



# The Scout County of Avon BULLETIN



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**OCTOBER  
2001**

**Vol. 1 No. 4**

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*by 11 November 2001 please*



## COUNTY COMMISSIONER WRITES....

Welcome to the October Bulletin and my first since taking over from Roger in the hot seat as County Commissioner.

Hopefully, despite the continuing Foot and Mouth crisis, the summer period gave you and your young people the opportunity to explore the Great Outdoors. I managed to pop in on three groups from Avon at their Summer Camp. Whilst each camp had their own individual style they all had a common thread; Young people having fun and experiencing a wide range of activities in a safe but challenging environment.

Over the summer period we said good bye to Syd Cherrill as he stood down from the role of ACC(International). Syd has made a fantastic contribution in extending the International Dimension within the County and will be a hard act to follow. It was fitting that on his last evening he presented a number of International Friendship Awards to members of 1<sup>st</sup> Clevedon recognising the International Links that the Group have made with Romania Scouts.

The Autumn is often a time for fresh starts and new beginnings - new schools, new friends or perhaps a move from one Section to another. This year it also takes on a new meaning as we start to make plans for the implementation of Programme Review in 2002. Whilst it will be another 12 months before we start to move to the new programme the planning process starts now and will kick off with District workshops in October/November covering the new Explorer Scout and Scout Network . For more details of your local event please contact your District Change Agent.

Also look out for details on next years Golden Jubilee celebrations for our Queen. A pack of programme ideas and details of the special badge that all members can wear will be sent to all groups soon so:

Be Prepared to make a difference .....

**Neil Salter**  
County Commissioner

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*COUNTY OFFICE HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING AWARDS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE CHIEF SCOUT.*

### BAR TO MEDAL OF MERIT

M.J. Evans, CSL, 63<sup>rd</sup> Bristol, BNW

### MEDAL OF MERIT

Mrs. M. Abel, Member, District Fellowship, City of Bath.

C.T. Franklin, SL, 61<sup>st</sup>/104<sup>th</sup> Bristol, BNW

P.A. Hart, SL, 61<sup>st</sup>/104<sup>th</sup> Bristol, District Activity Advisor  
(Canoeing) BNW

Mrs J.C. Staddon, GSL, 234<sup>th</sup> Bristol, BNW

S.A. Daniels, G.S.L., C.D. Jones, S.L. 133<sup>rd</sup> Bristol, BSE

J.G. Hainsworth, ACSL, 1st Thornbury, SevernVale

### CHIEF SCOUT COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

M.Coombes, Group Treasurer, Bath City Centre, City of Bath

Mrs H.M. Ford BSL, 10<sup>th</sup> Bath (Combe Down), City of Bath

Mrs A. Norton, District Fellowship, City of Bath

T. Tugwell, F. Twissell, A. Webb, J. Wilkinson, Member of

Group Executive Bath City Centre, City of Bath

Mrs L. Whipp, Group Treasurer, 21<sup>st</sup> Bath (Victoria Hall), City  
of Bath

R.A. Ford, GSL, 61<sup>st</sup>/104<sup>th</sup> Bristol, BNW

### FIVE YEARS SERVICE CERTIFICATE

Diane Valerie Whaites AXE

Conrad Jonathan Banks, Neil Andrew Loudon, Stephen

Philip Russell, Steven Turley BNW

Katherine Elizabeth Emery, Gladys Horne, Dennis John

Lane, Janice Mary Thorn, Ian Thomson BSE

Gary Keith Garland-Turner BSW

James Michael Hutton CITY of BATH

Paula Jane Fussell, James Harvey Hill, Claire Jayne Light,

Sheila Patricia Sabin, Steven Lewis Charles Simpson

GORDANO

### FIVE YEARS SERVICE CERTIFICATE

Continued

Rhydian Pugn Bevan, Margaret Booz SEVERNVALE

Heather Kapelko, Sally Elizabeth Smith,

Stephen Mark Young SOUTH COTSWOLD

Roderick Findlay WANSDYKE

### TEN YEARS SERVICE CERTIFICATE

Jane Elizabeth Gomm AXE

Christopher James, Linda Kelly, Simon Christopher Evans.

