



January 2005



# Silsden Woggle

Volume 1, Issue 1

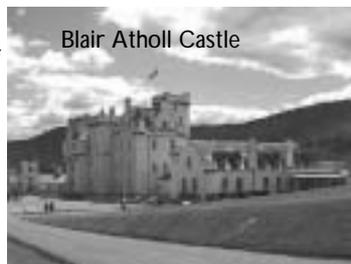
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## Easter Expedition 2004 by Bernie Marshall

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Blair Atholl was bathed in Spring sunshine as the party of nine alighted from the Edinburgh train and headed for the garden of the Atholl hotel for well earned refreshments. The journey from Silsden had been uneventful, just the usual groans, "its still dark" and "there really are two 5:30's in a day" and best of all, "what time do you call this?" Soon we left the parents behind on the old bone shaker and rattled on towards Lancaster.



Blair Atholl Castle

Sir Richard Branson's brand new 125's may be a wonderful ride but he never has to lug a fully loaded rucksack. Trying to stow nine of them was huge fun (not), and then satisfied the job was done well, "please could you move these bags the refreshment trolley cannot get through—Thank you sir. One thing you learn in Scouting is patience, or was that to make

patients? Edinburgh Waverly station is the last place for junk food and so fortified with the best McDonalds can supply we caught the Inverness train to Blair Atholl. Mr Branson, ScotRail have plenty of room for rucksacks!! After an hour leaving

The Blair Atholl Hotel we arrived in Glen Tilt, the old drive road that ran from Blair Atholl to Braemar on Royal Deeside. Five miles up the Tilt we camped in a delightful spot by the river. With tents up it was meal time and what an interesting experience watching the Scouts' culinary expertise. Matthew Veazey with Calum Stronnach went for the Delia Smith approach. Gary Mitchell and Richard Stratton chucked it all in a pan and "who's cleaning up afterwards?" approach!

Meanwhile our two perfectionists Lee Pickard and Thomas Elstub read the instructions ten times and then asked Pauline!! Oh I forgot. Our other adult was Derek Wild our District Explorer Leader who affectionately came to be known as "Big D"

Next morning (Friday) dawned cloudy with a cold wind but thankfully no rain and the high mountains were "all out" (visible). We passed Forest Lodge, a hunting lodge that is still habited, owned by the Duke Of Atholl. Even today the old school house stands close to the lodge, even after the Highland Clearances (1820), there was a large community living in the glen. At the Bedford Bridge, (Built for Queen Victoria to commute between Balmoral and Blair Atholl Castle) the sun appeared so we had lunch on a swath of grass by the river. It was a long slog up the upper reaches of the Tilt but eventually we

(Continued k page 4)

## Matthew Denton Gets Conned By Matthew Denton

*You might be taking Scouting too seriously if : - your favourite colour is olive drab*

And your plans for remodelling the bathroom include digging the hole a bit deeper

Or if you think camping hats are cool

And finally that you actually can start a fire by rubbing two sticks together

It all started when Mr. Marshall said "Can I have a word?" I agreed. "What are you doing in July? Would you drive one of the buses to camp for me?" he asked. We left Silsden promptly at 9:15 for a 9:00 start and arrived at camp about mid day. All hands on deck to get the tents up before it rained, and make ready for the

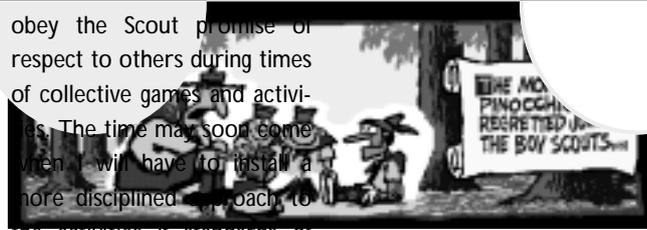
parents to visit on Sunday. "OK Mr. Marshal ,Sir" says I. Don't call me Mr. Marshall, it's Bernie, now get the water fixed so we can have a brew". "Yes sir" I replied. setting off down the field with 100 meters of piping in a sunny mood, and then a while later Steve Austin

came and rescued me from the mud before I disappeared completely. Sunday morning there was much excitement as the visiting parents were due any moment (from about 14:00hrs onwards??) to see what goes on. The scouts are in their patrols (Continued back page)

