

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

SGOWTIAID

An occasional bulletin of the Scouts of
Wales



EDITION 1—2006

CIRCULATED:

WEEK BEGINNING 9TH JANUARY, 2006

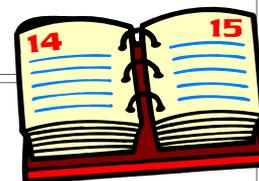
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Over the past few weeks in every Scout Group, School and home the words have rung, "Christmas already? Doesn't time go quickly?" And that has been equally true of Scouting in Wales during 2005. And what a year it has been with everybody contributing enormously to activities across the length and breadth of Wales.

It has been a year of adventure, with Eurojam being of special note, plus so many weekly and major events in each of your Groups. And this emphasises the dedication of all of you involved in Scouting – thank you. The Trustees have embarked upon new initiatives to help those on the ground who work so hard e.g. a new marketing campaign, funding applications, links with businesses.

As we approach another year of challenge and excitement we can look ahead to 2006 to renew our efforts to help every member of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Scout Network, coupled with opportunities in Hafod and Cornel. Our resources are our strength and on behalf of the Trustees may we thank most warmly every adult leader for his and her commitment and dedication. We now enter our 99th year and the Centenary celebrations are already afoot. Meanwhile I hope you have enjoyed the break because time passes so quickly and by the time you read this we will all be up and ready for new adventures in 2006! I wish all of you and your families health and success for the year ahead.

Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn Newydd Dda.



Cyngor
Sgowntiaid
Cymru—The
Welsh Scout
Council

Supporting the
development of
young people in
Wales

TALKABOUT 2006

In view of the very positive comments that the Welsh Scout Council has received about the Talkabout event held in October, it has been decided that a similar event will be held on:

SATURDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2006

The day gives *everybody*, no matter what their role in Scouting, whether it be uniformed or non-uniformed, an opportunity to ask questions and to find out what is going on in Scouting in Wales. Having listened to suggestions from those that attended this year, there will be some changes and this will make the event even better.

Full details will follow, but, if you had a new diary for Christmas, make this the first entry in it, so you don't miss out!! We hear that a number of people who missed out in 2005 are determined to come in 2006, so make a note of the date now!! Information will be sent out in good time, but keep an eye on the website as well.

GREAT NEWS FOR THE YOUNG LEADERS OF WALES



WE NEED YOUR EXPLORER SCOUTS' ADDRESSES

The Welsh Scout Council is delighted to announce that we have been successful in our application for funding for Team X. The funding is from the Millennium Stadium Trust Fund - we are extremely grateful to them.

Team X is a special Young Leaders Unit open to any Young Leader from Wales. It's main aim is to provide training and support to Explorer Scouts who are Young Leaders in Districts which find it difficult to run training courses.

Lots of Explorer Scouts live in isolated towns & villages that don't have Explorer Scout Units. Their only involvement in Scouting is as Young Leaders with Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. Team X will be there to give these Explorers the training they deserve, give them opportunity to meet others of their own age, and to make them feel part of something bigger!

However Team X isn't just for those described above - any Young Leader from Wales is welcome to be part of the action!

This is how Team X will work. . . There will be several Team X weekends throughout the year. Some will cover Young Leader Training and Taking the Lead training, others will be practical courses on things like Single Pitch Award, canoeing etc. Anyone who attends one of the courses will be part of Team X and get a polo shirt! Members of Team X will be expected to help out on Wales and Area events such as the All Wales Scout Camp, Wales Cub Fun Day etc.

To make sure that every Explorer Scout in Wales knows about this, we're starting a newsletter for all Explorers in Wales. Please make sure that you send in the name, address, District and date of birth of every 14-18 year old in your District. See below for more info on this.

More details on Team X events will be available on ScoutBase Wales and via the Explorer Scout newsletter.

