

ANNUAL REPORT

2010-2011

BLYNYDDOI ADDRODIAD

helping young people
get the most out of life
Montgomeryshire
SCOUTS.

SGOWTLAID.
Sir Drefaldwyn

yn helpu pobl ifanc
i gael y gorau allan o fywyd



Annual Report: April 2010 to March 2011

Welcome to the 2011 Annual Report from Montgomeryshire Area Scout Council, which is a report on the past year's activities by the Scout Movement in Montgomeryshire.

The Aim and Method of the Scout Association

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.

The Method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

The Scout Association exists by the authority of a Royal Charter, granted by King George V in 1912 and supplemented by further Charters granted by King

George V and Queen Elizabeth II. These Charters give authority to the Bye Laws of the Association, which are approved by Her Majesty's Privy Council.

Membership is open to all, irrespective of gender, race, religion, culture and economic background.

Membership of Scouting is open to anyone aged six and above and who is prepared to accept the Law and Promise of The Scout Association. All Sections are open to both male and female membership.

This fourteenth printed Annual Report is published by the Montgomeryshire Area Scout Council - July 2011.

English to Welsh translation of the Area Commissioner's Report courtesy of Sarah Astley Davies.

Photographs: Lorry Boots, Jenny Brignell, Steve Ellis, Siân Griffiths, Val Lewis, Kim Negri, Kerry Price, Linda Smith, Alwyn Williams.

Montgomeryshire Area Scout Council - Registered Charity Number 513787.

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

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

The Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Addewid Y Sgowtiaid

Ar fy llw, addawaf i wneud fy ngorau,
i wneud fy nyletswydd li Dduw ac i'r Frenhines,
i helpu pobl eraill
ac i gadw Cyfraith y Sgowtiaid.

Cyfraith Y Sgowtiaid

Mae Sgownt yn ddibynadwy.
Mae Sgownt yn ffyddlon.
Mae Sgownt yn gyfeillgar ac yn garedig.
Mae Sgownt yn perthyn i deulu byd-eang y Sgowtiaid.
Mae Sgownt yn ddewr ym mhob anhawster.
Mae Sgownt yn gwneud defnydd da o'i amser ac yn gofalu am feddiannau ac eiddo.
Mae gan Sgownt hunan-barch a pharch tuag at eraill.

Arwyddair Y Sgowtiaid

Byddwch Barod

Area Commissioner's Report

It is now time once again to sit down and write my contribution for the Annual Report and such a lot has been happening in Scouting in Montgomeryshire.

It has been a challenging time for many of us, but I am pleased to report that the new Appointments system has been introduced, with Mr Terry George appointed Chairman of the Appointments Subcommittee, and I can confidently report that the system is working. Several appointment interviews have already been completed with good results and new Leaders have duly been appointed.

Somewhat ironically, the appointment of Appointment Secretary is proving to be lengthy for technical administrative reasons, but I am pleased to say that we have had a willing volunteer waiting to take up the post since last autumn. This position is so important to the way forward for Scouting in Montgomeryshire and I hope our new Appointment Secretary will soon be in post – and when this occurs you will all notice quite a difference, as we have not had this position filled for some time.

I was very pleased to appoint Arthur Colerick as our new District Commissioner last September. This has proved to be a time-consuming role for Arthur: as well as his own duties, he has been taking responsibility for Appointments (with administrative work being carried out by Shirley Myall at ScoutsWales HQ – many, many thanks to Shirley).

Arthur now has a computer and will be able to access everyone's training records online. When he visits a Group he will be able to check the records and make sure every Leader has the correct title within their Group. He will also be able to advise on training there and then, which I see as

Adroddiad y Comisiynydd Ardal

Mae'n amser unwaith eto i mi eistedd i lawr i ysgrifennu fy nghyfraniad i'r Adroddiad Blynyddol, ac mae llawer iawn wedi bod yn digwydd gyda'r Sgowtiaid yn Sir Drefaldwyn. Mae hi wedi bod yn gyfnod heriol i nifer ohonom, ond rwy'n falch o adrodd fod y system Penodiadau newydd wedi'i gyflwyno. Penodwyd Mr Terry George yn Gadeirydd yr Is-Bwyllgor Penodiadau, a gallaf adrodd yn hyderus fod y system yn gweithio. Mae nifer o gyfweiliadau penodi wedi'u cwblhau gyda chanlyniadau da, a phenodwyd Arweinwyr newydd. Yn eironig, mae penodi Ysgrifennydd Penodi wedi cymryd amser hir am resymau gweinyddol technegol, ond rwy'n falch o ddweud fod gwirfoddolwr parod wedi bod yn aros i gymryd y swydd hon ers yr hydref diwethaf. Mae'r swydd hon yn bwysig iawn i'r ffordd ymlaen ar gyfer y Sgowtiaid yn Sir Drefaldwyn, ac rwy'n gobeithio y bydd ein Ysgrifennydd Penodi yn y swydd yn fuan – a pan fydd hyn yn digwydd, byddwch yn sylwi gwahaniaeth mawr, oherwydd nid oes unrhyw un wedi bod yn y swydd hon ers tro.