# Bernie's Boys by Bernie Marshall (Scout Leader)

Recent additions to the already large troop of Scouts now means we have 38 boys regularly attending troop night every Friday. With Patrols often exceeding 6 boys this is putting some considerable pressure on both leaders (adults) and Patrol Leaders (senior Scouts) to maintain good standards of behavior in the sessions. It is imperative that each and every boy in attendance recognizes the need to demonstrate the ability to listen and pay attention to instructions, not shout at their friends two feet away and amongst other things

obey the Scout promise or respect to others during times of collective games and activities. The time may soon come when I will have to install a more disciplined approach to the activities if standards of behavior do not improve. This will include suspensions and outright bans which as a Scout Leader for more years than I care to remember I am loathed to do!



Think Deeply  
 speak gently  
 love much  
 laugh often  
 work hard  
 give freely  
 pay promptly  
 pray earnestly  
 and be kind.



See the new web site created and managed by our scout Freddie Blake at: -

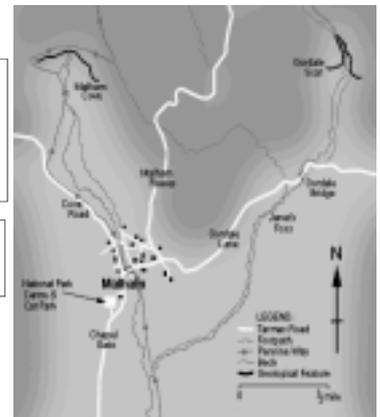
<http://1stsildenscouts.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk>

# Alan Mitchell Walks Out By Alan Mitchell

This walk takes about 3 hours and takes in Malham Cove, Gordale Scar and Janet's Foss. Starting from the National Park Centre car park turn left into the village past the Buck Inn. Take the left hand road towards Malham Tarn. Continue through the village passing Townhead Barn on your right. Have a look in the typical dales barn owned by the NT and open to the public.

Continue up Cove Road towards the Tarn and turn right into a field. Follow the Pennine Way sign posts up Malham Cove. Enjoy the endless steps. Enjoy the excellent view of Malhamdale. Carefully navigate the limestone pavement, over the stile, up the slope bearing right, following the posts with green dots. Continue straight ignoring the Pennine Way sign, cross the

road towards Gordale Scar. Down the hill, left onto the road, continue over the bridge, left through the gate, an follow the path to the Scar itself. Admire the geology of the Scar. Retrace steps to the bridge and down hill to the sign for Riverside Path Malham. This takes you past Janet's Foss Waterfall, through the wood and back to the village. Happy Walking.



## Paths

Each of us has to discover their own path of that I am sure.

Some paths will be spectacular...

... and others peaceful and quiet who is to say which is the more important

I am thankful for the tasks still left to do

and for the adventures still



# Hag Dyke Weekend Away By David Blake

We started up the hill, (all 1533 feet of it) in a crocodile line of Scouts and leaders. The usual quiet procession, 500 decibels and torch lights full on. Arrival at the hut (Built 1730) and soon the Scouts were in and settled. The leaders lit open fires and contemplated using Scouts as fire wood if they got unruly. We dismissed that idea due to the problems of smoke and tidying away the mess. Saturday morning started at 04:00 hrs

(!!) and we undertook a mixture of games and Scouting skills. Wide games and all the outdoor activities were very cold events and some of the boys learnt fairly tough lessons in wrapping up well with plenty of layers and the need to **BE PREPARED** as our founder would have said. The usual mountainous volumes of food were consumed and everyone had a great time. Nick Midgley transported our kit and the food up to the hut

on Friday evening and then the kit down again on Sunday in his four wheel drive truck. Thank you Nick. We have more camps this year, watch out for details. We always need transport help with camps so please be ready to be a willing victim/volunteer!



Looks like someone found Nemo!

## Get Knotted By Steven Rodgers (ASL)

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### The Bowline

Used as a rescue knot because it is used to lift people out of dangerous situations. Commonly used in small sailing craft to secure the top of the main sheet to the main line.

The Federal Aviation Authority (USA) recommends the bowline knot for tying down small aircraft.

This is an ancient knot and is considered the king of knots.



After learning the overhand knot and the figure of eight knot, the Bowline is the next most useful and easy to learn knot. Many people are taught the slow and all thumbs 'Bunny' method. In fact it can be very fast to tie even under the most difficult of circumstances.

