

Cyngor Sgowtiaid Cymru—The Welsh Scout Council:

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

Since the last issue we have had a great year of events.

The Water Activities Team have again put on an excellently supported calendar of events.

The Wye Cruise in May was as successful as ever despite worries over the water levels, but Pete Firth's risk assessment (canoeing Hoarwithy to Monmouth beforehand) proved invaluable and the canoers were able to enjoy their watery sojourn.

The Hafod calendar of courses has been well attended, culminating in the Open Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition. Held on a very wet and windy weekend all survived and completed their course. Hafod has also been accepted as a National Activity Centre, so if you want to book a course get in quickly as even more people know about it now.

My thanks to all the Water and Hafod teams of assessors, instructors, caterers and supporters who make the events and courses such a success.

The All Wales Scout Camp in June was hailed another outstanding success with all sorts of activities taking place over the weekend. I was very impressed with it all, especially the wheelchair basket ball and the Democracy Challenge games/activities. Well done to Pete Jeffreys and his team leaders and supporters who worked so hard to make the weekend one the Scouts will always remember.

The Adult Training Team, the Activity Team and Youth Forums continue to meet. The District Commissioner and GSL day together with the Adult Training day and the Spring and Autumn conference/workshop days have continued to provide support for our Managers and Leaders and is a vital part of the ScoutsWales role. As ever, my thanks to all those who provide the support and help to make these days worthwhile.

The ScoutsWales Activity weekend at the beginning of October (the first of many I hope) was a great success. Whether the Chief Scout was able to attend or not, did not detract from the enjoyment of each event, which is what it is all about, young people getting out, doing things and having fun.

The events I visited were all very different and brilliant. I can say with complete honesty that Bear was most impressed with those he visited as well.

This is the last Sgowtiaid in this paper format. The new ScoutsWales website is now up and running and more and more content is gradually being up loaded. As from the beginning of 2013, Sgowtiaid will appear in a slightly different format on our site.

Thanks to you all for your energy, enthusiasm and support for Scouting.

Jill

JILL GLOSTER—CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF WALES



Reflecting on Success

I am delighted to be able to reflect on another very successful year for Scouting in Wales.

There are many positive signs about the health and vibrancy of the movement. Clearly a crucial area for us is to see a growing movement; meaning that more young people from across Wales are benefitting from the fun, camaraderie and unique challenge that Scouting offers. In this respect, we have enjoyed another great year, with healthy growth in both young people and adult volunteer numbers. The day-to-day work of all our volunteers has helped bring about this position, but I would like to applaud in particular the work of the Local Development Officers who collectively are making great inroads into supporting both existing groups and helping establish new ones.

At the start of this year we issued a report which looked at the positive impact of Scouting in the community. This was sent to a wide audience of our supporters as well as members of the Welsh Assembly. Sharing of the report has prompted very positive feedback and I feel sure we have gained new 'friends' by doing so.

The sensational summer of British sporting success was enjoyed by billions of people from across the globe and I'm sure you, like me, were very proud to see the role that Scouts here in Wales played in the build up to both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The young people and their Leaders were a credit to the movement and no doubt enjoyed an experience never to be forgotten.



An exciting development for the movement is the launch a few months ago of a brand new ScoutsWales website. The site is both a great marketing tool for Scouting and an invaluable source of information for our young people and volunteers. If you haven't checked it out yet, then I would encourage you to do so and tell all your friends about it too.



This is a timely opportunity to say 'thank you' to our outgoing President Simon Weston. Simon has been an enthusiastic ambassador for the movement and I know he has enjoyed his time with us. I am delighted to announce that long-standing Scouting stalwart Rudi Plaut has agreed to become our new President. Rudi will bring his extensive knowledge of Scouting along with his business acumen and contacts to guide our work.

On behalf of my fellow Board of Trustee members, then a big 'thank you' to all of the Leaders and volunteers for all they have done during the past year to give young people across Wales the 'scouting experience'

Yours in Scouting,

Stuart Taylor
Chairman



Malta Camp for Explorer Scouts

It is planned to take a group of Explorer Scouts to Malta during the October Half Term holiday in 2013 (provisional dates are 27th October to 2nd November subject to confirmation of the actual half term break dates)

The trip is intend to be for seven days from the Sunday to Saturday depending on available flights.