As part of the Team X funding (see opposite) we are able to send a newsletter through the post to every Explorer Scout in Wales. We believe this is better than using the cascade system (Wales to Area to District to Unit to Explorer) and better than going through Leaders because it's more reliable, and young people value getting mail - and read it - more than adults. The newsletter will contain details of Team X activities and other useful information for Explorer Scouts in Wales. It will be edited by an Explorer Scout elected by the Explorer Scout Forum for Wales. Written by Explorers for Explorers!

Hopefully most Districts should have good records of all 14-18 year olds in their District and we'd appreciate it if these details could be passed on to us so that we can post out these newsletters. The records will only be held by myself and by the Welsh Scout Council Office for the sole purpose of posting out the newsletter. The information will be deleted when the young person reached 18, or we are informed that they are no longer Members.

Please send details via post or email to:
David Morris, 55 Bradley Road, Wrexham,
LL13 7TG moz4@mac.com

We need the young person's name, address, district and date of birth

If we don't get the details, it'll be your Explorer Scouts who will miss out.



Hi everyone. My name is Suzie Gregory and I'm a Scout from 1st Llangolen. On 5th and 6th November me and Amy from Llangollen volunteered to go to the Welsh Scout Forum meeting at Blackwell Court. Amy and I weren't able to make the Friday night but we got there early enough on Saturday to join in with the team building activities that included go-karting, climbing and having a go on the wicked assault course. On Sunday morning we had the Forum meeting and discussed things with other Scouts from all over Wales like:



- Why many Scouts don't go to Explorers
- What Explorers do
- Eurojam (what we thought)
- The World Jamboree 2007
- The All-Wales Scout Camp 2006
- Games we would like to see at the All-Wales Scout Camp



Many congratulations to the following who have gained their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award:



Adam Dooley, Flintshire Scout District, Clwyd
Marc Jones, Newport Scout District, Gwent
Jaime Holmes, Newport Scout District, Gwent

To achieve the Gold Award is a substantial commitment; as the Award record book says 'this is a marathon, not a sprint!' The Award demands persistence and commitment.

Well done to all three!

GET OUT IN WINTER!!



All being well this edition of *Sgowtiald* is being printed on ice blue paper – to remind you of the delights of crisp sunny days with the crunch of snow underfoot. If you look at the word SC-OUT-IN-G you will note that the OUT comes before the IN and that is as it should be. We are an outdoor

movement and should only go indoors for things which are best done there e.g. using a computer to help plan an outdoor expedition. So what to do with your young people?

No-one will come to any harm, even in sub-zero temperatures, if they are adequately clad and shod. Boots, wellies, windproofs, fleeces etc. are the order of the day not a T-shirt and jeans. As soon as it snows go out to your nearest bit of country and look for tracks of both animals and humans. No tracks? Then two of your section play out one or more incidents which everyone else has to come and deduce. Camp Fire Yarn 6 in *Scouting for Boys* (and other publications) can help you with this.

Winter is the best time to prune or fell trees and what better way to learn about the use of saws,

axes, ropes, pulley blocks etc. in order to achieve this. Perhaps not for Beaver Scouts or Cub Scouts!

How about looking for animals, birds and insects which are still about despite the cold. Many trees will have shed their leaves which will make this easier – if you are quiet and can borrow one or two pairs of binoculars.



Wales has thousands of square kilometres of wild country so use it for a hike or even (for the older Scouts and Explorer Scouts) an overnight camp. Up to 500 m and within two and a half kilometres of civilization needs no authorisation so 'Go, man (or woman), go' and take your young people, letting them plan the navigation and that stop for hot soup from a flask. Hill-walking, canoeing and sailing are all physically vigorous to keep you warm and a set of dry kit to change into at the end of the day will solve any problems. Those with the appropriate authorisations for land or water will not need me to tell them what to do.

Winter is a good time to go litter picking; there are few, if any, leaves on shrubs and trees and the vegetation has died back. All this makes it much easier to spot the Coke cans, sandwich wrappers and other detritus which disfigure so many of our beauty spots, woods and beaches. Old gloves for all and a plentiful supply of black plastic bags are all that is required in terms of equipment. Do make arrangements with your local council for the disposal of the rubbish you collect. If you try hard you might fill a whole skip!

