



SGOWTIAID

An occasional bulletin of the Scouts of Wales—sponsored by Royal Mail

EDITION 2—2007

CIRCULATED:

WEEK BEGINNING 26 NOVEMBER 2007



**Cyngor
Sgowntiaid
Cymru—The
Welsh Scout
Council**

**Supporting the
development
of young
people in
Wales**

WHAT A YEAR!

What a year! With so much going on we will all have treasured memories of 200, our Centenary Year.

Whether it is being a part of a show, a march, a Centenary camp, a Sunrise Ceremony in a castle or church, on top of a mountain or in the high street, a flower display, historic display, Windsor, Jamboree or Brownsea visit or a reunion with friends past and present it has been something to remember. All over Wales, we have, together with the rest of the world, been celebrating the beginning of our fantastic Movement, perpetuating the enduring qualities of Scouting's values and laying down the foundations for the next hundred years.

None of this happens without huge amounts of time and effort, all freely by people such as yourself, given because we believe Scouting has so much to offer our young people

Thank you for playing your part in this special year, helping to bring Scouting to so many.

**JILL GLOSTER
CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF WALES**

**THE CENTENARY
WORLD
JAMBOREE SITE
AT HYLANDS
PARK 2007**





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

GAVIN FOLEY—GWENT
DANIEL CAMPBELL—CLWYD

To achieve the Gold Award requires 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!

WORLD JAMBOREE AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

There appears to have been some misinformation and confusion concerning attendance at the World Scout Jamboree counting as the 'Residential Section' for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There is no doubt under the terms and conditions of the 'Award' that any Explorer Scout or Network member aged 16+ who registered for the Award prior to the Jamboree can use the experience for the Residential Project.

It does not matter if the young person was a Troop participant or a member of the International Service Team or a member of the Troop Leadership Team all are eligible to have their books signed off. Any queries contact Mike Breakwell, Award Officer and Adviser for the Welsh Scout Council.

You can contact Mike on: 01495 758662 or E-mail: dofe@scoutswales.org.uk

MIKE BREAKWELL
ADVISER FOR WALES

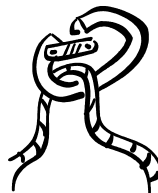
AUTHORISATIONS ARE DYING - LONG LIVE PERMITS



September 2007 was the cut-off date for changing from Authorisations to Permits for Adventurous Activities, so I hope you are now all on the new system.

Do note that existing Authorisations can remain in-being until their due review date. They should **NOT** be cancelled just because we have reached September 2007.

If any Area is having problems do give me a ring on 01341 430642 or e-mail to: j.muston@btinternet.com



JOHN MUSTON
CHAIRMAN—ACTIVITIES TEAM

TALL SHIPS

The Azores Sea Scouts have booked two voyages (14-21 May and 21-28 May 2008) on the sail training brig 'Stavros S Niarchos'. This vessel takes up to 48 trainees per voyage aged 16-75 years. There are still vacancies left.

The Tallships website is www.tallships.org

I am a Scout Leader with the 3rd Cardigan and also the Chief Officer on the Stavros. Earlier this year I took two Welsh Scouts, Sarah French and Reuben Kingerlee on the Azores Sea Scout voyage. If you have any queries you can contact me while I am board, i.e. up until 25th November on choff.stavrossniarchos@nmm.stena.com or after that when I am on home leave on richardharris07@hotmail.com.

The cost of a voyage is around £399 with the cost of the return flight to the Azores around £300. For those who might need financial assistance, tallships have branches in Wales (and England), these can be found via the website, or in their brochure.

This year's voyage had a full programme on various islands in the Azores, where the Scouts were

excellent hosts. The leader of the Azores Scouts is Luis Machado. As there are two Scout voyages in 2008, we are hoping to boost the Welsh numbers, as well as Scouts from other countries, to make it a more international event.



RICHARD HARRIS
SCOUT LEADER—3RD CARDIGAN SEA
SCOUTS/CHIEF OFFICER 'STAVROS S
NIARCHOS'

If you are interested in attending get in touch with Richard as soon as possible so that he can ensure that spaces are reserved for Welsh Scouts.

WATER ACTIVITIES 2007

It is some time since you have heard from me so long in fact 10 months have gone by and not a word!

