



Sgowtiaid

www.scoutswales.org.uk

CIRCULATED:
OCTOBER 2008



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

TALKABOUT 2008

Have you got the date in your diary? Has your District Commissioner passed on the details to you? If not, don't worry, it is not too late!!

The event will take place on Saturday, 1st November, 2008 at the Pavilion Conference Centre, Spa Road, Llandrindod Wells. Registration and coffee is at 10.30 a.m. The morning session will include an Open Forum and the Welsh Scout Council Annual General Meeting. Following a buffet lunch, you can hear what young people have been up to over the last year within the theme of 'Outdoor Adventure'.

This event is open to everybody involved in Scouting in Wales, whether you wear uniform or not. If you would like to attend please let us know so that we can ensure that there is sufficient lunch for everybody!! You can reserve your place in several ways:

E-mail: admin@scoutswales.org.uk

Telephone: 01446 795277

Or book on line:

<http://www.scoutswales.org.uk/thewsc/events/talkabout/booking>

If you are unable to attend in person but would like to read the Annual Report you will be able to do so on the website www.scoutswales.org.uk after 1st November.

IT'S ALL CHANGE FOR APPOINTMENTS

October sees the start of the widespread implementation of the revised process for appointing new Leaders.

The new process is intended to be simpler, more welcoming and less threatening to the new starter, to facilitate new electronic CRB checking and support future legislation regarding working with young people.

The process has been under trial for some time including here in Wales.

Currently all the new materials are being prepared and in October the briefing and training work will start.

Most of the procedural changes will affect the Area and District teams who manage the appointment and training of adults however those working in Groups need to know how the changes will affect the adults you recruit.

Your Area and District teams will be able to advise you on the changes but you can check out some of the latest information for yourselves at www.scout.org.uk/appointment



Many congratulations to Tim and Gareth on achieving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This Award shows a huge degree of commitment, well done to both of you.

Tim GREENWOOD, Flintshire District Explorer Scouts

Gareth Paul JOHNS, CATVOG Scout Network

IT'S A GAS



A cautionary tale about the misuse of the pierceable type of camping gas cylinders appeared in the edition of Sgowtiaid Circulated Week Beginning July 2008. May I point out that the advice given has now been superseded by an outright ban by The Scout Association on this type of stove. The relevant detail is on page 72 of the June/July 2008 number of Scouting Magazine. The Association has given a 12 month period of grace in which these stoves may continue to be used but with stoves which use the safer screw in type of cylinder readily available as cheaply as £10 I strongly recommend that you scrap any stoves using the pierceable type of cylinder in your group - NOW!

John Muston
Chairman, Activities Team.

KENT INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE

Kent is hosting an international jamboree next summer, from the 30th of July to 6th August. They have been working hard planning the event, and say it is going to be excellent - with ideas coming from the World Scout Jamboree last year.

They have invited scouts from all over the world to attend, but would also like to make sure there are plenty of people there from the UK as well. Please visit their website, www.kij09.org.uk for more information.

SORRY!!

Apologies to Val Cole from Carmarthenshire who received her Silver Acorn but was omitted from the list in the last edition of Sgowtiaid.

Many congratulations to Val, who is currently holidaying in Antigua where she has made contacts with local Scouting and is also delivering some Leader Training while on holiday!!



WHY WELSH SCOUT COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE TO INCREASE OVER THE COMING THREE YEARS

In a nut shell –

- To provide professional management of the Local Development Officers
- To provide greater support to Area and District Commissioners and their Teams

To provide a more comprehensive service to Welsh Scouting as a whole.

A few years ago we had come to a turning point in Wales. The numbers of young people and leaders in scouting were going down year on year. We had to stop the decline. The opportunity to grow Scouting presented itself in 2001 in the form of external funding to employ two part-time Local Development Officers to start a Pilot Project using employed staff to recruit and support new volunteers.

Since the success of the Pilot Project, the Welsh Scout Council has been successful in obtaining additional external funding to enable the employment of three Local Development Officers from May 2007 and a further two Local Development Officers from August 2008. In addition, Welsh Scout Council is seeking additional funding to ensure that another Area based Project can continue on a full-time basis from August 2009.

