



Scouts Scotland South West Region

South by Southwest



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Notes from the Regional Commissioner

By the time you read this you will be getting into the swing of your winter programmes and all the outdoor fun and activities of the summer will be a memory. There is still no reason why you cannot take advantage of pleasant autumn and winter days to get out and about and it is a good idea to have a few ready made programmes or outings up your sleeve that you can bring into play at a moment's notice. There is no reason, apart from our unpredictable weather, to plan all events and programmes as "indoor". Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night are good examples of the chance to get outside and have good (safe) fun. And of course there might also be the excitement of a good snowfall if you are very lucky. Whatever you are planning for the winter season make sure that everyone learns a little more about Scouting and above all has fun.

The past few months have seen changes in scouting in Scotland and if you keep up with things (via the very much improved scouts-scotland.org.uk web site) you will be aware that Eleanor Lyall, Chief Commissioner for the past 7 years has reached the end of her term and has now handed over the reins to Graham Haddock. As a result there have been changes to the Scottish volunteer team and the way it operates. It is hoped that these adjustments will enable better contact and support to be provided to Regions and, most importantly, Districts. It will probably take a while before the effects are noticed but please try to keep up to date with what is happening. It is all for the good of your "Scouts". You will read elsewhere in this newsletter of the expedition to Kenya which saw 40 Leaders and young people from across the Region take on the challenge of improving the lot of disadvantaged children at Makobe School near Mombasa. The enthusiasm and scouting spirit shown by all who took part was commendable and it is to be hoped that this will be the first of many such expeditions within the Region. The week spent afterwards on safari and in the mountains was a bit of a bonus really after the real hard work in the preparation and at the school. Well done to all. While on an international theme there was also of course the world jamboree in Sweden where we had 11 Scouts and Explorer Scouts taking part. I have not yet had a full report back but from what I have heard this was another experience not to be missed. Then again there was an Explorer Belt expedition to Poland run by North East Region and we had Explorers from S-W Region taking part. As a bit of advance notice S-W Region will be planning its own expedition in the relatively near future so keep your eyes and ears open for information on that. The time for the Blair Atholl Jamborette has also come round again and

expressions of interest are now being sought, both for participants and support teams. All the info is on the web site so have a look if you are interested.

The next big event on the Region Calendar is on Sunday 6th November when the first get together for all leaders and assistants in the Region takes place. This is being held at the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock and if you have not already staked your claim on a place by returning the booking form which was sent out to everyone then you should get your skates on. The new Chief Commissioner himself is coming along to support us together with members of his team and this promises to be an excellent and worthwhile day. There is a copy of the form and all the information attached to this newsletter.

And finally – say "hello" to our new regional badge which brings the districts of our widespread region together for the first time as part a single entity. The design is inspired by a Cub Scout in Dumfriesshire as a result of the competition we held. Wear it on your sleeve with pride.



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Over and Out

As many of you will be aware I stand down as Regional Commissioner at the end of October after a challenging but exciting and thoroughly enjoyable 4 years in office. It has been an honour to lead so many dedicated leaders and supporters into the new and untried Regional structure and there have been many pitfalls to be avoided or tackled head on. I believe however that the foundations have now been laid for a bright and successful future for S-W Region. This is entirely due to a fantastic support team of Administrators, ARCs, DCs and Advisers who have given, and are giving, so much of their time to "make things work". There was a full year of preparation, before 1st April 2008, when this team had to be formed and though there have of necessity been on or two changes everyone has pulled their weight and the results speak for themselves. Personally I have made many new friends and acquaintances, from Drummore (in the Mull of Galloway) to Gretna (and beyond in the south) and all the way to Skelmorlie and Beith in the north and of course so many places between. I have spent many fun days and nights at events across the country and for those experiences I thank you all. My term has also given me the chance to meet with so many people leading Scouting across Scotland, having sat on the Scottish Board and the Development Grants committee, and had most enjoyable and constructive meetings with the other Regional Commissioners and the Chief Commissioner. One thing which I must say is a huge thank you to all the staff at SHQ who work away in the background, oft maligned by some of our more cantankerous colleagues, but more often than not working 'way beyond their call of duty to ensure the support we all need is there. Please appreciate them all and make use of the help and expertise which they offer so freely.

