

COUNTY LIFE

REPORTING NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND GME SCOUTS



From the County Commissioner:

A belated Happy New Year to you all – how are the New Year Resolutions – still intact?!

Across the County we started the New Year with a few changes. First, welcome to our new District Tameside South (made up from the former Districts of Denton and Hyde). We wish the District every success as they start to get organised to provide quality Scouting in the area. Glossop District has a new DC – Andrew Wilson has taken over from Jack Hewitt who returns to his Group 1st Dinting. I want to record the thanks of the County to Jack for all his support, commitment, loyalty, advice, and wise counsel so freely given for the benefit of the County.

Welcome to Andrea Dolan who has taken over from Nick Steciuck as Editor of County Life. Many thanks to Nick for his 2 years of editorship, during which he has refreshed and reinvigorated COUNTY LIFE. Nick has been selected to be a

member of the UK Contingent Support Team for the World Jamboree in Sweden next year – so he won't be sitting round idly wondering what to do with his spare time!

International is going to be a theme at the forefront of much of what we do in the County over the coming months and years. By the time you read this the 63 Young People and 7 Leaders from the County who will attend the World Jamboree will have been selected. The contingent of 140 Scouts and Explorers and 26 Leaders from the County who will be going to Japan are now busy fundraising, training, fundraising, learning Japanese, fundraising, starting to work in their 4 Troops, and fundraising. Check out their website www.japan2010.org.uk. Arrangements for this year's County Explorer Belt to Denmark are proceeding apace and we expect over 20 young people will take part in this challenging "hidden gem" of a programme. For everyone – JOIN-IN-JAPAN day at Linnet Clough on Saturday 22nd May will be an action-packed, fun-filled day so that everyone can share in the Japan expedition. Just who will be the County's Sumo wrestling champ? And who will come away with the Karaoke title? And of course our own County International Camp in 2012 is something everyone needs to be starting to think about. Have you made contact with any Scouts from abroad to invite them to come and join us for the Camp?

All of these events will be fantastic "WOW!" factors for our members and deserve everyone's support. Please help in whatever ways you can; one of the biggest challenges will be the fundraising. I ask you all to please help and actively support the fundraising initiatives, which are solely for the benefit of our young people – to give them experiences second-to-none.

Andrew Corrie

Inside this Issue

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- Bios from our New Media Manager and also our New Editor
- News from Linnet Clough
- Updates from our International trip to Japan and also News from the 22nd World Scout Jamboree
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308th Cubs make a difference for children around the world.

As part of the 'Global Challenge Award Badge', the Cubs learned about the international charity Plan UK, an organisation that initiates projects to help families in the less economically developed countries. The children chose to raise money for a sports kit for children in Timor Leste from a Plan UK Alternative gifts catalogue.

The children of Timor Leste are living in a "Transitional Camp" during the country's period of conflict.

To raise the necessary funds, the Cub Scouts set about collecting and bringing their old books, toys and other things to sell at a sale in the Scout Hut. On the day of the sale, the Cubs worked tremendously hard on the stalls and had a terrific response from the Blackley community.

The children managed to raise not only enough to buy the sports kit as planned, but also had enough additional funds to buy: twenty trees for a village in Pakistan, a shelter for street children in Bangladesh, eye screenings for eight children in Nepal, a chicken and training on how to keep livestock for one family in Uganda and access to a safe supply of water at school for children in Ethiopia.



The 22 Cubs were awarded with the 'Global Challenge Award Badge' in November.

Sharon Davies, (Akela, 308th North Manchester Cubs) said, "They have all put a lot of effort and hard work for this badge and shown the true spirit of Scouting. I am very proud of their efforts."

GME welcomes new Media Manager (Mark Baxter)

I joined 1st High Lane in Goyt as a Cub and have never quite got around to leaving Scouting. Since then I've had the privilege and enjoyment of scouting here and there, including Venture Scouting at 1st Hazel Grove in Ladybrook Valley, where I gained the Queen's Scout Award and Duke of Edinburgh Gold.

I was a member of Leicester University Scout & Guide Organisation and part of the British Youth Council Scout Delegation at Headquarters for some years in the distant past. I then served as an ASL with 6th Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, and helped start a Venture Scout Unit there, before returning to Stockport to live.

I have been lucky enough to be a GME jamboree assistant contingent leader twice – in 1995 to Holland then in 2007 to the Centenary Jamboree. I was also pleased to take my group to EuroJam and I spent a summer on the International Camp Staff Programme working at Camp Fleishmann in northern California for the Boy Scouts of America back in 1996. Now I am GSL at 1st High Lane, having gone full circle.

When not Scouting I work as an Economics and Business teacher at a girls' grammar school but in a previous life I was a journalist for local newspapers which is why I was persuaded to take on the role of county Media Development Manager. I am excited to help people shout about their Scouting – please get in touch if you have a story to share or want help working with the media: mdm@gmescouts.org.uk.





NEWS FROM THE CLOUGH

Linnet Clough is in a lovely location, we share the area with the Golf Club, Roman Lakes and of course the local residents. In order for us all to live in amicably together we need to respect each other.