This means that the Field Service in Wales has increased from two full-time Field Commissioners, working independently in North & Mid Wales and South & West Wales, to eight members of the field staff. Last year it became apparent that it was essential to provide effective management for that Team.

After hot debate with Area Commissioners and the Trustees it was agreed to employ a third Field Commissioner in 2009 to provide Scouting in Wales with the support it needs. We all know that finding volunteer managers in Scouting gets more and more difficult and without good support will become even harder. The three Field Commissioners will have more time to support the Areas and Districts as they will be on the road for far less time and one will take responsibility of managing the Field Service as a whole.

The support of Scouting in Wales includes the writing of funding applications and then the projects have to be monitored and reported on to validate the grant. The two Field commissioners at present do much of this work and to be able to divide it up will again mean that more time will be available to support local Scouting. Scouting in Wales often has to report on or contribute to Assembly initiatives and reports and once again the Field Commissioners are asked to take this on. We can do more with three Field Staff.

Project funding as mentioned above is generally short term and appeals to grant funders. Core funding for long term employment is difficult to finance and the only option to us at the moment is to make the new position sustainable, is to ask our membership to contribute. The Welsh Scout Council is providing funding to the tune of £60,000 in order to employ the new Field Commissioner next year while the staggered funds from the membership are accumulated. The payments look like this –

| | PRESENT MEMBERSHIP FEE + INFLATION | ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE | TOTAL FEE |
|------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| 2008 | £1.20 | NIL | £1.20 |
| 2009 | £1.24 | £1.26 | £2.50 |
| 2010 | £1.27 | £2.73 | £4.00 |
| 2011 | £1.31 | £4.69 | £6.00 |

From 2012 there will only be inflationary increases.

This has not been an easy decision to make and today's economic climate makes it even more difficult. We will monitor the situation over the coming months and will also we will do our level best to find some funding to help the situation, but I can't at this stage promise anything. All I can say is that this is done with the best intention to support Welsh Scouting as fully and professionally as possible and to provide Welsh Scouting with the best of foundations for our next 100 years.

JILL GLOSTER
CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF WALES



COLONY THOUGHTS

I hope you all had a good summer and managed some outdoor activities with your Colonies despite the weather. But don't rule out outdoor activities in the winter or a sleepover with an outdoor trail or hike as part of the theme.

It's already a year since the revised scheme was launched, so hopefully most of the Beaver Scouts are well on their way to achieving their six Challenge Awards which will entitle them to the Bronze Chief Scout Award around the time they move on to the pack. This is an important target for the Beaver Scouts as the Bronze Award is the highest award for the section. It reflects the work that they have done in the Colony and can be worn on their Cub uniform until they achieve their Silver Chief Scout Award.

Monitoring progress on the Challenge Awards does take some organisation though. Have you thought about asking your assistant, or a willing parent, to help with the record cards? Begin by keeping a record of all the activities the Colony does each week, then every four to six weeks (or, at worst, once a term) check the activities against the requirements of the Challenge. Note those that match and complete the appropriate record for each Beaver Scout who attended that meeting. Once all the requirements for a particular Challenge are met award the badge and celebrate with the rest of the colony.

For the most part the requirements will fall out of a lively programme but it is worthwhile checking if there are any gaps every so often (as part of your general programme review) and making sure you plug them at your next planning meeting. Or you may want to follow a theme for two to three weeks in order to complete the whole or part of a Challenge. Completing the six Awards in two years or less may seem a bit daunting at first but remember the Challenges are directly linked to

the Programme Zones. There should be no need for extra work, just a bit of thought and a modicum of forward planning to accommodate particular activities that sit best at certain times of the year.

Good luck and good Scouting. Make the most of the indoor months. Before you know it spring will be here and we'll all be planning outdoor events again.

BARBARA TURTON

COMMISSIONER FOR BEAVER SCOUTS
(WALES)



PACK THOUGHTS

Did you catch the summer, or are you still looking for it? The weather doesn't really bother us in Scouting – does it? Two thirds of the year gone, and I'm sure you have filled it with every conceivable exciting activity.



