

Newsletter of North Dorset District Scouting

<http://www.northdorsetscouts.org.uk>

Our DC writes:

Well at last it's here! 2007, the start of our centenary year. Plans for the District Centenary Camp are well underway, the support and encouragement shown by the leaders is inspiring.

Please remember to order the set of 4 commemorative badges, two are issued at group level, the third by district on attending a Centenary camp and the fourth by County on attending the Sunrise ceremony (at Goose 2007). Both District and County will reimburse the cost of the latter two badges.

It's that time of year for the annual census. Please note that Roger Monksummers is overseeing the task this year, thanks a lot Rog. Please complete the forms as soon as possible as it makes life easier for everyone involved and remember all adults, including sectional assistants and Exec. Officers are to be shown.

This year will be the busiest some of us will ever see in Scouting. St. George's Day Parade and Service is a County organised event to be held at Dorchester. Each District, led by a band, will parade through the town and assemble at Maumbury Rings for the service. Please encourage everyone to attend as it could be the biggest parade Dorset has ever seen, a truly historic event.

Scout section Goose applications should now be on their way to Debbie Hines, District coordinator, the deadline was the end of December. Debbie will deal with any problems not Charles Davis. Cub and Beaver application will be dealt with at later deadlines.

At the same time as Goose 2007, there will members from the District attending the main celebration of the year, the World Jamboree. Either before or after the Jamboree, the District will be offering Home Hospitality (Ho Ho) to Scouts and leaders from another country. This will be based at Blandford Scout H.Q. Help and support will be needed once the details are finalised.

This year, for many there will be mixed feelings. For some celebrating 100 years of Scouting will be a milestone in their Scouting career, for

others the start of a great experience. Just think the youngest Beaver now could see the next centenary

Finally, think of now, take your year gently, share any problems or concerns, include and use everyone and you will all survive to carry on in 2008. Remember Scouting is not just for 2007 it's for life.

Jenny Merefield

Roll of Honour - 2006

We congratulate those who have attained their sections **Chief Scouts Award** in 2006 ~

Gold

Blandford
Nikki Young

Silver

Blandford
Dan Lillington George Norris
Jamie Mitchell Shaun Rouillier
William Carr

Bourton
Adam Allard Naomi Cox
Ryan Norris

Charlton Marshall
Ben Lumkin Emma Davis
Jonathan Hannam

Gillingham
Aaron Ginger Benedict Raymond
Connor Craft Harry Andrews
Harry Baker Harvey Chinnock
Lawrence Ingham Tom McGeoch
William Snowdon

Motcombe
Thomas Card
Shaftesbury
Jodie Davies Joe Rogers
Mathew Phillips Thomas Appleby

Bronze

Gillingham
Charlie Dymock
Motcombe
Robert Fryer

Cubs

Well we've made it at last to our Centenary Year – with all the preparation beforehand it has seemed a long time coming. Make sure it doesn't fly by without giving your Cubs something that extra bit special that they can tell their grandchildren about!

But first – our 90th birthday year finished with a great party with the Beavers. Many thanks to all leaders and helpers who gave up their time, yet again, to put on excellent bases, play crazy games and generally give our young people a splendid time. We've been quiet for a while District wise, but it all kicks off again at the end of the month with the start of the District Quiz rounds. Speaking of which, many congratulations to Gillingham Kim who came a very credible third in the County Quiz, there were only two points between first, second and third a very close competition. We hope to see as many leaders as possible at OUR District Cub Scout Leaders meeting on Tuesday 23rd January at 8.30pm in Gillingham HQ. Quiz questions will be handed out, plus details and bases for Scrapheap Challenge will be available and hopefully more details for the Emergency Aid Badge Day on March 3rd at Shaftesbury. Agendas have been emailed to CSL's – please ask them for your copy, they are also available on our web page. So lots going on and a lot more to come as we go up a gear for Scouting in 2007!

