



*ANNUAL REPORT 2006*



I'm delighted to introduce this year's Annual Report. Much has happened around the world - and a lot of it not for the best – but I am proud to say that Scouting is still playing its part in building a culture of peace. British Groups Abroad are very much part of this.

Many thanks and congratulations to all in BGA, who continue to work very hard to offer a varied and effective Scout programme to our young members. We in the BGA Team in the UK will continue to do all we can to help.

We are now very much in the countdown to the start of our Centenary Year. The highlights will be:

#### **Centenary Camps**

The aim is to have everyone in UK Scouting out and about at the same time – focussed on 26 May but it could be longer. Your Group could have a day event, an overnight or even longer: it could be indoors or outdoors. In fact the format is for you to decide – just so long as you seize the chance to have a celebration at the same time as everyone else in UK Scouting.

#### **Scouting's Sunrise – 1 August**

At 0800 local time, Scouts of all ages will be gathering in their localities throughout the world to renew their Scout promise. This will coincide with two big events in the UK: the World Scout Jamboree and a special world gathering on Brownsea Island with Scouts from all countries camping on the original site of the first camp.

#### **Sectional Celebrations**

There will be four key Join-in Centenary badges. Everyone will be able to wear them!

The badges will be worn in a diamond pattern either on uniform or on a special Centenary scarf that is now available.

You may choose to wear the scarf in addition to the Group scarf (tied in a friendship knot and kept as a souvenir).

The badges will be awarded as follows:

**Join-in-Centenary badge:** as soon as they participate in, or support, the Join-in Centenary programme from January 2007

**Centenary Camps badge:** as soon as they participate in, or support, a Centenary Camp

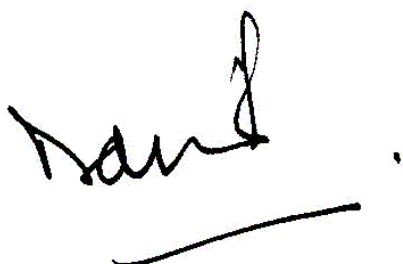
**Scouting's Sunrise badge:** as soon as they participate in, or support, a Scouting's Sunrise event on 1 August

**Bring a Friend badge:** earned at any time in 2007 and awarded for bringing a friend to a Scouting activity

I look forward to hearing all about your Centenary celebrations and hope that you enjoy reading this year's Report!

Mark John joined us in 2005 but other pressures have meant that he has not been able to continue. Marcus Cox also left the County during the year. We thank them for their work and wish them well in the future.

Debbie Phillips and Darren Bretton have joined us as County Scouters for Beaver Scouts and Scouts respectively. We welcome them and hope they enjoy their stay with us. They have active roles in other Counties in the UK and bring a wealth of experience with them which they will be happy to share with you.



**David Bull**  
International Commissioner  
County Commissioner, British Groups Abroad

*Groups, Units and Scout Networks in membership of  
British Groups Abroad*

*as at 11 August 2006:*

<u>Ascension Island</u>	1st Ascension Island Ascension Island Explore Scout Unit
<u>Bahrain</u>	Group possible to be formed in September 2006
<u>British Groups Abroad – County</u>	“Compass” Explorer Scout Unit Scout Network (Spain)
<u>Falkland Islands</u>	1st Falkland Islands Falkland Islands Explorer Scout Unit
<u>Greece</u>	St Catherine’s Attica
<u>Malaysia</u>	1st Kuala Lumpur
<u>Norway</u>	1st Stavanger
<u>Oman</u>	1st Oman Oman Explorer Scout Unit
<u>Qatar</u>	1st Doha
<u>Saint Helena</u>	1st Jamestown Jamestown Explorer Scout Unit
<u>Singapore</u>	Tanglin Trust School
<u>Spain</u>	1st Mallorca 1st Fuengirola (The Ark) The Ark Explorer Scout Unit
<u>Sweden</u>	1st Djursholm
<u>Turkey</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> Istanbul
<u>Uganda</u>	1st Kampala (Crested Crane)
<u>United Arab Emirates</u>	1st Abu Dhabi 1st Dubai 2nd Dubai 3rd Dubai 1st Sharjah



*The District badge for Spanish BGAs*

## *County Secretary*

This, our third Annual Report, covers the period from April 2005 to March 2006. I must firstly record my thanks to Bob Spargo, County Secretary until August 2005, for his support to me in handing over well organised files and also for continuing to be on the end of an email with his knowledge of BGA.

