

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT

SCOUT ASSOCIATION

# Annual Report 2009 - 2010

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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

### District Chairman's Message

Another year and another AGM. At last I feel I have a handle as chairman on the movement in Sunderland.

I was delighted to learn that chief Scout Bear Grylls can report an upsurge in scouting numbers. We must do our bit to maintain this trend in Sunderland. My concern is to find ways of attracting leaders and volunteers to manage the interest from our young people. This is our challenge.

I can report that the executive committee has taken the decision to sell land at Stanhope that is no-longer relevant to the movement's activities. Unfortunately the legal process is slow. We have also agreed to collaborate with Groundwork's UK to try and bring back in use the Seaburn site as a scouting resource. Feasibility studies are underway. This could be an exciting project.

We have also joined with our colleagues in Houghton le Spring and South Tyneside to share a stand at the forthcoming Sunderland Air Show. This will give us the opportunity to promote scouting to a massive audience.

I look to your support of my ambition for scouting in Sunderland.

**Les Scott, District Chairman**





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## District Commissioner's Message

This past year has seen a great deal of activities in Scouting in Sunderland. Some activities are focused on the section or individual group, whereas others are District events and open to all. We propose to continue encouraging the traditional activities of Scouting as well as looking at new ways of encouraging our young people's development and enjoyment. Many of these are outlined elsewhere in this report.

However, membership has fallen over the last year, due mainly to a drop in membership in some groups. This often happens and we will continue to encourage and support youth membership and adults to support them. One way of encouraging young people to stay active in Scouting beyond 18 is to establish a Scout Network, and Sunderland is pleased to be working in partnership with Houghton and South Tyneside Districts in order to develop a successful Network.

We must say 'Farewell' to one of our most valuable members as John Hoy retires from District and County Scouting duties. John has been of great support to the District – and me personally – over many years and his contribution at Executive Committee will be missed. We all wish John well for the future.

**Maureen Dale, District Commissioner**

## Beaver Scout Section Report

The Beaver section has seen a number of activities that have been enthusiastically attended by our young people and leaders alike. These have included the Easter Egg Hunt, Handicraft competition, the District Cross Country Race and the Santa Train trip. Awards have been won and presented but above all, the youngsters have enjoyed themselves – after all, "Fun" is a key element to Beaver Scouting!

It is with regret that I am unable to continue supporting the Beavers at District level. Thank you to the Beaver Leaders who are always supportive to activities. I will continue to be involved with St Gabriel's Beavers and look forward to seeing you all at future events.



**Marjorie Aiston, Acting ADC Beavers**

## Cub Scout Section Report

As ever the Cubs section has been very busy with the usual array of competitions and events. This year all of the competition results can be viewed on the District Website at [www.sunderlandscouts.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandscouts.org.uk).

Competitions continue to be reasonably well attended despite so many other activities competing with us for the children's time, but more teams would be welcomed. The Cubs always seem to thoroughly enjoy themselves and thanks must go to those Leaders who do give up their Saturday afternoons to bring them along.

Fortunately this year the weather for our annual Cub Moot was good. The theme of the camp was "Witches and Wizards" and by Sunday afternoon the camp looked as though it was straight out of "Harry Potter". The Cubs enjoyed some of the adventurous activities on offer at Moor House, including some new activities, grass sledging went down particularly well, with Leaders and Cubs alike!

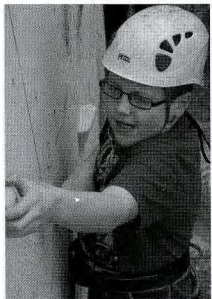
I would like to congratulate those Packs and individuals who represented us at County level, in particular Jonathon Burgon from St John's who not only won the District Climbing Competition but who came first in the County too and deserves a special mention. Very well done indeed!



I would also like to thank the Cub Leaders in Sunderland, we are a great team, without your help and support there would be no events for the Cubs to attend, and without your commitment there would be no Cub Scouting for local children to enjoy.

**Lesley Robinson, ADC (Cub Scouts)**

## Scout Section Report



The year comes around all too quickly and as I write we are preparing for our annual quiz taking part at Herrington Scout HQ, and will hopefully be as well attended as last year. Again we have had a very successful climbing competition at Roker Activities centre which resulted in a close contest and timed route climb to divide Adam Fucile and Thomas Kirtley between first and second place with Christopher Trotter coming in third. All three boys from St John's then went on to represent Sunderland in the county climbing competition with Adam and Thomas again taking first and second place respectfully. Mathew Boal from St John's Explorers took second place in his age group.

Looking forward I hope to have a 5 a/side football competition, and the forthcoming summer beach activity day and Air Show Mobile Display Unit will help advertise that scouting is still alive in Sunderland and hopefully

enlist some new members into our sections.

If you have a special skill that you can share with other groups throughout the district please let me know.

**Philip Atkinson, ADC (Scouts)**

## Activities Report 2009-2010

Over the last year groups within the District, have again taken part in a great number of events and competitions held at both district and county level, this year's District Climbing Competition, for the Cubs, Scout and Explorer sections proved to be very popular, with over 76 young people taking part over two nights, my thanks go to the Staff at the Marine Activities Centre Sunderland for making helping make this a great event for the young people taking part. Top three in each section went on to represented the District in the County Climbing Completion, This year Sunderland managed to winner all three youth sections, the Cubs also managed 3rd place, Scouts 2nd place with the Explorers also managing a 2nd place on the day, well done to all.