There are many 'loop on the end' knots. Like the others the bowline can be made and then secured over an object like a post. But many other loop knots are unlike the Bowline. The working end can

first be passed through a ring object and then tied. This unique feature of the Bowline makes it a convenient loop knot and a knot every one should master. One bowline tied to another is one way of joining two ropes.

*The 'Bunny' method:* form the hole, the bunny comes up through the hole, around the tree, and back down through the hole. This is a difficult and inferior way to tie.

*Lightning method:* Tie a slip knot with the main line as the adjustable end, pass the working end through the loop and pull the slip knot tight until it flips over. The resulting knot is a bowline.

It is strictly within the Scouting Code Of Conduct not to include pictures of our boys in this newsletter. We would like to give everyone their 15 minutes of fame but our hands are tied. Sorry but we are bound by the rules.



Last night I played a blank tape at full blast. The mime artist living next door went nuts.

The Federal Aviation Authority (USA) recommends the bowline knot for tying down small aircraft

If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?



## Why Do I need To Know That? (Ed)

King Edward VII introduced the custom of setting the 180 or so clocks on the Sandringham Estate half an hour early to allow him more time to shoot. As a consequence, all business when the King was at Sandringham took place in this unique and royal time zone. George V maintained this tradition, but Edward VIII, when he acceded to the throne in 1936, reset Sandringham's time pieces in synchronicity with the rest of his kingdom

The maze at Hampton Court was planted some time between 1689 and 1695 by George London and Henry Wise for William Of Orange. It is thought the present design replaced an earlier maze of Wolsey's time. Originally constructed entirely from hornbeam, the maze, has over the years, been repaired and patched with a variety of different hedge types. Dafoe called it "a labyrinth", but really the maze is quite straight forward. As one

writer noted, "the maze is quite sufficient a puzzle to sustain interest and cause amusement, but without the needless and tedious excess of intricacy." The maze occupies about 1/3 of an acre and the walk extends to about half a mile in total.

The seven dwarves are Happy, Grumpy, Doc, Sleepy, Sneezy, Bashful and Dopey.

A 17 sided polygon is a heptadecagon

## Awards and Promotions (The Troop)

In recent weeks it has been a time a change for all the troop. Chatterwick has had new Beavers join her colony. Akala has had 8 Beavers swim up to Cubs and in turn Bernie has had 8 Cubs leave the Pack and join the scouts. This now makes us a group of 85 boys in the entire troop.

A significant highlight for us includes **Matthew Binks** developing his role within the Explorers to become a Young

Leader at 1st Silsden Scouts. As a former Scout Matthew provides us oldies with a useful insight into what makes the younger ones tick and allows us to fashion our programmes to suit the needs of the young people in whom we aim to positively occupy their time.

**Ben Dinsdale** has moved up to the Explorer section as a district group at Keighley and is taking an active role in this endeavour. (More to follow in the April edition of this news-

letter.)

It is wonderful to be associated with these successes and we hope to see this emulated by other boys throughout the troop. Working towards many and varied awards is the fundamental backbone of what we are about. Good luck to all in your hard work.

If a person with multiple personalities threatens suicide, is that considered a hostage situation?



# Inside Story Headline

front page: - came to the ruined Lodge at Bynach, where judging party to have had enough for the day we camped. Once again Pauline and I were bemused by the culinary skills on display, and Big D went into his tent and wasn't seen again until 7.00 am the next morning. (Derek cooked his evening meal for breakfast mashed potato and corned beef—Oh dear). This while our intrepid chefs did their usual assortment of burnt pots, overcooked pasta and runny angel delight for tea! Two miles further up Glen Tilt opens out to reveal the natural barrier of the Geldie Burn. All the party had been warned about the Geldie and fortunately today it was in a good mood, just over the scouts' knee caps but running well. Pauline went first (well she is the GSL) with her yeti gaiters on but failed miserably by getting her boots wet so the rest of us went to plan "B", took off our boots and socks and went over in our trainers. (We had the dry boots us men!) Four miles up the Glen, passing two large and sleepy adders we had lunch, just as the drizzle started. The river Eidart is a rushing fast tumbling volume of water that pours from the Cairngorm Plateau. It falls 500 metres in four kilometers consisting mainly of snow melt it forms the backbone of the River Feshie that eventually flows into the River Spey. Where the small foot bridge that crosses the torrent is situated becomes a photographer's paradise so a short stop was compulsory for the budding David Baileys of our troop. Up to this point we had been climbing gently from our crossing at the Geldie, but now it was down hill for two miles for tonight's pitch, in a small glade beside a burn. Tonight the meals took on epic proportions as they all set about cooking

