



# countywide outlook ... Scouting in Bedfordshire

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## news from the county commissioner

**Friends,**

A very Happy New Year to those of you I haven't seen yet, in what promises to be a very exciting year. Congratulations to those of you who took part in the Carol services around the County, it was fantastic to see the young members so involved and a pleasure to be part of each Districts celebration leading up to Christmas.

The holiday was long this year, I began to think we had switched off completely, the phones didn't ring, no-one rang the doorbell, emails were of the spam variety and all while we indulged in

the spirit of Christmas! Then January the 6<sup>th</sup> arrived, the decorations were down, the desk cleared and the County started the New Year running!

- Training Courses were being delivered
- The 'County Downman' was in the final planning stages
- The 'Kent Challenge' planning continued
- Everyone was involved in The County Development Plan
- Bromham Campsite was working hard to develop a three year development plan
- Young Leader Training 27 Hour Extravaganza took place – wow!
- Excellent Scouting was being provided in all Districts
- Numbers were being collated for the annual census
- Then, with what has become a tradition in Bedfordshire, Amphill & Woburn's census figures were first in – congratulations your numbers have increased by 71 which translates into a 8.8% increase

What a wonderful start to a new year, I now have my fingers crossed for the remainder of the district numbers to arrive in such a healthy state, for I know that good quality Scouting is there for all 6 to 25 year olds to enjoy and through working with the County Development Plan we can realise the true potential of just what the excellent leaders in Bedfordshire can achieve.

### directory updates

#### County

Cancellation of County Scout Network Commissioners and Local Training Manager for the South

#### Bedford

Great Barford GSL - Change of Email

#### Dunstable

New District Treasurer  
1st/3rd Houghton Regis - New GSL

#### Somerley

New Appointment Secretary  
Cancellation of ADC SF

Produced by Bedfordshire County Scout Council, The County Scout Office, The Leslie Sell Activity Centre, Molivers Lane, Bromham, MK43 8LD, Tel/Fax: 01234 826079, Email: [bedscouts@btinternet.com](mailto:bedscouts@btinternet.com)  
If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy please notify the County Office

The editorial team is happy to include any relevant material provided it reaches the office before the copy dates: 15th March, June, September & November 2005





# countywide outlook

## county commissioner continued

Unfortunately, the sad news coverage of the Tsunami disaster made us all stop and think somewhat and ask the usual questions to which there really are no suitable answers. Members asked if the County were to make a collection or do something in support. John Woodham felt strongly that Bedfordshire Scouts should do something, so we aim to raise monies to help re-establish Scouting in the effected disaster areas by:

- Everybody to collate all their odd coins (everybody has these at home waiting for someone to bag up and take to the bank)
- Collect them at a Section Meeting between now and St Georges Day (they need not be counted or bagged the county will do this and then inform you of the amounts collected).
- Take the collections to each St George's Day Service and it has been requested of each District that they donate the service collections to the appeal also. The County representative attending the service will take the coinage away for counting, banking and forwarding on to the Scouting Appeal.
- On the request letter to Section Leaders there are ways of using this appeal in your programme activities. Good luck with this, it will certainly help the young members focus on the development of Scouting, not only in the disaster areas but in the provision we can support in Bedfordshire.

Eurojam 2005 – this promises to be ten action-packed days in August, did you know:-

- Eurojam is not just for Scouts and Guides from Europe, there will be people there from all over the world.
- As part of the UK contingent, which will be around 2,600, young members will be from as far north as Caithness in Scotland and as far south as Toulouse in France.
- Jamfax recently interviewed the contingent leader Andrew Sharkey and asked him all the really important stuff you wanted to know about the biggest Scout and Guide event held in the British Isles since 1957

For all Sharkey's replies and details of how to get yourself registered to be part of the Bedfordshire Contingent for the World Jamboree in 2007 contact ACC International, Gerry Pope, you can find his details in the county directory.

There is much to look forward to:

- Weekly Section meetings
- Section Forums
- Decision making meetings
- Planning
- Developing
- FUN!
- County Camp in 2007 to celebrate Scouting's centenary

That's all for now.  
Take care.



John A N Dyke  
December 1930 to December 2005

John contributed greatly to Scouting in Bedfordshire for which we are truly grateful. John was born in Luton and when he was eight joined the Cubs. He subsequently became a Scout and Rover Scout before going on to become a warranted leader himself.

