

## **1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Group Chairman's Report 2010/2011**

Firstly may I say how honoured I am to have been invited to succeed Stan Deighan as Group Chairman.

I spent many happy years from the age of eight as a Wolf Cub, Scout, Venture Scout and eventually a Leader with 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas. The chance to repay the group for some of those good times could not be ignored!

It has not gone unnoticed by me how scouting has changed and become much more sophisticated and legislation bound, putting a great strain on leaders and the executive alike. It is much more difficult to provide a viable competitor to all of the distractions on offer to young people today. It is therefore a credit to the 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Group that it is still one of the strongest Scout Groups on the Island and continues to look forward with great enthusiasm to the refurbishment of the bunkhouse in Baldwin, which will act as a centre for outdoor activities, hikes and camps once again.

We also now have a refurbished website which is about to go live courtesy of Martin Hazell, who has done a great job of bringing it up to date. This will act as a communication tool for all so please take a look and use it regularly.

Unfortunately things like the bunkhouse refurbishment and the running of the scout hall do not come cheaply and the money has to come from somewhere. I look forward to greater co-operation between the executive committee, leaders, parents and the Scouts themselves to find fun and fellowship in the raising of the funds to enable great activities to be undertaken in the future. To this end, Anne Atkinson is appealing for volunteers to form a dedicated fund raising committee. If you feel that you can help in any small way, please do not hesitate to contact Anne.

In closing I wish all at 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas a great new Scouting year in 2011 and 2012. I hope that we can continue the great tradition of being at the forefront of Island Scouting.

John McBride

Group Chairman

## **Group Scout Leader's Report 2011**

As you can see from the following reports all our sections have been very busy. All our leaders are very committed with many of them having roles outside of the Group in Island Scouting. Each section is run differently but each one as busy as the rest. It is nice to see the interaction between the sections as well; the Beavers having a joint party, Beavers and Cubs having joint meetings, Beaver leaders helping with Cubs and vice versa, and even Scout leaders running Beavers. We also have had help from the Douglas Explorer leaders and this year 3 Explorers having been helping with Cubs and Beavers as young leaders and we hope that there will be more in the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who have helped us over the year, those who have helped on a regular basis on meeting nights, those who have helped with badge work and especially those who helped to put up tents at our recent Group camp. A special thank you must go to Michael Tait who camped all weekend with us at the Cub Island Camp and also helped with the transportation of tents etc. I would also like to thank all the leaders families for their patience and understanding, (life is not always easy living with a Scouter) especially Rob who was a great help on our Group

Camp and also helped Neil and I have a huge clear out in the extension and is hopefully cooking burghers as you read this.

At present we have approximately 110 young members, whose continued attendance is a credit to their leaders in making scouting an enjoyable experience. I have been told on numerous occasions how well behaved all our members are, but I must especially mention the Scouts, who were a great help on the Group Camp with looking after younger members, and even did most of the washing up! I was also very impressed with how hard the Explorers worked at both the Group Camp and the Cub Island Camp, often without having to be asked. They were a credit to their leaders.

We have 18 warranted leaders at present, our newest leader being Leslie who has joined us as a Beaver Leader, after being involved in scouting in Northern Ireland. Our leaders work very hard, a meeting night of one hour can take hours to prepare, while a weekend camp can take months of preparation before and after. While we have many leaders we will not turn away any more. What we really would like are more parents on our committee to see to the running of the Hall and fund raising, which allows the leaders to concentrate on their Scouting.

This summer we have Scouts plus a leader going to Switzerland as part of an Island group, plus one of Douglas Explorers, who has been a 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Cub and Scout, is going to the Jamboree in Sweden as part of the Island contingent. We also have Scouts and leaders preparing to go to America next year. So you can see our Group is really thriving.

So thank you to our existing committee members, a big well done and thank you to our leaders and a really big thank you to all our young members who provide us with the fun we get in Scouting.

Anne Atkinson Group Scout Leader

### **Monday Beavers**

At present we have 16 Beavers all who have gained badges during the year like craft, swimming, IT, Faith, Pet Care etc.

