

Newsletter of North Dorset District Scouting

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

Our DC writes:

The Centenary Year has been quite inspirational so far. The District census figures have increased on last years, following the county trend. My thanks to you all for the hard work and commitment which has made this happen. Remember quality leadership and programmes will entice more young people to enjoy this game of Scouting.

St. Georges Day, your support was fantastic, the majority of the District attended. It was great to march behind our new District Flag (kindly donated by the District Fellowship) and following Shaftesbury Town Band who did us proud. The parade was over a mile long, the likes of which will not be seen in Dorset for many years to come. Everything was great, the weather, the setting (Maumbury Rings) and the address by Bishop Tim, which held everyone's attention both young and old. What a way to end the day, "Feeding of the 4,000", everyone having a packed tea.

The Centenary Camp Team has been working hard, obtaining grants from the Lottery and other local charities. This camp will be bigger, better and drier than the Millennium Camp in 2000.

We have a super camp badge, definitely a collector's item. The programme covers the theme of past, present, and future with loads of activities and fun. Numbers attending are encouraging with at least 65% of the District going to be there.

Still on the Centenary theme, Goose 2007, the County Centenary Camp in August has attracted tremendous support from you all. Once again this is a chance of a life time experience, to watch and be part of "The Scouting Sunrise Ceremony" being held on our own Brownsea Island on 1st August, don't forget we have a live satellite link.

Our District members who are going to the World Jamboree are on the final stages of preparations, with general kit being packed and final contingency camps to attend. It's been a long hard effort from both fundraisers and the leader's in charge. I'm sure all those young people attending will enjoy the experience of a lifetime and talk about it for years to come. Good luck to you all, have a smashing time. North Dorset is proud of you.

Away from the centenary celebrations, Scouting still goes on. It was heart warming to see Shaftesbury Town Hall overflowing with 170 plus recipient and guests at the recent awards presentation evening. James Morton, County Commissioner was delighted and overwhelmed by the turn out. My congratulations to both adult and young people on receiving well earned recognition. This is certainly an event we will repeat annually.

Jenny Merefild

Beavers

What a fantastic year this is! Centenary camp is in the final stages of planning and I know it will be a fabulous camp and an experience for all those who are attending.

August 1st will be a day that everyone remembers; having to get up at around 5am is just the beginning! The Sunrise Ceremony, the banquet and all the activities throughout the day will be remembered for a very long time to come.

I would like to add my congratulations to all the Beavers who were presented with their Chief Scout Award by James Morton last month. It was a lovely evening with parents, Leaders and local dignitaries supporting.

St George's day parade was something else. What an atmosphere! Thank you to everyone for making it the best ever.

A District activity day is being planned, where Beavers can try canoeing, rope course etc. Originally being held in June, but the date has had to be changed and I will announce the new date as soon as possible.

A District outing is being planned for October – probably Yeovilton, and we are hoping to camp on Brownsea next summer for our District Camp.

Next District meeting Blandford July 5th at 8.30.

Debbie Hines ~ ADC (Beavers)

Cubs

On Tuesday 27th March, having got through their Pack round and area round, four sixes battled it out to be the brainiest in the District! The sixes came from Stalbridge Kim, Gillingham Kim, Motcombe and Blandford Portman. Congratulations go to all the cubs, they did very well, listened and behaved and were a credit, as usual to the District. The eventual winners were Motcombe with a massive 73 points, runners up Blandford Portman had 64 points closely followed by the other two sixes.

In a close run adult team competition, Blandford Brains need to get out more as they beat the other **four** teams! The Cub section would like to say a huge thank you to our quiz

master Graham Williams for all his hard work. Good luck to Motcombe who will go on to represent the District at the County Final in November.

This years Scrapheap Challenge was to build a replica of Baden Powell's Experimental Camp on Brownsea Island. Judging took place at the Emergency Aid Badge Day on March 3rd at Shaftesbury and once again Charlton Marshall proved they are the Craftiest Pack in the District! They went on to represent the District at the County event later in the month and did very well. Our thanks go to Tina Wise for organising another very good day for the Emergency Aid Badge. The day was split into two so twice as many cubs could gain their badge. Thanks to everyone who ran a base on the day, you would never have known there were 60 Cubs in the HQ at one time! At the end of April Sixer's and Seconder's from around the District met at Blandford Scout HQ for a training day.

We began with some training on leading Grand Howl, so don't be surprised Akela if your Sixer's ask to lead Grand Howl!

Then bases on firelighting, knotting (including the friendship knot so no more problems with Centenary Scarves!), backwoods pizza, Patrol tent pitching, map and compass and preparing the Union Flag for Flag Break. We had a Forum meeting during the lunch break, sharing ideas and good practice for the Sixer and Seconder role within the Pack meeting, with ideas for future events.

As expected it was a pleasure to spend the day with such enthusiastic Cubs and Leaders and thanks go to all those who took part. We are hoping this will become a more regular event with hopefully an overnight stay added in once a year!

After that wonderful St George's Day Parade I am really looking forward to our District Centenary Camp and GOOSE, hope you are too and see you there and thanks for all you do!

Sandra Williams ~ ADC (Cubs)

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Scouts

News, what news? Not much happening in the world of North Dorset ScOUTing this year? If you believe that then you are not talking to your Leaders.

The annual Trig Tower Tor took place in February. Five teams navigated their way around the country side of Shaftesbury, had a sleepover at Shaftesbury HQ on the Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday morning. Congratulations to Blandford Town who were overall winners.

St Georges Day parade in April was a moving experience for all those who attended. Our Scouts and Leaders were a credit to both the District and County. Thanks to you all.

OK, what's coming up for the rest of the year?

District Centenary Camp, 26th to 28th May at Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show Ground. This promises to be THE event of the year.

RAE Award, 15th to 17th June at Hats Hill field, Shaftesbury. This is THE camping competition. Winners go on to represent the District at the County Banner 29th June to 1st July.

GOOSE 2007, 28th July to 4th August. A week of activities and fun. Have you registered for this event?

PL and APL training weekend, 15th to 16th September. This will be a hike with a lightweight over night camp.

Backwoods weekend, October dates to be confirmed. A survival weekend using natural materials for shelter and cooking.

District Activity weekend, 24th to 25th November. A joint weekend with Explorer Scouts on Dartmoor, climbing, abseiling and walking.

December, Watch this space.....

Final thought ~

**It looks like summer has arrived.
It's time to leave the Grate
Indoors and go for the Great
Outdoors.**

John Kerley ~ ADC (Scouts)

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new email..... j.Kerley@poole.gov.uk

Explorer Scouts

PLEASE update diaries NOW

Key Dates

May

Sat>Mon 26th>28th District **Centenary Camp** at Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show Ground, with separate sub-camp for all ES's. 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 Champs, Bisley

This year the ESU will be entering as a Unit team, both pods & YL's all are welcome. It is also planned to build some coaching and practice time into our programme. For more details / to enter please contact Chrissy.

Neil Gillard ~ DESC

tel. 01747 822202

Fellowship

AGM 2007

Monday 11th June

8.00 for 8.15

@ Shaftesbury HQ

Current and potential members very welcome.

Roger Monksummers

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