I hope you are enjoying the 8 for 2008 Challenge, and will remember to send for your certificates when you have completed everything.

We'd also like to hear about new ideas for the next Cub Fun Day in 2011. I know there were a few problems this year, but we shall do our utmost to make sure that they don't re-occur. Should we be thinking about one in the North, and one in the South, or shall we stay with the togetherness of the "all Wales" event? Having two separate events would require much more work for WSC, and for the Organising Team. Please respond, and remember that to go to Gilwell this year would have cost £13.50 entrance. We try to keep our costs as low as possible.

In April I asked CSLs to let me know how HQ can better support you as Leaders. It's still not too late to let me have your views, but make it soon please. This also includes the ADCs and the AACs, as supporting the Leaders is a priority at HQ right now.

Please remember to check your own details on the database. Log on to Scoutbase, and click on "my backpack" on the top toolbar. Register your user name, and a password, and then you are there. You can choose which supplement you require, with Scouting magazine, and you'll be sure of getting a copy of Sgowtiaid too.

How many of you are working for the Cub Scout Award for Wales? I don't hear much from you about your achievements. Please write in with your comments about the award. You can send in the names/Packs of Cubs who win the Award, also the Silver Chief Scout's Award. Let's give praise where it is due.

Finally, are you doing your bit to "grow the movement"? Is it possible to take in more Cubs, lose those waiting lists, and encourage the Beavers to move up to Cubs – now at 7.5 years. Can you start a new Pack in your District? We need to find all kinds of ways to encourage this age group to join. Can you give a taster session for those on the waiting list, just to let them know they are not forgotten. Can you send a newsletter to them, telling them what you are doing, and when they might come along for a taste of Scouting.

Please, keep up the good work. It really does matter.

MAY CASTREY
COMMISSIONER FOR
CUB SCOUTS
(WALES)



GSL - GROWING SCOUTING LOCALLY

On the 27th of September we able to run a day for GSLs when Headquarters came down to Llandrindod and ran one of their GSL workshops for us.

It was a good day for those who attended - some were new to the GSL role and some had been doing it for some time but as many said you always pick up something new.

It was also a great opportunity for GSLs to get a message direct from Headquarters and also to be able challenge them and ask questions. It also meant that the attendees were able to see the role of the GSL from other Areas across Wales.

Numbers were unfortunately lower than we thought but the Headquarters team supported our view that it's quality rather than quantity that counts and those that booked shouldn't be denied the opportunity of the experience.

The programme was totally organised and funded by Headquarters and we have requested a repeat event on February 1st 2009 for anyone who couldn't make the last one - we've already had some bookings so you might want to ensure your place now. Although the day is focused on the GSL's role it would be of interest to anyone with a Group management role or DCs.

It's a fact that Scouting's success is down to the local Scout Group. That's where Scouting really happens. It's also recognised that having an effective GSL can really improve a Group's success rate.

For some time now Welsh Scout Council has been running a programme to provide direct support to GSLs through regular bulletins and most recently its GSL's Handbook. The GSL day is just another way we can support Scouting at the sharp end.

RON DAVIES



EXPLORER REPORT— BUFF'S BLOG

Summer is almost over (did we have 2 consecutive days of sun?!) and a packed autumn term is underway. But before we look forward to Theme Park Camp, Canoe Cruises, Bonfires, Winter Camps and two Team X weekends...let's just remember some of the highlights of our summer...



Sun Run weekend (July 08). Friday night saw a large number of Welsh units gather in "the Barn" together with around 1000 other Explorer

and Network members for the start of the weekend activities – the Friday Night on stage Toga Party! A number of live bands (including the famous Chip Shop Boys), dance routines, comedians and jugglers entertained us all until around 1am. Saturday, is traditionally a day of fun with Inflatable's, Euro Bungee, Fair Ground Rides, Rodeo Bull / Gyro rides, sports competitions including the Tug-of-War, Gladiator Games and a Climbing Wall. Saturday evening (just as the sun was setting...or rain was drizzling – take your pick!) saw the majority of attendees setting off for either the Sun Run (26 miles across the nearby hills) or the Moon Run (approximately 12 miles). The heavens finally opened and the rain came down as competitors battled up hills and into head winds for the next few hours. An excellently organised race saw most competitors safely back off the hills between 1 – 3am for a final live band display before turning in for the remainder of the night. Check out www.sr-mc.org/srmain.htm for next year's bash.



