree funds. Iris Emery and her team will be serving afternoon tea and cake in the lovely setting in the Cheshire countryside. Do put the date in your diaries and plan to come.

4th Hale and 2nd Hale cubs are planning a day of outdoor skills at our beloved Cub Warren including tracking, firelighting, tent pitching and pioneering. We've enjoyed the setting for many years on a Saturday in May. It's a perfect venue. Why don't you take your beavers there for a picnic, your cubs for an outdoor skills day, your scouts for a place to camp for a night hike, your explorers for a tent pitching and cooking competition? Why not camp for a weekend? It's ours and it's terrific! The road has been greatly improved. Contact Stuart Naylor for availability.

Scouts 5 a Side Football will be held on Sat19th March at Altrincham Leisure Centre starting at 6 pm. It's great that so many teams have signed up. Please contact George Sharp for more information.

3rd Altrincham is holding one of its famous themed evenings, an 80's night, on Sat. 26th March. Come one, come all and help to pay off the cost of the new roof. Please see the attachment for information about tickets and venue.

News from the Sections:

Beavers:

No Information this month

Cubs

4th Bowdon cubs have been working on their first aid badge. 4th Hale cubs are working on the caring challenge by learning about hazards in the home and first aid. 1st Hale Barns cubs have tied some excellent knots and hauled each other across the floor on tyres. 3rd Timperley cubs have done some map reading and compass work. Over 30 3rd Altrincham cubs enjoyed the Sale Gang show at the Garrick Theatre.

Scouts:

Some 4th Hale scouts and leaders went to Edale and stayed at the Crowther Youth Hostel. They were impressed with the excellent accommodation and modern facilities. On the Saturday they had an excellent hike along the Pennine way and took a detour to examine the remains of a wrecked plane.

District Programme

The district five-a-side football will take place at Altrincham Leisure Centre on Saturday 19th March 2011 at 5.45pm. Ten teams have entered so it promises to be a good evening.

I have not received any requests or suggestions for other activities and disappointingly it would appear there is little interest in reinstating leaders meetings. As I have said previously the ball is in your court

Are you making good use of the Scout Web Site? It is packed with useful information, ideas and guidance on a whole range of subjects and activities to help you plan your programmes

County Events

2MAD4 Leaders – An activity packed weekend for leaders 25-27th March at Bradley Woods
Lord Derby Competition – Saturday 16th April at Dunham Camp Site
Camping and Backwoods Competition – 24-26th June at Giants Seat camp site
Hiking Competition – 17th September in the Bowley/Pendle Hill area

Contact George Sharp, ADC Scouts, if you would like to take part in any of the above events or would like further information

Celebration of Excellence 2011

This will take place at Dunham Camp Site on Saturday 14th May.

The object of the day is to celebrate the achievements of scouts from all sections who have gained the highest awards. If you have any scouts who will have gained the Gold Award by 14th May and would like to attend this special day you must let me or Sue Ralph at county office

have their names by 15th March. Email address for County Office is: county.office@gmwscouts.org.uk

Explorers:

A group of 27 explorers and five leaders and helpers from the Snowdon and Panther Units joined for a most successful event. We took a night hike on the 18th Feb. after setting out from the 3rd Altrincham headquarters at about 10:30pm and heading eastwards towards the Peak District. We split into three groups depending on the level of experience with map reading and hiking in the wilds. The first Group started near Lamaload reservoir and headed south easterly towards Shining Tor. The second started from Oldgate Nick and walked towards Shining Tor. The third group began at the bottom end of Errwood reservoir and walked south west through a small forest along Shooters Clough. All of the groups met up at the roadside where transport waited just past Stake Farm, north of the Cat and Fiddle, for a short rest before the final hike.

We started up again opposite the Cat and Fiddle and walked south until the path splits. We took the route past Cumberland Cottage which stands about 120 feet above the path on a hillside. We thought it was unoccupied but we saw a light in the window which surprised us. The hike finished at the parking area just north of Clough House farm.