Sandra Williams ~ ADC (Cubs)

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Late News

"2007 Congratulations"
to
John Kerley
and
Roger Monksummers
who have each been awarded the
Medal of Merit

Jenny Merefield DC

Scouts

We ended a very busy 2006 with two District events, both of which were very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Our Backwoods weekend took place over the 14/15 October in Ashley Woods. The weekend was based on the Survival Badge where we covered as much of the badge requirements as we could in the time given, the remaining requirements to be completed within the Troop. Some 45 Scouts plus numerous Leaders invaded the woods and set about building their shelters for the night. This activity took most of the morning and afternoon to complete, some very interesting shelters evolved from the compact to the up market residence's complete with en-suite facilities.

Wood was collected for the fire and as light began to fade the woods were full of cooking smells, as evening meals were prepared.

After everyone had eaten their fill a night hike followed around the perimeter of the woods. Returning to our shelters we settled down for the night for some well-deserved rest and sleep. The weather was extremely mild and dry for the time of year and the night passed with little disruption.

The sun rose and the woods were filled with the smell of breakfasts being cooked. During the morning we were treated to a display of birds of prey and a chance to get acquainted with them. After lunch we all departed looking forward to the next one.

The final District event for 2006 was a Birthday party/sleepover held at Shaftesbury HQ. 48 Scouts and 10 Leaders enjoyed loads of food, a huge Birthday cake (which we were still eating at breakfast), silly games, dancing and karaoke. We are now looking forward to 2007 events, which will begin with the Trig Tower Tor in February.

Final thought

***Failure is not falling down;
failure is not getting up again!***

Happy New Year

John Kerley ~ ADC (Scouts)

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john.kerley@interservefm.com

Gone Home "Rocket Ron" (1923 – 2006)

Some of you may well remember Ron Panton, ex GSL 1st Shaftesbury and District President. Sadly, Ron passed away in December. Like a true scout Ron was prepared and had planned his memorial service. He stipulated it was to be a colourful (no black ties), happy event.

When Ron came to Shaftesbury both he and his wife Eileen soon got involved with town life. He was a member of the Congregational church and started a youth group, which had a pop band which traveled round the local churches. He became a member of the Art Centre and performed in many a play, both on stage and stage management.

Like Baden-Powell, Ron did not get involved with Scouting until his late forties when he became GSL at Shaftesbury, a role held up to his retirement at 65. He was respected by both young and old, and held no airs or graces, he could talk to all.

His favourite part of Scouting life was camp, very few did he miss whilst GSL and it was at camp he earned his nickname "Rocket". I hasten to say it was not for speed as it was not Ron's way to rush into things. Ron would like to stroll over to the patrol sites and chat with the lads, and comment on the occasional litter and untidiness, to which he earned the title "here comes Ron to give us a Rocket". So much was their respect for him that at one camp he was present with a T shirt which was emblazoned in red "Rocket Ron". This touched him deeply and was always his favourite scouting memento.

In his time in Scouting, Ron gave a lot to the people he met both young and old and in return Scouting did a lot for Ron. In fact his last Scouting appearance was to attend the Shaftesbury Group's AGM in June.

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Young Leaders

Training Dates ~

Module D –

Tues. 16th Jan. @ Blandford – 8.00pm

Note change of start time.....

Module E –

Wed. 28th Feb. @ Bourton - 7.30pm

Module F –

Wed. 21st March @ Stur. Newton - 7.30pm

Module K –

tba, April, as part of activity weekend

PLEASE BOOK via

Chrissy Monksummers ~ DESA
tel. 01747 822202

Young Leader Training for Adults - What is it?

A new course on the subject of Young Leader Training for Adults is currently being planned as part of the County Training Team programme. The course will be available in the evening on

Wednesday 16th May 2007

then repeated on

Thursday 18th October 2007.

It will be of approximately 2 ½ hours duration and attendance at the course counts towards ongoing learning. The course is for any adult in scouting with an interest to attend especially those working in any capacity with Young Leaders either as a sponsoring Section Leader or within the Explorer Scout Section. It is intended that the course will cover appropriate subject areas and will provide a forum for discussion and sharing of both good practice and problem sharing. (Details of the full course content may be obtained from Chrissy Monksummers – details below).