One last thing – although I am taking a step into the background I shall be following closely the progress of Scouting in South West Scotland and if anyone ever needs some quiet words of advice or encouragement please give me a call or an email and I shall do my best to help. You may even find me sitting in a deck chair at Culzean campsite supervising the grass cutting and site maintenance work. One thing is certain - Once a Scout always a Scout.

Thank you – and God bless you all.

Duncan.

Training Dates for your Diary

- 11 Modules October 28 – 30th Dolphin House. Culzean Country Park
This is a full weekend course. During the weekend we will be covering 11 of the modules, modules 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19. The venue has to be confirmed but is likely to be in the south of the region. A similar course has just been completed on Arran and was well received by those who attended.

Modules 7,14,15 November 20th at Loans Scout Hall

Modules 8,9,11,13 December 4th at 57th Scout Hall, Dumfries

2012

Modules 5,6,16 January 29th at Loans Scout Hall

Modules 7,14,15 February 26th in Galloway

Modules 8,9,11,13 March 25th at Loans Scout Hall

Module 38 June 1st – 3rd at Culzean



Heathrow Airport—Saturday 25th June

Next Stop Nairobi

40 Scouts and leaders from the 5 Scout Districts in South West Scotland Region spent two weeks in Kenya over the summer.

Travelling in kilts, the Scouts proved to be a show stopper as they passed through Nairobi airport with all local people and other fellow travelers coming to watch them as they transferred from one terminal to the other.

The sun was splitting when they arrived at Mombasa Airport, tired and weary after a long grueling 30 hour journey by train, bus, planes and finally the infamous Mombasa ferry when they finally arrived at their 'campsite' for a week – a lovely hotel nestling on the shores of the India Ocean. The Scouts were welcomed by native dancers who sang and danced for them until they were all booked in.



The Scouts were in Kenya to work at a small Special Need School at Makobe village in the Shimba Hills – just outside a National Park. The 40 Scouts, aged 14 to 70 travelled to and from the school each day in a convoy of minibuses and undertook five projects to improve the life of the children in the school. All the Scouts had undertaken some fund raising towards the cost of the expedition and we were kindly given some £3000 in

donations towards the cost of materials and tools needed for the task. We all took two bags with us – each weighing up to 23 kilogrammes – one for our clothes, the other for materials and gifts for the school children. Kenya thrives on football and football tops and strips were taken out in great numbers.

A workshop at an orphanage in Mombasa was borrowed to prepare the timber for the desks and tables into 'flat packs' form. Wood had been sourced from Malawi before we arrived and was cut and planed in the workshop then drilled ready for assembly at the school. The workshop was not well endowed with tools and equipment or good electrical wiring, so it was painted internally by a team of young people and kitted out with tools taken out by the Scouts.

They were lucky to have a Leader who in real life was an electrician and who made some urgent repairs to the electrical wiring and lighting.



At Makobe, the teams tackled two classrooms, painting the walls and blackboard and stenciling letters onto the walls while another team decorated the gable ends of each room with a mural picture depicting the Kenya/Scotland link and Scouting.



Outside another two teams made a recreational area with seats and tables for eating in the shade out of the hot midday sun while the other team laid out football and volleyball pitches, providing posts and nets.



It was hard graft and physical work in extreme heat and humidity but all the young people threw themselves into the various projects with enthusiasm and worked extremely hard all week so that by Friday afternoon all the tasks were complete and they were able to relax a little and test drive the recreation area and football pitch.

Scotland played hard in the first ever international held at Makobe, however in true Scottish form they lost 7-1 to the Kenya children in the main school who took off their flip flops and played in their bare feet.

On the Saturday the school children turned out along with the Scouts for gathering and the handing over of the rooms and desk, gifts etc to the school and children and there was some Kenyan entertainment provide for the Scouts.



Having completed their targets at the School, the party split in two on the Sunday when one group went on 5 day Safari to the Tsavo East and Amboseli Game Reserves whilst the other group headed for Tanzania to climb Mont Meru, a height of 4566 metres.



A selection of pictures from the safari



And a selection from the Mount Meru expedition

The two groups came back together again six days later at Nairobi for a meal before an overnight flight back to London and home to Scotland.



Left—the gathering for dinner at Nairobi on the way home.