The weather was mixed with a cold front hitting a warm front. It was windy and there was a period of about 30 minutes with sleet which felt like hailstones. On the higher ground we ran into low cloud.

All of the explorers had studied maps of the areas, used compasses and made route plans. They all had emergency equipment, contact numbers and wore the proper clothing.

We got back to the 3rd Altrincham hut at about 4:15 am for a short sleepover. Breakfast was provided and then we all went on our ways.

Due to the success of this joint venture, more joint activities with Explorer Units will be planned for the future. Let's keep the fellowship going. Leaders, keep in touch.

By Steve Williams, ACSL, 3rd Altrincham

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:

There are many leaders in the District whose qualification has either expired or will expire soon. As you know, all leaders must update their First Response qualifications every three years. If leaders attend a course before the qualification expires they need do only the first section. If you are unsure when your qualification expires, please contact your GSL, who has a list, or Anthony Roberts,

ACSL 4th Bowdon, our Local Training Manager. His email address is: a.d.roberts@ukgateway.net. He would be pleased to hear from you.

A First Response course will be in Urmston on Wed. 27th April and Wed. 4th May from 7:30 – 10 pm. If you want to attend please contact Liz Armstrong in Urmston on: gary_and_liz@ntlworld.com.

The County is running full day First Response Courses on 15th May, 19th June, 17th July and 18th September. If you would like to go on those day courses you must complete a County Training form and get it and a cheque to County Office in Tydlesley two weeks before the course.

A First Response course will be held at **2nd Timperley** scout hut on Thursdays 5th May and 12th May from 7:30 -10pm. The cost for a one night refresher is £5.00 because it is assumed that you have the First Aid book. Cost for the two nights will be £14.00 which includes a First Aid book. Cheques payable to "Altrincham and District Scout Council" please. If you would like to attend, please contact Lucy Natrass directly on: lucynatrass@hotmail.com

Safeguarding (formerly called Child Protection)

There is a large number of people in the District whose Safeguarding qualification has expired or is due to expire soon. If you're not sure whether you are one of those people, please contact your GSL, who has a list, or Anthony Roberts.

Courses in the County

9th April from 14:00- 16:00 in Wigan metro,
21st May from 10:00-12:00 in Trafford metro,
18th June from 14:00- 16:00 in Swinton and Pendlebury.

All candidates must complete a County course application form and get it and a cheque to County Office two weeks before the course.

It is also possible to do a Safeguarding course on line. Please contact Anthony Roberts, local training manager, for more information.
month.

Up-to-date details of courses can be checked at:
www.gmwscouts/adult-training

District Diary

	March	April	Future
Beavers			GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site
Cubs	County Chess Competition Sat 5th March pm Altrincham		GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site
Scouts	Five-a-Side Football Competition Fri 19th March 6.00-9.00 pm Altrincham Leisure Centre 2Mad4 Leaders Training Weekend 25-27 March Bradley Wood Camp Site	Lord Derby Camp Sat 16th April Dunham Camp Site	GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site Camping & Backwoods Competition Weekend 24-26 June Giants Seat Camp Site Hiking Competition Sat 17th Sept Bowley/Pendle Hill Area
Explorers			GMW Day of Excellence Sat 14th May Dunham Camp Site
District	District Exec Meeting Tues 15th March Census Evening Tues 18th Jan 29 Ollerbarrow Road, Hale. 3rd Altrincham 80's Night Sat 26th March 7.30 pm Altrincham Boys Grammar School (Stamford Hall) 4th Hale Jumble Sale Sat 26th March 2.00 pm Assembly Rooms, Cecil Road District Dev't Planning Meeting Tues 29th March 8.15 pm 4th Hale HQ	Celebration of Scouting Sun 3rd April 2.35-4.00 pm St Mary's Church, Bowdon	District Exec Meetings: Tues 10th May Tues 20th Sept Afternoon Tea (in aid of Jamboree Fund) Sun 8th May Cub Warren GSL's Meeeting Wed 29th June 29 Ollerbarrow Road District AGM Thurs 7th July 2nd Timperley HQ