Gilwell 24. K2 ESU in Wrexham have had a really active summer. Just two weeks before they travelled to the south of France for their summer expedition, the Unit were at the home of Scouting for round the clock activities at Gilwell. Activities started at 24 started at 9am on Saturday morning and continued for 24 hours, all day and through the night until 9am on Sunday morning.

K2 had travelled down on the Friday night and were ready for kick off the next morning. Dressed in their green Gilwell 24 t-shirts they joined thousands of other Explorer Scouts from across the UK in activities including climbing, scuba diving, high ropes and woodland quasar. Things carried on through the night with film shows and discos, but the Unit felt that things petered out a bit in the early hours and a few succumbed to sleep! Overall though it was a great weekend and they hope to return in 2009. No Limits ESU also attended this event from Wales.

Summer Camps

Brecon ESU headed into Cornwall for Smuggler 08, which was their Summer Camp for this year. Smuggler 08 was in Cornwall, near Redruth, and took place from 3rd Aug to 9th Aug; everyone had a fantastic time, taking part in lots of different activities including non 'traditional' ones such as off-road driving, laser clay shooting, extracting our DNA, and they almost won the "Never Mind The Buzzcocks" quiz. Check out <http://breconexplorers.co.uk> for the full story. Funky Monkey ESU also attended this excellent (but damp) camp!



The photo below shows six Brecon ESU Explorers who have literally just finished their expedition for the DofE Silver Award; for the expedition they canoed along the River Severn, from Ironbridge to Tewkesbury.



Scarlet Dragons Explorer Scout Unit teamed up with 2 other Llanelli scout groups and headed off to a little town called Torgon on the west side of Switzerland. 24 hours after departing the UK they arrived at the chalet. The next morning was an early start followed by a 6 hour hike to their camp site at lake Tanay at 1500m. They spent 2 nights at this camp site, where they took part in lots of team building games, swimming and hiking.

Back at the chalet on the following day saw the Unit mountain biking, rock climbing, and archery. Later in the week a 2 hour drive saw the party ar-

rive at Glacier 3000. Cable cars took everyone to the top where a fantastic view was waiting – the Matterhorn, Eiger and Mount Blanc magnificent in the background! Everyone had a go on the Alpine Coaster, which is the highest toboggan run in the world, before walking over the massive glacier at Diablerets where two explorers were then invested at 2800m on the glacier edge. A 15k walked followed to take everyone off the mountain. Phew..... A well-earned rest day followed before heading home.

SIMON FAIRLESS

COMMISSIONER FOR EXPLORER SCOUTS
(WALES)

WATERFRONT ADVENTURE GEAR

Steve at Waterfront has supplies of Duke of Edinburgh camping equipment available as well as the usual canoes, kayaks and association equipment.

Special rates for Scout Group and ESUs

Telephone Steve on 029 20 692108



WATER ACTIVITIES 2009

The Water Activities programme for 2009 will be available soon, if you want to take part in the training events or the canoe expeditions, keep an eye on the website as well as the printed leaflet and book early!! All of the Water Activities events are very popular!



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE OFFICE!!

Who works in the office, what do they do and when can I contact them?

Alison Harding—Alison works 20 hours a week and is in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Alison does most things linked to the programme; so she organises Team Day and the associated agendas and minutes; Team X; up-dating mailing lists and provides administrative support to the Development Officers. Alison also gets involved with special events such as Cub Fun Day, All-Wales Scout Camp etc When you 'phone the office Alison is also likely to be the first person you will speak to!!

Jane Churchill—Jane works 20 hours a week and is in the office every day but Monday, but finishes at 2.30 p.m. each day. Jane is our Financial Assistant, so looks after the accounts, pays the bills and checks up on those who owe the Welsh Scout Council money!! She also takes care of orders for badges and Duke of Edinburgh Award books.