During the year we have visited the beach and taken a horse tram ride.

We have also taken part in all Island activities including St George's Day Parade, 3 Leg Challenge which is on going, Football, Trip and Island Camp visit.

We also ended 2010 with a joint party with Thursday Beavers.

The Group Scout Leader holds the waiting list at present.

Red/Green Beaver

### **Thursday Beavers**

We have had another great year, and again have our veggie patch underway. The Beavers have grown great vegetables from seed and I look forward to lots of fresh veg for my lunch again this year.

Over the year we have seen a few Beavers moving on through Beavers onto Cubs with 8 gaining their Bronze Chief Scout Award, and we have recently welcomed many new Beavers.

Throughout the year we have worked on many badges including arts and crafts such as: - Bonfire masks, Windmills, Christmas baubles and Chinese lanterns. We have also done quite a lot of map reading games to learn all about O. S. maps and had a modern day Battle of Britain with paper planes.

Joining up with other beaver colonies has been great fun, we had a party with Mondays 1st Douglas Beavers, a walk with Santon Beavers and island Beavers activities such as Football ball and sports day, which was held at the annual island cub camp.

We have also been involved in the Island Beavers 3 legs challenge, where we walk with other Beaver Colonies for three walks to gain our 3 legs challenge badge.

Visits from parents have been greatly appreciated where we have learned about the weather from our Weatherman dad and emergency aid for a police officer dad. Thanks dads!

This year we also welcome Lesley our new asst Beaver leader, to our colony.

Hope this next year brings us all another year of great fun at Beavers.

Alison Michie

### **CUSHAG PACK REPORT 2010/11**

Our numbers have again averaged about 25 this year. As usual we have been extremely busy with a very varied programme.

I must say another huge thank you to Haithi (Martin) and Tabaqui (Christine) for all their help this year and also Jane (Rikki), Michael M. (Kaa), Graihagh (Chil) and Harry who have all provided valuable help at various times. In addition further thanks should go to the volunteer parents who have helped with various activities during the year, especially Michael T. who recently helped us out at Cub Island Camp and at Camelot.

Cushag pack was represented at the Island Cub Cooking Competition at Ballaugh, where again with parent help we came very close to winning. We were also at the Cub New Year activity party at the Corrin Hall in Peel where everyone had a great time and of course at the Cub Island Camp at St Johns. We also had Cubs on both of the 3 Legs Challenge walks that have been held to date and a number of our Cubs had a great day at Camelot, a trip organised by our very own Tabaqui.

Our Cubs were also to be seen at all-Island Scouting events including the TT & MGP and the St Georges Day Parade at Laxey.

Within the 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Group the pack joined in with the Group Camp at Peel.

On Pack nights we have continued to do badge work, and in particular we have worked on our highway, water (assisted by Douglas Coastguard), home safety (we visited Douglas Fire Station) and country codes. Most of the cubs also completed their IT badges.

During the autumn term we had a brilliant pack camp at the Maughold Venture Centre, visited the Energy from Waste Plant and built edible rafts. During the winter term we visited the Douglas Post Sorting Office and went on the Douglas Ghost Walk.

The end of summer term last year saw us at Injebreck Reservoir for wide games and this year so far has seen us on a nature walk from Crosby to Union Mills and doing a blindfold trail and wide game at Tromode. We have also had our first tryouts for the up and coming Cub 5 a side football day.

We also had successful joint pack nights with 1<sup>st</sup> Santan cubs who joined us for our traditional very wet water fun night and a sausage sizzle at Port Soderick.

Thanks again to everyone who has supported the Pack over the last year including leaders, helpers, parents and Cubs and I hope we can all look forward to another successful year in the rest of 2011 and into 2012.

Akela  
(Colin Brew)

### **Tynwald Pack Report 2011**

It's been another busy year for the Tynwald Cup Pack; we've been involved in various Group and Island activities, which include:

MGP  
The Scout Super Splash,  
St Georges Day Parade,  
Island Cub trip to Camelot,  
1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Group Camp,  
Island Cub Camp.