In that time, the following Water Activity events have taken place, the Frostbite White-water weekend, the River Wye Cruise, Llyn Brenig Sail Training weekend, Islwyn Canoe Training & Assessment weekend, Llyn Gwynant Canoe Training & Assessment, Llyn Bala Sail Training weekend, and finally the River Severn Canoe Cruise.

Seven events placing 450 youngsters afloat in 2007, numbers any team would be proud of, thinking of instructor to pupil ratio of one to seven, that equates to 64 instructors all be it some of the instructors come again and again it is still instructor time plus the back up teams of another dozen, the camaraderie is unbelievable all adding to fun and experience for the youngster.

So I take my hat off to the instructional and back-up teams, thank you once again.



My advice is to book early, due the limited numbers (boat availability) the sailing courses are fully booked up very quickly, there is generally room to be found on the canoe courses, early bookings help and makes life easier for our Booking Secretary but we still have the same old few who leave things to the last minute, believe me we do understand.



Finally thanks must go to all the Leaders who put in the hours week in, week out and get the youngsters to the events.

Any difficulties with Water Activities, it is easy to find me, talk to me, it helps.

RON COX
WATER ACTIVITIES ADVISER (WALES)

You can contact Ron on:

01407 730592 or e-mail him on:

water@scoutswales.org.uk



Well, the Summer came, and went – did you catch it? After all the rain, you probably thought that the Centenary Camp was a Regatta! I hope your camp was something special, and that maybe you'll want to do it all again in a few years time. Please don't forget that we want to make a Logbook of the 90th Birthday and Centenary Year celebrations. Please send a brief report, and good photos to me, or your AAC Cubs, or direct to Welsh Scout Council office, on a disc if you can. **Please act soon!**

You probably went somewhere fantastic for your Sunrise Ceremony. I hope it was a special and up-lifting experience for the adults, and a meaningful time for the Cubs as you all renewed your Promise.

PROGRAMME IDEAS

The Assistant Area Commissioners and I have begun working on the production of another book of Programme Ideas. This will complement the one already written by Tony Morgan of Glamorgan West. He might sell you a copy if you ask him nicely. If you have a really good programme that you'd like to share, would you send it to me, via Welsh Scout Council office, and we'll include it in the book. Don't forget, you can download programmes from the website too.

CUB FUN DAY 2008

The Cub Team has the basic arrangements in hand for **Cub Fun Day, 14 June 2008, at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells**, with the help of Welsh Scout Council office. The theme is 'Famous People', and your Assistant Area Commissioner (Cubs) will let you know which person your Area is responsible for. Soon you will be asked to send in details of the activities you are going to provide for the day, and to do a risk assessment on the activity. Please bring sufficient adults (CRB checked) so that you can have some time off during the day to look around, and talk to other Leaders. Let's make sure we have a great day, with all the angles covered.

CUBARAMA—ALL-WALES CUB SCOUT LEADERS' CONFERENCE

We are also making plans for "Cubarama" – our Day Conference for Leaders and Section Assistants, later in 2008, or early 2009. Please send me your ideas for inclusion in the programme. We want it to be a success, and we want to provide what you want. Do you want demonstrations, workshops, debates, open forum, seminar, HQ speakers, sales tables? Any ideas would be useful.

TEAM SECRETARY WANTED!

The AACs Cub Team desperately needs someone to take the minutes at our two meetings each year (March and November). Could someone please spare the time to do this please? We shall give you lunch, and probably someone can offer you transport.

Before we reach the end of 2007 I want to say a special **THANK YOU** to all you Cub Scout Leaders, Section Assistants, and anyone else who helps with Cubs. You are doing a wonderful job, and without you Cub Scouting would not happen. Our Cub numbers are down slightly in Wales as a whole, but there are many children out there who could join if we had more Leaders and Section Assistants.



Please take heart from the fact that we now have three Development Officers to cover all of Wales, and that maybe they will be looking at your Area, to start new Sections, or new Packs. If they don't reach your Pack, then maybe we can help with some ideas for recruiting adults to help you. Please keep on talking to the adults that you meet at work, in the street, and the parents of your members. Your enthusiasm might rub off. You are doing a marvellous job, and a pat on the back is well overdue.

I know it's early, but all the best for the Festive Season, and let's look forward to 2008 with anticipation.