We will be staying at a local Scout hall near Valletta, and trips will be arranged to visit places of interest around the island and meet up with Maltese Scouts.

The cost is likely to be around £450; though this may alter slightly once air fares can be confirmed. An initial deposit of £50 must be paid on acceptance, and monthly payments will be arranged to cover the balance.

The maximum number that can go on this trip is 18, plus the three Leaders who have all had experience of visiting abroad.

If you are an Explorer Scout, male or female, from across South & West Wales and would like to go on this camp please contact Steve Lewis, Contingent Leader, before the end of November either by phone on 01291 430896 or e-mail stevelewis60@tiscali.co.uk.

We can include up to three Young Leaders who will have attained 18 years of age prior to our departure subject to a CRB being produced.

Please discuss this with parents/guardians before applying.

Steve Lewis, Contingent Leader



Managers in Scouting – an Event for YOU Saturday 23rd February, 2013

What?

A day for managers and Training Teams enabling you to attend interesting workshops relevant to YOUR ROLE or attend Management Training Modules enabling you to progress towards your Wood Badge if not already done.

Who can Attend?

Group Scout Leaders, District Commissioners, Area Commissioners, District Chairman, Training Advisers, Trainers, ATMs, District Explorer Scout Commissioners

Network Commissioners

Cost?

The event is being subsidised so it will only cost £10 per head which includes lunch, teas and coffees throughout the day plus hand outs in an electronic format.

Programme?

Details will be sent to those who can attend – look out for the details in your Inbox in November.

You really cannot afford to miss this day.

Where?

Builth Wells High School from 10.00 until about 16.30



Yr Hafod Open Gold DofE Expedition Course Friday 24th August – Saturday 1st September 2012

The intensive week long course was for anyone within the Scout Association who wanted to complete either the Practice or Qualifying Expedition for the Gold DofE. It was specially designed for those that had no-one to train them for their expedition or did not have a team to do it with.

The course was based at Yr Hafod Scout Mountain Centre in the heart of Snowdonia and organised and run by members of the Hafod Team. The young people came from all over Wales and included 3 Explorer Scouts, 2 Network members and 2 Leaders (ABSL and ASL). The young people did not know each other prior to the course.

The course was intensive and covered all aspects of the Gold DofE Award syllabus. The first 3 days concentrated on training and producing a route and planning the 4 day 3 night expedition. Day 1 was a full mountain day that helped the leaders assess the team's abilities in navigation & route finding. For those who were there to complete their Qualifying Expedition only, the training helped top-up existing skills and allowed them to share any skills and experiences they had with who were there to complete the Practice expedition.

The time prior to the expedition was spent covering all aspects of the syllabus and route planning. The group planned their menus then spent an afternoon shopping in Tesco's in Bangor for the expedition food.

The purpose of the team's expedition was to look at different water features, especially those that involved use by man – ie. Hydro-electric power. The planned expedition started on Tuesday morning and involved a route from Aber Falls through the Carneddau, wild camping the first night near to Dulyn. Day 2 took them past Llyn Eigiau & the leets in the Ogwen valley. It rained heavily at times on Day 2!



Day 3 took the team over to Llanberis and Dinorwig, while on Day 4, the route went over the summit of Snowdon to Llyn Lydaw and the pipeline.

After completing the expedition the team celebrated with a slap up meal and afterwards they started to plan their presentation. The final day saw the team give their Presentation to the Hafod staff before travelling home.

When the DofE candidates arrived at Hafod they did not know each other but by the end they had been moulded into an effective team and went away friends.

It was an excellent week which would not have been so successful had it not been for the motivation and enthusiasm and hard work of the young people involved.

Many thanks to the Hafod leaders who were involved in running of the course.

Next years dates: Friday 23rd – Saturday 31st August 2013



CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to the following who have achieved their Gold DofE Awards. Achieving the Gold Award has been described as a 'marathon not a sprint' and requires a substantial commitment, demanding persistence and commitment.