Again this year the District has two places on Sail Training being offered by the Priestman Trust, one going to St Andrews Sea Scouts the other is being taken up by a member of Vaux Own Explorers, I am sure both will have a great time on what is a trip of a life time.

International – Explorers from Vaux Own Explorers taking part in the IX09 expedition in the Northern province of Zambia last July/August had a life changing experience, with Explorers and Network members from Cleveland and members of the Northumberland and Durham Girls Brigade they were building a classroom at the Kapisha Middle Basic School on the Shiwa Ng'andu estate in the Chinsali District. After 48 hrs travelling, the last part being 1000 km my bus along the dusty roads of Zambia for 12 hours to reach the campsite at Kapishya. Joining the UK members were also members from the Zambian Scouts and Girls Brigade. Great fun was had by all, the Building had grown in size from the planed 19m x 6m to 25m x 6.5m. 30,000 bricks need moving 1000m, B & Q was only 250 km away, only a problem when you run out of nails. After three weeks of hard work, they did not quite finish the School which was disappointing. It was up to roof level, with half the roof sheets in place when they left for home. Within weeks of returning home the local builders who had being working the group had finished the School and it is now being



use by the young people of Kapisha, saving them a 35 km walk to school.

You don't need to go to Zambia to have a International camp, have your group thought of attend one of the many international camps that run in the UK each year? NO then contact me and I all the information on where and when these camps are held in 2010 & 2011, attending one of these camps will give your young people a great introduction to International Scouting.

Looking forward to 2011, its less than 440 days the 22nd World Scout Jamboree being held in Sweden, Durham County is sending 36 young people and four leaders, Sunderland will be represented by an explorer from St John's explorers, one of the District Leaders is also part of the Jamboree planning team. Not everyone can attend the Jamboree, but all Groups can take part in the Join in Jamboree events that are being planned, do you have International and Global in your programmes. What about doing a Partnership award this year, this is the year to start these great activities in all sections.

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 the "The Big Adventure" but also be members of a World Wide Movement with 28 million members in 168 Counties. Therefore I would like to thank all those who have again given freely of their time over the last year.

**Dave Russell , ADC Activities**



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## IX09 – Zambia

On a typical rainy English morning a group of Scouts and Girls Brigade left the North East, destination Africa. After a six hour coach journey from Fulwell to Heathrow the two years of planning and training had almost become a reality. We arrived in terminal three with time to spare, which was spent wisely raiding duty free shops, then when the time came we headed to our gate ready to board the plane.

After a sixteen hour flight and some awful airline meals we had finally arrived in Africa, we landed at around six o'clock in the morning at Nairobi airport in Kenya, and there we had another plane to catch that would take us to Lusaka airport, but due to a problem with the plane we ended up with a comfy floor to sleep on, around four hours later our plane was ready to fly and we were on our way to our destination. We finally arrived in Lusaka airport after a short flight, we were greeted by the chief scout of Zambia and local press and then taken into the empty terminal, only one more obstacle to pass, our final border control desk. Once through border control we were able to meet the local Scouts who would be working and travelling with us, they quickly loaded our kit onto a coach and we were on our way. The local Zambians started singing and dancing in the coach trying to involve us, it was strange at first to say the least, but once we got to know the locals we would sing and dance the night away with them, they were just great fun. After another mammoth coach journey and a stop over at a campsite in Lusaka we finally arrived at Kapishya Hot Springs, our final destination, and once we set up camp and ate dinner, the fun and games began, singing, dancing and camp fire games, but we knew the hard work was ahead of us. The next morning it was the first day of work, one team was on domestics and the rest went to the building site, I was landed with domestics on the first day, and I just wanted to be at the building site all day, especially for the first day.

The building went great, we made it as fun as we possibly could by messing around but being safe at the same time, the days went fast, too fast, we arrived at the building site early morning, lunch arrived at noon then we ate until one, then we finished the day by building until four, when we arrived back at the camp site we sat down to tea for a while, then we parted ways either to the lodge or to the hot springs, but most nights ended up the same, straight to the hot springs then to the lodge all night then we went to sleep, still great fun though, because we could all have a laugh as a group of friends more than a group of work mates.

As the days went by the school became bigger and bigger and the team grew stronger, by the end of week two we had half a school, and it was time for some R & R, we spent 4 days on a walking safari, it was a fantastic trip and great to see wild animals in their natural habitat, we saw Lions at very close quarters, Hippo's and Buffalo, too many animals to mention!

Back to work and by the end of the trip we had managed to get the two classrooms at the School from slab to roof level and the roof on the first classroom, unfortunately the remoteness of the site and the difficulties in getting materials made it impossible to complete the roof before we left, however the locals completed the school after we left and the local children are using it now.

This was a once in a life time opportunity, I would highly recommend a trip like this to anyone as it is a great experience, also I have made, and kept a lot of new friends and I would love to do it again.

**Jonathan Robinson**  
**Vaux Own ESU and**  
**IX09 Participant**

