

THE WEST SUSSEX ADVENTURE

West Sussex Scouts County Newsletter February 2012



D of E Success for 25 West Sussex Scouts



Lodge Hill Centre, Pullborough, was the venue for 25 West Sussex Scouts to receive their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards from Lady Elizabeth Bennett on Sunday 4th December 2011.

County Commissioner, John Spickett, welcomed the recipients and their families and highlighted that of the 800 Explorer Scouts in West Sussex, over 100 are participating in the scheme. Nigel Colenutt, the Scouts DofE Award advisor gave a presentation on the achievements and highlighted the growth of the scheme within West Sussex Scouts.

Lady Elizabeth Bennett then presented 16 Bronze Awards, 8 Silver Awards, and 1 Gold Award to the Scouts from West Sussex. Alex Morris and Luke Knight from Sonic Shadows Explorer Scout Unit said, "The Duke of Edinburgh scheme had provided us the opportunity to map out our expeditions independently and the freedom to complete the elements within the scouting movement." Both are now looking forward to embarking on their Silver Award.

Isabelle Dommatt from Excelsior Explorer Scout Unit said, "I have enjoyed every aspect of the award and have been inspired to complete my Silver and Gold Awards." Matthew Earnshaw, who was presented with his Gold Award said, "I enjoyed the experiences of the DofE scheme and I am now in the position to share my experiences with Scouts at all levels. This is what Scouting is all about, Fun, Challenge and Adventure."

APRIL ISSUE

Submit your pictures and stories to
editor.wsscouts@gmail.com
by 15th March 2012

From Irene, County Commissioner

Firstly a Happy New Year to you and yoursa new year, a new website and a new county commissioner or should I say a caretaker Commissioner.

Having taken over this role now for just over a month it's been a time to get to grips with the role, glean vital information and mainly find out what the county team can do for the districts to help support them in the fantastic job they do in providing first rate scouting in West Sussex.

The launch of our new website (www.westsussexscouts.org.uk) is all thanks to Owen Hall the new webmaster. There is still more work to do on developing it and phase two will follow shortly. I think you will agree Owen has done a splendid job. Now it's down to you to keep the articles and information flowing to keep it fresh and up to date.

Not only is the search still ongoing for the next County Commissioner but searches are in place for three District Commissioners as Vicki Tabrah (Adur), Vicky Hennessey (Bognor Regis) and Brian Barker (Horsham Weald) will be stepping down on the 31st March. A big thank you on behalf of the County for all your hard work and I wish you well in whatever you do next.

There have been lots of requests to reinstate the All Leader's County meetings and if a suitable venue can be found we hope to put that in place. If you have any suggestions please pass them onto the County Office. We need a large hall to accommodate approx 120 people, facilities to serve hot drinks and 10 breakout rooms accommodating about 20 in each plus car parking.

2012 will be a busy year for the UK as we celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and also host the biggest sporting event in the World, the Olympics. 2012 will also be another busy year of scouting in West Sussex and the one thing that I have learnt very quickly since taking up the CC mantle is you can't do everything yourself and you can't be everywhere and nor can you. So make sure you share the load because I am.

Thanks for your continued support.

Irene

New Role for Gerald Telfer

Gerald Telfer has been appointed as County Leader – International

Gerald was recently the leader of the Rampion Jamboree Unit and the District Explorer Scout Commissioner in Worthing. He brings a wealth of enthusiasm and experience to the role and I am sure everyone will be looking forward to working with him to raise the profile of both international and global activities in West Sussex.

Gerald can be contacted via email gerald.jambo@googlemail.com



Endeavour's Trip to Finland 2011

On Monday 24 October a party of leaders and explorer scouts from Endeavour Explorer Unit headed off to Lapland for five days. They flew via Riga and changed planes to get to Rovaniemi where they had hired a couple of VW Caravelles for their onward journey to the cabins in the middle of nowhere.

Driving at midnight in a strange country through thick fog to get to the cabins, it wasn't long before they realised they were in Finland as there were reindeer at the side of the road. The roads kept getting smaller and, following their emailed instructions, they found their cabins in the middle of the forest. They were fantastic wooden chalets next to a vast lake with reindeer doing the rounds on the lawn.

