



Sgowtiaid

www.scoutswales.org.uk

CIRCULATED:
WEEK BEGINNING JULY 2008

*Cyngor Sgowtiaid Cymru—The Welsh Scout Council:
Supporting the development of young people in
Wales*

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S PAGE

Congratulations to all, the is census up this year overall for the second year running. However the increase is only small (2%) so all the support you can give to the Local Development Officers is vital and all the work you are doing in your own sections is still very important. Carmarthenshire have won the honour of the greatest percentage increase overall and the biggest sectional increase is still with the Explorer Scouts. Well done.

Busy time of year now with AGMs needing reports, always a bind, but an essential part of being a charity. I hope to see some of you at the Area AGMs and my apologies for not being able to make them all.

Thank you to Ystradgynlais, for their wonderful hospitality at their Centenary Camp in May and I look forward to Caernarfon's Centenary Camp in August.

June sees the All Wales Cub Fun Day and the All Wales Scout Camp. By the time you read this they will all be over. I am sure they will both be excellent. A big thank you to May Castrey and Pete Jeffreys and their teams respectively, for organising the events.

Congratulations to the following on their St George's Day Awards. So much time and effort goes into Scouting it is good to see this public recognition for their dedication and service to scouting.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Silver Wolf | - | Keith Burfoot; Ann Harries; |
| Bar to the Silver Acorn | - | Bryan Allport; Margaret Brown |
| Silver Acorn | - | Geoffrey Barlow; Vanessa Bushell; Anthony Dyer; Mary Jarrett; Trevor Lewis; Eirwen Margetts; Barry Mawson; Geoffrey Morley; John Myall; David Norcross; Patricia Parkhurst; Betty Parsons; David Pendlebury; Geoffrey Powell; Gary Reeves; Carol Rowe; Colin Sandiford; Andy Shurey; Reginald Spackman |



Unveiling of the plaque in the grounds of the original Scout Headquarters of the 1st Swansea Valley "Oak" Group, Ystradgynlais on the 24th May 2008 by the Chief Commissioner for Wales Jill Gloster, also in the picture is Richard Jackson the Area Commissioner for Brecknock, Simon Brownsill the Field Commissioner for South & West Wales, and William Legge-Bourke DL the President of the Welsh Scout Council.

JILL GLOSTER
CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF WALES

CLIMBING TO SUCCESS

Two Scouts from the 1st Brecon Troop were successful in the Welsh Youth Climbing Championships; Robin Cloke was placed first in the Under 13 age group (for the third consecutive year); Adam Matthews achieved third place.

The two Scouts then went forward to the UK Youth Climbing Finals held at the Edinburgh International Climbing Centre on 28th June. Thirty climbers competed - three from each of the ten UK climbing regions. Robin and Adam performed well to finish 10th and 23rd and did Welsh Scouting proud. Robin's father, Peter, who doubles up as Group Treasurer and Troop climbing guru, was delighted at the competitive attitude shown by the pair.



(Above is the Climbing Team with Robin Cloke fifth from Left in Middle Row; Adam Matthews fifth from Left in Front Row).

MID GLAMORGAN CELEBRATES AWARDS TO CUB SCOUTS

Mid Glamorgan Area Scout Council Cub Scout Section held a Chief Scout's Silver Award Presentation Evening at Bethel Baptist Church Centre Pontyclun on 23rd April 2008.

Bridgend District: 6 Cubs (1st Cornelly Phoenix)

Caerphilly District: 7 Cubs (1st Caerphilly); 4 Cubs (7th Caerphilly)

Rhymney District: 2 Cubs (2nd New Tredegar); 7 Cubs 1st Gilfach

Cynon Valley District: 4 Cubs

Taff Ely District: 10 Cubs (1st Newtown Llantwit); 9 Cubs (1st Miskin Mill Seeonee Pack); 5 Cubs 1st Miskin Mill Khaniwara Pack)

Merthyr District: 4 Cubs (2nd Merthyr); 3 Cubs (6th Merthyr)

Rhondda District: 2 Cubs (1st Llwyncelyn; 4 Cubs (1st Tonypandy); 2 Cubs (Ystradfodwg)

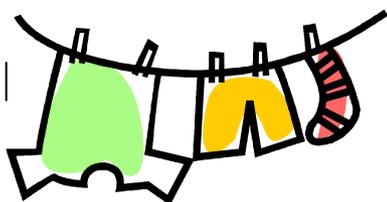
A total of 74 Cubs award their Chief Scout's Silver Award in Mid Glamorgan in 2008.