Following a meeting with local residents please can we ask all visitors to Linnet Clough for their help?

- Please drive slowly when passing the houses on the lane
- If possible arrange car sharing when bringing groups to the Clough

Visiting Roman Lakes from Linnet Clough

- Keep your group together at all times
- Don't allow anyone to throw stones
- Leaders are responsible for their group at all times

Christmas Weekend

Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas weekend so special. There were lots of people behind the scenes who arranged the parties, decorated the rooms, the site and themselves, made the food, bought and wrapped the presents and generally worked hard to make it so successful. We had over 200 Cubs and Beavers attend the parties, a happy Saturday night social and a very well attended Carol Service. Thank you again.

Site Services Badge

We are holding a Campsite Services badge weekend on 12th-14th February. It is for Scouts aged 12 and above. During the weekend they will take part in activities covering ground maintenance, general maintenance, toilet hygiene and wildlife and plants. The cost is £15.00 per person and includes camp fees and food for the weekend. If you have any Scouts who wish to take part then please contact us.

Canoeing Course

This will be held at Glossop Pool on 8th May and Roman Lakes on 9th May.

The aim is to teach leaders how to run a safe and enjoyable canoeing session for their group. The cost is £15.00 per person. Apply now at Linnet Clough.

Good News

We have recently received grants from Trinity House, the British Canoe Union, SK Money Youth Opportunity Fund and the Lee and Balkirian Family Trust. We would like to thank them for their generosity.

If you would like more information about Linnet Clough then you can contact us by telephone on 0161 427 1688 or via E-mail at linnetcloughcamp@aol.com.





Japan Fundraising

The Japan 2010 team have two separate fundraising events over the next couple of months. There will be a Fashion Show on Thursday 11th March 2010 and a 6 a-side football competition on Saturday 8th May.

The Fashion show is being run by Fizz who are a well known name in the area for fashion shows and have shops in Ashton-under-Lyne and Hyde. Their models will demonstrate a range of fashionable ladies clothing and accessories which will then be available to purchase at very reasonable prices. Changing rooms will be available for clothes to be tried on. Tickets cost £4 (£5 on the door) and the event will take place at St George's Centre, Windmill Lane, Denton starting at 7pm. Please be aware that credit cards cannot be accepted on the night – cash or cheques only please.

A section wide, 6 a-side football competition, with separate events for each section (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) and also a penalty competition. The tournament is to take place during the afternoon of Saturday 8th May at Crossroads Pitches (Heald Green).

Entries are being accepted from both complete teams, and from individuals who don't have enough players to form a complete team – or who welcome the challenge of playing with 5 people you don't know.

Individual entries £5 per player (Players split into teams on the day) or £30 a team (6 players & up to 2 subs).

On the right is a photo from their last fundraising event when they "cycled" to Japan news of this event is in the December issue of County Life. In the picture is local MP Andrew Gwynne who gave the Explorers a hand on their "trip".



For more information on the trip to Japan the Football

Tournament and the fashion show go to the Japan website on www.japan2010.org.uk

Beaver & Cub Meeting

Monday 15th February 7.30pm (for 8pm start).
County Office, Reddish Vale.



As promised a meeting has been arranged for all involved in the Beaver & Cub sections of the County, the meeting will mainly be to discuss plans / bookings for the JOIN in JAPAN Day, but also any updates etc. for the two sections will also be discussed.

Please can DC's & ADC's make sure that *their District is represented, this is really important*, communication is improving but as with the ANIMANIA day, I don't want any young persons to miss out because the leader didn't know!!



Diary Dates

February

12th-14th - GME Leaders Winter Skills weekend
12th-14th - Campsite Services Badge

March

20th - Scout Proficiency Badge Day
26th-28th - Japan Contingent Training Camp
27th - Core Team Meeting

April

9th-11th - Explorer Challenge Hike
10th-11th - APEX overnight challenge – Explorers
12th - DC Team Meeting
16th-18th - WSJ Sweden 2011 Contingent Weekend
17th - Explorer & Network Reception
21st - Chief Scout's Gold Award Reception

Nick's Jambo Blog

I have been asked to share with you my adventures and experiences between now and the 22nd World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) in Sweden during the summer of 2011. I will keep regular updates both in County Life and also on my blog.

Early in 2009 I was lucky enough to be selected (*with Debbie Gallagher and Will Carr, also from GME*) to be one of the UK Contingent Support Team (CST) for the 22nd WSJ. I'm one of about 35 people on the team and our job is to support the County Units across the Country before, during and after the event. This is now taking up a large portion of my Scouting time and will no doubt form the main part of these reports.

So what have I been up to? Well the first thing I need to tell you is that we have successfully launched the Jamboree nationally, every county in the UK will be represented and many of them are forging ahead with the appointment of Unit Leaders and young people for their own units.

Last October I attended the first UK wide Unit Leader weekend in Leicester, the event was a great success and the real Jamboree buzz was starting to happen. Along with various workshops and presentations, it was my chance to meet up with the specific County Units I will be

supporting; these are Cheshire, West Yorkshire and Shropshire.