Jake Davies - Montgomeryshire
Luke Entiknap - CATVOG



Coming 2013

All Wales Young Leader Training Day

When? - 23rd February 1000hrs to 1600hrs

Where? - Builth Wells High School

You Choose: You will be able to pick up to four modules from the table below. For example you will be able to do A – “Prepare for Take Off” **or** E – “Game On” but not both.

| Module | | Module |
|-----------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| A – Prepare for take off | OR | E – Game on |
| B – Taking the lead | OR | G – Programme plans |
| C – That’s the way to do it | OR | H – Programme plans plus |
| D - Kids behaving badly | OR | I - What did they say |

How Much?

£5 (Includes Lunch)

You will NOT be required to wear uniform for this event.

See your Leader for details (available from early November 2012)



NEW—BRANDED SCOUTSWALES USB FLASH-DRIVES

Are you looking for an alternative way to store all your documents and be able to have easy access to them?

If the answer is yes, then why not purchase one of our new branded ScoutsWales 2GB USB flashdrives.

They are small, compact and can even be attached to a keyring (which can make's it easier to carry around with you!).

The use of computers and the storage of documents on mobile devices is on the increases whether we are studying in school, college, University, using them in the workplace or simply for our own personal use.

Why not consider buying a branded USB Flashdrive as a gift - they would make a great stocking filler for Christmas!

If you are interested in purchasing the ScoutsWales USB 2GB Flashdrive, they are available from the ScoutsWales office **at the cost of £4.50 including postage and packing.**

(Please note that bulk orders made incur additional postage charges)

Scouts light Paralympic Fire

In order to keep up the Olympic spirit and capture everyone's enthusiasm to get behind the Paralympics, something was needed to "get the fire started" !!

So.. 4 flames, 4 countries, 4 mountain tops, 4 teams of Scouts, 4 torch bearers.

I was lucky enough to be asked to lead a group of Explorer Scouts to start the Welsh Flame from the top of Snowdon.

Each team was tasked with getting up their highest mountain, lighting a small fire with flint and steel, this fire was then used to light the Paralympic flame that was held aloft by the torch bearer. This flame was then taken down the mountain and headed off to its capital city.

My Snowdon adventure, started with accepting this challenge 2 weeks before the actual day of flint meets steel!! I was even on holiday! But I soon got a group of willing young people to take this on and had a great mixed group, of girls, boys, able and disabled. And with the help of a team of people Scouting we pulled it off and were ready to go at 6am in Llanberis on the 22nd August

The team from Dinarth Explorers, based in Rhos on Sea, were Lewis Dowling, Tori McIntyre, Alex Peet-Draycott, Owen Michael, Ellie Hamilton-Hunter and Calum Hamilton-Hunter, plus leader Dave Cutts and a back up team lead by our esteemed John Muston.

We were also accompanied by the flame bearer, Elaine; she is bi-polar so was representing the disabled of Wales. Lord Coe had decided to take part in the Welsh flame lighting, so we were also accompanied by a high number of media folk, with lots of microphones and cameras!! But we had a couple of experienced mountain guides to keep this rather large group safe. !!

The route was to be from Llanberis, so it was the tourist track and although that might be a bit tame to some it was the right choice with such a group, and the weather was due to be abysmal !!

The Explorers coped with the whole event tremendously. They were in good spirits despite the early start, some were excited to have their first ascent of Snowdon, some were to be challenged by the route and conditions, and some just got on with it! They were well equipped, and had additional kit in the form of sticks, kindling and fire steel.

After the halfway station the weather lived out the forecast and the wind and rain came in, but we made it up there and wonderfully were treated to hot drinks in the café.

Calum and his much loved flint and steel lit the fire and everyone helped kindle and feed it, so despite the weather and the pressure of the media eyes on them, the torch was successfully lit and raised on the summit.

They were then faced with another challenge... lots of attention from the media with TV and radio interviews, they coped amazingly with all the microphones and cameras pointed their way.

Ellie, from Old Colwyn, said "I hardly slept last night because I was so excited – and then I had to get up at 4am. It was amazing to be part of the group which lit the flame, it's part of history now and I'm very proud."