They renewed their promises on the line of the Arctic Circle and visited Santa where they found him to be quite cheeky when confronted with a load of explorers and leaders. Their first taste of adventure was the husky farm where the dogs were so friendly and unbelievably eager to pull them around a course on a wheeled buggy. There wasn't any snow as the snow was late that year in Finland and temperatures were around the zero mark most of the time. This was followed by the obligatory trip to the world's most northern McDonalds

A drive to a wildlife park allowed them to see the creatures that were in the woods around them but they had no chance of seeing (have you ever known 16 leaders and explorers to be quiet?) – lynx, brown bear and moose.

The final day was spent on a local hike around the lake where the path turned out to be the edge of the lake and the only difference between the land and the lake was the amount of

grass in the water. Wet boots and wet socks were dried out by a fire while the explorers cooked sausages for lunch.



Thinking of going abroad?

Jamboree Denmark 2012

Key Facts:

- 21st - 29th July 2012
- 35,000 Participants
- Worldwide audience
- WOSM & WAGGGS Members
- Open to All Ages
- Home Hospitality
- Camp Fee £240

Find out more at

www.2012jamboree.dk

Watch the video trailer

www.avpoint.co.uk/ole

Find on facebook search 'Jamboree Denmark 2012'

A Royal Volunteer

You are probably all now aware that the Duchess of Cambridge has joined us as a member of Scouting. The Duchess will be helping out at local beaver and cub meetings and will be supporting specific projects. This role is all about flexible volunteering and is ideal for The Duchess. Due to all the other demands in her life she is not able to make a regular weekly commitment, but still wants to help make a difference.

The recent and ongoing media interest will help highlight the fact that anyone can volunteer for scouting on a flexible basis. So be prepared to think creatively and be ready to welcome some new faces as and when they are able to help out.



Camp Staff Needed

Camp staff are still needed to help with this year's County Cub Camp (18th – 20th May)
We need your help with:

- Car parking and arrivals on the 18th May between 5pm and 9pm (or part of it)
- Car parking and departures on the 20th May between 3pm and 7pm (or part of it)
- Site Services staff
- Camp Office staff - lots of tea and biscuits included

If you can help, contact Dave Grimwood the Camp Chief for more information
dave@galeodesigns.co.uk 01903 744912

Peace and Quiet Buys Laptop for Scout in Kenya

In the summer of 2010, an explorer scout from Crawley attended the World Scout Moot (a large international scout camp for 18-25's) in Kenya. Whilst there he met a Kenyan Scout called Alex, who, although he had little, gave up his time to help his British counterpart. Alex attended primary school and his home is little more than a hut compared to British standards, but he invited his new friend to visit both and meet his family.

Alex wants to work his way out of poverty by studying for qualifications which will enable him to get a secure, well paid job and support his family. His mother solely supports the family by taking in washing but cannot afford to send him to college or university.

7th Crawley Scout Group decided they would like to try to help Alex in his ambitions and fundraise to pay towards his education. Alex gained a place on an 18 month 'Food Production' (catering) course at Utalii College in Nairobi, where he started in September 2011. Fees are about £500 a year and additional living costs are about £150 a month, but it all has to be paid for up front; there are no government-backed student loans. So far enough money has been raised to pay Alex's first term's fees and living costs and his required uniform and equipment. The next fees have to be paid in January.

In addition to these basic costs the group was recently advised that Alex now needed a laptop to help him with his studies. The Cub Pack agreed to hold a sponsored silence to help Alex, for an hour in the middle of their weekly meeting on 29th November 2011. £346.50 was raised, which was enough to pay for the laptop and some medical bills.

How about a SILENT cheer for the 7th Crawley Cub Pack!

2011 County Scout Shooting Results

The overall winners were:

Best shot whilst sitting Tara Greenhalf, Worthing District

Best shot whilst standing Tara Greenhalf, Worthing District

Best team score whilst sitting Arundel & Littlehampton District

Best team score whilst standing Worthing District

Best overall team Worthing District

The intended date for the next competition is Sunday 25th November 2012

Tony Felgate DDC Horsham West

Volunteering at Głodówka, Southern Poland

I first found out that I was going to work in Poland mid-September after looking for a place to volunteer as a Scout. Luckily, Głodówka said straight away that they could take me on for work at their centre, perched high in the Tatra Mountains on the border with Slovakia. The following Wednesday, I arrived in Zakopane, the largest city close to Głodówka and also considered the winter capital of Poland - only a mountain stood between myself and Głodówka.

The Scout Centre itself is incredibly unique in its own right - as well as hosting Scouts, hikers, skiers and other outdoor enthusiasts, we were even lucky enough to have a mass of medieval re-enactors descend on us for a weekend. The centre also has a Polish Film club every Monday night, which, although I did not particularly understand, it was nice to be invited along to watch the films when I was not working. Głodówka also acts as the meeting place of the local scout group, where I was introduced to the local scouts in the area.