### *BGA Essentials:*

There have been no major changes to the BGA 'handbook' during the year. The current version is available at [www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/uk/bag/index.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/uk/bag/index.htm) . BGA Essentials will be fully reviewed by the end of 2006 and any changes will be notified to Group Contacts.

### *Activities:*

The Nights Away Authorisation Scheme has been in operation since September 2004 and a number of Leaders are applying for their permits, ensuring that young people with BGA are able to take part in outdoor experiences.

The Adventurous Activity Authorisation Scheme has been reviewed nationally and hopefully this will enable more BGA leaders to gain authorisation to increase participation in, safe, adventurous activities.

### *Appointments:*

Expatriate life means that adults (and young people) arrive and leave at short notice. During the 12 month period under review, 32 adults have been issued with a Provisional Appointment and a number have completed their Getting Started training to receive their full Warrant.

One issue that leads to delays in issuing Provisional Appointments and Full Warrants is the completion of the Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. Hopefully, there will be an amended form that may be simpler to complete - although a major part of the delay is outside the control of the Association.

Unfortunately, 36 Warranted Leaders and Section Assistants have left BGA. Our thanks to them and to anyone else who has left that we haven't yet been notified about! If the experience of supporting Scouting through BGA has been good, then it is possible to notify the local Scout County/District of an experienced Leader/Assistant moving back to the UK - but only if we know.

### *Awards:*

*Bar to the Silver Acorn*  
*Honorary Scouter, British Groups Abroad*

**Robert Spargo**                      **lately County Secretary**

*For further specially distinguished service*

*Honorary Scouter, British Scouts Abroad*

**Raymond Hudson**                      **1<sup>st</sup> Jamestown**

*The following Service Awards have been issued to March 2006:*

*50 years Service*  
**Peter Kinton**                      **Honorary Scouter**

*10 years Service*

Jo Pawson                      1st Abu Dhabi  
Eileen Clark                 1st Stavanger  
Catherine Magnay         1st Kampala (Crested Crane)  
Tim Miller                    1st Falkland Islands

*5 years Service*

Suzanne Baxter             1st Oman  
Cynthia George            1st Jamestown  
Zorina Vondracek         1st Dubai  
Richard Taylor             1st Stavanger  
Marion Jalili                3rd Dubai

David Bull (International Commissioner and, of course, County Commissioner for BGA) has been awarded the Bronze Wolf by the World Organisation of Scout Movement in April 2006. Congratulations to him for recognition of many years of sterling service to Scouting, and congratulations to all those mentioned above.

*Census*

	<b>Last year</b>	<b>This year</b>	<b>+ or -</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Beaver Scouts	227	171	-	56
Cub Scouts	322	247	-	75
Scouts	105	113	+	8
Explorer Scouts	30	28	-	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>125</b>
Leaders & GSLs	96	61	-	35
Assistants	10	12	+	2
Scout Fellowship	0	1	+	1
Other members	10	2	-	8
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>165</b>
Beaver Scout Colonies	18	15	-	3
Cub Scout Packs	21	17	-	4
Scout Troops	10	10		0
Explorer Scout Units	5	5		0
Scout Fellowships	0	1	+	1
<b>Groups</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>

**Martin Payne**  
**County Secretary**

## *Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts*

The Beaver and Cub Scout Sections continue to be the largest sections in BGA. This past year has seen the Beaver Colonies celebrating 20 years of Beaver Scouting and the Cub Scouts celebrating 90 years of Cub Scouting. BGAs joined in the celebrations with sleepovers, camps and party programmes to celebrate.

I have continued to publish *Programmes on a Plate* both in *Far and Wide* and as a Letter via e-mail to the BSLs, ABSLs, and Section Assistants. I have done the same for the CSLs, ACSLs, and Section Assistants. In Issue 71 of *Far and Wide* we had a guest presenter. Debbie Phillips presented a four-week programme covering the elements of the Beaver Scout Experiment Badge. If you do not get a personal copy of *Far and Wide* it can, of course, be accessed through <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/uk/bga/index.htm> where you can find past copies.

Early in 2006 [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) opened a new area on our web pages: *Programmes on Line*. This consists of tried and tested programmes for you to access from the comfort of your computer. I have contributed, in a small way, to this and if you visit the site you can find programme ideas for every section. If you have not visited this site then give it a go. If you have a good programme idea, why not try to contribute it to the site?

Recently Paul Gray, now moved from Stavanger in Norway, sent me a game to share with everyone.