Roeddwn yn falch iawn i benodi Arthur Colerick fel ein Comisiynydd Rhanbarthol newydd ym mis Medi y llynedd. Mae hon wedi bod yn swydd sydd wedi cymryd llawer o amser i Arthur: yn ogystal â'i ddyletswyddau ei hun, bu'n cymryd cyfrifoldeb am Benodiadau (gyda gwaith gweinyddol yn cael ei wneud gan Shirley Myall ym Mhencadlys Sgowtiaid Cymru – diolch yn fawr iawn i Shirley). Mae gan Arthur gyfrifiadur erbyn hyn, a bydd yn gallu cael mynediad i gofnodion hyfforddiant pawb ar-lein. Pan fydd yn ymweld â grwp, bydd yn gallu gwirio'r cofnodion a gwneud yn siwr fod gan bob Arweinydd y teitl cywir o fewn eu Grwp. Hefyd, bydd yn gallu cynghori ar hyfforddiant ar y pryd, a fydd yn gam mawr ymlaen tuag at



a great step forward towards everyone in the Group being properly recognised for the role they are playing and the training they have achieved.

I was very sad to hear that Jan Lipscombe has stepped down as Area Treasurer. I would like both to say a big thank you for the time she has spent as Treasurer and to say what an excellent job she has done for us. We are now looking for a new Area Treasurer, so if anyone has any ideas please let me know. It is not a particularly time-consuming role, but does of course require someone who is comfortable with figures. Ruth, our Area Secretary, has been filling the gap in this role for the past few months. A very big thank you to Ruth (and I know she will want to pass the accounts on as soon as possible as she has enough work of her own as Secretary).

On the uniformed side, Val Lewis has stepped down as AAC (Cubs). I would like to thank her for all the work she has done for this section over the years. On the positive side I am looking to appoint a new Explorer and Network Commissioner in the very near future.

For reasons beyond our control, we lost the Scout Troop in Llanidloes last autumn, so I have asked Mark Winson, our Local Development Officer, to work in Llanidloes. At the time of writing I believe that some new Leaders for Llanidloes are in the pipeline.

I am also very pleased that a Scout Troop is due to be starting up in Four Crosses in September. Arthur and I are also in discussion about the setting up of two new Groups in the Area - this of course will take time and we hope to provide further details in due course.

It just remains for me to give a very big thank you to everyone within our Groups and Explorer Units for all their hard work and dedication to attending meetings week in, week out, as well as all those who are not able to attend every week but provide valuable support to their Groups. I would also like to say a big thank you to my Area Team who continue to support me and Scouting in Montgomeryshire.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

Yours in Scouting

Roger Eagles - Area Commissioner

sicrhau fod pawb yn y Grwp yn cael cydnabyddiaeth cywir am y rôl y maent yn ei chwarae a'r hyfforddiant y maent wedi'i gael.

Roeddwn yn drist iawn i glywed fod Jan Lipscombe wedi sefyll i lawr fel Trysorydd Rhanbarthol. Hoffwn ddiolch yn fawr iddi am ei chyfnod fel Trysorydd, ac am ei gwaith ardderchog. Nawr, rydym yn chwilio am Drysorydd Ardal newydd, felly os oes unrhyw syniadau gan unrhyw un, rhowch wybod i mi. Nid yw'r swydd yn cymryd llawer iawn o amser, ond wrth gwrs, mae angen rhywun sy'n gyfforddus gyda ffigyrau. Mae Ruth, ein Ysgrifenyddes Ardal, wedi bod yn llenwi'r bwlch yn y rôl hwn dros y misoedd diwethaf. Diolch yn fawr i Ruth (ac rwy'n gwybod y bydd hi'n awyddus i drosglwyddo'r cyfrifon mor fuan â phosibl, gan fod ganddi ddigon o waith i'w wneud fel Ysgrifenyddes).

O ran pobl â gwisgoedd, mae Val Lewis wedi sefyll i lawr fel AAC (Cybiaid). Hoffwn ddiolch iddi am ei holl waith dros yr adran hon dros y blynnydoedd. Ar yr ochr positif, rwy'n gobeithio penodi Comisiynydd 'Explorer' a 'Network' yn y dyfodol agos.

Am resymau y tu hwnt i'n rheolaeth, fe wnaethom collwyd y Grwp Sgowtiaid yn Llanidloes yr hydref diwethaf, felly rydw i wedi gofyn i Mark Winson, ein Swyddog Datblygu Lleol, i weithio yn Llanidloes. Tra rwy'n ysgrifennu'r adroddiad hwn, rwy'n credu fod rhai Arweinwyr newydd yn y golwg ar gyfer Llanidloes. Rwy'n falch iawn y bydd Grwp Sgowtiaid newydd yn dechrau yn Four Crosses ym mis Medi. Mae Arthur a minnau hefyd yn trafod sefydlu dau Grwp newydd yn yr Ardal – wrth gwrs, bydd hyn yn cymryd amser, ac rydym yn gobeithio darparu mwy o fanylion yn fuan.

Y cyfan sydd ar ôl yw i mi ddiolch yn fawr i bawb o fewn ein Grwpiau a'n Hunedau 'Explorer' am eu gwaith caled a'u hymrwymiad i fynychu cyfarfodydd bob wythnos, yn ogystal â'r rheiny sydd ddim yn gallu mynychu bob wythnos, ond sy'n darparu cymorth gwerthfawr i'w Grwpiau. Hoffwn ddiolch yn fawr i fy Nhîm Ardal, sy'n parhau i fy nghefnogi i a'r Sgowtiaid yn Sir Drefaldwyn.

