

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT

SCOUT ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2010 - 2011

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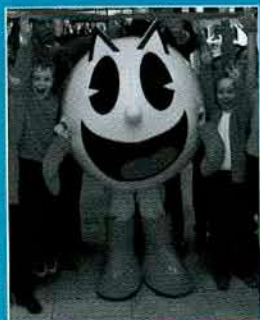
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THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

(incorporated by Royal Charter)

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Founder: The Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell, O.M.,
G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., LL.D.

Chief Scout: Bear Grylls

Introduction

Scouting is an international movement with over 28 million members worldwide covering 216 countries and territories. The UK Scouting Association offers equal opportunities to all young people in the community regardless of social, religious or ethnic background.

The aim of Scouting is to promote the development of young people from 6 years old to achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential. The Scouting Development Programme provides the framework to do this and adults are supported by a comprehensive training programme and leadership structure.

The Aim of Scouting

"The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities."

From its inception Scouting has had a simple and positive Promise that is required to be made by all its Members. Together with the Law, this gives a distinctive ethos to the practices of the Movement, and acts as a bond with Scouts in other countries.

The Scout Promise:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best,
to do my duty to God and to The Queen,
to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

The Scout Law:

1. A Scout is to be trusted
2. A Scout is loyal
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate
4. A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others

Chairman's Report

Time is constant but the last year appears to have flown by at an accelerating pace. It's not like being at school when terms dragged and birthdays and Christmas were never coming.

Progress on a number of fronts has been disappointing. We are inching to a resolution on the sale of Goldenlands at Stanhope. The future of the Seaburn facility is still in the balance. This said we have established a relationship with Groundwork UK and engaged supportive consultants who will help us take the right decisions about this asset or liability.

On a more positive front scouting in Sunderland has the opportunity to put itself on the map in delivering the new enterprise badge as we have obtained £10,000 from the Sunderland Youth Enterprise Fund to seed fund ventures.

I have been encouraged by the positive images of scouting we have managed to get into the

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media. Our presence at the Sunderland Air Show was not only a well organised cooperative effort with other nearby Districts it also put the movement in the shop window to the public. We can carry on this good work with leaders using the press and media to best demonstrate how modern scouting is exciting and worthwhile to our young people.

Finally can I thank all our workers and supporters for maintaining the fabric of the movement during the last year. It is in this area I hope we can add new faces and greater numbers in the coming year.

LESLIE SCOTT, *Chairman*

District Commissioner's Report

Scouting has been lively in Sunderland with a great deal of activity in the groups. Sunderland scouts in all sections have represented the District at County and national events and have been excellent ambassadors for the District. Well Done to you all!!

The Summer seaside event enabled all sections to spend a day at the beach and on the water. Youngsters enjoyed the day – despite the wind – and my thanks go to the Leaders who worked so hard to make sure all the activities ran smoothly.

Sunderland Scouts worked with neighbouring Districts of Houghton and South Tyneside to hold an impressive display promoting Scouting at the Air Show. We were prominent in the Recreation area in the glorious sunshine and attracted plenty of interest from both youngsters and adults – both local and from further afield.

Founders Day this year was celebrated as groups from around the District joined St Aidan's Scouts and Guides as part of their church's centenary celebrations. Well Done to all Leaders and young people who took part in an evening that was both thoughtful and entertaining.

Unfortunately, membership has fallen in the District for the second year running and I will be working with the Executive Committee to reverse that trend. Following a recent request, I will be looking to sponsor at least one new group in the City serving an area where there is demand.

Finally, it is with regret that I report the resignation of our Treasurer Joanne Stokoe. Joanne has served the District for the last eleven years and has been a great support to me since my appointment. Farewell Joanne and we all wish you well for the future!

We are fortunate to have been able to recruit Andrew Harrison as District Treasurer. Harry, as he is known, was a Scout in his younger days and both his children are in scouting. His work includes the management of accounts with particular experience in accounts of a charity. Welcome Harry!

MAUREEN DALE, *District Commissioner*

Beaver Scout Section Report

This year the Beavers have taken part in a number of District activities including holding their Annual Summer Picnic as part of the District Seaside event. The Beavers always lead off most impressively at the District Cross Country event too !!

Unfortunately some regular events have been cancelled this year despite the enthusiasm of Beaver Leaders. This demonstrates the need for coordination of Section development at District level. It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Julie Hannon as ADC Beavers.

Julie is an experienced Beaver Leader and is currently part of the team at St Aidan's Scout group. Welcome to the District Team Julie!

MAUREEN DALE, *District Commissioner*

Cub Scout Section Report

The Cubs section continues to flourish and we have had another very busy year! We started off with the Indoor Games Competition in May, St Aidan's won with Ewesley Road in second place and St Nicholas third.

Cub Camp was next, the theme was "Circus", we all had great fun around the campfire and the Cubs were able to learn Circus skills as well as trying the usual Moor House activities. Ewesley Road, St George's and Grindon camped together and jointly won the Camp Award for the best decorated site. St Gabriel's won the Kwik Cricket Competition, St Nicholas won the Best Dressed Box Competition and St Leonard's won the Box Race.

As autumn came we moved indoors. The Offerton Shield Competition took place in October, Cubs completed challenges based around the Cubs programme, keeping fit, arts and crafts, outdoor skills, the world around us, our community and our Scouting Promise. St Aidan's were the winners, St Nicholas were second and Ewesley Road were third. St Aidan's went on to represent Sunderland in the Pete Swinney County Work Competition. We also had entries in the District Photography Competition, the theme was "Nature". Adam Spagnoli won the competition beating Alex Jackson into second place, both boys were from St Nicholas' Pack, both entries were then entered in the FW Dunn County Photography Competition. Sadly Sunderland were not placed in either of the County Competitions this year but those who took part were very proud to be representing their District.