### *Equipment:*

- 1 large die
- Space
- 1 Beaver colony or 1 Cub Pack

*Each corner of the room or area is allocated one of the numbers from the die. The middle receives its number too, thus becoming 5 bases.*

*The players select a base to stand on whilst the leader counts down from 5 or 10.*

*Once the leader finishes counting down the players must be on a number and remain there.*

*The players must change location during each countdown.*

*The die is cast and the occupants of the base whose number is shown are out.*

*If the number is the unallocated one then all those that are out are back in!*

*If the die shows a number where no player is standing then all those remaining on other numbers are out!*

*As the numbers of children reduce, the number at each base is reduced. You would be amazed at how quickly the members start to play tactically and how some of them begin to "sacrifice" themselves for the good of the rest.*

*We play this at least once a month and the Beavers especially enjoy it.*

Thank you, Paul. I tried it with my Cubs and they loved it.

We are all looking forward to more celebrations in 2007 with the Centenary of Scouting.

**Astrid Roberts**  
**Assistant County Commissioner (Cub Scouts)**

## Scouts

We currently have seven Scout Troops in BGA. These are Abu Dhabi, Oman, 3rd Dubai, Falkland Islands, Ascension Island, St Helena and Fuengirola in Spain. You can read regularly about the exploits of 3rd Dubai, Ascension and Fuengirola in Far & Wide but the other four Troops are very quiet. I am sure that they are toiling away in providing good Scouting but are too modest to tell us. For instance, did you know we have a Scout Band in BGA, in St Helena? So please - can Troops let us know regularly what they are doing?

BGA is a multi-national County but individual Groups don't often leave the country where they operate, for various reasons. But this year has been remarkable in the number of overseas visits undertaken by BGA Troops and meeting fellow Scouts from other countries.

Johnny Hobson took his Ascension Island Scouts on their Discovery trip to Northern Ireland, England and Switzerland. Discovery is an expedition they do every two years twinning up with Johnny's old Group in Port Stewart in Northern Ireland. Activities included visiting the Giant's Causeway, crossing a high rope bridge, gliding, karting, horse riding, skating, climbing, rafting and swimming.

Abu Dhabi and 3rd Dubai combined forces and came to EuroJam in UK. Sixty seven countries attended this Jamboree and the participants took home with them many treasured memories of mixing with other Scouts.

1st Fuengirola have had an active link with the Gibraltar Sea Scouts for some time, enjoying joint activities. Just before Christmas a busload of Scouts from Fuengirola went to Gibraltar to collect the Bethlehem light from the Gibraltar Scouts. This light is lit in Bethlehem and travels around the world being passed on from country to country. Back in Spain, lights were taken from the original flame for people to take home as a remembrance of Christmas and world peace.

Finally we close with a picture from the Ascension Island Troop, who have just awarded NINE Chief Scout Gold Awards. Well done lads!



## *Explorer Scouts*

Explorer Scouting in BGA will never be numerically large for a number of reasons. The Middle Eastern situation and concerns about global terrorism have taken their toll on Sections (and even whole Scout Groups) in BGA in recent years. In addition to the ever-shifting population of BGA, many of Explorer Scout age return to boarding schools in UK or leave for college or university. Others, such as those in the South Atlantic, move elsewhere to find work.

So it is encouraging to see that existing Units are still flourishing and consolidating. And to prove it, here's a splendid photograph of Scouts being invested into the Explorer Unit on Ascension Island this year.



However I do have a couple of concerns. Although I do not doubt that Explorer Units are doing some quality Scouting, I have yet to receive news that Platinum or Diamond Chief Scout Awards are being gained. I am sure progress is being made; perhaps it is just that some Units are not fitting their activities into the requirements of the main Awards and therefore Leaders may need to keep an eye on this. The situation with Activity badges is a little better, particularly with the Staged badges. But like the other Sections, Chief Scout's Awards and Activity badges in Explorer Scouting should be the norm rather than the exception. The members are doing the activities, so let's see the awards!

Young Leaders is another area that has yet to take off within BGA. I receive splendid reports of the exploits of our sole Young Leader in Oman, (see last year's report) but nothing from other areas. Yet I am certain that there are Explorer Scouts out there helping with the local Colony, Pack or Troop. These need to be signed up as Young Leaders so that they can take part in the training scheme which is beneficial to all. Remember: if any Explorer Scout is helping regularly with another section as an individual, then they must be registered with County as a Young Leader.