Rwy'n edrych ymlaen at eich gweld yn y Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol.

Dymuniadau gorau

Roger Eagles - Comisiynydd Ardal

From the Area Chairman

Looking back over this past year I find myself impressed with how well Scouting has fared in Montgomeryshire. To some, that may seem a less than obvious conclusion to draw, so let me point out those elements of Scouting which lead me to that conclusion.

First, there is the matter of Area personnel. This has been a difficult issue for us over a long period, with shortages of people in post putting pressure on those sterling people who have been available to us. There are still gaps on the operational and the executive side, but most key posts are now filled, and there has been a practical improvement in the functioning of the Area Team as a result. The gentle steps forward are a great encouragement to us to keep going.

Next, we have finalised the long-awaited Three Year Development Plan for the Area. This has had a great deal of work put into it by all who have been involved, and the result is a basis for going forward that people have been willing to sign up to. The plan, being a three year one, is obviously not an instant solution to all problems, but it is quite comprehensive in its scope, and as we work through it the positive results will increasingly become apparent. Progress is being reported on our website, and thus far we are in line with the objectives.

Then there is the matter of activities, and in this regard there has been a programme of activities during the year that has offered something for everyone at some stage or other. Heartfelt thanks go to the many organisers whose hard work and dedication bring so much pleasure.

Activities bring with them the opportunity for members, helpers, parents and even little brothers and sisters to make contributions both large and small, and even being part of the organising side of activities can be both instructive and good fun at one and the same time.

If I now look forward to the coming year, then I find that there is plenty to keep us all busy. There are new Sections - catering for the growing numbers of new members in some areas and the rising age of existing members in others – and adaptations to changing circumstances are quite likely to bring further openings and closings as the year goes by.

We always manage to cope with the challenges that any change throws up, but I think that there has perhaps been too little acknowledgment of the burden that is willingly carried by some of our senior Scouters when this happens. I hope that I can record and convey my gratitude to them here in this report for their huge contribution.

There will be some real work required in order to push the 3-year plan ahead in the next twelve months as well. The Area Team members are strongly committed to making the necessary changes, but there are still very few of us available for the task. So far, so good, though, and I see no reason why there should not be substantial success to report in a year's time.

The focus for the coming year remains, as always, on the delivery of the Scouting experience to young people in Montgomeryshire. I have no doubt whatsoever about the value of Scouting to our society, and I hope that you will all have a good year engaged in this valuable and rewarding undertaking.

Hugh Anton-Stephens - Area Chairman



Investing the first Cubs at the new Pack in Four Crosses (December 2010)



District Commissioner's Report

I have found my introduction to the role as District Commissioner an interesting, enlightening experience, not without its own challenges, but very different from my previous extensive years as a Scout and Explorer Leader.

I have found myself rather swamped with the task of sorting out the many problems which appear to have been present within the Area. However, I now feel this period is coming to an end, and I am looking forward to being able to spend much more time visiting the various Groups around the Area.

The numbers in the Area have unfortunately fallen this year, but I am confident, with work, enthusiasm and effort, we will be able to secure a rise in these figures.

One aim of the coming months is to restore Scouts back to Llanidloes, and also Llanfair Caereinion, and I am hoping to identify and confirm Leaders for these groups.

I am pleased to report that Scouts have been restored to Guilsfield, and we are hopeful that re-establishment of the Cubs will follow shortly.

The establishment of a thriving Cub Pack at Four Crosses can be counted as one of the Area's great

successes, as it moves from strength to strength, which is being quickly followed by the formation of a Scout Group also, which we are confident will be equally successful.

Future plans also include working on starting up Beavers and Cubs in Berriew, and also in Llanfyllin.

All Sections have been successful in carrying out a range of events, including: Beavers-Football, Cubs-Camp, Explorers-Operation Commando and Night Hike.

My hopes for next year, 2012, are that all Sections will come together for a big event in the Area, helping to cement working relations, and giving the Area an excellent opportunity to promote the excellence being carried out by all our Sections.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal "thanks", to all the Leaders in the Area, who have carried out some outstanding work with the youngsters.

Additionally, I would also like to pass on a huge "thank you" to the AC, AACs, Area Executive and to all the Leaders who have given me so much support and, help and encouragement, in my new role.

Finally I would like to make an assurance to you all that I will make it a priority to ensure that each Group will have my full support, in all areas of their work with young people in Montgomeryshire in the coming year, and ensure the excellent work continues by all involved.

Arthur Colerick - District Commissioner



Adventurous Activities Permits

This is the full list of those authorised to carry out the following activities.

HILL WALKING

- Peter Cadwallader
- Arthur Colerick
- Steve Ellis
- John Paul Lawrence
- Jonathan Moore
- Ed Ringrose
- Martin Smith
- Michael Smith
- Jason Till

Arthur Colerick - District Commissioner

Montgomeryshire Nights Away

There have been some additions to the Nights Away Permits, after the recent course, run in April 2011, where 9 leaders successfully completed the course.