MAY CASTREY

COMMISSIONER (WALES) CUB SCOUTS



A FANTASTIC YEAR . . . AND NEW BEGINNINGS?

Hi everyone. For those of you who do not know me I would like to introduce myself. I have been appointed (arm twisted!) by Jill Gloster, our Chief Commissioner, to take on the Explorer Commissioner role from Moz. – for his excellent work in launching this most demanding and enjoyable of sections I am most thankful. I am an active Explorer leader from Gwent and have been involved with the Section for well over 4 years and a member of the movement for many more. I enjoy most outdoor sports, especially canoeing, and love camping (spending on average 35-40 nights away with Scouting every year).

In the coming weeks, I aim to meet locally with as many Explorer Leaders, DESC's and AAC's throughout Wales to experience Explorer Scouting at every level and to understand your local concerns a little better. We are tasked with an enormous responsibility to deliver the most adventurous and demanding of programmes to our young people – when this occurs with a Unit, usually the young people flock to that unit and a successful and fun time is had by all. I see a large part of my role working closely with you to allow this to occur in order to grow our Section.



Our Section has had an extremely busy and ulti-

mately rewarding year. Our young people and Leaders have participated in local, national and international events – Centenary Camps the length and breadth of Wales have been extremely well attended with Explorer Scouts often involved with running many of the activity bases for the other sections. Our recent AWESOME weekend was extremely well attended and all credit must go to Rhys and his team for putting on such a fun event. The highlight of the year for me so far was the World Jamboree. Wales sent five Units of young people (36 people per unit) to this prestigious event – the most people we have ever sent; may the trend continue for Sweden in 2011.

But after all the excitement of 2007 what can we expect in 2008? For a start, there will be a new All Wales Challenge award (outline details below). For those of you that were lucky enough to be at the World Jamboree last summer and especially for those of you that were unable to attend, why not participate in the UK's biggest International Jamboree in Essex, check out www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree2008/ or make some new friends at Kibblestone International Friendship Camp www.ifc-kibb.org. In 2008, Scouting Ireland will be hosting their first Jamboree since the creation of the new Association – to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Ireland, why not be there - www.jamboree2008.ie/. Another fantastic opportunity next summer for our Section is the annual Sun Run weekend in Gloucestershire, www.sr-mc.org/. Enthuse your youngsters – by getting active, and then post your photos to our new Welsh Scouting website – due to launch in Jan 2008.

I would like to end by saying how much I am looking forward to working with you all and with, I believe, the best section in Scouting. Traditionally we don't communicate enough – there is a wealth of experience in Welsh Explorer Scouting; there is a new resource pack for all DESC's. Please use your local AAC's and DESC's, share your good programmes, activity and camp ideas – and by all means phone or e mail me when needed.

SIMON FAIRLESS

explorers@scoutswales.org.uk 07866 457207

WELSH SCOUT COUNCIL STAFF WHO'S WHO!!!



From left to right:

Back row: Jane Churchill; Jessica Evans David Thomas; Rees Preston; Shirley Myall
Front row: Mark Winson; Clive Bracewell; David Goldsmith; Alison Harding.

And who does what?

Field Commissioners: Clive Bracewell provides professional support to the Scout Areas of Snowdonia and Anglesey, Clwyd, Montgomeryshire, Ceredigion, Brecknock and Radnorshire. David Goldsmith provides professional support to the Scout Areas of Gwent, CATVOG, Mid Glamorgan, Glamorgan West, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire.

Development Officers: The Development Officers work to increase the number of adults who volunteer in Scouting in leadership roles, as trustees and as supporters. Jess Evans works in South East Wales; David Thomas works in West Wales and Mark Winson works in North East Wales. Rees Preston works in the Mid Glamorgan Scout Area.

Welsh Scout Council Office Staff: Shirley Myall, Manager Central Services; Jane Churchill, Finance Assistant; Alison Harding, Senior Administrator supporting Programme and Development i.e. events, Team Day etc

CHALLENGE 2008

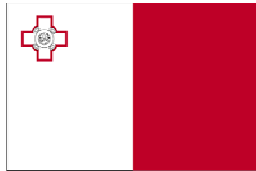
You may already have heard something about a special plan to kick-start 2008.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Commissioners (Wales) are introducing an **All Wales Challenge for 2008 – 8 for 2008**. Every member of Scouting in Wales can take part, from Beaver Scout to Commissioner. The idea is to try something new, in eight identified areas. Watch out for the leaflets, and let us know, as soon as you can, that you wish to take part, so that the badges can be ordered.

