

Newsletter of North Dorset District Scouting

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



Our DC writes;



The Centenary Year of Scouting in North Dorset has certainly been a fantastic roller coaster ride of memories and experiences. Making friendships old and new, but most of all being a part of history in the making.

I am proud of North Dorset's input, at St. Georges Day, District Centenary Camp, Goose and the World Jamboree. The support, enthusiasm and encouragement from both young and old has been an uplifting experience.

To complete the Centenary Year, there will be a Thank You Party on 12th January (GSL's and District Sec. have the details). I feel we all need to reflect and complete this special year as a District. The momentum of 2007 should roll on into 2008, we should be building on last year's high not slumping into an anticlimax, Scouting offers excitement and experiences for all.

2008 is review time in the District, a time to build, support and improve, strengthen the weaknesses and fill those leadership gaps. Group Scout Leaders need to be appointed at Motcombe, Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton. Sturminster group has been a recent success with all sections numbers slowly increasing due to the enthusiasm of a team of district leaders who refused to see the group fold due to lack of local adult support. Leaders are still required to support these enthusiastic young people who deserve Scouting as it should be.

One could say "Out with the Old in with the New". This is nothing disrespectful to James Morton, who retired as County Commissioner at the end of December, James will be a hard act to follow but I am sure his successor, Mike Parkes will prove to be as equally dynamic.

Quality Scouting comes from well trained, committed leadership, so let's keep the steady flow of wood badges we gained last year continuing through this year, leaders have to be achievers as much as the young people.

A special thanks go to Sandra Williams who has handed the ADC(Cubs) role to Richard Arnold, Sandra remains as a DCSL.

I thank you all and wish you all a "Fantastic Scouting 2008".

Jenny Merefild



The minutes of North Dorset District Beaver Leaders Meeting held on Wed. 7th Nov. 2007 @ Sturminster Newton HQ contain current sectional info. – See website

The next meetings, with Cub leaders, are,
Weds 16th Jan Stur 8:15
Thurs 17th April Blandford 8:15



The minutes of North Dorset District Cub Leaders Meeting held on Thurs. 11th Oct 2007 @ Shaftesbury HQ contain current sectional info. – See website

The next meetings, with Cub leaders, are,
Weds 16th Jan Stur 8:15
Thurs 17th April Blandford 8:15



Sturminster Newton Scouts are up and running with 14 invested Scouts who regularly attend on a Tuesday evening. Over the past term the Leaders have given the Scouts tasters on Scouting skills and activities such as knotting, pioneering, map reading, compass, emergency aid, prussiking and backwoods. I would like to thank Jenny and Paul for their support over the last 4 months.

The Scout Aviation weekend, which took place over the 21st to 23rd September, proved to be an uplifting experience for the Scouts, Leaders and Wessex Strut members who attended.



All 23 Scouts achieved their Meteorologist, Navigators and Basic Aviation badges. The highlight of the weekend was a 40 minute flight, on a 1 to 1, with the Scout navigating the flight pattern.



The Leaders also had the opportunity to fly, some twice!

During the presentations of certificates and badges to the Scouts, the "Wessex Strut" team were presented with a framed "Thank You" certificate signed by the Chief Scout. A date for the 2008 event has been set for September. My grateful thanks go to everyone who made this amazing activity possible.

Over the weekend of the 13th/14th October, 40 plus Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders invaded the woods at Spetisbury for the annual "Backwoods" experience. Shelters were constructed from tarpaulins due to the lack of suitable natural materials, meals were cooked over wood fires in the traditional backwoods method. Phil Allen demonstrated how to skin and gut rabbits for the pot, several Scouts and Explorers also had a go. The wide games for Saturday night were organised by the Explorers. Sunday morning, in brilliant sunshine, a hike to Spetisbury Rings rounded off the weekend.

So! Into 2008 and what have the Leaders planned for the District?

1st to 3rd February.

Dartmoor trip to Dewerston Scout Centre
23rd to 24th February

Trig Tower Tor.

April.

5 a side football competition.

2nd to 5th May

District Scout Rally at Buddens.

13th to 15th June

Rae Award at Hatts field.

4th to 6th July

County Banner competition.

We would also like to fit in a District trip to Brownsea Island and Baden Powell House, letterboxing on Dartmoor and water activities during the spring and summer.

I take this opportunity, to wish everyone in North Dorset District a Happy New Year and Good ScOUTing 2008 and to thank all the Leaders for their commitment, enthusiasm and support over the past year.

Final Thought

Don't live in the past, but DO learn from it.

John Kerley ~ ADC (Scouts)

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As we move into our next Centenary of Scouting it is perhaps a suitable time to reflect back over the achievements and changes within the Explorer Section. I have seen much enthusiasm and commitment during this year from leaders and Explorers alike. Both our two pods and the Young Leader Unit have grown in numbers during the year, full credit to the leaders for their efforts, the impressive increase in membership numbers in the Orca pod is primarily due to the hard work and commitment that Baz has put in during the year. Commitment comes with its rewards, the awarding of three Chief Scout Platinum awards and three DoE Bronze awards to members of Orca pod along with a significant number of activity badges is a testament to a successful balanced programme and a lot of hard work. In addition to this the completion of three sectional wood badges; Phil Allen, Pete Prill and Chrissy Monksummers, with another well on the way proves again the leadership dedication to Scouting.