CALLING ALL EXPLORER SCOUTS

Keep up to date with what is happening in Wales by logging on to:

www.scoutswales.org.uk/explorers



LOST PROPERTY

The Welsh Scout Council has lost property from Cub Fun Day and All-Wales Scout Camp if you think any item may belong to a member of your Pack or Troop we would be delighted to hear from you—please ring or phone and we will check.





WALES LAUNCHES UK'S ONLY HOSPICE SCOUT GROUP

The United Kingdom's only hospice-based Scout Group has been launched in the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan (CATVOG) Area. The Group is based at Tŷ Hafan – the children's hospice in Wales – and its members consist of all the children and young people who attend Tŷ Hafan, along with their siblings and even their parents, should they wish to take part.

The Group has been registered as a Area Group, so enabling it to work closely with all Districts.

Because the hospice, in the Vale of Glamorgan, has an all-Wales role, other Scout Areas in Wales are looking at how they can help support the Group.

Meetings take place every Wednesday and have included a wide range of activities, including pioneering, making catapults from bamboo, making night lights, pop rockets and tracking.

A group of six siblings even attended the All Wales Scout Camp in June – for many their first experience of camping or of time away from the family. This was a major event as a first camp – with almost 1,000 participants – and even gale-force winds on the Saturday night did not put them off. Further camps for Tŷ Hafan Scouts are planned, and the new Group has so enthused some siblings, that they are now planning to join their local Scout Group.

Tŷ Hafan provides respite, palliative and end-of-

life care to children who suffer from conditions which mean they will not reach adulthood. Many children's conditions deteriorate slowly which puts an enormous strain on family life. Tŷ Hafan is dedicated to providing love, care and support for the whole family. It offers friendship; a sense of community; a sharing in the care of the child; expert respite care and then support for the family into bereavement for as long as it is wanted.

Tŷ Hafan believes in helping children make the most of the precious time they have left, and the Scout Group mirrors that philosophy. Ruth Weltch, Group Scout Leader said: "We are all really pleased to be able to bring Scouting to these young people, and are delighted at how well we have been received."

The Group was officially launched at the 2008 Tŷ Hafan Fun Day, when BBC Wales TV personalities, husband and wife, Rhodri and Lucy Owen and baby son Gabriel performed the formalities, including the planting of an evergreen Japanese Maple tree. The Owen family were presented with special Tŷ Hafan Group neckerchiefs – including a mini-version made for Gabriel.

The Scout Group does not charge subscriptions and has therefore embarked on an on-going fund-raising programme.



THE PETER MCFERRAN INCUBATOR APPEAL



The Countess of Chester Hospital is, at the moment, running an appeal to buy an incubator, at a cost of £15,000 each, for Special Care Babies. The Appeal is called "The Peter McFerran Incubator Appeal".

Peter was a member of 1st Connah's Quay Scout Group from a tiny babe in arms even though he was 8 weeks premature and was fighting for his life for a short while, working through Beavers, Cherokee Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scouts and eventually he became a helper with the Cherokees until he joined 1 Field Squadron of the RAF Regiment as a heavy machine gunner in June 2004. Sadly, Peter was killed in action on 19th July 2007 along with two other friends, also members of the RAF Regiment.

In his memory, the Countess is running the appeal and on Tuesday last, 6th May, Cherokees and Mohawk Cub Packs joined together and held a Sausage and Beans Night to raise money for the appeal. We managed to raise £68.50.

If a Scout Group or Section would like to support the Appeal, please contact Ann McFerran on 01244 815110.

WHO DO YOU WORK FOR? (Chapter 2)

If you work for HM Revenue and Customs you can apply for special leave with pay for "Volunteers Day" on an annual basis.

The only catch is that you have to match the day with a similar amount of your own time – no problem.

My own office in HMRC Bangor has a GSL, ACSL and a Brown Owl who all take advantage of the scheme.

Some years ago I realised that the other staff did not use their opportunity to volunteer. Since then an annual volunteers day has been organised with an HMRC team forming a working party at Rowen Scout Camp in the Conwy Valley, North Wales.