INTERNATIONAL REQUESTS

From Malta:

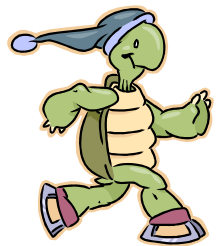


My name is Tonia Axisa and I come from Malta. I am a Troop Leader of Zebbug Scout Group. I am preparing my Section for the 'World Friendship' Badge. One of the criteria of the badge is to start and correspond with a foreign Scout Group. Is there anybody who would like to make contact with my Section? Our Group website is:

www.geocities.com/zebugscoutsmalta.

E-mail: Tony.axisa@go.com.mt

ICE SKATING AT BRISTOL ZOO



Ice Skating is available at Bristol Zoo from 16th November 2007 to 13th January 2008. You can find out more information by visiting www.bristolzoo.org.uk or call 08714 720418.

The ice skating fee does not include the admission fee for the zoo.

RNIB CYMRU—FREE VISUAL AWARENESS SESSIONS

RNIB Cymru are offering free visual awareness sessions to groups of young people aged five to 16 years, which can be conducted in the English or the Welsh Language. The sessions are run by RNIB Cymru's volunteer facilitators, who are specially trained. The sessions are interactive, informal and practical with participants having the opportunity to understand more about the world in which blind and partially sighted people live.

If you are interested you should contact Ian Simpson, RNIB Cymru Volunteering Officer, on 029 20 449483 or e-mail:

ian.simpson.rnib.org.uk



From USA:

My name is Robin Kirby, I'm a Webelos Leader (10 year olds) in Colorado Springs and I'm looking for pen pals for my kids. I'm also looking to trade council patches.

Robin Kirby

Webelos Scout Leader, Pack 35, Colorado Springs.

E-mail: rmkirby99@hotmail.com

REMEMBER: The above have requested links with Scouting in Wales, but are unknown to the Welsh Scout Council.

QUEEN'S SCOUT RECEPTION—THE TATE MODERN

This year four young people attended the Tate Modern for the presentation of their Queen's Scout Award. The presentations were made by the Chief Scout, Peter Duncan and the event was very entertaining and informal. The Chief Scout, during the presentations, showed that he was interested both in their Scouting achievements and involvement, and in what the young people were doing outside Scouting.

The photographs below show Russell Mayall (Radnorshire); Chris Taylor (Ceredigion); Daniel Melbourne and Steffan Turner (Glamorgan West)



The Chief Commissioner of Wales sends congratulations to all those who have achieved their Queen's Scout Award this year. This is a wonderful achievement and we are delighted to know that the four above enjoyed their presentation at the Tate Modern.

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!! ALL WALES SCOUT CAMP 2008

The Welsh Scout Council's website is currently being re-developed and will be launched in the New Year. We are now recruiting editors to build and maintain the new site's content.

To apply please send the following information to webmanager@scoutswales.org.uk:

1. Your Scouting and professional background and interests.
2. An example of your writing.
3. Why you'd like to take on this role, and what you think you'd bring to the team.

If you have any content (news, events, links or anything else) or photos you would like added to the site, please e-mail them to webteam@wscoutswales.org.uk

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE GENUINE ARTICLE!!!

The official necker for Wales is red, with a green and white border embroidered with a Welsh Leek and these are manufactured specially for the Welsh Scout Council.

You should note that, despite the advertisement on their website, Onestopscouting does not sell the official design and the one advertised on their website is merely their own design.

If you want to be identifiable as a member of Sgowtiaid Cymru you can purchase the Welsh necker from the Welsh Scout Council office at a cost of £6.20. This is an adult size scarf. If you are going abroad and want to order a quantity for your Group, please make sure you order in good time.

You can also purchase the Sgowtiaid Cymru necker at Welsh Scout Council events, for example, Cub Fun Day 2008, All-Wales Scout Camp 2008 and Cubarama as well as at Team Days.

Hot on the heels of recent successes, the next All Wales Scout Camp is fast upon us and is set to be an even better fun-filled activity weekend for even more young people in Wales!