Any sort of pioneering project will be active enough to keep you warm so what about a simple bridge over a stream or a camp gate? Even warmer would be making trestles and then using them as chariots for inter-patrol races round a 400 metre course.

The above are just a few ideas to get you out of your fusty headquarters and doing something to put a bit of colour into your pale winter complexion. Finally remember to invite your District and Area Commissioners to these winter activities; otherwise they, poor souls, will have to spend their winter sitting in big armchairs watching television and drinking a little something in a glass and that would never do!

John Muston

Chairman, Activities Team





AN OPEN QUESTION TO DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS - from Moz, Commissioner (Wales) for Explorer Scouts

"Why do you have a lot more Scout Leaders than you have Explorer Scout Leaders?"

Some Sections have 'always had' more numbers than others. Usually Beavers and Cubs have the most, there's a slight drop off with the Scout Section, but then we get to Explorer Scouts (and Venture Scouts before it) and there is a huge decrease.

Lots of Scout Groups will have the first three Sections, and this is almost 'expected', but there is only usually something like one Explorer Scout Unit for 4 Scout Troops. Why is this?

Is it because only 1 in 4 Scouts want to move on to Explorers? Or is it because of a lack of Explorer Scout Leaders?

If it's the former, please ask yourself why. Would you be happy if only 1 in 4 Cubs joined Scouts? Is the programme that is being offered by the Explorer Scout provision good enough to attract young people? Is there sufficient linking between Scouts & Explorers?

If it's the latter, lack of Leaders, then this is a different matter. You need to recruit Explorer Scout Leaders. But where from?

Well here's an option that will be controversial, but I think is worth at least considering. What about merging Scout Troops, so that perhaps 1 Troop serves 2 Cub Packs, and you can free up the Leadership team of one of the Troops to start an Explorer Scout Unit. There would be less Leaders in the Scout Section, but more for the Explorer Scout Section.

This may be an unpopular move with my friend Steve Tupper, Commissioner for Scouts, Wales, but I think it may be good for the Scout Section too! How many Scout Troops are struggling on with 7 or 8 Scouts. How much fun is that? Merge two and you get a Troop of 16 - the more the merrier!

The alternative is to let down our young people just as they reach the part of their Scouting life when they

start to put all that they've learned into practice. It's also losing a lot of potential Leaders of the future who could be nurtured by the excellent Young Leaders Scheme.

All I ask is that you have a look at the Troops in your District, their numbers and spacings, and consider if you are using your Leaders as efficiently as you can.

NEW DATE FOR AWESOME 2007

I made a bit of a mistake in the last edition of Sgowtiaid when I announced the date of AWESOME 2007 as being in July. I'd written the article a long time before the newsletter came out and even though the date had been changed, forgot that the old date was still in Sgowtiaid!

So please could everyone spread the word that - after much consultation - it has been agreed that the date of **AWESOME 2007 will be 28th - 30th September 2007. Please put the date in your diaries now.**

Moz
Commissioner (Wales) Explorer Scouts

SERCO BURSARY

Do you know about this bursary can provide support for young people who are finding it difficult to get themselves the essential gear for the expedition section of the D of E Award. The application forms are simple to complete and all the D of E ask in return is that you provide a short case study of how the grant made a difference to the young person perhaps with a few photographs. If you are interested please contact the D of E office in Brecon for an application form. Telephone: 01874 623086



YOUR INVITATION TO A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

2006 sees the 20th birthday of the Beaver Scout Section. We have come along way in 20 years, so it is an anniversary worth celebrating. 20th Birthday Celebration badges are available and



can be worn on uniform from now until the end of 2006. 20 Years badges and woggles can be purchased from badge secretaries.