We had a great time with a formal dinner on the Saturday evening where all the Unit Leaders were presented with their UK Contingent scarves.

Last month I attended the Cheshire Unit Launch with Debbie Gallagher. The County are very advanced in their preparations and have now got all their people in place. All the young people and their parents were invited to South Cheshire College in Crewe and were bombarded with Jamboree facts information. It was a great event and something that I'll remember for some time to come.

Over the next few weeks I will be working with the CST at the selection days for UK part of the International Service Team, these are the adults at the Jamboree who will do all the day to day work. The UK has been given 500 IST places, but with 2500 people registering an online application the selection process will be a real challenge.

I will provide you with an update in my next report. In the mean time I'd like to say good luck to all the young people attending the GME unit selection weekend and all our potential IST people who will be at the IST selection days.

Till the Next Time "Jambo Buana"

Extra Patrol Heading to Sweden

We have been lucky enough to be awarded an additional patrol to attend the 22nd World Scout Jamboree; this means that Greater Manchester East will take seven patrols to Sweden. This will consist of 63 Young People and seven Unit Leaders. Graeme Stafford from Tame Valley District has been appointed as the additional Leader - congratulations.

International Service Team.

19 leaders from Greater Manchester East attended an IST Selection Day in Runcorn on Sunday 31st January; the day involved carrying out a number of different team based activities, hearing more about the Jamboree and the role of an IST member. They will find out if they have been successful by the end of February - good luck!

Young People Unit Selection Weekend

Over 90 Scouts and Explorers from across Greater Manchester East have applied to attend the Jamboree as a participant. A selection weekend has been arranged at Linnet Clough on Sat 6th – Sun 7th February - good luck to all those attending. Applicants will be advised by the end of February if they have been successful. We wish them well at the Selection Weekend.



A Model Railway & Transport Show

AT
Astley Sports College Yew Tree Lane
Dukinfield Gr. Manchester

Sat 8th May 10am until 5 pm

Sun 9th May 10am until 4.30 pm

Model Railways in all scales, Thomas the Tank Engine,

All forms of Transport Displays in all scales,

Vintage & Veteran Vehicles, Motor Cycles, Live Steam Engines, Craft Stalls, Refreshments Available, Trade Stand Modelling Competitions,

Ample *Free* Car Parking. Full Disabled Access

LOTS TO SEE & DO FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Prices held for another Year

Adults £3 Children £1.50 Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) £7

For further information: Tom Lowther 12, Mostyn Street Dukinfield Cheshire SK16 5JS

0161 332 9097 Mobile 07719299629 Email ampscs@btiscak.co.uk

IN AID OF SCOUTS FUNDS

Do You Own A Minibus?

The GM Community Transport Forum is looking for groups operating their own vehicles, to offer *free* membership and help to ensure they are operating safely & legally. We can also put groups in touch with their local CT that can offer advice, vehicles for hire or a range of vehicle management services.

If you know of a group who...

- Need transport for their members
- Are having problems running or managing their own vehicle
- Are looking to replace an old vehicle
- Have problems finding the money to meet their vehicle running costs
- Need help with training, registering or finding drivers
- Are unsure of licensing legalities and operational requirements
- Have insurance or maintenance queries or problems
- Or, would like a professional CT service to look after their bus

In the first instance, please contact Steve Travis by email info@gmctof.org.uk or look at the website www.gmctof.org.uk and follow the links.

National Notice Board

- There is a new version of POR available to order and download as of January and is available from the Scout Information Centre or to download from www.scouts.org.uk/POR. Changes include:
 1. Updates on the child protection legislation
 2. Multiple activity updates
 3. Clarification updates on fundraising, lottery and gambling
- Shelter box have joined forces with the SA and created a 10 month challenge to celebrate their 10 year anniversary of delivering aid. Complete a challenge once a month and your group may win a mystery prize. Details available at www.youngshelterbox.org/
- Gilwell Training Courses are now being advertised for 2010. The first of these are
 1. *British Red Cross Trainer* for those who wish to train both young people and adults. The qualification provides you with a BRC Practical First Aid Certificate and a recognised BRC Trainer and Assessor Award. It will allow you to run and issue BRC awards to members of both the Scouting Association and Girl Guiding UK. The course runs 10th to 13th April and costs £260 (camping) or £405 (residential).
 2. *Section Leader Training (SLT10)* covers modules 5-9 and 11-19. it will provide you with all your training to gain your wood beads with the exception of module 10 (First Aid). This course is to run the 10th to 16th April and costs £295 (camping) or £440 (residential).

Message from the *new* editor.....Andrea Dolan

If you've managed to get this far I'd like to say thank you for reading the first 'County Life' of 2010 (just a little late). We hope that you've enjoyed this first issue and a big thank you to those who have sent articles in. As you have just read 2010 is gearing up to be a busy year and we look forward to hearing about all your adventures and events.

We wish Nick good luck for his new role as CST, though we won't be losing him entirely as we will be keeping up with his exploits on his Jamboree blog.

Please continue to send in your pieces for inclusion and remember to distribute copies to all those who don't have easy access to computers etc

Thanks for your continued support

Andrea Dolan

