

## Editors Bit

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a very prosperous 2006, well if I put December in the date then I might get away with it, but although in some ways it is ages until Christmas on the other hand it feels as if I am already behind!

## Cycle4Charity

Solihull Rotary held their annual Cycle4Charity event at Illshaw Heath on 18th September and Solihull Scouting was well represented by Groups from Blythe District and Members from County. The event, which was held at the Model Railway Engineers' grounds, had all the atmosphere of a village fete and the Charity cycle ride was centered around this; there were rides on Model Trains, school bands and orchestras, and the various stalls and attractions included a hot dog stand and an aerial walkway by 13th Solihull and a 'pick a straw' stand by 1st Tidbury Green. 5th Shirley took part in the cycle ride and County's own DAL Lardner completed no less than 16 miles (plus the ride between his home and the event!). In total, Scouts raised around £350 for local Charities (including Scouting).



13th's Aerial Runway

This was a commendable effort as this was the first time Scouts had participated in the event and we didn't really know what to expect. The organisers are hoping to hold the event earlier next year and with the experience gained this year we hope to be able to put on a bigger and better show in 2006.

## Ladies Scout Trousers

Mary Carroll has a new pair of size 10 Ladies Scout trousers (ordered for leader that subsequently left!); free to good home if anyone interested. Contact Mary on [mrsmarycarroll@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mrsmarycarroll@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Solihull Gang Show '04 – 06

The Gang Show team hope to keep the friendship and fun from the last show alive and running so, if you want to be involved, Please do get in touch through this newsletter. If you want to get involved please speak to Andy or Iain I am sure that they would love to hear from you. The dates for the Show in 2006 are the week of the 26<sup>th</sup> Nov to 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We are already looking at appointing the 'Team' So if you have got a special skill that you feel would help the production Team then please get in touch via [Solscoutnews@aol.com](mailto:Solscoutnews@aol.com).

## 1<sup>st</sup> Marston Green Scout and Guide Band

Do you enjoy music? Are you committed to Scouting? Do you enjoy working with young people? Then you could be what we are looking for! Marching bands are becoming a rare breed, and it would be wonderful if the future of our band could be guaranteed. We would welcome any new members or anyone interested in contributing to our efforts in any way. Please email [richard@richardforbes.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:richard@richardforbes.wanadoo.co.uk)

## Pakistan Earthquake

13th Solihull Tudor Grange Scouts were contacted to ask if we had any tents we could donate to the relief in northern Pakistan. QM sorted out 3 patrol tents which were collected the next day A flight chartered from Birmingham 27th would take 600 tents, plus blankets direct to the areas needing them most in the north. This aid was being co-ordinated by members of families who had direct contact with those most in need in the remote areas and was all by private donations. Our thoughts and prayers went with the tents. Look out on the hillside for Scout Patrol Tents and say a little prayer

## MDM

Yes This is new title that HQ have dreamed up to make us more up to date! It stands for Media Development Manager and as I was the newsletter Editor, I sort of got the job.

What is it? Well that is up to you lot, one of my roles is to give support to any of you that are running event or have great stuff to say about you, your group, Unit, troop, pack or colony, get as much out as possible. So give me a ring and let me know what is going on so we can make the most of Scouting, which we all know is always Great News.

If any of you are budding reporters, give me a ring and we will see what we can do.

## The National Scout and Guide Symphony

**Orchestra** - "Where else could you turn up as a stranger and leave having met some of the best friends of your life?"

The National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra started in 1976 and has met annually all over the United Kingdom ever since.

The NSGSO brings together between about 70 young people every year for a seven day course which normally ends with two public concerts. The music played is varied and challenging and has in the past included - Holst's Suite "The Planets", Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.2, Shostakovich's Symphony No.5 Op 47, Grieg's "Peer Gynt", Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" and much more.

The Orchestra also embarks on a tour abroad approximately every four / five years, past tours have taken the Orchestra to USA, Greece, Germany, The Czech Republic and Estonia. The Orchestra has also been found performing in such prestigious venues as Westminster Abbey, St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and The Royal Albert Hall as well as performances for Royalty

All members of the Orchestra are active members of the Scout Association or Girlguiding UK and are aged between 13 and 30 and are proficient players of at least one orchestral instrument.

The course is led by an experience orchestral conductor and supported by a team of professional musicians as section tutors. Intensive rehearsals are interspersed with an active programme of varied sports, crafts, Scouting and Guiding activities.

Through the National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra, its members gain not only orchestral skills to develop their creative talent, but also the fun and friendship which are integral parts of Scouting and Guiding.

The 2006 course will be held in the south west from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August, venue yet to be confirmed

Application Forms now available from the organiser, Derek Jackson:-  
Tel: 01189 341 939 E-mail: [djnsqso@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:djnsqso@yahoo.co.uk)

## Facts about Scouting in Solihull

Below are a few facts about Scouting in Solihull that you may find useful

- County youth membership of 1,700 includes nearly 450 Beaver Scouts (6-8 year olds), 650 Cub Scouts (8-10½ year olds), 450 Scouts (10½ -14 year olds) and over 100 Explorer Scouts (14-18 year olds).
- There are 31 Scout Groups covering the county of Solihull.

- Over 450 adult volunteers, totalling more than 2,100 people, support scouting in Solihull.
- In the past year, girls' membership has grown 2%.
- Between 2004 and 2005, adult volunteers in Solihull have grown by 3%.

## 2005 Totals

Youth Members	Adult Members	Total Members
1673	463	2136

## More Generic Facts

- More young people do adventurous activities as Scouts than with any other organisation
- No other organisation offers such a range of challenging or exciting activities as Scouting
- Each year Scouts spend over 2 million nights away from home doing adventurous activities
- You are never more than 10 miles from a Scout meeting place - Adventure is accessible
- Adults working in Scouting contribute in excess of 295 million hours of voluntary work each year to their local communities:-
- Sectional meetings 3 hours a week
- over 46 weeks 138
- A couple of weekend camps 96
- Planning and District meetings 36
- Training 10
- Day trips - 3 per year 36
- Admin 2 hours per week 90
- Total average number of hours a year 406

**That's an average of 50 working days for every volunteer (at 8 hours a day) and a total of over £300m of value (if paid at first step of level 3 Locally Qualified/ Unqualified Salaries NJC rates of £10.20 an hour).**

## Solihull County Web site

Have you checked out the Solihull County website. on [www.solihullscoutcounty.org.uk](http://www.solihullscoutcounty.org.uk). Why not give it a try and tell us what you would like to see on the site and how you would like to use it. It is there for all of you so please do use it and tell us what you think

Dear Auntie P

*Why do we always keep getting told that scouting is Fun and we have the OUT in Scouting, but then whenever we start having fun we get told off, told to come inside and stop doing whatever we were doing. Charlie*

Dear Charlie

*Well it is like this. We all need to have fun, and the best time of all for Leaders is telling you lot to stop doing it, and come in that way we all win Auntie P*

## Newsletter Editor

Andy Moore, 540 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull Fax 01926 884549 Tel 0121 704 0657 email [Solscoutnews@aol.com](mailto:Solscoutnews@aol.com)

Articles for the next Newsletter by end December 2005, please