The Cubs have also gained a number of Activity badges such as; Map Reader, Home Help, Entertainer, Collector, Nights Away, Swimmer, Chef (a very messy night) and we are currently working towards our Emergency Aid badge with the help of Laura Skears and Amanda Mills. The Cubs have also gained number of Challenge badges, Community, Creative and Promise Challenges. Rhiannan Perkins was awarded her Chief Scout's Silver Award before she moved on to Scouts.

On one of our Pack nights Cubs from 5th Douglas joined us and we had a sense evening. (Activities involving the senses).

We have planned a number of outdoor pack nights, most of which were cancelled due to bad weather. But we have just had a busy night at Mull ny Carty where the Cubs lit a campfire and toasted marshmallows and also "fished in the river". One of the highlights of our year must be our visit to the House of Keys where some of our Cubs along with some Scouts were invested in the Tynwald Chamber.

In May our ACSL Kate organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Group Camp at Peel, which was very much enjoyed by all who attended, thank you to those others who helped Kate over the weekend.

Tynwald Cub Pack is currently running at approximately 29 cubs. It must be said that we have a good pack of cubs and on the whole we have all had a terrific time.

Finally, I would like to thank Baloo (Gordon), Kaa (Kate), Baghera (Leanne) and Anne for all their hard work over the last year.

Louise Neville  
Cub Scout Leader

### **1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Scout Troop Annual Report 2011**

During the previous year, we have seen our Scout numbers grow substantially; we again have girls in our troop.

I would like to put on record my thanks to all who have assisted both the meetings and various events during the last year. Special thanks to Greg, Paul and Nikki and to David.

During the winter month's we have completed the Fitness Challenge award, and the Creative Challenge, we could not have finished this badge without the help of two former Scouts, Mark McCabe-O'Kelly and David Briton, they helped teach the Scouts the dance from the 'Michael Jackson' song Thriller, and all of the Scouts have now gained this award.

During the year we have entered various Scouting events such as Scout Super Splash, Kayak Polo, TT & MGP Races and the Island Scout Camp at Peel and the Island Orienteering Championship 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Scouts won this event with a great team of 3 Scouts.

Scouts have attended two major parades though out last year, Remembrance Sunday and the St George's Day Parade.

Some of the Scouts & Parents have started walking the Yomp Walk from the Northeast point to the most Southerly point of the Island.

We have just started building some wooden flower boxes for Thursday Beavers, which we hope they will put to good use over the next year.

During the next year, I hope that the Scouts will continue to participate in as many events such as The Orienteering competition, and Island wide game along with other regular events held on the Island.

I would also like to say a big warm welcome to all cubs that are turning Scout age and I hope to see you very soon, if you have a friend that would like to join please let myself or Greg know and we can see if we have the availability at the time of you joining. In addition, I would like to say goodbye and good luck to some of my older Scouts who will be leaving for Explorers this summer.

Just a final word of thanks to both the Scouts and to their parent's for their support and commitment during the year. We couldn't do it without you!

Neil Simpson Scout Leader

### **Douglas Explorer Scouts**

Overview of the last year

During this last year we have seen our numbers go from 8 to just short of 20 active members. We have had a packed program which has allowed 8 members complete their young leaders award, the majority of the unit gained up to level 4 emergency aid with the kind help from heart start.

We have members working towards their duke of Edinburgh award scheme at different levels, also some members have gained award in music, physical recreation and community badges.

We also have members who have been helping with island events such as cub camp, tynwald day car parking, Douglas group camp and we were very impressed with attendance for St George's day.

We recently had a one night camp at the scout camp site at Mull ny Carty this was a more of a get to know you better camp with a few of the younger new members attending. We are travelling to Liverpool in the summer for our unit summer camp this August taking part in activities such as the high rope course at Knowsley's safari park and the chill factor Manchester.

Laura Skears

Did You Know Our Scout Hall can be booked for Birthday Parties etc.?

To book or for further information please ring

Mrs Hazel on 677297

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Thank You to everyone who collected Tesco vouchers for us. Last year we were able to order tabards for use on sports days etc plus beanbags.

This year we have collected twice as many and have ordered quite a few items.