The Wales Beaver Scout Team are challenging Colonies to complete 20 different activities based on the number twenty in the course of 2006. There is a huge opportunity for exciting programme ideas e.g. a twenty item scavenger hunt, programmes based on the number 20 etc, and it is proposed that every Colony should try to include fundraising (i.e. penny collections, sponsored silence etc) for the One World Appeal among their twenty challenges. Do keep a record and let's see how inventive we can be.

Also on the theme of 20 years of Beaver Scouting, the Leaders' Conference on 1 April 2006 in Llandrindod Wells, will fulfil your commitment to ongoing learning for the year. We are also looking for Beaver Scout pictures of how they think the Section might look in 2026. Let your AAC have the best from your Colony before 25 March and the Team will pick a selection to exhibit at the Conference.

Booking forms will be with your GSL shortly, so think about getting together a car full of Leaders, Assistants and Young Leaders to attend what promises to be a very good day.

The Conference is for Leaders, Assistants, Helpers and Young Leaders.

Barbara Turton

Commissioner (Wales) Beaver Scouts



St David's Day will be with us very soon, so have you considered working towards the Cub Scout Award for Wales and having a celebratory Welsh evening to present the Award as close as possible to 1 March?

The Award Pack, which contains all the information you need, can be downloaded free of charge from the website or you can order a copy (cost £3.50) from the Welsh Scout Council office. To download the Award go to: www.scoutbase.org.uk/wales and click on the Cub logo (the same as at the top of this article) and then click on 'Cub Scout Award for Wales'. Those who gain the Award receive a badge and a certificate. At the last Cub Scout Team for Wales meeting the views of those of you who returned the Cub Fun Day evaluation were considered and it was agreed that

the next Cub Fun Day should be on **Saturday, 14th June, 2008!** More information nearer the date!

May Castrey
Commissioner (Wales) Cub Scouts



June 16th – 18th 2006 will see the next All Wales Scout Camp take place at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells. There will be room for just 1,000 Scouts and Leaders. As usual there will be a weekend of activities and fun, from the sort of things we've done before (including canoeing and shooting – but not at the same time!) and lots of new stuff, such as a climbing wall.



Troops will be able to arrive from 16:00 on the Friday. Following the success of 2004, there is also a call for a significant but limited number of Explorer Scouts who will form "Team X" to help make sure everything runs smoothly. Team X members will not be available to Troop Leaders as they will be helping the core team.

From early January you will be able to find all the information and forms on ScoutBase/Wales. Just follow the links and you will be able to download booking forms, permission to camp forms, adverts, and a lot more. Yes – you do need to pre-book. We will be mailing application forms out, and your AAC(Scouts) will also have information.

Closer to the date we will be enabling Troops to state preferences for some of the activities that the Scouts would like to do – but to do this you must have booked. Our aim is to make as many people happy as we can. Although many activities will be run in a "drop-in" basis, for the BIG ones such as water and climbing we have to limit access on a timed basis. This activity, as well as providing lots of activities for the Scouts and lots of contacts for the Leaders, also helps the section link with others. Last time we started up Team-X, a set of Explorer Scouts who became an invaluable team to support both the organisers and the Scouts. This time this will be bigger and better.

We would also like to use the occasion to show Cub Leaders the sort of things we can lay on for the Scouts, and also enable them to meet more Scout Leaders than they'll ever get the chance to do otherwise. Why not bring some of your Cub Leaders as part of your Troop support team?

NOW YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR SECOND CLASS . . .

In the last edition of *Sgowtiaid* I challenged Scout Leaders to take their Scouts through the requirements of the Second Class Badge and promised to reveal the era when these tests were the requirement. The answer is that the tests are in the 1959 Edition of POR. In those days POR was a slim paperback of roughly A5 size running to 159 closely printed pages. Not only did it contain the P and the O bits but also all the badge requirements for the Cub (no Beaver Scouts in those days), Scout, Senior Scout and Rover Scout proficiency badges. One thus had, in one slim volume which would fit into a jacket pocket, all that one needed to know about Scouting. Things seem to have changed a bit since then.