See the new web site created and managed by our scout **Freddie Blake** at: -  
<http://1stsildenscouts.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk>

## Now There's a thought.....?

- Why are they called buildings, when they're already finished? Shouldn't they be called "builts"?
- If the universe is everything, and scientists say that the universe is expanding, what is it expanding into?
- Why is it lemon juice contains mostly artificial ingredients, but dishwashing liquid contains real lemons?
- What do little birdies see when they get knocked unconscious?



Typical bothy-Scotland

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

## Cubs Corner by Akela (Steven Clark)

In order to provide a full spectrum of information cover in this newsletter we intend to feature activities and events undertaken by all the sections in the troop. To this end we will be featuring the activities of the cubs in this section in future issues where you will be able to learn about the achievements of your son or sons in their pursuit of badges and other Scouting Awards.

Akala has a full programme of activities for the boys both at local level and participation in the District events. These events are very competitive in the true spirit of the politically incorrect promotion of personal achievement and self development. Additionally the process of taking part allows the cubs to develop their social skills and provides an opportunity to extend their knowledge of their local cub packs and to start to build

friends in the district. Many of these friendships will last for the entire time they are in Scouting and will provide you with an opportunity to extend your taxi driving skills to further fields. We are nothing if not helpful in the cause of your son's development. Happy Scouting!!

I Expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow-creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Welcome to the Beaver Colony section of this newsletter. I will be taking the opportunity over the coming months to keep you informed of our activities in the Colony. And to advise the achievements of the Beavers as they begin the starting out process becoming involved in the many activities we bring before them. One rule I operate strictly in Beavers is the admissions policy.

This policy is successful in maintaining a number of Beavers at which Christine Mitchell and I can manage well and offer our attention to in

the spirit of providing the varied programme we undertake.

Essentially we state firmly that unless pre-advised and agreed mutually, any Beaver that misses 3 consecutive weeks attendance to our session is precluded and returns to the bottom of the waiting list. However the agreement to not attend is always available to all the Beavers and we understand that other commitments can preclude a boy from attending on some occasions. Naturally this is accounted for. It may be worth

noting that my success in this area is now to be adopted by the senior troop leaders in the **Scouts**. I know they have high numbers of boys and struggle to retain continuity amongst many of their troop. In April 2005 my policy is to be put in place by Bernie and his team. It is critical that as parents you understand the full implications of this action.



**ADD** a little kindness

To your living day by day.

**SUBTRACT** the kind of worry,

That can constitute dismay.

**DIVIDE** your time by turning

Each frown into a smile.

**MULTIPLY** your efforts

For a total that's worthwhile

## Cleggy's Story (by Matthew Clay-Scout)

It's the second week of July and school is reaching its end. Everyone has time to chill out, calm down, with nothing more to do in my case than go to my Grandparents and barbeques. Well, no. There is one minor detail I forgot. 1 week under a canvas with a bag I packed (3 things missing minimum) and a lot of exciting but hard work—Summer Camp

Now being what I see as a typical Badger (lazy) I have a tendency to think "oh no!" which is quite odd considering mum and dad spent £90 a few months ago. But when I get there it improves—Sunday is a lie in. Summer camp looks a bit like this: -

Saturday-Get there, put up tents, fetch wood, make tea, try to inspire people. I'm thinking of bribes for 2005.

Sunday - lie in, duty patrol, inspection, gadgets, (stuff that would have been cutting edge

Now), gates, make breakfast/tea, tuck shop if we get round to it, fetch wood.

Monday-Duty Patrol, activities, make breakfast/tea, tuck shop (if we're lucky), inspection, fetch wood.

Tuesday-Duty Patrol, inspection, activities, cook breakfast/tea, tuck shop (if a leader can be bothered) fetch wood

Wednesday- lie in (way to go), duty patrol, inspection, activities, tuck shop (if they've got anything), cook breakfast, Ready Steady Cook (A strange replacement for the much mourned PL's choice), fetch wood, tuck shop, (if anyone remembers before 10:30

Thursday-Duty Patrol, inspection, activities, go to town, fish and chips, cook breakfast, fetch wood.