John held many positions in his Scouting years, the final one being County Secretary which is where most of you will remember him. He was also a Bedfordshire Scouts Vice President.

The Chief Scout awarded John The Silver Wolf in 1994 as a token of appreciation for all that he had given to Scouting.

**County AGM**  
**Wednesday 11th May, 7.45 pm**  
**The Rufus Centre,**  
**Steppingly Road,**  
**Flitwick.**



## countywide outlook

### Adult recruitment

Has your Group got all the adult help it needs? If so, you can skip this item and go and read something more interesting instead.

If, however, you could do with an extra adult or two, read on ..

A few years ago, HQ staff travelled the length and breadth of the UK to investigate which methods of adult recruitment had been used and, which was even more useful, which ones had worked. From this they pulled out the key ingredients

and produced the “Six Step Approach”.

This recruiting tool is excellent. It covers how to get adults in (although the Scout Association in general is very good at that) and, more importantly, it considers how to retain them (which we are not usually very good at).

I have offered on several occasions to visit each and every Group in the County (if required) to train the existing adult teams in this technique. So far, I have been underwhelmed with requests – just four in the whole of 2004. But the feedback has been very positive.

For example, I met with Flitwick Scout Group last January. Using this technique they have since recruited three extra Leaders for the Beaver Scout Section (and opened another Colony), a GSL and a new Group Chairman. Not many people, perhaps, but it has ensured more Scouting for more young people of Flitwick.

So, if you want a share of the action, why not get in touch?

**Martin Wesley**  
**Deputy CC, Development**  
 01582 651369  
[mnwesley2004@ntlworld.com](mailto:mnwesley2004@ntlworld.com)

### GSL Conference

The role of the GSL is usually considered to be the most important role in Scouting. This is the person who has to manage and support all Leaders in the Group to ensure good, safe Scouting for all its members. Having the right person in this role is crucial to the success of the Group; the wrong person can be disastrous. However, even the best people need support and so I've put together a day of activities with this in mind.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we are having our first GSL Conference at Insys. The day will include a wide range of sessions in areas that GSLs frequently ask for help with including: fund raising, adult recruitment, and development. A large number of HQ staff will be joining the County Team to offer as much help and support as possible.

Each GSL will receive a free meal and a free set of resources to take away with them. At the end of the afternoon, there will be time for the GSLs to sit down with their DCs to discuss the day and how they can take things forward in their own Groups.

This conference, though, is open to holders of GSL warrants only as places are strictly limited. It's first-come, first-served so GSLs, when your invitation arrives in the post, reply quickly to ensure you don't miss out on this special opportunity.

**Martin Wesley, Deputy County Commissioner, Development**



## countywide outlook

### around the districts

#### Looking Nifty at Fifty

As Nicky Taylor and Phil Abbott, the two Akelas from Flitwick, were 50 within a few days of each other, the Group Executive presented them with a cake in the shape of a Patrol Tent.

Between them they have clocked up over 50 years in Scouting, from the youth section through to being warranted leaders.

With no grey hair and plenty of it at the age of 50, it looks as though Scouting cannot be bad for your health!



#### Kent Challenge

Sunday 15 May 2005

8-10 mile hike with incidents

Bedford/ Ouse Valley area

Patrol of 4-6 members

Mapreading & Timekeeping Essential

Look out for Further Details

### ON YOUR BIKE!!

On a dark winters evening a group of older Cubs and Scouts from the 16th Someries Group set off for a cycling camp at Harry's Island in the New Forest. We were escorted to camp by the local Bobby who couldn't find the place either.

Once there the boys pitched camp in the dark, enjoyed a warm supper and went to bed. Next morning daylight revealed what a good job of pitching they had done.

After breakfast, lunches were packed, bikes checked and we set off into the Forest for a 20 mile ride using forest tracks and country lanes. All navigating was done by the boys, following a series of grid references.

Along the way we encountered grass snakes basking in the sun, deer, buzzards, songbirds and a group of Guides. Pleasant banter was exchanged with the latter.

Map references were checked with GPS as we arrived at them and all credit to the boys they were never far out. Breakdowns and punctures gave them a chance to show off their mechanical abilities. This was the first time any of the boys had cycled any further than around the park. They seem to learn faster when they are in strange territory.