As well as the normal activities such as parades, abseiling, canoeing, camping, conservation projects and helping Groups enjoyed by Explorer Scouts in BGA, some less usual activities deserve a special mention, for instance their participation in the tsunami appeal.

In Spain, the law prohibits wild camping and there are few Scout campsites. So Fuengirola Explorer Scout Unit got around this by planning a high altitude cycle weekend and staying overnight in a pension (hostel). The route was an old railway line, converted into a cycle path. Although sleeping in the hostel, they still had to cook their own evening meal and breakfast.

Another Explorer Scout in the Falklands completed an Award hike that retraced the route taken in the 1830s by Charles Darwin (he of *The Origin of Species* fame) across the main island. This entailed a lot of research as the original route taken was far from clear.

### *Scout Network*

Last November I visited the Scout Group and Explorer Scout Unit in Fuengirola, Spain. The possibility of forming a fledgling Scout Network in Fuengirola quickly became apparent as a number of Explorer Scouts were nearing eighteen. In order to strengthen both sections, BGA County authorised a joint Explorer Scout/Scout Network section. This is because both sections come under the County umbrella in BGA and operate a similar Award scheme. The Network also helps the Explorer Scouts run their activities and award programme through a joint committee of members. Things appear to be working well, one of the first things jointly organised was the cycle weekend mentioned above. It is also worth noting that this is the first Scout Network ever formed in BGA so I am sure you all wish them well.

**Tony Dunn**  
**Assistant County Commissioner (Explorer Scouts)**

### *Adult Training*

Since last year the training scheme has bedded down a bit and more Leaders are doing their training. There are still a lot who have yet to complete their *Getting Started* modules and there are some who seem to think that when they have completed *Getting Started* that is the end of their training. I would like to emphasise that it is important that I have copies of Personal Learning Plans so that I can find ways of getting the learning for the modules you need to you. The biggest problem we seem to have in BGA (as in Scouting everywhere!) is communication, or rather the lack of it and I know I am as much to blame as anybody. But with all the technology available to us this should not be the case so let us all make an effort to improve the situation for the coming year.

During the past year we have lost some Groups but also gained three new ones in Stockholm, Istanbul and Bahrain so we welcome them and look forward to them completing their training and achieving their Wood Badges. We have also lost a Training Advisor in Sam Gribble from Doha who has moved but thanks Sam for what you did. We have gained two more Training Advisors, Eileen Clarke in Stavanger and Darren Bretton who is the new BGA County Scouter (Scouts) so welcome to them, I am sure they will be giving full support to the Leaders in their care. Towards the end of the year under review, Glenn Walker who is National Commissioner for the Scout Fellowship and is in the RAF was posted to the Falkland Islands for three months and was able to co-ordinate the delivery of some of the modules for the Leaders there. I am very grateful for all he has done and as a result we will have Jan Miller and Paula Gilroy as Training Advisors although Paula is returning to the UK. I have not been able to visit any Groups myself in the last year but have got a training visit planned to Fuengirola in September and hopefully to Ascension Island in October.

As I have said before, if you are in the UK at any time let me know and I will try to meet up with you. I am also available to discuss training matters with you at any time, I have now got Skype on my computer so if you sign up for it we can talk at no cost, my Skype contact is heather.elliott47. There are still a lot of Leaders who have been around for some time and have not finished their training. You really need to contact me to find out what you need to do

to help you deliver better Scouting and to get the support you deserve. It's worth mentioning that awards for good service are only awarded if the adult in question has completed appropriate training.

Let's make 2006/07 the year when we have a lot of Leaders achieving their Wood Badges, a sign of completion of training but also an acceptance of the need for in service training: life long learning in fact!

**Heather Elliott**  
**County Training Manager**

*British Groups Abroad*  
*County Team*

County Commissioner  
County Secretary

David Bull  
Martin Payne

*Programme:*

ACC (Beaver Scouts and Beaver Scouts)  
County Scouter (Beaver Scouts)  
ACC (Scouts and Explorer Scouts)  
County Scouter (Scouts)  
County Scout Network Commissioner  
County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Adviser

Astrid Roberts  
Debbie Phillips  
Tony Dunn  
Darren Bretton  
Tony Dunn  
Paul Janvier

*Adult Support:*

County Training Manager

Heather Elliott

*Information and Resources:*

County Historian  
Editor "Far and Wide"  
International Scout Fellowship  
International Manager

Tony Dunn  
Heather Elliott  
Alan Beavis  
Sarah Hobbs

**11 August 2006**