Friday-Duty patrol, cook breakfast, tuck shop (if we have any money left), crazy day, fetch lots of wood, camp fire

Saturday-central cooking, put tents away, go home, have shower and collapse in heap.

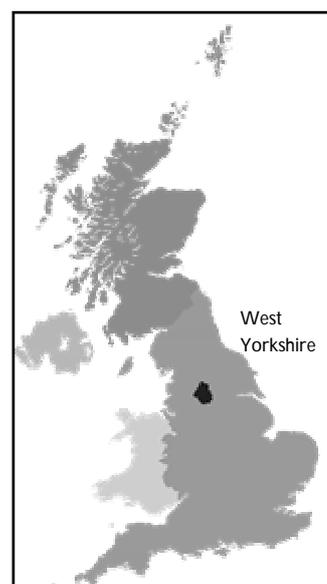
Activities tend to include two swimming trips, and sports centres and things like The Deep at Hull, Wet and Wild water adventure and other lavish places.

Wood is what keeps you warm and not hungry on Summer Camp as there are no gas fires etc. All is done with wood. This means a lot of the time you will be collecting wood. One thing not mentioned above is Bernie's Challenge, in which different members of the patrol take it in turns to get hugely embarrassed in front of everyone.

All week points are won and lost for all manner of action or activity and prizes from the Summer Camp Shield and the dubious Golden Bog Brush can be won.

I must cook the sausages next year before I eat them.

**Want this newsletter by email?** Contact [david@d-w-blake.freemove.co.uk](mailto:david@d-w-blake.freemove.co.uk). We would know you get it and it would save us a fortune in copying fees!!



## We are very sad to see the retirement of Chief from 1<sup>st</sup> Silsden Scouts.

At the grand age of 79 years Chief has decided to retire from active scouting. We will miss him on a Friday night down in the Church Hall as he is part of the family and the furniture.

**Basil** joined 1<sup>st</sup> Silsden as an instructor in September 1987 at the age of 62 years and officially had to retire from the Scout association at the age of 65 years (how things have changed as today you can scout till you drop!!)

In 1990 he changed titles and became a helper, as this was allowed. We valued his knowledge time and patience with the scouts and the group.

Many parents will remember the hundreds of bottles of wine Basil made for the fundraising activities within the group over the years. The Scouts will remember the incident hikes, dinners at camp which Chief would travel miles to

attend, and usually bring goodies, the endless photographs at St. Georges day parade always proud of the group.

However an instructor / helper with 1<sup>st</sup> Silsden he may have been but his past Scout history is something to be very proud of, and although Basil traveled around the country with his job he always became involved in some way with the Scout association.

**Chief started scouting** as an adult in 1943 as an assistant scoutmaster in Yorkshire West Riding – Bradford East. During the 40's he held Scoutmaster Positions in Midlothian, Devon and back to Bradford, as he moved with his job. The following are some of the roles he has held over the years

**Not only has he been** a scoutmaster but a District Commissioner, Badge Secretary, Assistant District Commissioner, Assistant Deputy-

Camp Chief, reader for Wood Badge part III (Gillwell), Black Hills Camp Committee, Venture Scout Leader, Instructor, Treasurer to the Tall Ships Race Committee (Cornwall) and Ocean Scout committee (Cornwall), an Executive committee member and county executive member (Cornwall), Bradley Wood Appeal Committee member and District Treasurer.

These posts have seen him working in Bradford, Falmouth Cornwall, Midlothian, Cheshire West, Norwich, Keighley and last but certainly not least SILSDEN.

As Group Scout Leader on behalf of all the Scouts past and present, leaders, past and present, committee members past and present and the parents **I would like to say a great big thank you (BRAVO)** And wish you and Billie very many more years of happy retirement.



If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

## Badge Focus—The I.T. Badge Stage 1

The following areas of investigation must be undertaken to successfully complete the Information Technology Activity Badge stage one.

Use a piece of software of your choice to show you can produce a poster to show others what you do in scouting, using text and graphics. Use a painting software pack-

age to produce a simple picture. Show that you can use a piece of software that requires the use of a CD-ROM.

Demonstrate that you can switch on and close down a computer safely. Show that you know what the following are: - Monitor, Mouse, CD-ROM, Printer, Icon. The badge will be supervised by

ASL David Blake. All applicants are welcome and the badge work can be undertaken over a period of weeks with no fixed timeline for completion. Help with the badge is available also from David Blake. Demonstration of your skills may be required on a lap top computer.