Further pictures from the whole trip can be found at

<http://www.allayrshire.co.uk/scouts/jambomakobe11/>

Kyle and Carrick



The **Daily Scout Group** have created a mural, which now hangs in their Hall, depicting the local area and shows the Colliers' Oak in relation to the village, farms and places of interest including the old coal mines and various trails.

Colliers' Oak is a tree in the grounds of Dalquharran Mansion and was meeting place for gentry and miners alike—a place to air grievances and debate—a real hub of the community in it's day. All sections of the Group were involved in it's preparation from the creation of the map by Scouts and Explorers whilst the Cubs and Beavers added painting of various hobbies, emblems and nature symbols.



The **12th Ayrshire (Prestwick Kingcase)**

Cubs said farewell to their Cub Leader at the end of June. Christie Halbert had been with the Cub Pack since May 1990. The evening included a games session with cubs and parents participating, the presentation of Chief Scout's Silver Awards and various other presentations to the youngsters as well as a Moving on Ceremony for the older cubs that were going to Scouts. Christie's final duty was to receive the new intake of Cubs from the Beaver Colony. And of course there was a plentiful supply of 'Thank You' cards from cubs themselves as well as some gifts in appreciation.

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The **Phoenix Explorer Unit** in Prestwick undertook a different activity recently at Culzean Castle. Their aim—to attempt to make a new Guinness World Record for the number of Glow Stick Necklaces in a chain - currently sitting at 3800. The National Trust for Scotland kindly supported the activity by letting them use the Fountain Garden in front of the Castle on a Saturday evening. It took the Unit some 3 hours to interlink 4500 light sticks in front of independent witnesses and on measuring the chain it measured just over 800 metres. Official result awaited!



Above linking the sticks and measuring the length of the chain. To the right a picture of the display taken from a flat on the top floor of the Castle.





A Demanding Challenge

Angus Arnold, Alba Explorer Scout Unit, Kyle and Carrick.

The Explorer Belt is an award set up to push scouts from ages 16 to 25 to their limits and in 2011 a group of thirty-three scouts from Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland set off to Poland to accept the challenge of this extremely demanding hike. From the start of 2011 a vast amount of planning went into this event from both the leaders taking charge and the participating scouts.

In order to prepare for what became the toughest two weeks of my life, training camps were held in both Inverness and Belfast. Here, routes were planned, major projects discussed and our challenges set. I had the opportunity to pick which training camp I wished to attend, so I choose to head to Belfast to meet the Northern Irish scouts. My friend James and I were partnered with Jonathon at the training camp, who was to join us on our hike, completing our group of three.



On the 10th of July, James and I were on our Easy Jet flight and heading to Krakow with the rest of the Scottish scouts who we had only met the previous night. After arriving in the thirty degree heat we walked the severe march to our youth hostel, Nathan's Villa, in our full scout uniform consisting of kilts and two heavy bags. Our next two days were spent in Krakow where we met up with all the others participating in the award, doing our final planning and preparing our bags. On the third morning, after a late night party at

Nathan's Villa, we reluctantly set off in our groups of three to begin our ten day hike, knowing that we had a great distance ahead of us.

We had ten days to cover 160km (100 miles) on foot, so we briskly set off to get our first train to leave Krakow. Within our ten days we spent nine very different nights, pitching our tent in various towns and cities across Poland. Our favourite night was on our first night spent in the town of Libiaz, where we didn't have to pitch a tent at all since we were offered residence with a Polish man who lived in a huge house. He made us feel very welcome by introducing us to his friends as they came over that evening, and even cooked us a full Polish breakfast the next morning.



The first six days of our hike were incredibly challenging with temperatures reaching 41 degrees with no signs of rain, the most difficult day being a 31km (19 miles) walk from Oswiecim to Wadowice. However, on day seven the conditions completely swung to the other side of the scale when a thunderstorm began which didn't clear for the rest of the trip. Walking in the rain was just as difficult, despite it being cooler. We had still been walking for six days solid, sleeping on rough ground and the blister count was increasing by the day.



On top of the 160km, we also had ten challenges to complete, five of which we had set ourselves and the other five were given to us by the leaders. These challenges had us doing all sorts of things, encouraging us to interact with the locals. We had several bizarre jobs, from milking a cow to feeding a Polish person breakfast. These challenges certainly kept us busy during our rest time but it was great to complete such odd tasks that I will never get the chance to accomplish again.