Seeing how many people it took to hug the giant Redwood tree (14) followed lunch. This brought much laughter, as town kids don't normally cuddle trees.

Upon arriving back at camp we rested and prepared a campfire ready for dinner. Fish and chips in hand we sat round eating and watching the flames. Washing up was easy, throw the wrappers on the fire. No moaning whose turn it was with this method.

Next day after breaking camp we visited an otter and deer sanctuary before returning home. What a way to earn your cycling and navigator badge. Roll on this Autumn.

Mick Missenden



# countywide outlook

## 2005 Training Courses

All at Bromham unless stipulated  
Closing date 6 weeks prior

## adult training

### Mod 3 and 18 full day

Saturday 5th March  
Sunday 8th May  
Sunday 11th September  
Saturday 5th November

### Mod 4 Tools for the Job (Managers) evening

#### At Insys

Tuesday 8th March  
Thursday 7th July  
Tuesday 18th October

### Mods 5, 7, 8 & 9

#### Saturday and Sunday (not overnight)

12th & 13th March  
(5 and 7 on Saturday, 8 and 9 on Sunday)  
24th & 25th September  
(8 and 9 on Saturday, 5 and 7 on Sunday)

### Mod 10 First Response full day

Sunday 6th March - Full  
Saturday 7th May  
Saturday 10th September  
Sunday 6th November

### Mods 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 19

#### Saturday and Sunday (not overnight)

21st & 22nd May  
(11, 12 & 14 on Saturday, 13, 15, 19 on Sunday)

19th & 20th November

(13, 15 & 19 on Saturday, 11, 12 & 14 on Sunday)

### Mods 16 & 17 Friday to Sunday

(includes two overnights)

15th to 17th April  
7th to 9th October

### Mods 20, 22 & 23 full day

Sunday 16th October

### Mod 21 full day

Saturday 25th June

### Mods 24 & 26 full day

Sunday 10th April  
Saturday 3rd December

### Mod 25 Assessing Learning full day

Saturday 9th April  
Sunday 26th June  
Saturday 15th October  
Sunday 4th December

### Modules 1 and 6

To be delivered in District after consultation  
with the LTM.

### How to Apply

Please contact your relevant Local Training Manager for details on how to register:

<b>Alec Hissett</b>	01767 650052	Amphill and Woburn, Dunstable, Icknield, Lea Valley, Leighton Linlade and Someries
<b>Pearl Farr</b>	01234 300506	Bedford, Biggleswade and Ouse Valley

### Advertisement for Local Training Manager (LTM)

We are still looking for a new LTM to join the County Training Team. This role would be suitable for someone with scouting experience and who is looking for a change of direction. The new adult training scheme has been operating for nearly a year and needs to grow to meet the needs of leaders across the County. Good communication and administration skills are necessary for the job. If you are interested and would like to know more about the role please contact:

**Alec Hissett - County Training Manager**

Tel. 01767 650052 or E-mail [alechissett@hotmail.com](mailto:alechissett@hotmail.com)



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### Adult Training Update

The County Training Team now owns a portable television that includes built in Video and DVD players. If you would like to borrow this for scout training purposes then please contact me to arrange collection and return (subject to availability).

#### **New alternative methods of receiving learning.**

Tools for the Job (Section Leaders) - Module 3 is now available on e-learning.

Growing the Movement (Section Leaders) - Module 13 and Managing Adults - Module 24 are now available as workbooks. If you would like to use any of these alternative ways of meeting your learning needs please speak to your Training Adviser.

**The Facilitating and Presenting Modules (28 and 29)** will be available on Saturday and Sunday 19th and 20th February at Bromham. Either of these would qualify for the five hour ongoing learning that we are all obliged to complete each year. If you are interested in either or both of these training courses please contact either your Local Training Manager or me as soon as possible.

**Alec Hissett - County Training Manager.**

### From the ACC International

Thank you to all who have sent in applications for the 2007 Jamboree, these are now being processed. The UK Contingent Leader has been announced and is the County Commissioner from Buckinghamshire.

There is still time to apply for a place in the Bedfordshire Contingent. The application form is in a previous Countywide Outlook so your chance is still there.

If you are planning to venture abroad this year do not leave it until the last minute to get your PC Abroad forms to me. I am here to help so please contact me.