Shirley Myall—Shirley works full-time; manages the office and the administration of the Welsh Scout Council working particularly with the Area Commissioners, the Board of Trustees; monitoring report for projects, supporting funding applications and generally providing support to senior volunteers in Scouting.

So what is a day in the office like? Let's look at what has been happening this week.

Shirley arrives just after 8.30 a.m. and opens up the office. Alison follows at 9.15 a.m. and Jane at 9.30 a.m.

E-mails are the first job of the day, we receive anything up to 50 e-mails a day, particularly at the moment with responses to AGM invitations being returned! Monday morning is always busy, everybody gets a chance over the week-end to send off their e-mails!!

Work for Team Day is well in progress —this has meant collation and preparation of agendas and papers for up to 12 different meetings together with the associated arrangements for the day. This involves making sure that Areas have booked their representatives into the meeting—our caterers are excellent but we can't expect them to cater for 20 more people than we told them were needing lunch on that day!! Talking to the school to make sure rooms and facilities are available together with typing up of attendance lists and other requirements of the day.

A number of contact detail up-dates have arrived so the mailing lists need to be up-dated before the big review of mailing lists that follows Team Day. This is an on-going job, no sooner do we think we are up-to-date than somebody moves, or more likely, changes their e-mail provider!!

With Talkabout just around the corner the important job for this week is to send out the report and meeting papers to 130 Council Members. The labels were prepared when the invitations were sent out a few weeks ago so that won't take long. Then print out the papers and as soon as the reports arrive from the printer everything can be enveloped and posted. The trip to the Post Office is good for muscle development!!

The support material for the new Appointments Process is now available on the internet for downloading, so must printed off and put into files for the Field Team plus a reference copy for the office. These are boxed up ready for collection by a Field Commissioner, too heavy to post!!

And of course, the phone rings, and rings and rings!!!! Remember when you phone the office, that if the first phone is engaged, the second one will pick up the call and if that one is busy the third one will pick it up so your call will be answered but you will have to be a little patient. However, there are times when the all three phones are ringing and there may only be one of us in the office - and we can only answer one phone at a time!! Equally, if we are very busy it is possible for all three phones to be engaged, but leave a message and we will get back to you.

Some days the office is a bit like Picadilly Circus with people coming and going collecting Duke of Edinburgh Award books; collecting urgent badge supplies or printing or attending meetings. Sometimes we get people from other parts of the UK or abroad who want to make contact with Scouting in Wales.

This week in the office there has been a Management Sub-committee meeting; the Senior Field Commissioner has met with the Development Officers and we have two people listing the archives held by the Welsh Scout Council prior to these documents being transferred to the National Library of Wales. During the week we have had over 15 people visiting for meetings and collecting things!!

We've also had a phone call from a lady offering activity equipment and this is put in the storeroom for onward distribution to Scouting.

At this time of year order requirements are high, with the new term having started orders for Dragon Badges come in regularly by post and by e-mail; Duke of Edinburgh orders are also high with new Explorer Scouts getting involved with the Award. Books have to be filled in and then have to be registered on our system so that we can track our young members across the three Awards. We try to send the Award books out by return of post, so that an Explorer can decide to participate in the Award Scheme alongside the Scout Awards, and if the Leader orders the Record Book immediately, it will be there ready for the next meeting. Also Certificates are printed for those completing the Awards

This year with the huge success of the 8 for 8 challenge around 3,500 badges have already

been sent out— preparation of the Challenge Certificates will be OUR 08 and 09 challenge!!

What are challenges of working in the office? There are many!! You never know what the next phone call will be about and some can be 'interesting'! A number of enquiries by 'phone and e-mail are from parents who want their child to join Scouting but are unable to find local information. Trying to persuade people that they must follow the correct procedures, particularly with regard to events, is another! Trying to answer the phone, answer e-mails, answer the doorbell and get on with the work in hand to keep to deadlines is another!!! I suppose the on-going challenge is dealing with the quantity of work that passes through the office—at times it seems as if we are about to disappear under paper!!