BSE

Brigid Marie Horton, Peter Richard Jennings,

Jennifer Beatrice Lodder CITY of BATH

Valerie Elizabeth Mackin, Dilwen Miller, Gwendoline Mary

Sales, Peter Robert Chadwick Smith GORDANO

Geoffrey John Iles KINGSWOOD

Kathleen Vera Green SOUTH COTSWOLD

Claire Hazell WANSDYKE

### LONG SERVICE DECORATION

Marshall Thiery Tucker AXE

Angela Samantha Bolley BNE

Christopher David Jones BSE

Howard Burgess LL.B. CITY of BATH

Graham Alan Brant KINGSWOOD

Gary John Obern WANSDYKE

### BAR TO THE LONG SERVICE DECORATION

Janet MacGregory BSW

Anne Sullivan GORDANO

Bryan William Ashton, Peter Lorymer Wills KINGSWOOD

Ian Michael Carter WANSDYKE

### *THE CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD FOR LONG SERVICE*

*Correction from the June 2001*

Derek Reginald Clifford

Former ACC(LT)

and active supporter at Woodhouse Park



***THE LORD WRAXALL*** 26 AUGUST 1928 – 19 JULY 2001

## THE MALL FOUNTAIN FUND – GRANTS AVAILABLE NOW

Grants of up to £400 are available for 'needy' Groups

(more is available under exceptional circumstances)

Application is simple and is made by writing to

**Robin Nash, 43 Avon Way,**

**Stoke Bishop, BRISTOL BS9 ISL**

(Tel 0117 968 1364)

detailing purpose of the grant and amount sought.

It is most important you send a Tel.No. or Address with your grant application so we could contact you if more details are needed

Application for larger grants can be made to the Greater Bristol Foundation.

## COUNTY GANG SHOW

- 30 October to 3 November

For anyone who hasn't been to a Gang Show, you've missed a great night's entertainment. The Gang Show is performed at the Bristol Hippodrome by members of the Scout movement, from Cubs to leaders and includes young adults and leaders from Guiding. From all across the 'old' Avon County, the cast is 100 strong with a support team of equal size. A fast moving two and a half hour show of songs, dances and sketches, which changes each year, has not only delighted audiences for 28 years but also given those who take part a real sense of teamwork and achievement. This year the Gang Show is again at the Bristol Hippodrome during the school autumn half-term week, Tuesday 30th October to Saturday 3rd November. Those on stage have already been rehearsing every week since February and are looking to the rest of the Scout and Guide movements to support them and come and see the Show. To recognise previous support, this year we are offering Scout and Guide Groups a free leader ticket for each 10 tickets booked. Not only that, a coach service is available to take your group to the Hippodrome and home again. There are several leaders in the Show so we know how time consuming it can be to organise it all. So, we can help here as well! We have provided a personal contact for you who will take some of the hassle of organising away from you. They will help you with any queries, book your tickets and deliver them to you. On top of that they will arrange your coach transport for the evening; give them a ring to find out the cost for your area. A letter is provided on the county website at [www.avonscouts.org.uk/forms](http://www.avonscouts.org.uk/forms) for you to fill in the blanks, copy and give to all your boys and girls. When the money has been collected, simply contact your personal contact to arrange the rest. Every Scout and Guide group that books will also be entered into a free prize draw for a **£100 voucher from Outdoors** (formerly known as the Scout Shop). An entry form is also available at [www.avonscouts.org.uk/forms](http://www.avonscouts.org.uk/forms). The Gang Show is just one of the many Scouting activities in which Scouts can take part. Financially it supports itself but more than that, it provides an opportunity for personal development and hours of enjoyment for many young people. Further information on the Gang Show is available at [www.avonscouts.org.uk/gangshow](http://www.avonscouts.org.uk/gangshow) **Please come and see this years Show, it'll be worth it!**

Yours in Scouting,  
Harry Harrop Publicity Manager

Your personal contact is: Mike Harper, Bergendal, 1A Cains Close, Kingswood, South Gloucestershire BS15 9ZB Email: [mike.harper@avonscouts.org.uk](mailto:mike.harper@avonscouts.org.uk)

## VACANCY

*In order for the County to run effectively, a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes, which is vital for the smooth running of the organisation.*

*Much of that work is done at committee and sub-committee levels and the County is desperately short of people to take minutes at these meetings, including County Executive and Sectional meetings.*

