

SGOWTIAID

The quarterly bulletin of the Scouts of Wales

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CIRCULATED—WEEK BEGINNING
28th OCTOBER, 2002

Welsh Scout Council
Cyngor Sgowtiaid
Cymru

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WATCH THIS SPACE!!

IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF SGOWTIAID THERE WILL BE

ARTICLES FOR EACH OF THE SECTIONS, SPECIALLY WRITTEN BY THE NEWLY-APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS (WALES)

Calling all Scouts!! The Scout Forum for Wales needs you!!

The Forum exists to allow Scouts aged 10 to 14 to air their views and opinions on modern day Scouting to the decision makers in Welsh Scouting. The Forum previously existed as the All-Wales Patrol Leaders' Team, but under the new programme has changed slightly.

The Forum operates in a similar manner to the rest of Wales' Regional Teams and can make recommendations to the Welsh Scout Council. In the past, the Forum has made a vast number of recommendations, many of which have been taken on board by the Welsh Scout Council and implemented, such as the current marketing and publicity strategy under research by the Forum's Chairman to raise the profile of Welsh Scouting through the mass media.

The Forum works closely with the Scout Team for Wales on a wide number of issues, most recently the Blackwell Court Training Weekend to be held in February 2003. The proposal for this weekend is the first joint proposal ever to be received by the Welsh Scout Council, which we believe shows just how closely the two Groups are working, and will continue to do so in the near future.

As has been the case in the past, the Forum does not always have attendance from all Areas in Wales. Every Area has the right to send two Scouts to attend the Forum, and then an additional two Explorer Scouts to the Explorer Scout Forum.

With a greater variety of membership, we believe that we will be more representative of the Scout section in Wales and, therefore, more able to cater for the modern day needs of Scouting in Wales.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Forum you can get in touch with your Assistant Area Commissioner, the Forum Chairman (e-mail: p.jeffreys@ntlworld.com) or the Welsh Scout Council office.



PETER JEFFREYS
CHAIRMAN—SCOUT FORUM FOR WALES

A NEW BEGINNING

As we are all too aware, Scouting has a problem of not having enough trained Leaders and Helpers to satisfy the demand from young people, evidenced by the existence of waiting lists.

Here in Wales, through the efforts of the Field Commissioners and Shirley Myall, we have been able to procure financial assistance to employ two Local Development Officers, whose sole aim is to recruit, train and support new Leaders.

All Areas in Wales were invited to bid for their services and this time round Snowdonia & Anglesey and Glamorgan West were selected as submitting the best bids.

So we have MARK WINSON, working in Snowdonia, and SARAH TIMMIS, working in Glamorgan West. During August they underwent training and started work within their Areas from the first week in September.

This Project is about partnerships, there is no magic wand for recruiting and retaining leaders, both Areas have agreed a Service Level Agreement with the Welsh Scout Council which clearly sets out their commitment to supporting the work Sarah and Mark will be undertaking. This is the first step in an anticipated programme of development, but the responsibility for its success is the determination of these two Areas to make it work. As with all funding these days, we have exacting targets to meet to be able to access the future years funding and I am sure everybody in both Snowdonia and Glamorgan West will make the project a success.

DAVID MARSH—CHAIRMAN



PUBLICITY

Ever wondered why young people outside Scouting have a negative perception of the organisation? This is one of the major issues that has concerned the Scout Forum for Wales (formerly All-Wales Patrol Leaders Team), has decided that we need to pull a finger out and do something about it.

Although the new programme has gone a long way to change the image of Scouting, a lot still needs to be done to develop the publicity angle of self-promotion. It's all well and good implementing the new programme, but this is definitely no time to be resting on our laurels! We are in a prime position now to really hit the outside world with massive bursts of really positive publicity.

If your local papers are anything like mine, you will be used to flicking it open and seeing Little Johnny getting his Chief Scout's Award in full uniform, shaking the DCs hand. Yea, it's great that Little Johnny has worked towards his Award, but surely the public is fed up seeing the same picture all the time? If we are meant to be targeting young people to join the Movement, I hardly think that seeing loads of Little Johnny's in the paper is likely to entice them. If the young people I speak to are any rule of thumb to go by, they want to see Scouts 'doing stuff'.

I was in the University of Wales, Swansea on duty as a member of St John Ambulance earlier this year for the Graduation Ceremonies. During the lunch break, we walked around the campus and bumped into two Scouts from my Group who were on work experience in a nearby building. We stopped and had a chat, and then one suddenly asked me 'which is better St John or Scouts?' Naturally I answered 'Scouts' and then the Scout replied to me in a loud shout 'YEA, SCOUTS ROCKS' in the middle of the campus with hundreds of people around.