The team of up to 20 tackle maintenance and building projects. In return they have a day away from the joys of taxation, get to know each other better (official jargon "networking") and enjoy a BBQ in fabulous surroundings.



A win,win situation, so if you work for HMRC . . .

Ray Castle

GSL, 1st Conwy



LATE NEWS

3,000 Cub Scouts and their Leaders had a day of fun and sunshine at All-Wales Cub Fun Day, with attendance equalling the last event held in 2005.

All-Wales Scout Camp 2008 was attended by 750 Scouts and Leaders who braved a stormy weekend for adventure, activities and fun. Maximum numbers were booked a whole month before the event!



Already we are nearly half way through 2008. I hope you have all registered for the 2008 Challenge 8 for 08. There are lots of new things Beaver Scouts can try, and they will all help them with one of their six Challenge Badges.

One of the biggest challenges for young people is their first Nights Away experience. Although Beaver Scouts only do a twenty four hour event, and have to sleep indoors, it is never the less an important milestone in their Scouting lives, and one I would urge you to include in the programme each year.

Sleepovers need good planning to make them successful. Briefly you need to identify your venue, do a risk assessment, set a date, confirm the leadership team, plan your programme, plan your menus, work out the budget, set the cost, inform the parents, inform the District Commissioner, talk to the young people and run the event. Don't forget to have a review meeting afterwards to see where you can improve the experience next time.

There are a few do's and don'ts. You must have the involvement of an indoor Nights Away permit holder, who will be on site at least overnight. You must have a designated firstaider on site, and obviously all the adults involved must have been CRB'd.

If you do not yet hold a Nights Away permit, planning and running a Sleepover under the guidance of a permit holder will get you started. Joining with another Colony and helping with the planning is also a good starting point. Keep the notes of any planning meetings and review, as well as the programme, menus, budget etc. You will probably have to run a couple of events jointly or under supervision before the Nights Away Adviser is happy to recommend you for a permit, so be patient.

Fact sheet FS155053 will give you more detail about Sleepovers and your ADC or AAC Beaver Scouts will be able to assist you to find a buddy to help if it is your first event. So go for it and have a great time.

Barbara Turton

Commissioner Beaver Scouts (Wales)



Advanced notice -

for anyone involved in adult training

CATVOG and Mid Glamorgan Areas are organising a

Train the Trainer weekend on the 30th/31st August at Aberystwyth University. The training will be done in conjunction with "Gilwell on the Move".

They are extending an open invitation to anyone who needs to complete trainer modules to attend.

On offer will be Modules 31 & 32 as a weekend course; Modules 33 & 34 also as a weekend course; Modules 28, 29 and 30 as day long courses which will run on Saturday and again on Sunday.

Your Area Training Manager has more details or you can see the WSC web site.

Registration forms will be available from your Area Training Manager or from the WSC Office.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Many of you have met Chris Matthews; Rees Preston David Thomas or Mark Winson as they work in numerous Districts across Wales recruiting new adult volunteers to support existing Groups and also to open new Sections and Groups in communities where Scouting is not currently available. So we thought you would like to know what a typical working day is like for an LDO!!



Up at around 8.00 a.m., switch on the computer and then sit with a cup of coffee and catch up on the e-mails that I missed while out the previous evening. I reply to any that are urgent and then usually make any minutes or notes about the previous day's meetings. Need to get that done while it is still fresh in my mind. Then consult the diary and up-date the to-do list.

Must keep everybody up-to-date on last night's Cub meeting, which was the first meeting in the Scout Hall after the initial taster sessions in the school. Delighted to find that we haven't lost any of the 20 children recruited and the new CSL and the other five adults have all completed their CRB and AA forms. This is the fourth session of the week, so must process all the pending CRB and application forms and send them on to the District Appointments Secretary to send onto the Scout Association Records Department.

The job needs one or two days a week in the office catching up on admin, organising current projects and just as importantly, researching communities in which I will work next term's. I need to know if there are meeting facilities, where are the schools, will they support us, are there other organisations for the same age group that meet on the same evening, what else is available in that community—lots and lots of questions to be answered and lots of people to talk to before the work begins.

Time for lunch, then plan for this evening's meeting. It is at an infants school in a commu-

nity where we are trying to start a Beaver Scout Colony and the taster session is planned for this evening. The meeting is scheduled for 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. and it is over an hour's drive to get there. During the evening I need to talk to the parents and persuade them that 'yes, they can run a Beaver Scout meeting', 'yes, they will get all the support and training that they need', 'no, they won't be left on their own to get on with it' - and most important of all 'yes, it will be huge fun and they will enjoy it!!'