The staff and volunteers were all very welcoming to me, even though I could not speak any Polish to begin with, and were eager to have me work alongside the whole staff. The work ranged from washing up in the kitchen, to cleaning the decking that overlooked the Tatras, to tidying the rooms in the accommodation building.

When I wasn't working, I was given the opportunity to explore the fantastic surroundings. Głodówka is the place in Poland where you can see the most Tatra Mountains, 75 km to be precise. It is no surprise therefore that I spent a number of days hiking up mountains and experiencing the brilliant views that the Tatras have to offer. I even had the opportunity one day to go on a road trip with some of the other volunteers into Slovakia and Hungary and see another part of Europe.

The centre holds an international scout camp every year. Visit glodowka.com.pl for more information, including information on volunteering at the centre.

Nick Groat

Chief Scout Award Success

38 scouts were presented with Gold, Platinum, and Diamond Chief Scout Awards at Lodge Hill on Sunday 29th January. These prestigious awards were made to young people from across West Sussex by Peter Dawes, Area Commissioner for British Scouting Overseas.

Jay, from Worthing District, arrived just in time to receive his Gold Award, as he had just left a scout campsite, where he had been helping to develop a new site as part of his next Chief Scout Award (Platinum). Jay said "I just love the new challenges and being involved in scouting".

Elliot, from Horsham West District, said "This award is part of scouting, you complete each level at your own pace and the challenges grow to the final award".

Two Sea Scouts from Worthing District, Lauren and Gemma said "The awards in their unit were far more "water based" involving Sea Kayaking, and other water activities and were great fun to do." Each activity led to the Gold Award received at Lodge Hill.



Happy 10th Birthday to Explorers and Scout Network

This year is the 10th birthday of Explorers and Scout Network a commemorative badge is available which can be worn on your uniform if involved in these sections. How will you be celebrating? Let us know.

WS2013 International Camp

3rd to 10th August 2013

WS2013 is your international camp to be held at the South of England Showground, Ardingly and we invite you to send your suggestions for the **CAMP THEME** to: WS2013@clubmember.org

We look forward to receiving ideas from everyone but especially from our young members.

Themes from previous camps: Wild West, Space, Medieval, Myths & Legends and Around the World in 80 Days.



2012 Diary Dates

Online at www.westsussexscouts.org.uk/events

February

6th – County Forum contact County Office

11th & 12th – Adult Training, Lodge Hill contact your local training manager

March

13th – County Activities Team meeting contact Steve Dawson

24th/25th – Overland Hike more info at www.overlandhike.com

26th – County Exec contact Dave Spring

31st – Adult Training, Lodge Hill contact your local training manager

April

1st – Adult Training, Lodge Hill contact your local training manager

24th – County ProjectPanel contact Colin Field

May

13th – County Awards Presentations contact Chris Arkle

14th – DESCs meeting 8pm The Red Lion, Ashington

18th to 20th – County Cub Camp, Ardingly

19th/20th – Adult Training, Module 38 Skills for Residential Experiences contact your LTM

28th – County Exec contact Dave Spring

28th – ESL(YL) Forum, 8pm The Red Lion Ashington

29th – ADC Beavers/Cubs/Scouts – contact David Warren, Jill Gladman, Dave Topper

June

19th – County Project Panel contact Colin Field

July

23rd – County AGM

28th – Scout Network meeting contact Kevin Angel

September

15th/16th – Adult Training, Module 38 Skills for Residential Experiences contact your LTM

25th – ADC Beavers/Cubs/Scouts – contact David Warren, Jill Gladman, Dave Topper

30th – County Awards Presentations contact Chris Arkle

October

6th – Sussex Downsman Hike more info at www.downsman.com

8th – Scout Network meeting contact Kevin Angel

9th – County Activities Team meeting contact Steve Dawson

13th & 14th – Adult Training, Lodge Hill contact your local training manager

15th – County Project Panel contact Colin Field

21st – Exchange Skills Day, Petworth

November

24th & 25th – Adult Training, Lodge Hill contact your local training manager

December

9th – County Awards Presentations contact Chris Arkle

Editor's Note

Thanks for all your submissions for this edition. Don't forget you can send in photos and stories about whatever you have been up to. Submissions for the next issue by 15th March.

Till next time

Pat