This year sees Eurojam in Essex, is the largest Scouting event held in the UK since the Jubilee Jamboree in 1957. Don't miss out.

**Jerry Pope , ACC International**

### Tilbridge Collection

The young people of the Tilbridge Scout Group found a unique way of making their contribution to the relief effort for the victims of the Asian tsunami.

Each beaver, cub and scout were given a bottle of mineral water, asked to drink the clean water, and then refill the bottle with small change.

The 40 young people aged between 6 and 14 raised £325.00. The money is going to the Scout Association Tsunami Appeal to help re-build & re-equip scout huts & scout groups in disaster area. Half of the 28 million scouts in the world live in those countries affected by the Tsunami and they carry out vital health education & community projects.

**Andrew Goddon**



## countywide outlook

### Bedfordshire Scouts Supporting Scouting's Tsunami Appeal

#### Close to home

2004 began with the M25 and M11 snowbound and grid locked

We called it a crisis

In Portugal, England lost in the quarter final

We called it a disaster

#### Far from home

The year ended with over 250,000 people dead from an Earthquake and tidal wave.

**THAT IS A CRISIS AND A DISASTER**

#### **TSUNAMI APPEAL**

Bedfordshire Scouts are joining a national appeal to raise money to assist Scout Groups in the area affected by this disaster.

How can we help: Most of us have a heap of copper coins somewhere at home. All our members are invited to donate loose copper coins and any foreign currency

How will it be collected: All Districts are asked that the collection at their St Georges Day Service be donated to this appeal, and that Scout Groups bring-a-long the money that they have collected to the service. County Team Members, the County Representative at each service will collect the monies for collation and forwarding on to the appeal. Each Group/District will be informed of just how much they collected.

An idea for Beavers - Make a collection box to depict a waterside home

For Cubs - Make an island model with one half showing before the disaster and the other half after

Scouts & Explorers - Log the progress on the re-development of the affected areas and which organisations helped

**THIS IS A CRISIS AND DISASTER - PLEASE HELP?**



# countywide outlook

## notice board

### Ordnance Survey – A reminder

Ordnance Survey, the longstanding sponsors of the Cub and Scout Navigator badges, has produced a map reading made easy leaflet for all Cubs and Scouts. These resources are available free of charge from the Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.

### A Great Offer for you and Scouting!

[www.scouts.org.uk/creditcard](http://www.scouts.org.uk/creditcard)

We have recently been working with the Bank of Scotland to improve the deal of our affinity credit card that has already raised nearly £500,000 for Scouting since it was introduced. Some highlights of the new offer are:

- No annual fee
- Introductory rate of 0% p.a. on balance transfers and purchases for the first 9 months. Typical **15.9% APR** (variable).
- £40 is donated to the Association when you first use the card
- A further £2.50 is donated if you are still using the card after 8 and 20 months
- A 25p donation is made to Scouting for every £100 you spend
- A great new card image

Credit available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over from Halifax plc, Registered in England No.2367076. Registered Office: Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 2RG

Its a great way to show extra support for Scouting without costing you a penny. To find out more, check out the new image on the card or apply please go to [www.scouts.org.uk/creditcard](http://www.scouts.org.uk/creditcard)

### The Big Walk - In support of Red Nose Day, Sun 13th March.

Thousands will wear their red nose with pride and raise money for Comic Relief! There will be some organised walks where people will be able to walk with celebrities and associations plus groups and individuals will be arranging their own walks with friends and family. Join a walk on the website at [www.nationaloutdoorweek.org.uk/bigwalk.php](http://www.nationaloutdoorweek.org.uk/bigwalk.php)

### Comic Relief

It's just over a month to go until Comic Relief. The big event will take place on Friday the 11th March.

This year Scouting is recognising the involvement that thousands of Scouts have in the event. We have done this by creating a special web site containing a whole range of activities and programme ideas that can be used in all sections. These programme ideas will help you bring Comic Relief to life.

For more information check out this link [www.scouts.org.uk/rednoseday/](http://www.scouts.org.uk/rednoseday/)

### The Big Kickabout

A day of football themed entertainment, promises to be an event to remember for young people of all ages in Scouting.

Taking place on 22 May at the home of Queens Park Rangers, the fun will include mascot, celebrity and professional matches, live music and special guest stars. Tickets for the event go on sale on 1st February. Ensure you don't miss out on the best seats by booking your tickets as soon as you can. An early bird discount applies throughout February – save £1 on the £9.99 full ticket price.