Section nights are when you get a real feel for how a particular project is going, this varies enormously from Beaver colonies which are going well with 20 children regularly attending, to other Scout Groups where there seems to be no local interest and even attracting five children is a struggle. These latter projects can be extremely frustrating as it is up to me to rack my brains and come up with a way of keeping them on track, a task which is unfortunately not always possible.



Tonight's meeting is one that went well, 20 children and 15 parents attended. Support to run the meeting was given by other Leaders in the District, who will continue to support the new Colony and its Leaders, and the children all enjoyed themselves, which gave me the opportunity to talk to parents and recruit a Leader, two additional Assistant Leaders, four helpers and a Treasurer—an excellent night's work!!

At the end of the meeting, it is time for a chat with the School Headteacher to thank her for her support and help; then drop into see the DC on the way home as I pass the Centre where the DC has been running a canoeing session. As he peels off his wet suit and sorts out canoes, we discuss the results of the evening and have a quick chat about communities in which work will commence during the next term.

And when will the day end? Well, depends on where I've been working but anything between 8.30 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.—then it is time to collapse into a chair and recover before starting all over again tomorrow!!

What are the trials and tribulations in an LDO's life?

- Arriving for a meeting to find that the person with the keys hasn't been told that the hall needs to be opened up!
- A new Leader comes forward and looks promising, only to find that their son/daughter becomes disinterested in Scouting and both parent and child leave!
- Existing Leaders who have been in Scouting for some time and tell parents all the worst things they can possibly remember instead of all the good times!!
- Whenever a person comes forward out of the blue I can guarantee it will be the one time I don't have a CRB form to hand!
- Trying to provide directions to the Scout HQ that has been built in a place that is deliberately difficult to find!



And what is the best bit of being a Development Officer?

Seeing a Beaver Scout Colony which didn't exist six weeks before, with adults and children enjoying themselves makes me sure that the effort has been worthwhile and Beavers and Cubs always have a knack of making me laugh! However, receiving e-mails like this one from a newly recruited Leader has to be the icing on the cake:

Cubs are going really well, we invested 13 a weeks ago and another 3 will be invested this week. We are hoping to have our first Executive meeting this Thursday evening and then two parents are looking to start Scouts in a month.

Sometimes things are difficult, but the rewards are great. We went to the District Camp for the Saturday, 7 Cubs came along with 3 parents and we all had a great day even though it had been a last minute frantic effort to get things organised. The highlight of the day was one of the Cubs running up to his Dad at the end of the day and saying he had had the best day of his life. That makes it all worthwhile.

Also the day after the 13 Cubs were invested there was a village clean up; normally about 8 people turn up to help, I asked the Cubs to come to help and 9 came, and 3 parents stayed and helped too. I still find it hard to believe the difference Scouting has already made here in such a short time, it makes me so proud that I have started something that as it grows here will hopefully bring more parts of the community together.

EXCITING DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Welsh Scout Council has been successful in gaining funding from the Big Lottery Fund for Phase 2 of the development project, and two further Development Officers have been appointed and will commence work during August.

This brings the total of Development Officers working in Wales to 5 full time members of staff and one part-time member of staff. In addition, to funding by the Big Lottery Fund the projects are financially supported by funding from the Welsh Assembly Government (Wales: The Active Community scheme); the Scout Association's Development Grants Board and the Welsh Scout Council.

To be truly successful, the support of existing local Leaders for a development project is required with initial provision of the programme and on-going support and training after the Development Officers time within the Group.

Of course, the most important input from any Group and District is the welcome and friendship given by existing Leaders!!





CALLING BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The RSPCA Young Photographer Award is a national photography competition for the under 18's. The Awards are a great way to promote an interest in photography as well as helping young people focus on the important of animal welfare. There are also fantastic prizes to be won including top of the range digital cameras.

Want to know more? Visit the website www.rspca.org.uk/ypa

PLANNING FOR A QUIET MEETING

Afasic is a UK wide charity that helps and supports children and young people affected by the hidden disability of speech, language and communication impairments and their families. Research indicates that this disability affects over one million children and young people, but awareness of it and the impact it can have remains low.