Lewis was quoted "It was my first time climbing Snowdon but I wasn't nervous until we got to the top and started making the spark for the lanterns. Everybody was looking at us but it worked really well. It's a once-in-a-lifetime event."

I emailed a few people when I got back

“Well that was a buzz!! What a day, so many people, cameras, microphones. The Explorers were exemplary and successful under pressure, what a challenge to stay cool with all that attention on them, they interviewed well even though they have no experience with media. They showed the world what a great youth organisation we are!! The walk was a challenge for a couple of them today, but they made it well, and some are happy they have actually walked up Snowdon for the first time. The weather was a challenge, but then it was nothing new up there!! And successful flame lighting was achieved without a hitch, I did take the safe bet with the tinder, but an audience of about 60 and a high winds it was the best option!! !!

Early start meant everyone shattered now, afternoon naps in order.”

So to finish off, Lord Coe said: “The combination of teamwork and human endeavour being used to create the Welsh Flame is a very fitting start to the Paralympic Torch Relay celebrations. These inspirational individuals will be lighting the way to a fantastic 10 days of sport.”

Two more things happened that week, I, with Ellie and Calum, was invited to appear on The One Show, my 1 minute of fame!! And Tori and Calum followed the flame to Cardiff and were part of the cauldron lighting there. All in all Scouting was shown to the world and was part of a very special event for many more very special people.

Lyn Hamilton-Hunter, Group Skills Instructor, 3rd Rhos on Sea



*Team from Left to right
Tori, Owen, Lyn, Ellie, Calum, Lord
Coe, Dave, Lewis, Alex*

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING NEWS



Satellite Scouting

As a thriving Group in Carmarthenshire Area we were asked by our Area Commissioner if we would be willing to give Satellite Scouting a go (he explained the fine details of the development and we were allocated a Development Officer, Jenny). This is how the new Beaver Colony in Brynamman started. Satellite Scouting is opening another section within the Group, but at an alternative venue, using your own Executive Committee. As we know with a good program the 'young people' are easy to find, it is the Leaders and support that can be hard to gain!

In the meetings we had with the Jenny, it was decided the development would be given a full school term, at the end of which it would be clear if it was going to be a success. Jenny's first steps were to go into schools within the catchment area and to find and book a venue for the new Beaver Colony. She also sorted the application for the start up grant from HQ to support this project. As this was something that the Area was keen to start, they also gave us a grant to help get things going, thus our Group carried no extra financial demands to fund the development. We sat back and waited for the first open session to take place.

At the first open session we were amazed by the turnout of 32 young people and were glad of the forward planning that was done by the Ammanford Leaders and Jenny. At the second open session we had another great turnout of over 36. Week three came and it was time for the big ask to gain the Leaders to continue running this obviously needed section. Thankfully several parents expressed interest and out of the list three agreed to become Leaders and a couple to become Occasional Helpers - Fantastic!!!!



In the following weeks, the Ammanford Leaders supporting the new Colony continued to assist at the meetings, gently easing the newfound Leaders into their roles gradually taking a step back each night until the new Leaders were running the show. The section had over 40 young people registered, with more than expected attending on a regular basis. At the end of the term we welcomed 20 new Beavers and 2 new Beaver Leaders into our 'Scouting Family'

A great part of the success of this development was down to the very supportive Leaders from Ammanford. Without their dedication the development would have been difficult, as it allowed Jenny to focus on the recruitment of Adults and paperwork, and by the end of the period the new Beavers were settled in a safe environment with established and confident Leaders. The Ammanford team provided invaluable support for the new Leaders, and is still only a phone call away if needed.

As a GSL you do have extra responsibility but this is far outweighed by the achievement of bringing Scouting to communities that would struggle initially. I would encourage any Group to give 'Satellite Scouting' a try. Yes, there is work to be done but there is always support for your Group from the Development Officer, who will do the bulk of the paperwork and preparations for you and take the lead for the planning on the project.

A year later we are back in Brynamman to open a Cub Pack which is going well with the recruitment of 20 young people and 3 leaders. Of course the long term ideal will be to expand the Satellite Group further and eventually let them become independent, with their own Executive Committee and GSL. It won't happen overnight but I am confident that things will progress when the time is right!