Hosted at the Royal Welsh Showground near Builth Wells, the weekend 20-22 June, 2008 will see over 600 Scouts have the chance to take part in over 50 different activity bases ranging from adventurous activities to craft, and touching on every single programme zone throughout the weekend.

The allocation of scouts to the three activity zones of Fun, Challenge, and Adventure for half a day over the weekend will mean much more time spent trying new things, meeting new people and discovering new skills, and much less time walking around the site!

Evening activities have been an area the organisers will focus on for this year to provide a much wider range of choice to scouts during the more relaxed evening times; there really should be something for everyone!

The cost for the weekend has been capped at the same rate as in 2006; £15 for scouts and £12 for leaders. Leaving only transport, food and tentage for local scout leaders to arrange the weekend is easily one of the most cost effective ways to try an enormous range of activities all in one place!

Online booking will open in the Spring term, as well as paper based support to be handled through the Welsh Scout Council office. More information will be sent out about booking details closer to the time, but if you would like any more information at this stage please contact the event organiser Pete Jeffreys on petejefreys@gmail.com or 07746 319482.

THE WELSH SCOUT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the recent Annual General Meeting the following appointments were confirmed:

Chairman of the Board of Trustees: Mr Gareth J Williams

Hon Treasurer of the Welsh Scout Council: Mr Tony Warrilow

President: Mr William Legge-Bourke DL

Vice Presidents: Mrs Christopher Cory JP

Mr Alan Higgins OBE

Mr W Gordon James

Mr Iori Wynn Jones

Mr Peter D Like

Life Vice Presidents: Professor David Loades

Mr Roy Whittington DL

Each year the Scout Areas of Wales nominate at the Area AGM three representatives to the Welsh Scout Council—one Warranted Leader, one Non-Warranted Representative and one Representative under the age of 25 years.

The following are nominated to serve during the forthcoming year:

Brecknock: Mr David Davies. (No Uniformed Member or Under-25 year old nominated)

CATVOG: Mr David Gerrard; Mrs Janet Williams; Mr Jonathan Williams

Ceredigion: Mrs Marian Bryant; Mrs Leontia Slay; Miss Claire Dyer.

Clwyd: Ms Nicola Gamlen; Mr Andy Colin; Mr Adam Gardner

Glamorgan West: Mr Kerry Roberts; Mr Allen Aldred; Mr Graham Rees-Evans.

Gwent: Mr Gordon King; Col Peter Gooderson TD, JP, DL; Mr Peter Sheppard.

Mid Glamorgan: Mrs Margaret Hopkin; Mr John Davey; Under-25—not nominated.)

Montgomeryshire: Mr Hugh Anton-Stephens. (Uniformed Member; Under 25 year old—non elected)

Pembrokeshire: Mrs Sue Benbow; Mr Alan Fitzhugh; Miss Vicki Booth.

Radnorshire: Mr Paul Kenyon; Mr Terence Smith; Ms Sarah Mayall.

Snowdonia & Anglesey: Mrs Alison Chapman; Dr David Chapman; Mr Daniel Jones.

WELSH SCOUT COUNCIL BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Ex Officio: Chairman—Mr Gareth Williams

Treasurer: Mr Tony Warrilow

Chief Commissioner of Wales: Mrs Jill Gloster

Cornel House Sub-committee: Mr David Perry

Hafod House Sub-committee: Mr Colin Salter

Welsh Scout Council Trustees nominated by each Scout Area:

Brecknock: Mr David Davies

CATVOG: Mr David Gerrard

Carmarthenshire: Mr Christopher Reed

Ceredigion: Mrs Leontia Slay

Clwyd: Miss Nicola Gamlen

Glamorgan West: Mr Kerry Roberts

Gwent: Col Peter Gooderson

Montgomeryshire: Mr Hugh Anton-Stephens

Mid Glamorgan: Mr John Davey

Pembrokeshire: Mr Alan Fitzhugh

Radnorshire: Mr Terence Smith

Snowdonia & Anglesey: Dr David Chapman

Two members between the ages of 18 and 25 years nominated by the Chief Commissioner:

Mr Peter Sheppard; Mr Adam Gardner.

Those with Right of Attendance are:

The President; Commissioners (Wales); Area Commissioners in Wales; Chairmen of the Welsh Scout Council Sub-committees; Manager Central Services; Field Commissioners.