Afasic is holding a sponsored silence (*sponsor forms can be downloaded from the web site*) to help those participating to better understand how much harder it can be to communicate with others, how frustrating this can be and how difficult it can make everyday life—you can plan the silence for as long as you think appropriate, they suggest an hour as an target to aim for!

If you want to know, more visit www.afasiccymru.org.uk/news.htm

CHILD POVERTY DAY

Actionaid are inviting people across the UK to support Child Poverty Day by joining the Big School Dinner (or this could be the Big Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit Dinner!!) when they all bring a packed lunch to an event and donate the money that would normally be spent on the meal.

You can apply for a Big School Dinner Kit to help you plan the event or visit the website www.childpovertyday.org.

SCOUTING ADVENTURES

Newgale YMCA Outdoor Education Centre offer accommodation and activities with special programmes for Scouting. They will also design programmes for tight budgets!!



They can offer water activities, climbing, mountain biking, team building and high challenges and have pre-designed programmes as well as being to create a programme that will help Scouts achieve badges.

Accommodation is in a purpose built en-suite dormitory blocks with kitchen facilities for self-catering or a chef on site if you don't want to cook!! They also offer campfire facilities and a BBQ together with plenty of space outdoors for games and indoor facilities and a shop!

For more information phone 01437 720959 or e-mail: info@newgaleymca.co.uk or visit their website: www.newgaleymca.co.uk

WATER ACTIVITES EQUIPMENT

Steve at Waterfront has canoes, kayaks and sailing dinghies at reduced rates for Scouts. You can ring Steve on 07790 298670.

Also available from Steve, at reduced rates for Scouters and their families, are two holiday cottages in Pembrokeshire.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the April 1939 number of 'The Scouter' (as you can see I am a little behind with my reading) the following was written by Col. C Wilson who was HQ Commissioner for Old Scouts (predecessors of the Scout Fellowship):-

I was at a meeting of the Old Scout Club of Llanelly (No, this is not a spelling typo) last week. Llanelly is known the world over as the centre of the tin plate industry - you even buy your beer in tin cans.

It seems amazing that less than 70 years ago it was worthy of note that beer could be sold in cans!!

John Muston

WANTED—A BEAVER SCOUT COLONY!

Our Beaver Scout group are currently working towards their Friendship badge and we were hoping to contact a group in Wales to extend the left-hand of friendship, via e-mail, from Manchester and to get to know what Welsh Beavers get up to.

You can e-mail the Leader of the 1st West Timperley Beaver Scouts Moira Hinds (Beaver Scout Leader, 1st West Timperley Beaver Scouts) on :
1stwesttimperley@altrincham-scouts.org.uk

BE WELSH . . . BE SEEN . . .

Remember to order your Sgowtiaid Cymru neckers as soon as possible for your camps and expeditions.

The Welsh Scout Council is the only source of approved Sgowtiaid Cymru neckerchiefs. The official design is a red necker, bordered with green and white with a Leek logo embroidered on the necker.

The neckers cost £6.50 plus p & p.

8 FOR 08 CHALLENGE



To date 2,906 young people and adults have registered for this Award!! This represents 21% of the membership in Wales! So if you are still wondering

whether to get involved, it is more than likely you can find somebody else in your District who is already involved. Why not talk to them and see what they think.

It's not too late to get involved, fill in the registration form at the back of the booklet and send it to the Welsh Scout Council office. Everybody registered receives a badge to show that they are part of the Award and a certificate on completion of the Award. You have until 31st March, 2009 to complete the Award.

The Award booklet that was sent to everybody on the Membership Database (Backpack) in Wales earlier in the year, has loads of ideas for programme activities, and your young people can gain additional badges along the way.

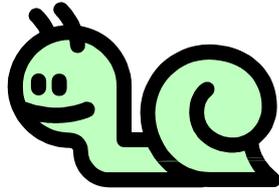
P.S. If you can't remember where you put the Award booklet, you can download a copy and the registration form from www.scoutswales.org.uk and click on the 8 for 08 logo!!!

BACKPACK

The Headquarters Membership Database 'Backpack' is used to create the mailing labels to circulate copies of Sgowtiaid, as well as other information about all-Wales events. You can check to make sure you are listed on the database by going on to www.scouts.org.uk, click on 'Backpack' on the top right hand side of the screen and then follow the instructions. It is very simple. If you find you are not listed, then talk to your GSL or DC. Make sure you don't miss out on important information.