The list of those holding Nights Away Permits is as follows:

FOUR CROSSES

- Kim Negri
- Christopher Gilliard

NEWTOWN

- David Evans
- Mark Woodhouse
- Kevin Morgan
- Chris Roberts
- Wayne Walton

MONTGOMERY

- Kelly Price
- Ken Whitmore

LLANFAIR CAEREINION

- Pauline Bennett
- Clive Hopwood

GUILDSFIELD

- Jonathan Moore
- Joe Winterbottom
- Steve Ellis

Arthur Colerick - District Commissioner

LLANRHAEADR

- Fred Newall
- Jane Williams
- Alwyn Williams
- Paul Edwards
- Jason Till
- Alison Roberts
- Ritchie Howes
- Nichola Barrett
- Tommy Harris
- Rhiannon Chilton Thomas

WELSHPOOL

- Mark BennettDoy
- Peter Cadwallader
- James Horton
- Lisa Roberts



Adult Training Report

I would like to congratulate the following Leaders at Llanrhaeadr who have successfully completed their Wood Badges:

ALISON ROBERTS	BEAVER LEADER
JANE WILLIAMS	BEAVER LEADER
ANDY MYERS	CUB SCOUT LEADER
RICHIE HOWES	EXPLORER SCOUT LEADER
NICHOLA BARRETT	EXPLORER SCOUT LEADER

As I am the only Leader Trainer in the area, I would like to reassure all Sections that I will work with each Group to ensure all training is completed within the next few months, and all training records are updated.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the Leaders who did the Safeguarding Course. I was very impressed with the numbers who attended, but would like those who were unable to attend to be aware that I intend to organise a further course for them, later in the year.

Arthur Colerick - DC/Leader Trainer



Annual Census of Membership

Each year on 31st January a national census of Scouting's membership is carried out. The table below shows a summary of the returns in Montgomeryshire for the past 9 years, when the Sections were last reorganised.

Section	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Beavers	77	75	77	92	97	75	84	70	89
Cubs	104	130	128	126	83	78	122	101	108
Scouts	91	80	81	108	104	83	88	73	46
Explorers	38	35	29	36	39	41	39	47	35
Network	11	5	6	2	4	1	3	3	2
Active Support	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Youth Total	325	329	322	364	328	279	336	294	280
Adults	51	48	61	67	76	75	75	72	72
Total	376	377	383	431	404	354	411	367	352



Field Commissioner's Report

Scouting in Wales continues to go from strength to strength with yet another significant growth in our membership. We have increased by a substantial 803 (698 in 2010) taking our overall membership in Areas to 16,249, the highest total since 2001. It is, of course, not simply about numbers but the opportunities that more young people are able to experience thanks to your dedicated and hard work.

We continue to seek external funding to enable the work of the Development Programme to continue into the future, providing you with the necessary support to recruit more adults into our Movement. Applications are currently with the Big Lottery Fund and the Development Grants Board for a total of £272,000 to cover the costs for the next three years for the programme in North West Wales and a part of South Wales. Recognising the value of the Development Programme, the ScoutsWales Trustee Board agreed in February 2011 to underwrite this part of the programme for one year from August 2011 pending the outcome of our applications.

During the year, Chris Matthews, Development Officer in South East Wales, left for new opportunities in India. We were pleased to welcome Steve Wells as his replacement. Looking to the future we started the process to identify a replacement for Shirley Myall who retires on 31st July 2011 having devoted a significant number of dedicated years of service to ScoutsWales.

At the beginning of 2011 the Area Commissioners agreed to a reform of the volunteer structure at Wales level. This change aligns us more closely with the structure at Headquarters facilitating the communication process. Whilst appointments have been made to some of the newly created volunteer roles, others remain unfilled.

In April 2010 over 100 Leaders attended a fun-filled Beaver Scout Conference. 2010 also saw yet another very successful All Wales Scout Camp attended by 934 young people and 28 adult Leaders. This event received excellent feedback from those attending. Finally in March 2011 there was the Headquarters event for District Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders with a series of workshops looking to the future.

During the year, preparations for the World Jamboree continued apace with over 129 young people from Wales (plus 6 members of Girlguiding Cymru and 9 from a Solidarity Patrol joining the Units). They are looking forward to a great experience in Sweden in the summer of 2011. This is truly a once in a lifetime experience for those fortunate enough to go and their lives will be changed forever.

Once again many thanks for the friendship which you have extended to me during the year and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Clive Bracewell - Senior Field Commissioner



Beaver Scouts

It is 25 years since Beaver Scouting was formed and there are six Beaver Colonies in Montgomeryshire and, although it is a shame there are three Groups without Beavers, it is encouraging that there are plans to look at the possibility of opening Beavers and other Scout Sections in a couple of new towns/villages in the Area.

I am pleased to report that there has been an Area Beaver football tournament played at Abermule, which was sadly only attended by three of our Groups, as the weather forecast was not very good. Our thanks go to those who managed to attend and especially to Linda Smith, BSL at Abermule, and her hard-working team for persevering through the damp weather.

The weather also affected some of the Beaver Colonies later in the year, as they found it hard to keep going through the difficult winter conditions, with low attendance due to travel problems and cancelling meetings when the halls were too cold!