What are the highlights of working in the office? The fantastic people we speak to on the phone and meet; seeing the success of an event we have supported, particularly those for young people. The variety of the work we undertake, we never know what tomorrow will bring!!!

And what is left for this week? Finish preparing this edition of Sgowtiald and get it to the printer; then download all your addresses from the Membership Database. Remember it is really important to make sure your details are up-to-date, if you are not on that database you will miss out on information! Turn this information into labels and then as soon as the printer returns the copies, all that is left is to envelope over 3,000 copies and post them out!! Oh, musn't forget there is also Talkabout and Team Day and the Area Commissioners' meeting—and a set of Minutes to prepare from Tuesday meeting—think we'd better make a cup of tea first!!!!



LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME!!



Surplus camping equipment free to a good home - 2 patrol tents, 1 dining shelter and 1 double toilet tent. Appear to be in good condition, but have not been pitched for a number of years. Storage space needed - enquiries please email alison2rob@yahoo.co.uk

make contact please e-mail their Leader, Angela Glass, on abeaverscout@hotmail.com

WHO DO YOU KNOW?

A Leader from the 5th Carmarthen Scouts is trying to find out who is the longest serving Scouting individual in Wales?

He has a friend who started in scouting in 1928 and is still active!!! His 88th birthday was in July

The gentleman in question is Sandy Buttle MBE who is still active in Scouting as an Area Vice President and President of 3rd Pembroke and also a member of Scout Fellowship. He attends all the events he can and helps out. He was at the Area Centenary Camp and ran bases. For the Millenium Camp he ran the canoeing activity. He ran a base at Jota last year as well. He also got his 60 year long service some time back.

Do you know anybody who can beat this record?



REQUESTS FOR PENPALS

13 KNOWSLEY SCOUT GROUP BEAVER SCOUTS:

Angela their Leader is looking for other Beaver Colonies who would like to be penpals. Knowsley is in Liverpool and if you would like to

BOY SCOUT TROOP 429 IN CELESTE, TEXAS

Debbie McRae is a Committee Chair for Boy Scout Troop 420, a Bear Den Leader (8 & 9 year olds) and Webelos Den Leader (9 & 10 year olds). They are a member of Tawakoni District, Circle 10 Council, Boy Scouts of America.

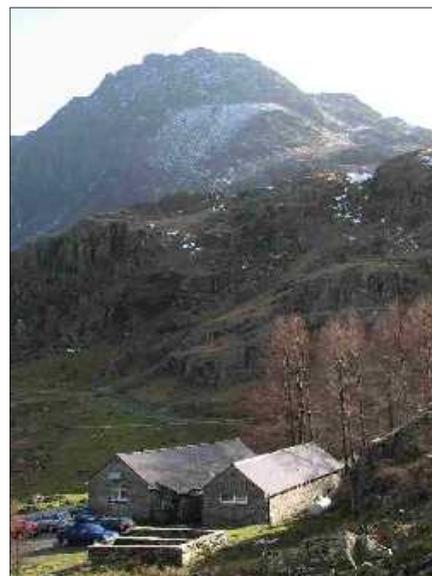
They live in a small town with a population of only 817 and have eight 10-16 year olds in the Troop, 10 Bears and 3 Webelos. They are looking for Scouting penpals across the world.



These requests have been sent to the Welsh Scout Council, but the senders are unknown, please ensure that you follow sensible practice when contacting.

HAFOD

The Welsh Scout Council's Mountain Centre in the heart of Snowdonia is just waiting for Explorer Scouts, Network members and Scout Leaders to come to the mountains for an enjoyable week-end, an opportunity to learn whilst having fun.



At Hafod, we aim to be flexible; we can tailor

the week-end to suit your requirements. We offer everything from an enjoyable day out to fully instructed courses in Mountaineering, Hill Walking and Rock Climbing. You can also be assessed for 'Scout Activity Permits'.

We run courses which lead to nationally recognised qualifications and we can now offer the National Navigation Award Scheme, the Bronze level is achievable in a week-end.

Dates for all courses are in this edition of Scoutiad and are also on the website www.yr-hafod.org.uk

We look forward to meeting you at **HAFOD**.

David Ll. Jones

Mountain Activities Advisor (Wales).