## “.....Can't Be Choosers” on behalf of the Troop

The first bit of the saying that I missed is of course, “beggars”. In a time of ever increasing costs and escalating charges for the provision of services we need to perpetually review our costs and squeeze our funds to their furthest opportunity. Indeed the purchase of equipment and consumables is a huge drain on our resources and we always make do and repair whenever we can. A recent recruit to our cause is Wal-

dorf, I mean Matthew Denton who is very handy with a welding torch and a metal bending bar! Now you know who not to cross in a dark alley one night!! And so to the nub. This section is about me groveling for “stuff”. The kind of “stuff” I am interested in are things like the dusty old “wotsit” you have in your garage that you haven't used for years but never quite got around to getting it to the tip. Perhaps you have a service

you can offer, illicit photocopying, or a son who has a paper round in a specific area of Silsden that could deliver the occasional leaflet for us. Perhaps we can call on your services as a four wheel drive vehicle owner to cart us across a field or up a hill, (Nick Midgley did us proud a few weeks ago at Hag Dyke in this way). So watch this space in future editions and see if we can use your old junk or your services. (!!)

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations.

Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count on all the things you have that money can't buy.

“Today is a gift, that is why it is called the present.”

# Future Events -1st Silsden Scouts The Troop

W

Attached to this news letter **the Scouts** have provided a programme of events and activities scheduled for the remainder of this year. Some of the activities take place on Thursday night and some at weekends. Where a Sunday is included - archery, there will be no scouts meeting on Friday night. We will have to charge for this event and whilst the amount will not be great we believe we will not get much change out of £5.00 per boy. Notice we have camps lined up

now in the Spring and Summer, and we want to see Dads, Mums and Guardians involved. After all it's about time the boys got a rest from boring washing up!

And of course there will be no playing with the fire at camp on Saturday as we must set a good example to our little angels. (Or not if we can get them to bed!!)

**The Cubs** are going to be involved In various activities in

both local and district events and the ever present drive towards accrediting the boys with achievement badges is high on our agenda for action in the winter period. Combined with **the Beavers** and the scouts we perpetually endeavor to bring before our young people challenges and opportunities to develop their individual skills. Certainly the Scouts and Cubs will be publishing full programmes shortly for home reference.

If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

Does the Little Mermaid wear an algebra?

See the new web site created and managed by our scout **Freddie Blake** at: -

<http://1stsildenscouts.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk>

## Who? By Pauline Marshall (GSL)

As with all modern organizations in Scouting we have a vast collection of T.L.A.s. Sorry, I mean Three Letter Acronyms. These are associated with various jobs in the organisation and reflect the level of involvement and seniority in the movement. This time I want to share with you the role of the GSL. The Group Scout Leader. Our GSL is Pauline Marshall.

To ensure that the leaders and administrators in the group receive training.

To support the leaders in all project work

To keep effective records. Follow procedures after accidents.

Monitor progress of training in leaders

Visit sections / maintain contact with all sections / initiate/co-ordinate meetings.

Keep track of warrants.

Present awards / warrants / attend important ceremonies

Arbitrate / reconcile when necessary.

-Take Scouting to the PUBLIC make them aware get there support, provide a good public image!

-Ensure Scouting supports the local community.

-Recruit adequate leaders.

-Maintain standards in accordance with Policy Organisation and Rules.

-Ensure good communication between all sections and committees within the group and the district.

-Be familiar with relevant legislation, ensure all monies are correctly accounted for.

-Monitor progress in each section, ensure that progressive training is offered to all scouts, and monitor equality of opportunity for all.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But she with a chuckle replied  
That maybe it couldn't, but she would be the one  
Who wouldn't say so 'till she tried.  
So she buckled right in with a bit of a grin  
On her face. If she worried, she hid it.  
And she started to sing as she tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done - and she did it!

**This is scouting, so enjoy yourself! (Or else.....!!)**

## Contact Us

We are always keen to extend a warm welcome to all parents and guardians of the boys in the troop. After all we never know when we might need you to help us with lifts and transport services!!