If one Scout can be this proud of his membership, we must be doing something right. Our Group has put a number of 'action shots' of Scouts taking part in our regular activities, such as air-rifle shooting and pedal car racing. By no means is our publicity strategy perfect, but instead of just sending in pictures of Scouts shaking hands in uniform, we've been putting in a real life view of what happens in our Troop, and our membership is consistently good.

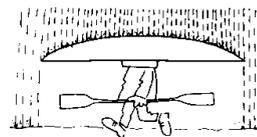
So if everyone makes sure there's always a camera about when Scouts are doing stuff and send plenty off to the local rag, then we've taken a big step towards improving our self-image. A world of warning, always bear in mind 'Safe from Harm' when publishing the information of young people with pictures. Happy Snapping.

PETER JEFFREYS
CHAIRMAN—SCOUT FORUM FOR WALES



FROSTBITE DEE TOUR— 4/5 JANUARY 2003

This event is the real challenge for experienced Scout and Leader paddlers. Only open to Kayakers with at least their BCU/WCA three star and canoe safety Awards. The event is run in conjunction with the WCA and they provide expert safety cover. This part of the Dee is only accessible to canoeists four times a year on such tours. The trip is only 10 miles from Corwen to Llangollen, but is regarded as one of the classic white water runs. The accommodation is in a local centrally heated Scout HQ and FULL catering is included. Numbers on this event are strictly limited due to the event's very nature, and bookings are accepted purely on a first come, first served basis. Cost: £25.00 per head plus WCA tour ticket. Further details from and bookings to: Barry Herring, Event Co-organiser, 65 Pencyflog, Porthmadog, Gwynedd, LL49 9LD. Telephone: 01766 512159, e-mail: barry@nickdom.co.uk



SNOWDON DRAGON EXPEDITION 2002/2003

27 December 2002—4 January 2003

The Snowdon Dragon expedition is a trek through the mountains of North Wales organised by the Welsh Scout Council Mountain Training Team that takes place over the New Year holiday. It is open to all members of the Scout Movement aged between 16 and 25.

Participants work in small groups under the leadership of two experienced mountain leaders and need to reasonably fit with some previous mountain experience. Generally the expedition consists of day walks but on at least one occasion a high level 'wild' camp is planned. Instruction is available in all aspects of winter mountaineering and expedition camping as required.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from: Wyn Owen, Glynderi Farm, Foelgastell, Llanelli SA14 7EL. Telephone: 10269 844029. E-mail: glynderi@supanet.com Further information about the Snowdon Dragon and also mountain training courses run by the mountain training team is available on www.yrhafod.org.uk



WATERFRONT ADVENTURE GEAR

FOR SALE: Canoes/kayaks with optional equipment, used or will part exchange for new if required.

Several canoes available at special rates for Scouts and Guides.

Full range of Duke of Edinburgh Award equipment now available.

Ring Steve on 029 20 692108 after 5.00 p.m.



WALES EXPLORER SCOUT TEAM

The first meeting of the above Team has been held (along with the Wales Explorer Scout Forum, for the Explorer Scouts themselves).

Keep an eye out in future editions of Sgowtiaid for more information.

In the meantime, there will be soon be an Explorer Scout section on the Welsh Scout Council webpages (www.scoutbase.org.uk/wales).

Please tell your Explorer Scouts about the above. The website will include the facility to register with the Explorer Scouts Wales emailing list so that you can get the latest news direct.

MOZ (otherwise known as David Morris!)
COMMISSIONER FOR EXPLORER SCOUTS (WALES)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

Assessor Accreditation Course—for those who wish to assess Gold Expedition Groups. Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig 29 November—2 December 2002.

National Botanical Gardens Residential—6/12 July & 27 July to 2 August 2003. Gives an opportunity for young people to work alongside experts in the fields of horticulture, education, visitor services and estate work. Cost £65.00 for either event.

Open Gold—5 day Open Gold Expedition taking place in North Wales 27/31st October 2003. Cost of Expedition £100, not including food.

Welsh for Fun Gold Residential—August 2003. Sports, outdoor activities, fun sessions and a taste of learning Welsh. Cost £75.00

If you want more information about any of the above contact Ian Gwilym on 01874 623086 or e-mail ian.gwilym@theaward.org

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING—SPECIAL OFFER

A special reduction on the book 'The Welsh Scout Council—a Brief History' makes this book available at £3.50 including packing and postage—an excellent Christmas gift!