Despite the sweat, heat, rain, blisters and regular disagreements amongst the three of us, the hike was definitely rewarding. We had a fantastic time, met a lot of friendly people on our travels, ate a vast amount of great food, built a tan, and even managed to squeeze in a visit to the Zywiec Brewery, Poland's number one beer. Overall, the hike was great and definitely something I would recommend to anyone willing to give it a go, but we weren't done yet.

After our ten day hike, which we managed to fill with 179km (111miles) of walking we arrived at our final destination. To the west side of Bielsko-Biala, we entered Wapiennica, a Polish scout camp where we met back up with the rest of the British scouts, with my group being one of the last to arrive. For the next three days we had a wonderful time resting; not needing to get up everyday and start walking. We met plenty of people at the camp who were as eager to learn as much about us as we were to learn about them. We taught them Scottish country dances and they taught us some of their national dances and songs. I was given a chance to play guitar in front of everyone on several occasions; playing songs which couldn't really be classed as traditional or Scottish but they enjoyed it none the less.

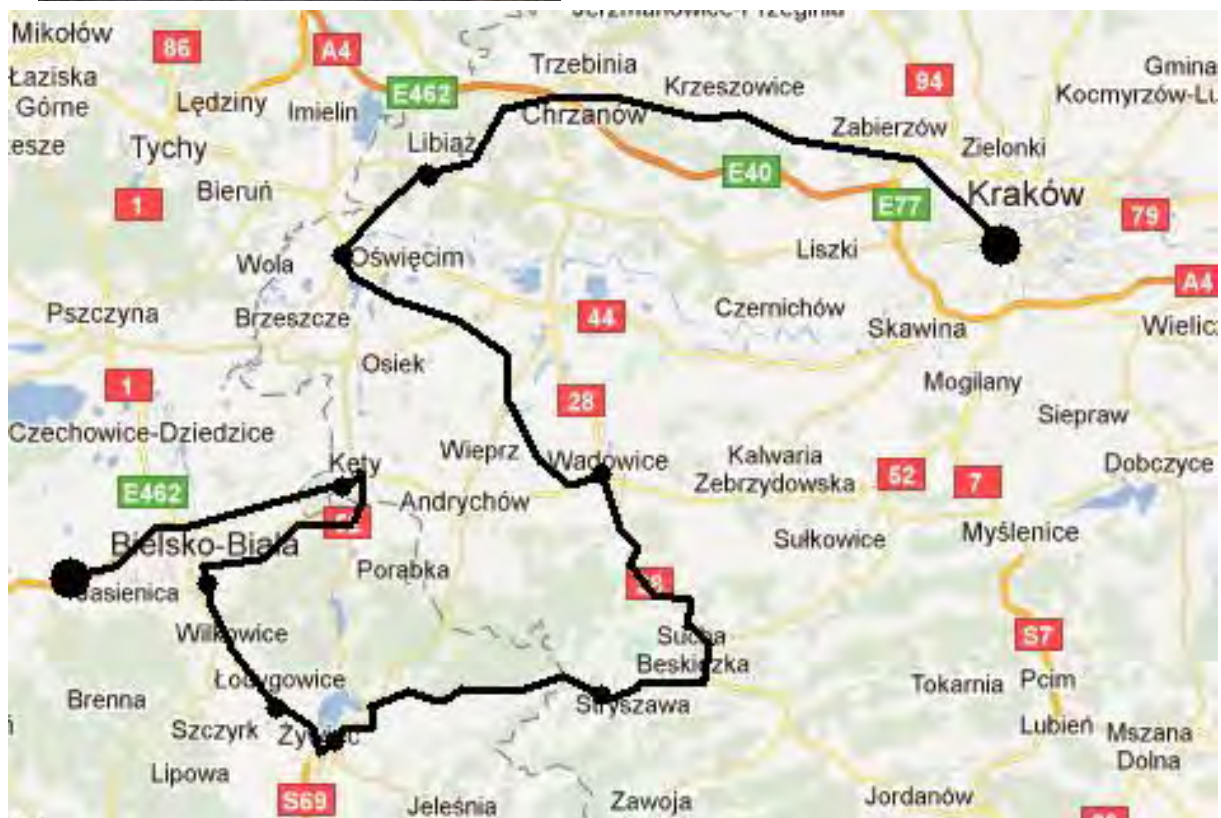


Our days at Wapiennica were well spent, the first of which being a well deserved rest day and the other two being day trips. The first being a shopping trip into Bielsko-Biala which my friends and I spent a good while in McDonalds enjoying some familiar food followed by some souvenir shopping in the mall. The second day trip was a bus journey to Auschwitz Concentration Camps, which could certainly be described as an experience if not a pleasant one. We were toured round 'Auschwitz-I' the first of the

concentration camps in world war two, followed by a tour of 'Auschwitz-II Birkenau' the largest concentration camp from the second world war. It was definitely something that I was glad I went to see to understand the torture these people went through.