It is my experience as an Assistant Beaver Leader at Newtown that our weekly programme is most definitely badge-orientated, alongside various visits and, of course, making friends. We hope to have some assistance from the Area Team and Trainers in focusing more on the Basic Scout Law and Promise and I hope to see lots of opportunities for the Beaver Leaders throughout the Area to come together to share ideas and 'Do Our Best' for all our Beaver Scouts.

Philip King – Assistant Beaver Scout Leader (Newtown)

Cub Scouts

There are currently eight Cub Packs in the Area, with the very active new Pack at Four Crosses. About half the groups attended a 'Round the World Camp' at Broneirion last summer. Activities included pioneering, a waterslide, painting flags, cooking pancakes and a World Cup football tournament. We had a campfire and a water fight with the Brownies!

In March we had a Wildlife Workshop in Welshpool with Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust. Cubs made nestboxes



and birdfeeders, played games, did quizzes and drawings at the Scout Hut, and had a minibeast hunt, pond dipping and other activities at the Severn Farm Nature Reserve. Many thanks to all those who helped with these activities.

Val Lewis - Assistant Area Commissioner (Cubs)

Scouts

It has been a trying year for Scouts in Montgomeryshire. We have seen quite a few problems in various groups of varying degrees, but out of all of this chaos, there has been regeneration.

Llanrhaeadr YM has come back stronger and fitter, their commitment and enthusiasm has been excellent. Llanidloes are still working hard to re-instate their group with the help of the parents, so there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The remaining Groups are still working hard to provide a wide range of activities for their programmes, but even some of the more traditionally strong Groups have struggled to keep their numbers at a healthy level.

We have a new Group being organised in Four Crosses, which have a healthy Cub Pack already. Good luck to them in their endeavours and thanks to the new Leaders taking this on.

Finally I would like to thank all Leaders, helpers and Scouts for their help in the running of Groups all over Montgomeryshire.

Martin Waterton - Assistant Area Commissioner (Scouts)



Explorer Scouts and Network

I am pleased to report that there continues to be a steady growth within the District/Area, with an increase in numbers for the Explorer Scouts.

It is with great credit that all Units are continuing to combine a very full and varied programme of events, managing to cover a wide range of activities. This has ensured that a fun, enjoyable, exciting and challenging time has been had by all those involved, Explorers and Leaders alike.

It has been very encouraging that all units are keen, and actively promoting, the completion of the Bronze, Silver and Gold D of E Awards.

William Colerick, from Llanrhaeadr Unit, has completed his Gold Award and is currently having his logbook checked by the D of E department. Five more Explorers should have completed their Gold Awards by November 2011.

I also have great hopes that, for the first time in many years, there will be some Queen Scouts in Montgomeryshire.

Additionally, later in the year, there will be some Explorer/Network Scouts working towards gaining their Explorer Belt.

I have great pleasure in announcing that Nichola Barrett, Explorer Scout Leader, is taking on the role of AAC (Explorers). I feel this will be an excellent appointment, and I am sure all the Explorer Scout Leaders will welcome her, and offer all their support in

her new role. I look forward to Nicky taking the Explorer Section forward.

I also have equal pleasure in passing on the news that Lee Wilkins has agreed to take on the role of starting up and looking after Network in Montgomeryshire. Lee is a former Explorer Scout, now living in Welshpool, and, again, I am sure everyone will wish Lee every success, and be keen to support and help him in every way. Lee will be concentrating on contacting all those in the Network age group (18-25 years).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Explorer Scout Leaders and helpers for all their hard work, dedication, commitment and enthusiasm when working with this sometimes demanding age group.

I am very aware, and indeed grateful, for all your continued support, and fully appreciate that the sacrifices you sometimes make, to ensure the smooth and successful running of your units.

Thank you once again, and please give Nicky and Lee your full support.

Arthur Colerick - Assistant Area Commissioner (Explorers)

Scout Active Support

This is happening at all levels of Scouting in Montgomeryshire: no official person has been appointment to represent the post of Scout Active Support. However, most Scouters of retirement level, as old as 81 years, give their support to one Section or





other in Montgomeryshire. This is supplying the need of safety in the Scouting Sections, if only as another pair of eyes, thus making safer the procedures of teaching skills and crafts, and the playing of games or any of the outdoor activities at meetings, thus allowing the practical function of the Scout Law in safe conditions. A personal contact with parents is also maintained. We hope progress is continued in this way to strengthen the Area's Scouting in all Sections. We await an appropriate appointment to the post of Scout Active Support.

***Philip King - Assistant Beaver Scout Leader
(Newtown)***



Currently there are Scout Groups in the following nine villages and towns in Montgomeryshire. Each Group consists of one or more of the Scout Sections - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - and may also have an Explorer Unit attached.

Abermule	Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant
Four Crosses & District	Montgomery
Guilfield	Newtown
Llanfair Caereinion	Welshpool (Clive's Own)
Llanidloes	

Abermule Group

Neckerchiefs: gold

Meeting place: Abermule Community Centre

Beavers: Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm

Cubs: Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm

There are plans to open a Scout Troop in September 2011.

BEAVERS

Abermule Beavers are still a busy strong Colony with a list of boys and girls waiting to join. At present we have 21 boys and 3 girls in our colony from many of the surrounding villages.



We have had a very enjoyable year where we have completed many challenge and activity badges including Adventure, Fitness, Air Activities and Hhealthy Eating. Beavers are currently trying to grow sun flowers as part of their Experiment badge.