SGOWTIAID CYMRU MERCHANDISE

The following are available for purchase from the Welsh Scout Council office. Please note that a cheque to cover payment must accompany your order, if you are unsure of postage please ring prior to placing your order:

Sgowtiaid Cymru necker	£6.20
Bi-lingual Promise Cards:	60p

The following garments are available, all are embroidered with the Sgowtiaid Cymru logo and can be personalised with your name and appointment or Group/District/Area name:

Opened hemmed sweatshirt:	£20.00
Poloshirt	£15.00
Fleece jacket	£27.50
Sleeveless Fleece	£24.00

ST DAVID'S DAY 2008

Have you thought of including the Beaver Scout Award for Wales or the Cub Scout Award for Wales in your programme for the Spring Term?

There are detailed Information Packs for both of these Awards available from the Welsh Scout Council at £3.50 or you can download the Cub Scout Award for Wales from the website.

Both Awards encourage young members to find out more about Wales, its geography, its culture, its history; there are also opportunities for cooking and crafts. Why not speak to your Assistant Area Commissioner for Beavers Scouts or Cub Scouts and find who has done the



HAFOD MOUNTAIN CENTRE

A leaflet is enclosed listing the different mountain/hillwalking/climbing training courses organised by Hafod, the Welsh Scout Council's Mountain Centre. These courses are available to all Leaders in Wales at very reasonable costs.

Also is the possibility of arranging bespoke courses for Explorer Scouts.

You can also hire the hostel for your own programme.

If you have any questions relating to hillwalking/mountaineering/climbing contact the Welsh Scout Council Adviser, David Jones on:
01978 853245
or e-mail: mountain@scoutswales.org.uk or climb@yr-hafod.org.uk

You can contact the Welsh Scout Council by:

E-mail: admin@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 of

Sgowtiaid: 29th February, 2008.

If your Area, District or Group would like to share an idea or an event please send in details by this date.

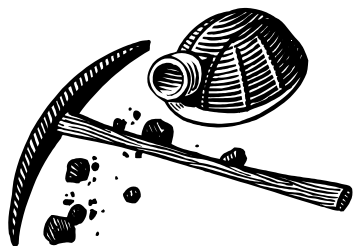
If you receive this copy 'Sgowtiaid' but are no longer in Scouting, make sure your name is removed from the database and hand on your copy to someone else.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Welsh Scout Council Board of Trustees**
1st December, 2007
- **6th Frostbite Whitewater Weekend -**
4-6 January, 2008
- **Wales Team Meetings -**
Saturday, 15th March, 2008

ADVANCE NOTICE:

- **All-Wales Cub Fun Day, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells:**
Saturday, 14th June, 2008
- **All-Wales Scout Camp, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells:**
Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday



SOME BYGONE BADGES

Continuing to thumb through my 1917 edition of *BOY SCOUT TESTS and How to Pass Them. Complete Instruction in All the Tests* I came across the Miner Badge. The requirements are very brief:

Have a general knowledge of one particular branch of the mining industry, such as coal, iron or other mineral, with the special dangers involved, and safeguards against them, and must have worked below the surface for not less than six months.

However the detailed instruction on mining techniques which follows is quite another matter with talk of pillars, the Longwall system, timbering, ventilation by centrifugal fans, explosives and blasting, buckets pumps, piston pumps, plunger pumps etc. All of this is new to me although maybe some Leaders from 'the Valleys' are familiar with these terms.

In 1917 most boys would have left school at 14 and gone straight down the pit probably following earlier generations of their family so by 14½ a Scout could begin to qualify for this badge. Much of the knowledge needed for the badge would have come, almost by osmosis, from his daily work and learning from his workmates but we need to remember that conditions in a pit in 1917 were far removed from the clean, airy classrooms where modern 14-18 year olds learn.

1917 was the middle of World War One and I am sure that every sinew was being strained to produce millions of tons of coal, not only for domestic use, but also to keep the Royal Navy fighting that war. One battleship must have needed thousands of tons a year to keep sailing and the Royal Navy had many battleships. To put a 14 year old into the pit in those days must have been a dramatic experience and perhaps we should give thanks that modern mining techniques are much safer and pleasanter and that the school leaving age is now at least 16. Next time the Laundryman Badge!!

JOHN MUSTON