In conclusion, I would say the Explorer Belt is one of the best things I've ever done

in scouting and definitely something I would recommend to any scout given the chance. Poland was a great country to hike in as it was somewhere I had no previous knowledge of, adding to the adventure. I made a lot of new friends and took part in a unforgettable experience that will remain with me forever.



The Route taken by the team from Alloway and Northern Ireland

Dumfriesshire District

Kirkconnel Cubs Camp



The Kirkconnell cub camp was held from 24th-26th June when they went to Wanlockhead. On the Friday night after arriving the Cubs got to setting up their sleeping arrangements, went exploring the local village and then had free time at the play park.

Saturday morning after breakfast we went to the lead mine museum where we had a look around the museum, listened to a talk on the history of lead mining in the village. Then had a guided tour down the lead mine which was extremely interesting.



Later we had lunch and free time.

ADC (Cubs) Janet McSherry gave us a visit and also took part in gold panning with the boys and visited the library (which is the oldest library in Scotland). Later in the evening a treat the boys took part in a Sumo wrestling competition, where they dressed up in giant sumo wrestling suits.



On the Sunday the boys visited a narrow gauge railway from Wanlockhead to Leadhills. After lunch packed up camp and headed home. The Cubs had an excellent weekend.

Moffat Beavers



Anne Gibbard has stood down as the leader of Moffat Beavers after 15 years in the role and was presented with flowers and gifts by the youngsters.

Thornhill Beavers

The Beaver Colony in Thornhill have made their mark in the community with a project to have colourful hanging baskets hung in their Main Street and various visits to Tesco and their local police and fire stations.



Beaver Birthday Celebrations

The District held a great 25th Birthday Celebration for the Beavers at Whithaugh Adventure Centre near Newcastleton in the Borders.

It was a great day for the youngsters who had a fantastic time on the wide range of activities as well as having a Birthday Cake .



District Cub Athletics Meeting



Chief Scouts Service Awards, 27th May 2011

We are pleased to announce that the Chief Scouts has made the following awards to leaders in the Region.

Ayrshire East

Suzanne Brodie - Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award

Elizabeth Collins - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Audrey Gray - Chief Scout's 20 Years Service Award

John McCluskey - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Craig McEwan - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Jane Niven - Chief Scout's 25 Years Service Award

Rhona O'Neill - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Campbell Reid - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Gail Tumulty - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Dumfriesshire

Stuart Hall - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

George Notman - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Sandra Ritchie - Chief Scout's 20 Years Service Award

John Robert Wilson Willison - Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award

Galloway

David Kain - Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award

Hannah McAndrew - Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award

Patricia Mary Winifred O'Farrell - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Kenneth William Owen - Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award

Allison Catherine - Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award

Kyle and Carrick

David Clarkson - Chief Scout's 30 Years Service Award

Anne Leitch - Chief Scout's 25 Years Service Award

David McKenna - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

David Newell - Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Communications

Not receiving emails from the Region?
Send your name and email address to
arc-communications@scouts-southwestscotland.org.uk



The future of Scouting in the South West is in your hands

Do you know someone who can...

Inspire and enthuse

Apply strategic thinking to a challenge

Build and lead a team of key volunteers

Be resourceful and energetic

And who is passionate about developing young people and volunteers in your Region?

Perhaps that person is you or you may know someone who can. Then we may have just found the next Regional Commissioner for the Scout Association in the South West of Scotland.

The role of the Regional Commissioner is a rewarding one and an outstanding opportunity for personal development, as well as being able to influence the future of Scouting in South West Scotland. You will have the opportunity to meet young people and adults, whose lives have been changed by Scouting, and to inspire and help Districts grow and deliver even more exciting and adventurous activities to even more young people.