In June we hosted the annual Beaver football tournament and were delighted to win the A and B team



sections. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening in which the games were played in great spirits with lots of encouragement from the many parents on the sidelines. Many thanks to Neil, Ashley and Mark for all their hard work, the Beavers really appreciate it.

One of the highlights of our year was a visit from Team Chain Reaction Cycles Elite Downhill riders Joe Smith and Matt Simmonds, who brought along bikes, kit and videos for us to see. They were brilliant with the Beavers, answering all their questions and allowing them to have a go on bikes and try on kit.

We also spent a fantastic day with Montgomery Forest School in the local woods, where we built shelters, played games, tried tracking and even made camp fires! It was a great experience which we will definitely be repeating in the future.

We celebrated Christmas, Chinese New Year and the Royal Wedding with the Cubs. Water and family nights were also a great success.

Our congratulations go to Steffan, Oliver, Jacob and Tomos who gained their Bronze Awards this year.

Finally I would like to thank Louise, our Assistant Beaver Leader, for all her help and congratulate her on the birth



of her new daughter. Also I would like to say a big thank you to Ffion and all the parents for their help and support throughout the year.

Linda Smith - Beaver Scout Leader

CUBS

We had a Hawaiian party and water night to end the summer term last year - the Cubs really enjoyed the limbo and water slide, with one of our Cubs being presented with a pineapple trophy for winning the limbo.

We have been doing our IT badges and also our Road Safety badge, when we went for a walk around the village to have a look at our local road signs.

We visited Newtown Fire Station at the end of October to have a look around and a talk on firework safety.



We celebrated the Royal Wedding with a joint party for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, which was great fun.

We are doing Pet Care this half term and have visited the vets, when we gained three new honorary canine Cubs for the night, complete with scarves.



We are attending the All Wales Cub Fun day and plan to have a sleepover on that night.

Another busy, but enjoyable year.

Siân Griffiths - Cub Scout Leader

Four Crosses & District Group

Neckerchiefs: royal blue

Meeting place: Four Crosses Village Centre

Beavers: Monday 6.00-7.15pm

Cubs: Monday 6.45-8.00pm

There are plans to open a Scout Troop in September 2011 (Monday 7.30-9.00pm)

BEAVERS

Once again the year has flown by. As usual the Football Tournament proved very popular, getting us all into a team frame of mind and setting us up for the summer programme.

We've visited India, Mexico and Sweden, even making o

ur own viking long ships, which some parents then had the challenge of getting home!

The Beavers have once again come up trumps when taking part in sponsorship for Children In Need and Comic Relief - we have a few budding comedians in our ranks, who loved being on the stage and telling jokes. The red jellython was embraced exceedingly seriously by some of our members (where they put it all was a mystery!).

We have made volcanoes, cared for pets, had treasure hunts, had a very cultured puppet theatre night and as always dressed up with great gusto for Halloween and Christmas.

As ever, the Beavers enjoy doing all the basic Scouting skills: striking and pitching tents, laying trails, camp cooking and even trying some knots.

We love playing games and had the best water fight ever - Red Squirrel and myself were absolutely soaked but we got the Beavers back!

We had a fabulous visit to Red Ridge (well worth a visit). Red Squirrel and myself joined in with the zip wiring -



very liberating after spending what felt like an eternity in their dark and cramped caving system.

To finish, it has also been our pleasure to swim some of our Beavers up into a thriving Cub Pack, so they can continue with their Scouting experience.

Anna Harris - Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

CUBS

We landed in Sept 2010 and we have grown ever since: we now have 28 cubs. I am so proud of all them!

This is what we have done in eight months:

- we did a fun day at Red Ridge with our Beaver Scouts
- we have been around Llanymynech Heritage Centre
- gained 14 activities badges



- performed at the Remembrance service and Christmas fair and service in the village.

The Leaders Kim, Donna, Julie and Chris are passionate about what they do. We are very pleased that Chris is setting up a Scout Section for September and Tanith Day is coming on board as another Assistant Cub Leader.

Kim Negri - Cub Scout Leader

Guilfield Group

Neckerchiefs: maroon with white edging

Scouts: Friday 7.30-9.00pm

(Explorer Scouts: Friday 7.30-9.00pm)

We are very pleased to report that the Scout Section have just started up again in Guilfield after a short break.

Llanfair Caereinion Group

Neckerchiefs: red with green edging and Group badge

Meeting place: The Institute, Llanfair Caereinion

Cubs: Tuesday 6.15-7.30pm

A successful year in Cubs with the investiture of 10 new recruits and the usual loss of the 'old age' ones!

We've tried to get the Cubs outdoors as much as the



weather would allow this year, playing games, treasure hunts and wildlife activities etc and the Wildlife Workshop back in March this year was thoroughly enjoyed by those that went, especially the pond dipping.

Badges included the Navigator and Chef badge which involved one of the Cubs (under the supervision of his parents, I hasten to add) actually helping to 'acquire' a pheasant which he then plucked, skinned and prepared before producing 'seared pheasant breast with pan juice vinaigrette'. Wow! I think he'll be bored in the Food Tech classes when he moves up to High School!