To book your tickets call 0870 112 1967. For more information see the back page of February/March Scouting or go to [www.scouts.org.uk/bigkickabout](http://www.scouts.org.uk/bigkickabout)

### Activity Leaders Conference Fri 18th & Sat 19th March

Supported by Skills Active - A platform for gaining expertise and up-to-date information on topical issues such as insurance, qualifications, first aid, access and leadership responsibility. Speakers from key organisations and government bodies will offer their professional opinions and advice as well as run workshops. Places are available through the website at [www.nationaloutdoorweek.org.uk/activity.php](http://www.nationaloutdoorweek.org.uk/activity.php).



## countywide outlook

### Malvern Challenge

**The Ultimate event for all Scouts & Guides—Explorers and Senior Section Guides under 16 years  
1 - 3 July 2005**

A whole weekend of activities which starts Friday night with The PARTY headlining “Busted” and featuring Dancers, Guest DJs and entertainment. Saturday’s main event is the Malvern & more testing Cotswold Challenges, both 7 mile activity hikes. Participants are in patrols and rotate around checkpoints including a caving maze, jousting, abseiling a rock face, mountain bike obstacle course, video challenge, laser clay and climbing wall competition, Fort Boyard and other traditional skill type checkpoints eg map reading. Points are given at all checkpoints and trophies awarded on Sunday. Later on Saturday the emphasis changes, where all the Scouts & Guides will be able to participate in a wide variety of sport competitions and activities. This is followed by the now famous talent show, with more disco and headline band “Girls Aloud”. Finally we conclude with a Grand Finale. On Sunday there is a Fayre with loads of attractions including Euro bungee, gladiator games, fair rides, bucking bronco, crystal maze, car driving and many stalls and a craft section where everybody will be able to make something—everything is free.

Over 3,000 attend so make sure you book your place now. We also want the Leaders to enjoy it, so all the food is provided. All they need to do is bring a tent and the boys/girls; there’s even a Leaders’ bar throughout the weekend. The event is in Gloucestershire. For an information pack call the Malvern Challenge hotline 01242 240736 (24 hrs) or fax 01242 240750. Email [info@sr-mc.org](mailto:info@sr-mc.org). Website [www.sr-mc.org](http://www.sr-mc.org). Dates for 2005—30 June - 2 July 2006.

### Sun Run 2004

**For all older fun loving members of the movement—Explorer Scouts and Senior Section Guides  
(Age 15 upwards), Scout Network, Leaders, Fellowship, etc  
8 - 10 July 2005**

**The Coolest Midsummer Weekend at the Hottest Event of the Year!**

It all starts Friday evening at the PARTY venue which hosts an 80s Party Night with various bands including Qeeb B, dancers, etc. As the night progresses it moves into the Ayia Napa Beach Party with Guest DJs. Recuperate on Saturday, watching top entertainment, jugglers, comedy acts, street theatre and live bands. Also participate in gladiator games, fair rides, bouncy castles, bucking bronco, Euro bungee and a wide variety of sport competitions—football, volleyball, etc and of course for the energetic, the famous Sun Run and Moon Run.

We have kept last year's routes which are circular starting from the site—the Sun Run is the more testing with the distance being a full marathon (26.2 miles) but for those who still wish to participate in a run but cannot face the distance we have the Moon Run which is 13 miles. Those not running can carry on partying with additional bands at the campsite while waiting to see the runners finish. We have a licensed late bar both evenings.

Over 1500 attend every year, so it is an ideal opportunity to meet new units and forge new friendships! To make it really easy we also have a full catering option so all you need is a tent and a sleeping bag! The event is in Gloucestershire. For an information pack please phone the Sun Run hotline 01242 240736 (24 hrs) or fax 01242 240750. Email [info@sr-mc.org](mailto:info@sr-mc.org). Website [www.sr-mc.org](http://www.sr-mc.org). Dates for 2005—7 - 9 July 2006.

### Trooping the colour

The Scout Association has just received tickets for this years Trooping the Colour event. The rehearsal event will be Saturday the 4th of June 2005 and the main event will be on Saturday the 11th of June 2005. To make a request for tickets please email the Scout Information Centre on [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk). More information is available online at: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/faq/#Events> .