The book discusses the history of Scouting in Wales, summarising the history of each of the Scout Counties in Wales from 1908 and the development of the Welsh Scout Council from 1925. An excellent read for anyone who wishes to know how Scouting in their Area developed. The book can be ordered from the Welsh Scout Council office.

EVENTS IN 2003

16TH MARCH—EXCHANGE 2003: A conference for Cub Scout Leaders in Wales to be held at the High School, Llandrindod Wells. For further details speak to your Assistant Area Commissioner for Cub Scouts.

26 JULY/2 AUGUST—DRAIG Y COED: Guides Cymru International Camp to be held at Pembrey Country Park, Carmarthenshire. The camp is open to Groups of Guides or Scouts (over 10 years of age) with their adult Leaders. Some places for Patrols without an adult. Cost: Guides & Scouts—£85.00 (excluding food, equipment & transport to camp). Adult Leaders with Groups—£45.00 (excluding food, equipment & transport to camp). Service Team: £85.00 including food & one day's activities. Booking forms and further details have been sent to Area Commissioners.

2-9 AUGUST—AUCHENGILLAN JAMBOREE: an international camp open to members of the Scout & Guide Movements, to be held at an international outdoor centre in Stirlingshire, overlooking Loch Lomond. Open to ten and a half to 18 years old at a cost of £85.00 to cover all activities and site fees. Groups will be camping and self catering. Leaders charged £55.00 but not guaranteed any activities.

AND AN EVENT FOR 2004!!

12th World Scout Moot—Taiwan 2004. Open to all Scout and Guide members born between 30th July, 1978 and 10th August 1986. The theme 'Scouting—Unlimited Challenges'. More information from Tina Bersey at Gilwell Park or e-mail Tina on: moot2004@scout.org.uk

WORLD JAMBOREE—THAILAND

The Welsh Contingent have had another preparation weekend when they were issued with their uniforms and they are now well prepared to represent Wales in Thailand. They have been learning to speak a few words of Thai and preparing Thai food!

The Contingent leaves the UK just before Christmas, and celebrates Christmas Day in a hotel in Bangkok and then travels to the Jamboree site. Following the Jamboree they are flying to the Phillipines for home hospitality before travelling home.

We wish them a very successful trip and no doubt we will hear a lot more about the World Jamboree when they return.



Welsh Scout Council
Cyngor Sgowtiaid Cymru

THE OLD SCHOOL
 WINE STREET
 LLANTWIT MAJOR CF61 1RZ
 CF61 1RZ

Telephone: 01446 795277
 Fax: 01446 795272
 E-mail: admin@scoutsofwales.
 demon.co.uk

**SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT
 OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALES**

If you want any information
 about articles in this Bulletin
 or about Scouting in Wales,
 please contact Shirley Myall
 at the Welsh Scout Council
 office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2003

Following the re-structuring of the
 Welsh Scout Council Committees,
 the Calendar for 2003 has been
 completely re-written. All Areas
 will shortly receive a Calendar for
 2003 showing all the new Sub-
 committees and the dates of these
 meetings.

WE'RE ON THE WEB—
[www.scoutbase.org.
 uk/wales](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/wales)

Deadline for next Edition:

31st December, 2002



ARE YOU A ZERO GOER?

Nearly two years ago the Scout Association introduced the idea of Terrains to help define where a Leader could safely organise Scouting activities. Terrains One and Two define our hill areas and require an authorisation from the appropriate Commissioner but Terrain Zero does not. However, the Welsh Scout Council Activities Team feels that this is not widely understood and that some Leaders are not using Terrain Zero to the full.

Terrain Zero is defined quite simply as anywhere which is:

1. Below 500 metres (1640 feet) and
2. Is within two and a half kilometres (one and a half a miles) of a road suitable for an ambulance or within two and a half kilometres of a manned building or landline telephone and
3. Has no necessity for rock climbing or scrambling.

Even in the most mountainous parts of Wales this definition still allows activities in large areas of countryside including, for example, much of the forested areas. As for any Scouting activity, a Leader should carry out a simple risk assessment and we are NOT advocating that Leaders should run activities for which they are not fully confident. Equally they should not be frightened to run activities beyond the limits of urban areas or the local municipal park.

The key question any Leader should ask in Terrain Zero is 'If something went wrong (broken ankle? cut head?) could I easily get the casualty to help or help to the casualty? Many factors will influence the answer but in Terrain Zero you are seldom far from help. Do think hard about using the slightly wilder areas for activities and so long as you keep your District Commissioner or Area Commissioner informed you will be complying with the rules.



JOHN MUSTON—CHAIRMAN ACTIVITIES TEAM FOR WALES