Anyway enough of history because you are itching to get on and do your First Class Badge. These requirements are not from 1959 but I will keep the date a secret until the next edition of *Sgowtiaid*. Here we go.....

To become a First Class Scout and gain the whole scout's badge, a boy must pass the following tests – in addition to those for second class scout – before a Court of Honour. [Editorial Note: A Court of Honour in those days comprised all the Patrol Leaders with the Scoutmaster present in an advisory capacity only. The C of H governed all matters of behaviour, discipline, honour, badge requirements etc.]

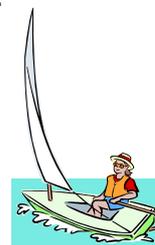
- Point out the direction of different points of the compass where he stands.
- Make a journey alone of not less than fifteen miles from point to point by walking, riding, boat or bicycle.
- Describe or show the proper means for saving life in case of one (selected by the Court) of the following accidents: fire, drowning, runaway carriage, sewer gas, ice-breaking: or bandage an injured patient, or revive apparently drowned persons.
- Be able to read and write.
- Have at least sixpence in the savings bank.
- Show that he has brought a recruit to the Boy Scouts, and has taught him to tie the six principal knots.

- To lay and light a fire, using not more than two matches, and cook a quarter of a pound of flour and two potatoes without cooking utensils.

Sadly in these modern times it might be prudent for requirement 2 to be modified to go in pairs or trios rather than alone. All this can be tackled in the first couple of months of 2006 so go to it and I will reveal the date when this was the First Class Badge requirement in the next edition.

John Muston
Chairman, Activities Team for Wales

WATER ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME 2006



This programme, printed on bright gold paper so you can't lose it, is now with your District Commissioner and also with AACs for Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Activities. If you have not yet received your copy, give your DC a ring and ask why you have had a copy yet!!

The dates are as follows:

River Wye Canoe Cruise—28 April to 1 May
Islwyn Kayak Training Weekend—3/4 June
Llyn Brenig Sailing Weekend—24/25 June
North Wales Water Activity Weekend—15/17 September (Note: this is the correct date, any other date you may have read it wrong!!)
River Severn Cruise—6/8 October
Frostbite White Water Weekend—5/7 January 2007



The programme will give you full details of each event and a booking form is inside each programme. The information is also on the website. If after reading the programme you still have a question then contact Barry Herring, if it is about canoeing, barry@nickdom.co.uk or 01766 512159 or Ron Cox, if it is about sailing, r.i.cox@lineone.net or 01407 730592

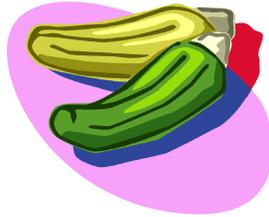


THINKING OF BUYING CANOES?

Contact Steve at Waterfront on 07790 298670.

Steve always has good offers for Scout Groups on canoes and kayaks plus other equipment.

MARROWTHON 2006



The Aplastic Anaemia Trust is holding a 'Marrowthon' launching in March 2006 to raise funds for a new unit at St George's Hospital in Tooting. The strap line 'Please help my marrow to grow' links the disease, in which the bone marrow fails to grow, with the vegetable marrow.

The marrows that you grow are sponsored per kilo and there will be marrow growing kits on sale. If you want to know more then e-mail the Project Co-ordinator on lines24@hotmail.com

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES IN NORTH WALES

If you want to arrange a visit to the National Assembly for Wales Visitor and Exhibition Centre in Colwyn Bay ring 01492 523200 and speak to Mike Parry, Public Information Regional Manager. They will arrange a visit which includes a personal tour guide.

RHODODENDRON MEGABASH

Fed up with your Group Scout Leader, District Commissioner, Area Commissioner? Then this may be the event for you, get all the frustration out of your system in one weekend, and help a good cause at the same time, you can take your young members with you and there is no cost!!