*If you feel that you would like to support the work of one of these various committees and have an ability take minutes, then please contact either Peter Hanna or Carol Smith at the County Office*

*This is a role suitable for anyone, whether uniformed or not, male or female, and the more volunteers we have - the better. We can find roles for everyone!*

**SO ... pick up the 'phone and speak to Peter or Carol now on 01454 613006**

## Children's Hospital Cub Pack

The Children's Hospital Cub Pack is now registered and the first meeting will be on 19<sup>th</sup> October. If anyone wants to be a volunteer please contact Margaret Harvey on (0117) 962 4920

## LEGOLAND – WINDSOR

Legoland will be putting on a Special Badge Day on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November for Cub Scouts to do their Hobbies Badge. Please contact Margaret Harvey on (0117) 962 4920 a.s.a.p. at least by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001 if you and your Cubs want to go.



## National Lottery Grants for your Group

Awards for All is a grants programme set up to help small groups.

If you are a local group and you need between £500 and £5,000. Awards for All may be able to help you. Awards for All can fund projects which involve people in their local community, bringing them together to take part in a range of arts, sport, heritage, charitable and other community activities. Sometimes quite small sums of money can have a big impact. Awards for All aims to make a real difference to smaller groups and strengthen community activity.

- You can apply at any time
- The application form asks for basic information
- You hear the result in three months

Contact the hotline number 0845 600 2040 or visit our website for an application pack on [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)

## EDITOR'S bit

*After this death of a dear friend who was only 29, I wonder how other people would react to a death of a young child in their Group (Colony, Pack, Troop or Unit). With me it was the shock, and then I thought I could have done more to make the time when she was alive better – but I didn't know how bad it was.*

*As a loss of a good friend or close relative is an uncommon experience for younger people and it can present a particularly difficult challenge to caring leaders.*

*Bereavement, whether an adult or a child, has normally four stages, Initially the reaction is shock, next comes an acceptance of what has happens, then may come a time of idealisation where the bereaved person looks back with 'rose coloured spectacles' and finally adjustment will follow. These steps can take a few hours or many months – it is all depends on what the relationship, strength of character and faith.*

(More details on Bereavement can found on Factsheet FS250019)

*Yours in Scouting*

*Dave Owen*



## Mountain Activities - Forthcoming Events

### Navigation and Skills for the Hills Course

**26th - 28th October 2001.**

**There are still a number of vacancies on this course**

For those Leaders in the County who either want to improve essential basic skills for leading groups in the hills before applying for a Form M or for those who just wish to brush up their skills. Based in a very comfortable bunkhouse at Postbridge, Dartmoor. The instructor/student ratio will be 1-2(or3 at the most) so the program / level of instruction can be tailored to suit individual needs/levels of experience. Cost will be £30. Application forms can be obtained from County Office, Judy Walters or myself.

### Winter Skills Weekend - Lake District

**15th - 17th February 2002**

Further details of this weekend will appear in the next bulletin. Details will also shortly be posted on the Mountain Activities web page:- [www.avonscouts.org.uk/mountainactivities/](http://www.avonscouts.org.uk/mountainactivities/)

### Ice Axes & Crampons

I hold a number of Ice axes and Crampons that the County Mountaineering Section have recently purchased. They are available to hire to suitably qualified people, please contact me for further details.

Philip Appleton, County Mountaineering Advisor (01179862163 or e-mail [philip.appleton@avonscouts.org.uk](mailto:philip.appleton@avonscouts.org.uk) )

## THE LIFE OF LORD WRAXALL – COUNTY PRESIDENT

16/5/28 – 19/7/01

Lord Wraxhall died suddenly at home at Tynesfield.

His association with Scouting began whilst he was at Eton College where he was a Senior Scout at the time he left to attend the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He recommenced his links with Scouting following his 20 years in the armed services, initially with the Coldstream Guards, when he rose to the rank of Major. He was the Group Chairman of the Wraxall Group for four years. He then took on the role of District Chairman of Gordano District for the following 6 years. Prior to becoming County President he was County Chairman, a post which he held for about twelve years.

During all this time he made his Tynesfield Estate available for many Scouting activities, most recently when he hired out an area for the County Jamboree last year.

As well as being an active supporter of Scouting he will also be sadly missed by the other organisations which he supported, some of which are noted here.