WES—THE SNAIL

Wondering who Wes is? Well, he is the newsletter of Explorer Scouts in Wales, edited by Vikki Booth of Pembrokeshire. Vikki is also the Secretary of the Explorer Scout Forum for Wales.



However, WES is crying out for news and articles, so Vikki would like everybody to send in as much ES news as possible—what have you been doing this summer, where have you been, your views and news are what is needed.

Please send everything direct to Vikki at vikkibooth@hotmail.com with a copy to Simon Fairless, Commissioner Wales (Explorer Scouts) at explorers@scoutswales.org.uk

BILINGUAL PROMISE CARDS

Plastic credit card style Promise Cards are available from the Welsh Scout Council with the Promise in the Welsh language on one side and in English on the other.

Cards are available from the Welsh Scout Council office priced 65p plus p & p if ordering a quantity.



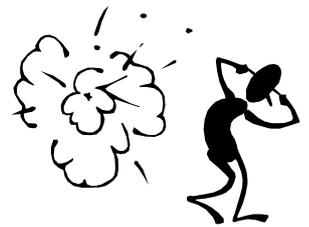
IT'S A GAS

With the camping season in full swing we thought it a good opportunity to remind one and all of the well publicised dangers of using the pierceable cartridge type of gas appliance and some of the potential consequences of misuse and carelessness.

We start with a tale of the dim and distant past (normally presaged when Skip starts out "when I was Lad"). Some of you may recall, in those somewhat less than 'Green' times, the 3 B's applying to camp rubbish: Burn Bash and Bury, and this resulted in a lot of what is now, rightly, sent for recycling, being left out of sight under a suitable cover of turf or, more often than not, a

small heap of soil marked with a cross!

When I was a lad, regularly attending camp, the troop acquired a number of small gas lights powered by said pierceable gas containers. Now, as good Scouts, when any metal container was finished with it was subject to the 3 B's. On replacing the supposed empty container with a refill the 'dead' one was consigned to the fire in the normal fashion. What next you may ask? Not a lot surprisingly: a small flare issued from the container and that was that. Now boys will be boys and if an empty container made a nice flare then a full one would be much better. So, after a whip round was had to provide the money to purchase another spare, the 'fun' began. The full container was punctured and lobbed on the fire and guess what? No flare, instead a flame spurted from the container propelling it across our camp site narrowly missing the tent and finally coming to rest in the middle of the field. Fortunately for us, and with no harm done, this is a fine example of doing, not thinking. Having said that, we now know some of the dangers of this type of container and subsequently treat them with the respect they deserve.



The above is clearly an example of misuse by those who should have known better and were lucky to escape with no serious injury. Others aren't.

Due to the age of this type of gas appliance, including both stoves and lights, one of the problems can be that the seal to the container is often worn or perished and in need of renewal so if the QM is not in the habit of carrying out regular checks leaks can result, leading to potentially serious problems. Clearly the way to avoid this is for a competent person to check kit on a regular basis and action any repairs needed before kit is issued for use. It has to be said that the more modern type with a self sealing valve in the container so that the gas cylinder can be removed from the appliance when not in use is now the preferred option and Groups should look to replace the old type of pierceable appliance as soon as practicable.

Should you have this type of appliance then a few simple rules will help to avoid accidents and all the grief that comes with them.

MAKE SURE all who use any gas the best out of it and come home in one piece.

NEVER remove a part used container always wait until it has fully run out (one disadvantage with this type of container is when it is close to empty the gas pressure drops and so is much less efficient).

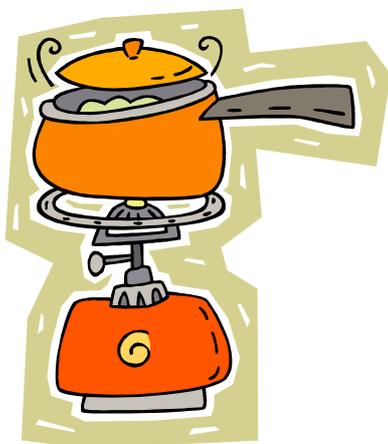
NEVER change a container in an enclosed space ALWAYS outside in a well ventilated area away from any possible source of ignition.

NEVER attempt to change a container when the appliance is still hot. It may catch fire or you may get burnt on any hot parts of the appliance.