The Rhododendron Megabash 2006 is to be organised by The National Trust to be held near Beddgelert, Gwynedd that will run over the Bank Holiday weekend April 29th-May 1st 2006.

They are hoping to attract up to 1000 volunteers from all walks of life to help clear Rhododendron from a site that sits at the foot of Snowdon. A similar event on 2004 attracted 500 volunteers and was a great success in terms of the work undertaken, and the enjoyment that people got from participating in the event.

They particularly want to attract younger volunteers in 2006, so anyone from the age of 12 upwards can take part as long as they come as part of an organised group with a dedicated leader. There will be no charge for anyone coming as part of such a group and all food will be provided over the weekend (the army have agreed to do the catering as part of a training exercise), and a good quality campsite with showers, toilet facilities etc will be made available. They are hoping to set up a "youth camp" complete with entertainment for younger people attending the event, to ensure that they have a good time socially as well as helping with vital conservation work that will help to protect the local environment in Snowdonia.

Further information can be found at www.craflwyn.org.uk.

Alternatively please contact John Anderson at john_anderson50@hotmail.com or by phone on 01766 510120.

MENINGITIS UK

The above organisation produce a small card clearly giving the symptoms of meningitis which could be useful to carry in a first aid kit. If you want copies 'phone 0117 373 73 73.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD MAGAZINE

Did you know that the D of E produce a magazine for young people called 'Inside Out'? Your young members can subscribe to this magazine online at www.theaward.org/insideout

You can contact the Welsh Scout Council by:

E-mail: admin@scoutsofwales.demon.co.uk
Telephone: 01446 795277
Fax: 01446 795272
Writing to: The Old School, Wine Street,
Llantwit Major CF61 1RZ
Major CF61 1RZ
Website: www.scoutbase.org.uk/wales

Sufficient copies of Sgowntiaid are sent to District Commissioners for circulation to everyone involved Scouting in the District. If you do not receive your copy within a reasonable time why not talk to your DC?

Don't forget, deadline for next edition of Sgowntiaid:
31st March, 2006

IMPORTANT DATES

WANT TO KNOW MORE—CONTACT THE WELSH SCOUT COUNCIL OFFICE

- 6/8 January—Frostbite Canoe Cruise
- 17 January—Management Subcommittee
- 28 January—D of E Training Day
- 4 March—Chief Commissioner's Management Meeting
- 25 March—Wales Team Meetings (HQ Communication & Consultation event)
- 1 April—All-Wales Beaver Scout Conference (Leaders, Assistants, Helpers, Young Leaders)
- 28 April/1 May—Wye Canoe Cruise

Have you entered the important events in your diary?

Calling all Super-Heroes

Our first bulletin has gone out to GSLs (or those who are managing Groups with another title). It explains what is in the pipeline for improving our support to those performing this vital role in Scouting. Why Super-Heroes? Well, it's widely recognised that those managing Scouting locally need the skills of Superman, Superwoman, Spiderman, Catwoman, Batman, etc. all rolled into one.



If you haven't received your copy then please let us know at the WSC office. They were mailed out directly to those on lists provided by Districts so we need to ensure that our contact list is up to date and accurate. The next bulletin will be with you in January.

Thanks to those of you who have already found time to respond to the bulletin and provided very useful feedback which I hope you'll see is included in our future plans.

With best regards and seasonal greetings to you all

Ron Davies
Deputy Chief Commissioner

SPECIAL OFFER FOR CUB LEADERS

As you will see elsewhere in this edition, June 2006 sees the fifth All Wales Scout Camp at the Royal Welsh Showground.

Several times a year you wave a fond farewell to some of your Cubs, as they move to Scouts, but how often do you get the chance to see what they do? How often do you get the chance to discuss the differences between sections? How many Scout Leaders have you spoken to? Well, now is your chance to provide meaningful answers to these and other questions. Why not ask your Troop Leaders if you can join them for the weekend? You might just be pleasantly surprised!