He was a lifelong member of the Conservative Association holding several positions locally. He held fundraising events and hosted high-ranking Conservative Association members at his mansion.

He was a Council member and former steward of the Royal Bath and West Show over many years.

As a staunch member of the Church of England he also offered his support as a Patron of 3 Livings and was member of the Parochial Church Council, again over many years.

Through his business interests as a landowner he was an active member of the National Farmers Union and former Chairman of the Somerset County branch of the Country Landowners Association. He was Council Member and former Regional Chairman of the Timber Growers Association.

He was a Vice President of the Avon South Guide Association and also District President of Nailsea South Guide District

Lord Wraxall – George Richard Lawley Gibbs – was presented with the Silver Acorn in 1981 and later awarded the Silver Wolf in 1989 for his services to Scouting.

## AVON OUTWARD BOUND ASSOCIATION

Avon Outward Bound Association entered two teams of Venture Scouts for the Outward Bound Charity Challenge Competition this summer. The top 12 teams, from the 60 odd that entered, going through to the Finals at the end of August. The A team got through, but unfortunately Paul Sheppard (90th) was in Hospital and Kerry Whitton (Polar) came in the night before to join Sam Aaron (90th) John Buckell (99th and Team Captain) and Richard Breed (Polar). They came 4th, although they hadn't met since the May heat, whereas the winning team had been training for 6 weeks for the final!

Outward Bound is also running a Wilderness Challenge at the moment, which has a survival weekend in Snowdonia. This should be right up Venture Scout's street but sadly the only entries from Avon have been two from Polar VSU and one from Alveston, who have been allotted places on the November heat for only £10 a head for the weekend.

The fact that the team hadn't met as a team for either the heat or final until they got to Eskdale must say something for their level of Scout training!

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

**2001**

*This is a event organised by The Scout County of Avon and Bristol & South Gloucestershire and North Somerset Guide Counties. This year the Carol Service will be at Victoria Methodist Church, High Street, Keynsham. on 9<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm.*

*Everyone is welcome – Facilities for Hearing and Visual Impairment can be catered for. If a person will need these facilities please contact Liz Bell on 01934 832518*

*Father Christmas will be there, collecting presents for a local cause.*

### County Website

[www.avonscouts.org.uk](http://www.avonscouts.org.uk)

There have been some further enhancements to the County website . . .

#### Activities Information

The County "Activity Resource Book" has now been converted to an on-line resource. In addition to providing information on the wealth of activities available within the county, each page also provides links to relevant badges, Headquarters Factsheets, POR and other organisations.

#### On-line Diary

Need to know the date of a forthcoming training course or key event? The county website now includes an on-line Diary System.

To receive updates by email just send a blank email to [joinmailinglist@avonscouts.org.uk](mailto:joinmailinglist@avonscouts.org.uk) to join the county email mailing list.

Do you help the local community ?

Win £1000 in the

### MISS MILLIE'S GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARDS

If you are in the Bristol area and actively help the local community in some way you could win a prize in this year's competition sponsored by Miss Millie's Fried Chicken

**1<sup>st</sup> prize : £600**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> prize : £250**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> prize : £150**

Any Bristol-based voluntary scheme which assists its local community is eligible to enter and the scheme may be for a new or existing project.

Simply call 0117 921 1131 and ask for an entry form.

**CLOSING DATE:**  
**31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2001**

## COUNTY BUSINESS MATTERS

As you will appreciate there have been no business meetings during the Summer break therefore I can not advise you of any new initiatives or decisions relating to these.

I can, however inform you of the following :-

### County Telephone Directory

We are currently working on a revised County Telephone Directory that we hope to publish by the end of October. Circulation will be to County people directly and to District people via District Secretaries. It is intended as a working document and entries more suitable to a 'year book' will not, in future, be included.

It is hoped that we will be able to reduce costs by keeping the circulation to those that require the information contained. We are, as ever, reliant on being informed of up to date information – particularly relating to Districts.

A master copy will be retained and continuously updated electronically at County Office so that future publications can be produced more easily, subsequently, with up to date copies produced individually to any 'new' appointees as required.

### Health & Safety sub-Committee

The County Executive Committee has appointed Peter Bartlett as Chairman of the Health & Safety sub-Committee. The subject of Health & Safety has excited a considerable amount of activity over recent months and it is intended that all in our County adopt 'best practice' in all respects. As a reminder of our responsibility perhaps it is best illustrated by the notice that appeared above each mirror in the washroom of an industrial workplace. It read – 'You are now looking at the person responsible for safety in this workplace.'