Leanne Kelleher
2nd Ammanford Scout Group GSL



5th Carmarthen Scout Troop complete Democracy Challenge

Scouts from the 5th Carmarthen Scout Troop have recently been finding out all about the democratic processes that affect them in their everyday life, and the importance of playing a full part in those democratic processes and making their voices heard - all in order to achieve their Democracy Challenge.

The Scouts have taken part in regular Troop Forums, where they discuss the activities that they have taken part in and make suggestions for future activities. They also formulate their own Troop Code of Conduct, and discuss any ways in which they would like to see the meetings change. New patrol leaders are elected by a outgoing Patrol Leaders, following nominations from the Scouts themselves.

They also took part in an activity from the Do Politics Democracy Cookbook, in which they had to work out who they would need to approach if they had a problem in their everyday life e.g. not being able to find an NHS dentist or concerns regarding school transport or lack of police officers in their area. In this way they learnt about which organisations are responsible for which aspects of their life.

The Troop visited the Carmarthen Town Hall, where they were met by the incoming chair of the council, Councillor Sian Thomas. Scouts were given the opportunity to question Councillor Thomas in the council chamber, and found out a lot about how the council is run. They particularly enjoyed asking questions using the individual microphone system!

Council chief executive Mark James also visited the Scouts and told them about the responsibilities of the council, and how much money is spent on different aspects of the council's work. They discussed the range of work carried out by the council from enforcing fines for dog fouling to building new bus shelters and caring for the elderly.

The work of the Welsh Assembly Government was described to the Scouts during a visit by local AM, Mr Rhodri Glyn Thomas. The Scouts questioned Mr Thomas at length about his duties as an AM and about the responsibilities that are devolved from Westminster to the Assembly government in Cardiff.

The final session in their work to complete this challenge was a visit from local MP Mr Simon Hart, who described to the Scouts his work as an MP in Westminster. The Scouts showed a keen interest, and asked some very pertinent and relevant questions. At the end of this session Mr Hart presented all the Scouts with their Democracy Challenge badge.

The main message throughout our work towards this badge was how important it is that young people play an active role in the life of their communities. They need to make their voices heard, and most importantly of all that when they are old enough they use their right to vote - a right that is denied to so many people in other parts of the world.





A week of fundraising and supporting
your local community **3-9 June 2013**

In partnership with **B&Q**

SCOUT COMMUNITY WEEK 2013 3-9 June 2013

Scout Community Week gives us the chance to work together on community projects or events to raise money for local and national Scouting.

Sign up now to receive your free Scout Community Week information pack and to get all the latest news.

<http://www.scouts.org.uk/community>

WATERFRONT ADVENTURE GEAR

Steve at Waterfront has several sit on top kayaks; standard junior and adult kayaks with associated accessories and a number of archery bows available at discounted rates for Scout Groups.

A coastal holiday cottage (sleeps 5) is also available for rent in beautiful Pembrokeshire.

Anyone interested should contact Steve on 07790 298670 or 02920 692108.



nature's
voice

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2013

Step up for nature....by taking an hour to relax!!



Every year at the end of January, over 30,000 people in Wales can be found checking out the birds visiting their gardens. Yes, the world's biggest wildlife survey is back!

This year Big Garden Birdwatch happens over Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 January, and we are inviting you to get involved.

It's easy to do, fun for all the family, free, takes just one hour - and you don't even have to leave the comfort of your own home!

Taking part really does help nature too, as it contributes to a vital piece of wildlife research. The more people that join in, the clearer the picture we can paint about what's happening to our garden birds, so we know which ones need our help.

For more information go to www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or call 02920 353 000 to receive a **FREE** bilingual Big Garden Birdwatch pack.



YOUNG COOK OF THE YEAR 2013

Cook It!, the Guild of Food Writers' annual cooking competition for children, is 10 years old in 2013. To celebrate, aspiring young cooks are being offered the chance to win a fantastic family break, courtesy of the sponsor Gold Top.