The extreme wintery weather hit our next few events. The Safety Competition was due to take place in November but with many Groups unable to meet as more and more snow fell, knee deep in places, this was postponed until a new date could be squeezed into the sections busy diary, it will take place after we go to press and results will be displayed on the district website.

The Christmas Campfire was a new edition to the diary this year, this was a great success and will now become a regular event in the diary. The Cubs enjoyed campfire songs and Christmas Carols indoors while the snow fell outside, and warmed up with hot dogs and hot chocolate.

We moved into 2011 with the General Knowledge Quiz. After a close run competition St Aidan's were declared the winners, with Tonstall House in second place and Ewesley Road coming in third place.

The Alex McKenzie Shield, the Cub Moot badge design competition was held in February. There were over 80 entries based around the "Science" theme. The winner this year was Daniel Pull from St Aidan's and six others were given highly commended awards. The theme for the Handicraft Competition this year was "Airport" and as always the Cubs did us proud with all manner of models of planes, runways and control towers, all with parts that moved and added to the effect. St Aidan's were the winners, St Nicholas' were second and Ewesley Road and Tonstall House could not be separated in third place. Judging these two competitions is never easy as so much effort goes into the entries it is often difficult to choose between them! Thanks go to Joyce Galley for doing such a great job.

The Climbing Competition was as popular as ever with over 40 Cubs having a go, it is a great opportunity for first timers as well as those who are experienced climbers, Ella Jones from St John's beat Adam Mapstone, also from St John's, into second place, Marcus Taylor from St Aidan's was third, they will all represent Sunderland in the County Competition shortly with our best wishes.

Full results and photographs of some of our events can be found on the District website at www.sunderlandscouts.org.uk

Finally a big thank you to all the Leaders, Cubs and Parents who play their part in Cub Scouting in Sunderland each week. Without you all there would be nothing to write about!

LESLEY ROBINSON, ADC (Cub Scouts)

Scout Section Report

The year comes around all too quickly and as I write this I am also thinking up General knowledge questions for our annual Scout Quiz.

The climbing competition saw a reasonable entry this year with 8 groups represented. Hopefully our winners will go on to the County competition and do as well as we did last year. The lighter nights will soon be with us and we can enjoy more outdoor activities on troop nights.

Numbers in the Scout section are up on last years census return which is encouraging in this day and age, but could easily represent a larger movement in young people from Cubs into Scouts.

It is important not to let the hard work and enjoyment that has been achieved in Beavers and Cubs fall off when entering Scouts, so I will endeavour to arrange more competitions and activities this year to help with this. If you have any ideas you would like to incorporate in the diary please let me know.

One or two of the older style camping competitions now fall into Explorer section so we may need to create new ideas for this. Many thanks to all our Scout leaders and helpers, who give up their time for the benefit of Scouting.

PHIL ATKINSON, ADC Scouts

Obituaries

JOYCE ROBINSON

Joyce was an active member of 2nd Herrington for over 42 years including a long period as a Cub leader. All of her family were connected with the Group as her husband was Chairman and they were both committed committee members and trustees until her illness took over. Their four sons continued the tradition as all were cubs and scouts.

MARGARET SCOTT

Margaret Scott had been one of the Cub Leaders at St Andrews for 20 years and intended to present some of the awards at the Section ceremony despite being very ill. Sadly, she died a couple of days before. Her husband Stan was also supportive of the group and also passed away weeks later.



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Activities Report 2010-2011



Over the last year groups within the District, have again taken part in a number of events and competitions held at both District and County level. The District Climbing Competition, for the Cub, Scout and Explorer sections proved to be even more popular than last year with over 90 young people taking part over the two nights, my thanks go to the Leaders and Staff at the Marine Activities Centre Sunderland for helping make this a great event for all the young people taking part. Top three in each section went on to represent the District in the County Climbing Completion. After a number of years with Sunderland having teams entering in County Explorer event "The Geoffrey Gordon Cup" I was please to see St John's Explorers take up this challenge again. Leaders from the District were also part of the leadership team helping to run this year's event. This great

event for Explorers still has room next year for more teams from Sunderland.

Again the District had two places for Sail Training being offered by the Priestman Trust, one going to St Andrews Explorer Unit the other being taken up by a member of Vaux Own Explorers, I am sure both had a great time on what is a trip of a life time. A second member of Vaux Own Explorers also attended an Outward Bound course at Ullswater in Cumbria. Both of these opportunities have again being offered to our Explorers in 2011.

International – By the time you read this it will be less than 70 days to the opening of the 22nd World Scout Jamboree being held in Sweden, 38,000 young people from almost every country in the World will come together for 12 days of **Simple Scouting**; this includes members from Sunderland District and Durham County. Not everyone can attend the Jamboree, but all Groups can take part in International activities as part of everyday scouting. Have you used your Join in Jamboree packs? Do you have International and Global in your programmes? What about doing a Partnership award, see your section ADC's on how to build this in to your programme, have a look at the international pages on the District website www.sunderlandscouts.org.uk, help make this year the year we start international activities in all sections. St John's this year have taken international outside the District, by returning to Kanderstag again, their first visit being in 1971, have you thought "How do I do that" the answer is just ask. As ACC (International) I have all the information you need, so why not "*Live the Dream*".

As always, without leaders and helpers devoting the many hours of unseen work, Sunderland District would not be able to run the range of activities that are being run throughout the District on a weekly basis's. This is enabling our young people in all the sections not only to take part in *Simply Scouting* but also be members of a World Wide Movement with 28 million members in 168 Counties. A Big thank you too you all for given freely of your time over the last year yet again.

DAVE RUSSELL, ADC Activities