The Regional Commissioner is appointed by and reports to the Chief Commissioner for Scotland.

The role of Regional Commissioner is a volunteer role, and it is the policy of the Scout Association to be flexible in terms of how volunteer appointments are filled. Though it is expected that one person will take on this role, consideration will be given to job sharing, a joint application and/or appointment of a deputy Regional Commissioner if this fulfils the requirements of the role.

As a Regional Commissioner you will be responsible for ensuring support and leadership of the 5 volunteer District Commissioners in the South West, the Assistant Regional Commissioners and Advisers in partnership with the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Regional Support) and the Regional Scout Council Executive Committee.

So, irrespective of your age, background or Scouting experience, if you think you have what it takes to inspire Leaders and Young People and develop Scouting in the South West, or know somebody who does, please do get in touch.

For full information visit the [Guidance Notes](#).

If you would like to ask any questions about the role please email Eric Moffat at chairman@scouts-southwestscotland.org.uk

All applications/nominations should be sent to **Eric Moffat, Chairman, South West Scotland Scouts, 36 Kirkland Road, Dumfries DG1 4EZ**

Closing date for receipt of applications/nominations is: 12 noon on Friday 14th October 2011

Application/Nomination forms are available in [Word](#) or [PDF](#) on the relevant link



6th November 2011



10.30 am – 4.30pm

South West in the Park

A Gathering of Leaders & Adults in Scouting in South West Scotland

Dumfriesshire, Ayrshire East, Kyle & Carrick, Galloway, North Ayrshire & Arran

Meet the new Scottish Chief Commissioner, Graham Haddock, and his team

A major aim of regional development is encouraging co-operation between leaders at section level across all districts and this is what we hope this event will promote.

The day will be a forum where section leaders, assistants (and others) gather together from across all 5 Districts.

You will be able to exchange ideas and learn about what is happening in other districts in **your** section.

Find out what Scouting has to offer that you may not be aware of, or fully aware of at section level.

The day will start with a presentation by young people from across the Region

Sectional gatherings for exchange of ideas and for meeting others from the your section across the Region

Input is invited from all leaders and if you have a topic for discussion you would like to air or a skill which you would like to share with others please indicate on the booking form or speak with your ADC.

(Morning gatherings will be co-ordinated by your ADCs and supported by members of the Scottish Team)

After a superb buffet lunch

Drop in on “Market Stalls” and “Skills Bases” of your choice.

A selection of Skills Bases requested by yourselves and also a selection of Market Stalls on -for example -Development, Training Surgery (modules validated), Adventurous (and other) Activities, International Events (Regional Explorer Belt & Expeditions), New Safeguarding Awareness and Health & Safety issues etc.

“Valuing and Recognising the Role of the Young Leader” – (SHQ Young Leader Adviser)

Find out why a Scout Active Support (SAS) Team can be a great help to your Group – (SAS Adviser)

If you have something you would particularly like info on or help with please let us know beforehand on the booking form or by speaking with your ADC or DC.

(The afternoon will be co-ordinated by the Regional ARCs and Advisers – again supported by the Scottish Team)

The day will conclude with an open session and will include a presentation by young people.

How Much? - £5 per head inclusive (supported by SHQ Development Grant)

Where? - The Park Hotel, (where else?) Kilmarnock

To book your place please return the attached booking form by 30th September. Booking form can also be downloaded from www.scouts-southwestscotland.org.uk



Why Scout?

Come and See!

South West Region Scout Council - Registered as a Charity in Scotland - SCO11643



22nd World Jamboree—Sweden

David Johnstone, The Bay Explorer Unit. North Ayrshire and Arran

“When people ask me if I enjoyed Sweden, I’m going to tell them that Sweden wasn’t great. It was the people, not the location, that made the Jamboree special.”

These were the words of one of the members of our unit, during the closing days of the 22nd World Scout Jamboree. This captures the essence of the Jamboree spirit perfectly – it doesn’t matter where you go, a place is defined by its people. Of course, while Sweden was the site of the Jamboree itself, there was far more to this event than the 12 days spent there by the participants. It took seven years of planning and preparation before the event could take place, and by the beginning of the camp, 650,000 non-paid work hours had been put down so that the Jamboree could happen. For the participants, preparations started around two years ago, when we met our unit leaders and fellow unit members for the first time. This began the large task of fundraising, to a sum of around £2000 each. Many thanks go to our regions, districts, groups, and units for their donations.