Part of this magazine is all about extending contact and making our organization transparent to all in the troop. Yet another part of this process is making the task of contacting us as easy as

Group	Scout Name	Name	Telephone
Beavers	Chatterwick	Kim Pollard	01535 656322
Cubs	Akala	Steve Clark	01535 217704
Scouts	Bernie	Bernie Marshall	01535 655006
Chairman	NA	Gary Sorsby	01535 654906
G. S.L	Sir	Pauline Marshall	01535 655006
Fund Raising	NA	Dawn Arrowsmith	01535 654930
District Commissioner	Sir 2	Jeanette Young	01535 661902

possible. To this end on the left is a list of contact details for each part of the troop, a fixed section within this magazine. If you have a concern about the way in which your son is being treated or you need to discuss an issue with a leader or a more senior member of the 1st Silsden Scouting organisation then there is a contact number here to get you started.

## Ist Silsden St James Scouts News Letter

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### Assistant Editors:-

Bernie Marshall, Steve Rodgers, Matthew Denton, Steve Austin, Pauline Marshall, Alan Mitchell and David Blake. And the Scouts without whom this would be a waste of time and no fun. Want this by email? Contact: -  
david@d-w-blake.freeserve.co.uk



A  
se-  
rious  
word about

### jokes

We would like to feature harmless non-political and non-religious visual jokes in this newsletter.

Short on talent and with no sense of humour the editor wishes to make it known that any contribution in this particular department will be hugely appreciated and may well be rewarded with points for the winning entries each issue. I am sure I can persuade Mr. Marshall (Sir) to give 10 points per joke for each one used. So get hunting for the humour and send it to

That evening Pauline supervised the building of a stone causeway across the river so that we would cross dry shod in the morning and when I came back this way six weeks later the causeway was still there. Glen Feshie is a beautiful area covered in Scots Pines, Birch and Juniper. Just as we came to the first trees we saw the only eagle of the trip soaring high above us. We had lunch at Ruigh-Ateachain Bothy. This small house is now under the control of the Mountain Bothies Association but as late as 1958 was still inhabited by a family. Leaving the Feshie we headed through pine forests to camp by another burn. After cooking dinner the Scouts enjoyed their new found game of trying to cross the river dry shod. They all failed spectacularly. (Oh dear). Conserving heat all six boys tried to sleep in one tent made for two!! Monday lunch time saw us in the best parts of the Kingussie where the local chip shop did a wonderful trade as some of our starving, underfed, near anorexic Scouts went back for seconds. That evening we stayed at the Lodge Hotel in Newtonmore. It was a clean and showered party that sat down to a three course dinner in the restaurant. Tales were told of the trip as the lads reminisced over the last five days with plenty of laughter and amusement. Scot-Rail were on time next morning and big bad Bernie turned four old ladies out of our reserved seats. As I pointed out to them, they could have reserved seats if they had planned ahead. As the Scout Leader polite but firm action is required, and in any case I had my boys to think about. The ladies found other seats but not together so not all was lost. After walking across Glass from Queen Street Station to Central we had the biggest fish and chips on the planet. Even our eating machines left some!! Looking out of the window as the train left Dent Station Big D said "what a lovely country" while from behind a scout replied " a bit tame after where we have been" I suppose that sums up the expedition.

Now for next year's.....

## Matthew Denton Gets Conned

*(From front page....)*

and all working together as teams to establish themselves in their groups and start winning points for their patrol through the week. Boundary fences must be put in place and quartermasters stores established carefully. Bernie (Sir) has nick names for most of the boys and Trevor and I are no exception. Waldorf I am christened and Trevor— (Isherwood), Statler after the two old boys in the balcony from the Muppet Show. Then when something falls off or gets broken the angelic cry, or was that scream, "Waldorf, Statler, I need you!!" A week's worth of events and activities sees us at the beach, swimming twice, in place of show-

ers!! Back to the beach for a thought I was asking them to bathe in bar BQ and ending the week acid!! The week was over in a trice with Crazy Day. Towards the end of the week tempers rise, patience shorten and competition becomes everything as the race for points for each patrol becomes all consuming. What would have taken an army of leaders a month of Sundays to beg a Scout to do on Monday morning is volunteered for action by a "co-incidentally" positioned Scout at every turn. "Can I do that for you Mr. Denton? Would you like me to do that for you Mr. Denton?" On Friday I could get the boys actually washing their hands and faces if it meant getting an extra point. Try doing that on Monday morning and you'd have

Filthy dirty, I was completely exhausted; and had one of the best week's holiday of my life. So much for "Can you drive a van for me?" That "Mr. Marshall (Sir) has a lot to answer for.