For Cook It! 2013, the Guild of Food Writers is inviting those aged 10 to 16 to create a two-course meal that they would cook to impress their friends. Stefan Gates, the celebrity TV cook, author and one of the competition's judges, explains what the judges are looking for: "We want to see a main course and dessert that not only look and taste delicious but show real skill. It is also vital that the recipes show as much originality as possible."

To coincide with Cook It!'s birthday celebrations, the Guild is extending the competition to 15 and 16-year-olds for the first time. There are two age groups, 10 to 13 years and 14 to 16 years (on or by Saturday 31 August 2013), with the winner in each category winning a four-night family break at Sandsend Cottages in the fantastic seaside village of Sandsend near Whitby, North Yorkshire.

In addition, the school attended by the winner in each category will receive a one-day visit from the Electrolux Mobile Training Academy and a selection of small kitchen appliances for their Food Technology kitchen.

The four runners-up will each win an Electrolux Silent Blender and a selection of cookbooks.

The talented finalists will be invited to recreate their winning dishes in an exciting cook-off at the Electrolux Training Academy on Thursday 20 June 2013 in front of a team of judges. Joining Stefan Gates on the judging team this year is Alex Mackay, well-known author, chef and broadcaster.

For full details and to enter the competition, download an entry form from www.gfw.co.uk. The deadline for entries is Friday 19 April 2013.

For more information contact: Jonathan Woods, The Guild of Food Writers.
Telephone: 020 8659 0422
Email: guild@gfw.co.uk

NECKERS FOR SALE

Llandudno Scout Shop have the following neckers for sale:-

Gold with a black border
Emerald Green with a Scarlet border
Black with a Scarlet border

You can buy them for £1.50 each plus postage.

For further details contact:-

Joan Hammond
Llandudno Scout Shop,
4 Narrow Lane, Llandudno Junction, Conwy,
LL31 9BB
01492 584511
joan.hammond3@btinternet.com

You can contact the ScoutsWales office by:

E-mail: admin@scoutswales.org.uk

Website: www.scoutswales.org.uk

Telephone: 01446 795277

Fax: 01446 795272

Writing to: The Old School, Wine Street,
LLANTWIT MAJOR CF61 1RZ

Don't forget:

- If your Area, District or Group would like to share an idea or an event please send in details to the ScoutsWales Office
- If you receive this copy of 'Sgowtiaid' but are no longer in Scouting, make sure your name is removed from the Headquarters membership database (Backpack) and hand on your copy to someone else.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—
2012/2013

1 DECEMBER - BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

1 DECEMBER— DC SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

**4-6 JAN —FROSTBITE WHITE WATER
WEEKEND**

8 JAN—SENEDD DAY

19-20 JAN— AREA COMMISSIONERS MEETING

23 FEB—MANAGERS EVENT

23 FEB— YOUNG LEADERS EVENT

15 JUNE—ALL WALES CUB FUN DAY

**REMBBER TO CHECK OUT THE
WEBSITE FOR ALL UP &
COMING EVENT DATES**

**LOOKING FOR A NEW ACTIVITY?
CONTACT A SCOUTSWALES ADVISER!!!**

Below are the contact details for all ScoutsWales Advisers, they will be delighted to give you advice and support and have lots of specialist knowledge to share—all you need to do is contact them!!



WATER ACTIVITIES: Ron Cox ☎01407 730592 ✉ water@scoutswales.org.uk

CANOEING: Barry Herring ☎01766 512159 ✉ barry@nickdom.co.uk

AIR: Ralph Stephens ☎01267 267428 ✉ lmstephens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

ARCHERY: Ian McLean ☎01978 750619 ✉ mclean.ian@virgin.net

MOUNTAIN ACTIVITIES: David LI Jones ☎01978 853245 ✉ montain@scoutswales.org.uk

ORIENTEERING: Terry Smith ☎01982 570792 ✉ orienteering@scoutswales.org.uk

SHOOTING: Nigel Cole ☎08456 430339 ✉ shooting@scoutswales.org.uk

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DofE AWARD: Alison Owen-Yeates ☎01269 844029 ✉ dofe@scoutswales.org.uk

ARCHIVIST: David Loades ✉ davidloades22@btinternet.com

WELSH MEDIUM: Hywel Rees ✉ htrees@dsl.pipex.com