While the training camps were interesting, and a great opportunity to get to know our unit, the real adventure began on July 25th in the early hours of the morning. Regrettably, we were missing one of our number, as the previous night had seen Liam Hopkins hospitalised, and while his condition improved quickly in the following days, he was unable to travel. Our deepest sympathies go to Liam for this terrible turn of events. Arriving first of all in Denmark, we settled in for a brief stay in a youth hostel. It really was a very nice place, more like a

small hotel, but sadly its elevator facilities were not designed to cope with hundreds of scouts all going in and out at the same time. That evening was spent at Tivoli Gardens, a theme park in the heart of Copenhagen. This was a really good way for us to settle in and begin to meet the rest of the UK contingent, but since high-fives were mandatory on passing any other scouts, most went back to the hostel with

sore hands. When it was announced that the following morning would be a sports session the objection in the air was tangible. Everyone was surprised though to find a wide range of slightly unorthodox activities available, including human table football, and a crash course in parkour. After attempting the parkour, I can safely say that the term “crash course” has never been more appropriate. The end of our stay in Copenhagen was marked with the UK Party. This entailed all 4000 of the UK contingent in a gigantic hall, with live music from HUGE bands, played by slightly less huge cover bands such as Alphabeatz and the Kings Ov Leon. There was also a large open area outside available for mixing and mingling, away from the music. When in a crowd of 4000 though, people need things to set them apart from the rest, and what could have been better than our entire unit turning up in our kilts? Suffice to say, we received much attention.



The next day brought us to leave Copenhagen and finally on to the Jamboree itself in Sweden. Arriving at the site, we were gradually met by the realisation of the event's sheer enormity. Just walking to our area took us through a complete contrast of camping cultures. From the wooden based tents of the Swedish to the ominous black canvas of the Germans, the site was already brisling with international diversity.



It was only really when the opening ceremony of the following day came around that we could for the first time truly grasp the scale of the Jamboree. With every person from the site present at the main stage, the crowd was in excess of 40,000 people, a sea of scouts as far as the eye could see, toting flags to support their countries. We were treated to Bear Grylls opening the ceremony by abseiling in from the roof of the stage, followed by a fantastic variety performance, with

each act relating to Sweden's rich history.

Under the overarching theme of "Simply Scouting", the activities were primarily based on simple ideas, such as Dream, Quest, and Earth. All the activities, along with their individual concerns, contained the idea of mixing cultures together and encouraging people to make new friends. This was a huge success, as all of us have come home with new strong bonds with foreign friends, which will not easily be forgotten. But it was not just with foreign scouts we made new bonds; there were many new friendships formed with our neighbours to the South. Yes, at the Jamboree, even the English and the Scottish were friends. The forging of new friendships was important, but there was also a noticeable reinforcement of the relationships within our own unit. Many of us were still unfamiliar at the beginning of the camp, but as it continued we found ourselves with a much better knowledge of one another. With this we were able to function as a powerful team, building the largest flagpole in the surrounding area, if not the subcamp.



This feat would not have been accomplished nearly as easily or to such a standard had it not been for our new Tongan friends, who dug holes so quickly it was not unusual to see sparks as their shovels hit stone. Completing our solidarity patrol from the Pacific Islands were scouts from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and their



leader Thelma. None of us will forget the time we spent with them, and hopefully a reunion visit to the South Pacific is in order for our unit in the future.

The final part of our Jamboree experience was the home hospitality stay in the Netherlands. This involved a 5 day stay with the family of a Dutch scout, and judging by the stories from other unit members, we could not have been luckier. Our host families were incredibly friendly and welcoming, giving us a true

taste of Dutch culture. We thank them for their kind hospitality, and hope to return the favour in the future.

North Ayrshire & Arran

Cub Camp at Kelburn



District Camp at Lapwing



Ayrshire East



The Beavers 25th Birthday Party in June.

Fort Carrick Activity Centre



Located in Craigengillan Estate, Dalmellington this is a new Activity Centre which offers gorge walking, archery, biking, orienteering and kayaking (including calm waters for beginners and white water in Ness Glen). Visit <http://www.scouts-southwestscotland.org.uk/library/fortcarrick2011.pdf> for more details.