The highlight of the year had to be our Christmas party, for which we did a mock 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here' converted to 'I'm a Cub Get Me Out Of Here'. A very rowdy and messy night was had by all and some of the tasks included grovelling around in the pitch black for stars, downing cups of crocodile puss, beetle juice and Tasmanian devil blood, eating doughnuts (hands free) plus many more. Probably the favourite (and definitely the messiest) was 'face first': hands behind backs, face first, mouth only, to retrieve treasure in a bowl of firstly, tomato pasta (which they proceeded to eat!), then hippo blubber (black jelly) and finally cricket eggs (rice crispies).

We are now just hoping the great weather continues through the summer for lots more outdoors fun.

Llanidloes Group

Neckerchiefs: emerald green with lemon edging

Meeting place: The Drill Hall, Llanidloes

Youth Club, Llanidloes (Beavers)

Beavers: Wednesday 4.30-5.45pm

Cubs: Wednesday 5.30 to 7.15pm

BEAVERS

Llanidloes Beavers started back in April 2010 after a six month break. I now have four helpers: Lisa Stead, Caren Simmonds, Elise Pryor and Ann Owen, who help each once a month. During the last year we have been to Theatr Hafren to see 'Horrible Science' which the boys enjoyed.

Spar in Llanidloes donated some hessian bags and the Beavers put their own designs onto the bags and our photo was in the County Times with the Spar Manager.

The Beavers have visited the new Vicar at St Idloes Church. The Vicar gave us a tour of the Church and told us about the history of it. We have also been litter picking within the town, which we do once a term.

In December 2011 I will be standing down from my post and I have found two ladies to take over the Beaver Colony - Lisa Stead and Lisa Ashton.

Angela Davies - Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant Group

Neckerchiefs: Scout green with poppy red edging

Meeting place: New School Hall

Beavers: Monday 4.30-5.30pm

Cubs: Monday 5.45-7.15pm

Scouts: Monday 7.30-9.00pm

(Explorers: Friday 6.30-9.30pm)

Website address :

<http://llanrhaeadrym.ukscouts.org.uk/>

I write this report with pleasure and I am pleased to say we have quite a successful Group. This is down to an enthusiastic Executive Committee that is constantly

working to make our Scout Group an efficient Group that



will benefit all Members.

Our Beaver Section is getting to a situation where they will have to start a waiting list. Trips to farms, hikes and nights away plus an active weekly programme make the Beaver Section a very well-subscribed Section. It is a joy to visit them.

The Cub Section is also a well organised Section, with a camp under their belts already, the Cub Fun Day to look forward to and another camp in the offing. Membership is well up and new Cubs coming from the Beavers make the Cub Section a busy Section.

The Scouts are a different story. At the beginning of the year we had two Scouts and no Leaders. This is where the Executive Committee came into its own, advertising and contacting anyone who they thought could help. With a couple of false starts, and the help of other Leaders to keep the few Scouts we had together, we eventually got two keen Scout Leaders. This was what we wanted and, with the help of Area Leaders to train these two new Leaders, we soon had a thriving Scout Troop of 18 Scouts. The Scouts have had a camp, days out and all sorts of activities. A Group Camp is planned,



with the Cubs and Scouts setting up the camp on Friday and the Beavers coming on Saturday for the day and break camp on the Sunday - an event we are looking forward to.

But all this success brings problems – the main being lack of funds to finance the requirements of each Section. We hire the local school for our premises, and this is not cheap, but I am sure we will manage and I feel the future of Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant Scout Group is secure.

Fred Newall - Group Scout Leader



Montgomery Group

Neckerchiefs: red and white

Meeting place: Community Centre, Montgomery

Beavers: Wednesday 5.00 - 6.00pm

Cubs: Wednesday 5.00 - 6.30pm

Scouts: Tuesday 6.30 - 8.00pm

CUBS

Georgina Beesley took over Cubs in September and persuaded me to join her. We started off with five Cubs in our Pack but are very pleased to say we now have twelve (with two waiting to join later this year).

We have had lots of fun and completed many badges already.

Our local Policeman came to see us to talk about road safety and let us try on his bullet-proof vest.

At home the Cubs have completed the Book Reader and



Swimming Badges.

We visited the Ice Cream Farm (Dairy Dreams), the Ambulance Station in Welshpool, the Doctors' Surgery and the Fire Station in Montgomery (where we had to make a second visit due to the Fire Brigade being called out to a chimney fire).



Other interesting activities we undertook were drawing animals at the Castle Farm for the Artist Badge and a visit from Ted Bowen-Jones to help them with their Science Badge.



The Pack also cooked a meal (as part of their Chef Badge) for local dignitaries including the Mayor and her partner, the Headmistress and the Town Crier! This was a very hectic evening but no one was poisoned and they were complimented on their food and behaviour.

Jenny Brignell - Cub Scout Leader

SCOUTS

A good year and the numbers are steadily growing, even with us Leaders trying to put them off! Some of our older Scouts have expressed an interest in becoming Young Leaders, which is great news. We will be welcoming several Cubs up in September, so may end up with four complete patrols.

The year has flown by and we have been busy. In September we again enjoyed Operation Commando - thanks goes to the organisers. We entered three teams: one got lost, one got stuck in a bog and the third nearly completed the course in the time allowed. We will be back this year and have expressed an interest in entering a Leaders' team.