NOTE: *The new calendar of Hafod training events is enclosed with Sgowtïaid! If you don't need your copy please pass it to somebody who may be interested or put it on the Scout Hall notice board.*



Snowdon Dragon Expedition 2008/9

**27th December 2008 – January 4th
2009**

The expedition is open to Explorer Scouts, members of the Scout Network and young leaders between the ages of 16 and 25. It will take the form of a trek across the peaks of Snowdonia and will be demanding in terms of stamina and endurance. It is intended to start at Machynlleth and finish at Hafod in Snowdonia. Arrangements will be made to have a suitable New Years Eve Party in amenable surroundings.

Scouts will be placed in groups and will operate together for the entire week under the Leader-

ship of two experienced leaders. Some nights will be spent at remote locations and others at suitable base camps. Hike groups will be transported to the start of each days walk. There will be instruction in all aspects of mountaineering and expedition camping. Our leaders are all experienced in the skills involved, are familiar with the Welsh mountains and have appropriate Scout Authorisations. There will be ample opportunities to share in the happy social life for which our expeditions are renowned.

The applicants should be strong and healthy with mountain experience. They will be asked to camp in pairs and should normally apply in pairs, although we will pair people up when necessary.

- Applications will be limited so please apply early
- You will need to get to "Machynlleth" SH750008 (SY20 8HW) , North Wales. Short walk from railway station.
- Transport may be available from certain areas, details on request.
- The cost will be £125 (£15 per day) inclusive of all food, transport and accommodation on the expedition. Grant aid is often available from local authorities. The expedition complies with many Queen Scout and Duke of Edinburgh requirements.
- Arrangements can be made to leave early for school / work commitments

You should be equipped for extreme winter conditions, which includes good quality boots, waterproofs and warm clothing. Each pair will also need a tent, stove and cooking gear.

For further details and bookings apply to Ian Shaw dragon@yr-hafod.org.uk or 07889 601500 for further information.

Staff and Leaders apply to Nick Winter:

Nick.winter@avonscouts.org.uk or

01275
832833 for
further in-
formation



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: 30 January 2009
- 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

- **TALKABOUT 2008—Saturday 1 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—8 November 2008**
- **Welsh Scout Council Board of Trustees—6 December 2008**
- **SNOWDON DRAGON EXPEDITION - 28 December 2008 to 4 January 2009** (see inside for further details)
- **FROSTBITE CRUISE—2 to 4 January 2009.**
- **GSL TRAINING DAY—1st February, 2009, see website for booking information.**

SOME BYGONE BADGES

Thumbing through my 1917 edition of *Boy Scout Tests and How to Pass Them* I came across the Missioner Badge. This is nothing to do with 'missionary' but was a badge dealing with home nursing and the requirements were:

The qualifications are: A general elementary knowledge of sick nursing; invalid cookery; sick room attendance, bed-making and ventilation. Ability to help aged and infirm.

Despite the use of the word 'elementary' according to the text in my book the badge required considerable knowledge including nursing infectious diseases (would we expect a 17 year old to do that today?), dealing with bed sores, applying fomentations, linseed and bread poltices, cooking for the sick and the organization and cleanliness of a sickroom. No mention of TLC but times were hard in 1917 and it was long before the development of antibiotics so, in short, your body healed itself – or you died!

I was interested to see the recipe for gruel which I thought was something only served in the workhouse in Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. In fact it is not far removed (two tablespoons of oatmeal mixed with a little water, with a pint of milk (alright, half a litre!) added, boiled for 30 minutes (stirring constantly) and salt added to taste) from porridge – that kind of foods – which the Scots call 'brose' which is not far removed from 'ambrosia' which was the Nectar of the Gods. The Scots have an upmarket version called Athole Brose which has the addition of a measure of a certain amber coloured liquid to the basic recipe. The complications of the recipe for beef tea are unbelievable in our modern world – use fresh beef, cook for four hours etc.

The badge was still extant in 1959 (with the Public Health Badge as the Senior Scout version) according to my POR of that date but had disappeared by 1977 and there is currently no badge which covers this topic.

JOHN MUSTON