ALWAYS take care not to cross thread the appliance onto the gas container, it will not be possible to remove it and start again once the container is punctured and IT WILL leak gas.

MAKE SURE all who use any gas equipment are properly trained, have read the instructions and are aware of the possible dangers.

Read and understand all the safety rules of any gas appliance you or yours use, to safely get the best out of it and come home in one piece.



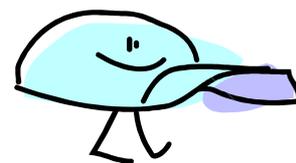
TALKABOUT 2008



Talkabout 2008 will be held on Saturday, 1st November at The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells commencing at 10.30 a.m. The Welsh Scout Council Annual General Meeting will also be held during the day.

More information will be circulated shortly but to make sure you keep in touch with plans, keep an eye on the website—
www.scoutswales.org.uk

LOST SOMETHING?



Lost property handed in from All-Wales Cub Fun Day and All-Wales Scout Camp is now in the Welsh Scout Council office.

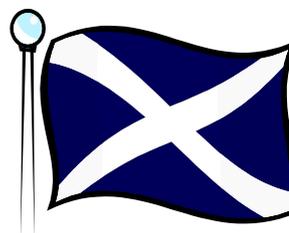
E-mails have now been sent to booking contacts listing the items we have, but if you know of somebody who lost something and you haven't seen the list give Alison a ring on 01446 795277 or

alison.harding@scoutswales.org.uk

SCOTTISH BEAVER SCOUTS

1st Carnoustie Beavers are keen to link up with a Colony in Wales and if you are interested please e-mail their Leader, Morag Lane, on wednesday.beavers@hotmail.co.uk

Morag says that they have 17 Beaver Scouts at present and, of course, live on the North East coast of Scotland with beautiful beaches and championship golf courses!



You can contact the Welsh Scout Council 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:

- **Deadline for next edition:**
30th September, 2008
- **If your Area, District or Group would like to share an idea or an event please send in details by this date.**
- **If you receive this copy 'Sgowtiaid' but are no longer in Scouting, make sure your name is removed from the database and hand on your copy to someone else.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **North Wales Water Activity Weekend—12/14 September 2008**
- **Commissioner (Wales) meeting—20th September**
- **Llyn Bala Sailing Weekend—27/28 September 2008**
- **River Severn Canoe Cruise—3/5 October, 2008**
- **Area Commissioners meeting—25th October, 2008**
- **TALKABOUT 2008—Saturday 1st November, 2008 (put this date in your diary, anybody involved in Scouting in Wales is welcome to attend—watch the website for further details.**
- **TEAM DAY—8th November, 2008**
- **Welsh Scout Council Board of Trustees—6th December, 2008**

SOME BYGONE BADGES

The *Friend to Animals* Badge is one which might feature in our modern range of badges and the requirements seem straightforward. They state: *A Scout must have a general knowledge of the anatomy of domestic and farm animals, and be able to describe treatment and symptoms of the following:- Wounds, fractures and sprains, exhaustion, choking, lameness. He must understand shoeing and shoes; and must be able to give a drench for colic.* In simple terms it might be called first aid for animals. So far, so good but as I have shown in previous articles in this series it is in the detail that we might raise our eyebrows.

The drench referred to for colic is apparently best given by means of a 'wine bottle, preferably a hock or champagne bottle'. Clearly the role of a vet has its perks since someone must presumably drink the wine bottle contents first! The formula for the draught is given in 'drachms' which might cause most of us some concern since I suspect Apothecaries' Measures have long disappeared from the National Curriculum although an elderly pharmacist might still recall them.

However it is the *Method of Destruction in Hopeless Cases* section which might cause us to raise our eyebrows. Having been advised to use a revolver, rifle or Humane Cattle Killer the Scout (in 1917 the Scout age range was 11 to 18) is then told to hold the weapon 'within an inch of the forehead, at the point where the hair curls in a whorl. Below this the brain may be missed altogether.' I doubt that any of us today would countenance someone under 18 killing an animal, public opinion would not accept it. In 1917 I suspect the world was a tougher place. I have one further concern. This appears to be a humane method of disposing of Hopeless Case Area Commissioners. Fortunately I do not have a 'point where the hair curls in a whorl.'

JOHN MUSTON