This year we have twinned with an Australian Scout Group - Beechworth. Its is hoped that both Groups will benefit from each other's experiences and that each learn a bit more about each other's country. Worryingly, Kerry has already bought his cork hat and shows a keen interest in kangaroos!

We have done several camps. Most notably we stayed at Conover Hall, near Shrewsbury, where we tried archery, high ropes and indoor caving to name but a few. The accommodation was excellent and the instructors very professional.



As a Troop we are trying to walk as much of Offa's Dyke as possible in the year and although we have only just started this challenge we have managed to walk from Newcastle (near Clun for those of you not so good at Geography) to Forden, camping in the haunted wood at Mellington to boot. To continue with the outdoor theme we plan to cycle the Kerry Ridgeway in a few weeks' time.

As always thanks go to the Executive Committee who support us and roll on next year.

Ken Whitmore - Scout Leader

Newtown Group

Neckerchiefs: red

Meeting place: Scout Hut, Newtown

Beavers: Tuesday 5.30-6.30pm

Cubs: Thursday 6.00-7.30pm

Scouts: Thursday 7.30-9.30pm

(Explorers: Thursday 7.30-9.30pm)

Our Beaver Section continues to run with steady numbers and a good varied programme with enthusiastic Leaders. Chris, Lucy and Phil are always there when you need them and run a well-organised Section.

The Cub Section continues to hold its numbers with a varied programme. Zoë Price has done an excellent job to continue the Section and our numbers are good. The Section is supported weekly by Phil King and myself, along with support from Wayne Walton, David Jones-Evans and Kevin Morgan.

Cub Camp went well at Mochdre last May. We had a good turnout despite very wet weather and the Scouts also joined us on the camp. We had access to the old School which was a camp saver - excellent 'party games' were played on the Saturday evening and well into Sunday morning. These games were enjoyed by Cubs, Scouts and the adults too.

The Scout Section has seen steady numbers for the last year with David Jones-Evans taking over the mantle of Scout Leader from Wayne Walton. We have got a programme running that they all enjoy - and we try to camp out as often as possible.

As mentioned, Scouts had a wet camp at Mochdre - with the theory being a Survival/Bivvy Camp - the weather put this to the test and we had all the Scouts in tents - their area of the field was well saturated!

The Scouts enjoyed the Operation Commando event in the Dyfant Forest, having camped out locally on a farmer's field on the Friday night. Our thanks go to the individuals who now have this down to a well-organised event and to Mr Hughes the local farmer.

The Scout Section has only managed to move on one Scout to Explorers due to the young age of the Section, but we will hold onto the Scouts we have and make sure Kevin Morgan has his hands full in Explorers soon!

As GSL, I give my sincere thanks to Chris Roberts, Lucy Humphreys, Phil King, Zoë Price, Wayne Walton, David Jones-Evans and Kevin Morgan (plus their partners, wives and husbands) and all the parents who have helped during the last year.

In the words of young Mr Grace 'You're all doing marvellously!'

Mark Woodhouse - Group Scout Leader

WELSHPOOL GROUP

Neckerchiefs: green and yellow halves

Meeting place: Scout Hut, Welshpool

Cubs: Monday 6.00-7.15pm

Scouts: Friday 7.30-9.00pm

(Explorers: alternate Tuesdays 8.00pm)



EXPLORERS

Our Explorer Scout Units are each attached to one of the Groups, but operate as independent Sections at District /Area level.

GUILSFIELD

The Explorer Unit is still going strong. We have a new group working on their Bronze D of E Awards and another just needing to complete the final expedition, to gain their Silver Awards.

We completed a memorable two day river trip and camp in May this year, on the Severn from Abermule to Pool Quay. We had fantastic weather and sand martins darting in and out from their nest holes in the river bank and we were also lucky to have a red kite fly over head for a while.

Steve Ellis - Explorer Scout Leader

LLANRHAEADR YM MOCHNANT - “Berwyn Beasts”

Since taking over from Arthur Colerick as ESL last year after our trip to Austria, our numbers diminished as the older ones started Network.

We have done a lot of walking around the area, and camping. We have also completed the River Wye Challenge again this year, which everyone enjoyed.

There are two Young Leaders at the moment and we are

hoping some more will follow. There is also a group of Explorers starting their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards and others starting their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Ritchie Howes - Explorer Scout Leader

NEWTOWN

This has been a fairly quiet year for our Unit, the previous Explorers having completed their A level exams and moved on to higher education. It has been a rewarding and fulfilling four years.

Now the Unit has to build up again and this has started with one new Explorer Scout, meetings running alongside Newtown Scouts, and more expected to follow in September when we plan to continue with a full and challenging programme.

Kevin Morgan - Explorer Scout Leader

WELSHPOOL

The Unit now has seven members meeting fortnightly on Tuesday evenings.

The Tuesday evening meetings have been used for everything from lightweight cooking to competitive challenges, first aid to mapping and knotting, and the Unit has taken part in the Area Operation Commando and Night Hike during the year as usual. Other activities have included the annual night hike up to Rodney's Pillar, this year completed in semi-foggy conditions on top - but hey, it's always different.

Disappointed at the apparent lack of interest in an Area Hafod weekend, we are planning our own mountain away day shortly.

Peter Cadwallader - Explorer Scout Leader