Booking for the course will be through the normal Adult Training process and the course cost will be £5. It is anticipated that this course will be popular so early booking is advised.

For more information contact either

Melvin Stroud, 01747 822317

or Chrissy Monksummers, 01747 822202,

monksummers@ntlworld.com

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WANTED.....

1 PL for a lifetime Experience

In parallel to the World Jamboree, and the GOOSE camp at Buddens, a camp is being held on Brownsea Island.

This camp will be on the same site as BP's camp 100 years ago, and it is from this camp that the sunrise celebrations will be broadcast across the world.....

Dorset, along with other Counties, has 2 places for 2 PL's to join other invited Scouts representing Scouting around the world for this unique occasion.

North Dorset can nominate 1 Scout (must be a Patrol Leader) to County for County to make a final countywide selection of 2.PL's.

If you are a PL, who will still be within the Scout section age range at the time of the camp, telephone me for more details before 8.00pm Friday 2nd Feb.

Roger Monksummers DDC 01747 822202

Explorer Scouts

PLEASE update diaries NOW

Key 2007 Dates

January

- Tues. 16th Blandford pod planning meeting @Blandford, 7.30pm
Tues. 16th YL Module D "Kids behaving badly" @ Blandford, 8.00pm (note change of time)
Sat/Sun 27th/28th Frostbite Challenge, see County Website, at least 2 North Dorset teams please!

February

- Sat/Sun 3rd/4th Africa Contingent training weekend.
Wed. 28th YL Module E @ Bourton, 7.30pm

March

- Sat/Sun 3rd/4th Boot Challenge, opportunity for a small number of ES to join the Sweep team with Phil and Neil.
Fri. 16th District Explorer Meeting (** changed from 23rd because of Explorinox - see below)
Wed. 21st YL Module F @ Sturminster Newton, 7.30pm
Fri>Sun 23rd>25th Explorinox – joint North and West Dorset New Forest weekend based at Braggers Wood – flyer already circulated.

April

- Sun. 22nd St Georges Day event @ Dorchester. ALL to attend, details nearer the time.
Fri>Sun 27th>29th Buddens Camp – activity and training weekend
To include YL Module K/First Response shooting, climbing, abseiling, archery, etc.

May

- Sat>Mon 26th>28th District Centenary Camp at Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show Ground.
Separate sub-camp for all ES.
Range of activities inc. talent show, cabaret and camp fire, trek cart challenge.

June

- Sat/Sun 23rd/24th County climbing weekend at Dancing Ledge.
Depending on interest (and leader support) may be possible to camp at Tom's Field.

July/August

- Fri 27th > Wed 8th World Jamboree – Hylands Park, Essex.
Sun 29th > Sat 4th GOOSE – County International Activity Camp, Buddens Campsite.
**** Both these events will include the sunrise celebration of 100 years of Scouting ****

October

- Fri>Sun 19th>21st National Scout Shooting competition, Bisley

Neil Gillard ~ DESC

Scouts and Explorer Scouts – Shooting Course

An NSRA-YPS course is planned for this spring. (National Small-bore Rifle Assoc. – Youth Proficiency Scheme)

Applications are invited from any N.Dorset Scouts or Explorer Scouts.

Until Fri. 26th Jan. applications will be accepted at 2 per Troop / Unit up to a course max. of 8, after that date any remaining vacancies will be open to additional members of Troops / Units.

Scouts ~ Why not use as your activity for your Gold Chief Scouts award and / or Gain your Master at Arms badge?

Explorers ~ Why not use for your DoE award, Platinum Chief Scouts and / or Physical Rec. badge?

For more information and / or to apply contact

Roger Monksummers ~ DDC ~ 01747 822202

Session Dates

February 9th, 23rd
March 9th, 23rd
April 20th
May 4th, 18th
June 1st

Venue

Shaftesbury Scout HQ

Times

7.00pm > 9.00pm

Cost

£25
Which covers NSRA registration, book and all course fees.