### County 'Officers' Workshops

Sue Gillett and I are putting the finishing touches to a workshop that is to be held at the 229<sup>th</sup> Headquarters on 21 October. It will be for all District Officers (Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary) and is intended to support these important people, both continuing and new in office this year. It will be in two parts. The first 'sessions' will be held as a single group during the morning with the later afternoon 'sessions' being in role specific groups.

The workshop is designed to be informative and supportive so that the wider work within Districts and County can be enhanced. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

Peter Hanna  
County Secretary

## Thoughts of a Wrinkly Venture Scouter

Well they've gone and done it! Venture Scouting, as we know it, will cease to exist sometime in 2002. After much consultation, deliberation and, I've no doubt in some cases, frustration the powers that be have decided there shall be no more Venture Scouts.

Instant reaction - shock, horror, mass wringing of hands, digging in of heels - change, we don't do change! We're comfortable with Venture Scouting, why should we move out of the comfort zone? It's served us for over 30 years.

Hang on though - Scouting is for young people. The policy makers wouldn't have changed things without taking their views on board - let's actually read what they want to replace it with.

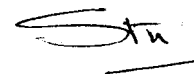
Different Age Range - Explorer Scouts - Scout Networker (sounds like a lace factory).

Not too sure about the names - let's read on - more choice, that sounds good - everyone 18-25 will be involved in the Network, getting better - the programme will be based on 6-25, great - where is this programme - what do you mean it's not available until February 2002 - young people are still involved in it's finalising touches - well that's good - at least they haven't slung it all at us in one go and told us to get on with it - maybe they have got it right! Maybe!

Just to put my mind at rest I'll speak to a Young Leader involved in the change – Young Leader, what's it all about? - background to the review (enthusiasm) why we should change (more enthusiasm) future of Scouting (enthuse! enthuse!) and all that enthusiasm was coming from him - but wait - some of it seems to have rubbed off on to me. If the young people think there's got to be change surely it's their right to expect a wrinkly like me to support them. Things have changed in 30 years - changes are needed – good changes - changes that help the young people realise their fall potential - how do we judge whether these changes will be good? - time will tell - that probably won't be for a wrinkly like me to worry about.

Let's read what little hard information there is again - makes more sense now - if you don't understand anything speak to your Change Agent, every District has one - that's good, I'll speak to them.

You know I think if we in Venture Scouting, and Scouting in general, support these young people in their Programme Review we may well be on a winner! Let's at least give it a go without whinging about how good Scouting was in our day - these young people hopefully will be saving the same thing in their dotage!!!



## DIVING

PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) and The Scout Association partnership program allows your Cub Scouts, Scouts or Venture Scouts to obtain professional instruction towards with their training as follows:

PADI Bubblemaker = Cub Scout Hobbies Badge PADI Junior Diver or PADI Junior Open Water Diver = Scout Water Sports Badge

PADI Scuba Diver or PADI Open Water Diver = Elements of Venture Scout Award or Queens Scout Award.

On Thursday 31st May, ten scouts from two London area Scout Groups were the first in the UK to try out the new PADI Seal Team, culminating in agreement with the Scout Association(UK), to implement a dedicated Scout Seal Team Program, based on Seal Team Aquamission 1. The Program, designed in close consultation with the Scout Association, introduces adventurous Scouts to the Seal Team concept. You can see further details at [www.padisealteam.com](http://www.padisealteam.com)

Ocean Dreams ([www.oceandreams.co.uk](http://www.oceandreams.co.uk)) is a local Dive Centre, based in Broomhill Road, Brislington. Ocean Dreams will arrange all your Scouts diving needs, from the dedicated Scout Seal Team Program to full Open Water Diver qualification.

The Ocean Dreams Training Team is dedicated to make your young people and even some of the leaders, have fun.

For more information on all Diving Courses, please e-mail me at [Dive@oceandreams.co.uk](mailto:Dive@oceandreams.co.uk) or telephone me on 0117 9721960.

Dive PADI! Have Fun!

Dave Matthews, Shop Instructor, Ocean Dreams Scuba Diving Centre