Scouting is about having fun, something we have certainly had during this year, our Explorers have enthusiastically taken part in everything including competitions and their efforts have been rewarded by winning, in some cases well exceeding leaders hopes and expectations. Frostbite challenge left our Explorers exhausted, but in good spirits, winning elements of the competition and raring to go again. St George's Day saw both Explorer Units parading together; it was wonderful to have the Young Leaders able to be there just as Explorers without causing difficulties for their sections, the day - a lasting memory for all of us. Then Centenary Camp where the Explorers did so much to help others as well as a spirited refusal to be washed out home. Goose, Jamboree and Brownsea, so looked forward to and worked for by our Explorers and so enjoyed by all. With Pete's help and guidance an impressive number of our Explorers attended Jamboree, a real credit to North Dorset. We had an Explorer leave GOOSE to be part of the New Centenary Camp on Brownsea, history in the making. Then the National Scout Shooting Championships at Bisley; this year our team of Explorers won several gold and silver medals the most prestigious of which was a silver place in the top award, (Connaught Trophy), a competition which over 700 scouts from around the country

attended. We now have two of our Explorer Scouts representing GB, with a third in the National Scout Target Shooting Squad. Our Young Leaders unit has been very much leading the way nationally in the development of the Young Leaders scheme as a whole, we now have representation on a HQ Explorer YL working group. As the year drew to a close we had a party for all our Explorers and Leaders hosted by Orca pod. It was with sadness that we saw Pete with us for the last time for now, we wish Pete a speedy recovery and look forward to the day when he is well enough to rejoin us.

The new Centenary of Scouting has begun and we are well into planning the year's events. Frostbite is nearly upon us again, with Dewestone close behind, other more ambitious expeditions are currently under way with the Africa trip progressing well and thoughts being turned to St Petersburg and other possible expeditions. I would like to welcome Jodi Walbrin who is transferring to Explorers to assist with WSAN pod, the leadership team are working together to provide Scouting support whilst additional leader(s) are found. The recognition by the District Executive of the need for support by way of a fund raising committee as per a group executive has been welcomed.

I would personally like to thank all of the Explorer leaders and Fellowship members that have contributed so much during this last, very taxing, but enjoyable year the Explorers would not be here without you, "Thanks".

Neil Gillard ~ DESC

Thanks for 2007

I would like to say how much of a privilege it has been for me to be involved in one of the most memorable and enjoyable years in Scouting. I really hope that everyone gained something from our Centenary year I know I certainly did.

Orca pod started the year with 8 Explorer Scouts and has ended with 23. During this momentous year we had 3 Explorers complete their Chief Scout Platinum award, 3 DoE Bronze awards and extensive activity badges awarded. Memorable events this year for Explorers include Centenary Camp (water activities included!), Jambo!, Goose, Brownsea, Frostbite (Orca won Camp Cooking and WSAN won a hike), Georgian Fayre at Blandford, climbing at Dancing Ledge, Shooting (congratulations to those who attended Bisley and won so many awards), Archery, backwoods cooking, first aid, Explorinox.

County St George's Day for me was one of the most memorable events. To sit on that bank and

see the whole of the County in one place at one time was absolutely awe inspiring. It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up and give me goose bumps all over. Another event that will stay with me forever was to be part of the Sunrise Ceremony on 1st August at Goose, a very moving experience making me proud to be a Scout Leader.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the District Explorer Leaders for all the support they have given me in the past year Rob Young, Phil Allen, Chrissy Monksummers, Neil Gillard, thanks guys you're the greatest. One more special thanks to a valued Fellowship member and my girlfriend Vicky for putting up with me this past year.

I look forward to a fantastic 2008.

Baz Dando

Explorer Scout Leader - Orca pod



The County Scout Network is looking for nominations for the following positions on the County Network Committee ~

Chairman
2 Vice Chairmen
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
Webmaster.
Publicity Officer.
Newsletter Editor.
Events Co-ordinator.
Committee members.

Nominations to Bob Bowers please, ASAP,
email: dorsetnetwork@inbox.com
preferably before 25th January, ready for our AGM on the 30th at the Springfield Hotel, Wareham.

If you are within our age range of 18 to 25 and interested in joining us or finding out more, please contact me on 01747 840507 or hughhonnywill@aol.com .

Enjoy your Network

Hugh Honnywill -

County Scout Network Commissioner

Roll of Honour 2007

Congratulations to our 33 Young People who earnt their Chief Scout Award in 2007

Platinum

North Dorset ESU & YL's
Ben Monksummers
Luke Young
Tom Bignold

Gold

Blandford Camp
George Kerr-Jones

Silver

Blandford
Aidan Jones
Andrew Pridmore
Callum Dodd
Charlie Christopher
Hannah Johnson
Haydn Shafford
Matthew Hart
Robert Carr

Gillingham

Robbie Marshall
Robert Morrison
Simon Dodd
Simon Pike
Sophie Hoskins

Motcombe

Samuel Lucas

Shaftesbury

Bradley Stranger
George Lee
Gregory Slade
Jack Jenkins
Luke Kelleher
Max Boyle
Peter Hammond
Sam Lander
Thomas Dodd

Bronze

Gillingham

Casey Toye
David Waddington
Joshua Gale
Kieran Reeve
Liam Standfield
Matthew Brown