

CHRISTMAS 2013 & NEW YEAR



Young Chefs at District Cub Camp 2013



District Website: <http://www.westwirralscouts.org.uk>

From the District Commissioner

It is with regret that I have to advise you that we have lost two valuable Leaders in key roles in the District. The first was Ann Coulson, District Explorer Scout Commissioner who has stepped down. She first started in Scouting at the age of fourteen and has held many roles since then and has given valuable service in West Wirral since 1998, serving two years as DESC and five years as Deputy District Commissioner. Ann served Scouting elsewhere before then before joining West Wirral. The other is Diane Smith Acting GSL and SL Overchurch Upton who has, for reasons of work, also had to step down. She has done a good job in steering the Group over the last three and a bit years, and I am pleased to say that she will stay in touch with the Group as an Occasional Helper.

There were a number of applicants for the DESC job and I have appointed Sue Walton to the post. The job of Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leaders) has been advertised and I have received three applications for the job and will be making my choice after interviewing the applicants.

Chris Carlson is in the process of being appointed as Local Training Manger for West Wirral and will be handing over the role of ADC (Beavers) to Jayne Oliver after the Carol Service.

It is with sadness that I have to announce that Mrs G Freeman widow of Bob Freeman one of our past District Commissioners and a past Vice President, passed away early this month. Our thoughts are with the family.

I found out just too late to catch the closing day for the last Horn that 1st Frankby Greasby Scout did remarkably well in both the Lord Derby Competition and the Cooking Competition. Coming first in one and second in the other and a special award was made to their Patrol Leader for the way she managed and encouraged her Patrol. Many congratulations.

I have attended another two Group AGMs both of which were very successful in getting support. I attended the District Scout Fire held at 1st Thurstaston. (I could have walked there!). The weather was kind to them and a great time was had by all. (That's both young people and Leaders.) I attended the Young Peoples' Awards Day which was a great success and parents said that it was nice to see their children's efforts recognised this way. I would recommend it to all Groups. I was a little disappointed with the number of Groups represented there.

The weather was kind to us this year for Remembrance Day Services. Cold but bright. I attended the service at my local church along with 1st Thurstaston Scout Group. I must say that I was impressed with the number of young people there and with their behaviour. Next year I would like to join in the parade with a different Group.

We all look forward to a successful Christmas Post and Carol Services.

As there will not be another Horn this year may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Yours in Scouting,
Brian**

A pause for thought

WIRRAL HORN DECEMBER 2013

You may ask why at this time every year I usually take the opportunity to write about Christmas? This year will be no exception and the reason is, I really enjoy Christmas. Like me many of you will be attending Christmas Carol services, as part of Scouting or supporting your own children at their school's Christmas service.

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago; these were not the Christmas Carols we know today, but pagan songs celebrating the winter solstice. The word "carol" actually means a dance or song of joy.

I know that it is unbelievable to us now, but Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans outlawed Christmas and the singing of Carols was forbidden; thus taking the joy out of Christmas.

The singing of Carols is a very important part of our Christmas celebrations and they certainly enrich our enjoyment.

Christmas Eve was once known as "watch night or wait night", as a tribute to the shepherds who faithfully watched their sheep on the hills above Bethlehem, when the angels appeared to them.

Let us be as faithful as those shepherds as we celebrate the birth of Christ in that humble stable over 2000 years ago.

"And may the true gifts of Christmas be yours for ever."

"AARON"

GLADYS FREEMAN

We have been advised by Peter Freeman , that his mother Gladys Freeman, died on Saturday 2nd November.

Peter knows that quite a few of the mature members of West Wirral were acquainted with Gladys and would mourn her passing.

Our condolences go out to Peter and his family.





Beaver Report

I would like to thank all the leaders who attended, last months leaders meeting, it was nice to see so many of you. I would like to thank Chris Carlson on behalf of myself and the West Wirral Beaver leaders for the many years that she has dedicated to the role as A.D.C. Beavers. From all of us we would like to wish her all the best in her new role as Local Training Manager. We hope you will still come and join in with our District events. If some of you don't already know I will be taking over as the new A.D.C. Beavers in January.

Dates for your 2014 diary:-

Beaver Challenge 7th February, venue T.B.A.

Beaver Day out Martin Mere, Saturday 5th April.

St George's day, parade and service Sunday 27th April

Sports day Saturday 28th June venue T.B.A.

Day out /in September T.B.A. nearer the time.

Craft day November, details later.

Carol Service, December, details later.

Next District Beaver Leader meeting 7:45 Thursday 16th January 1st Thurstaston.

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Jayne Oliver

oliverjn@talktalk.net

0151 648 1754



Horn Article – October 2013

District Cub Camp

Over the weekend of 27th to 29th September, West Wirral cubs descended on Queens Charlotte Wood campsite for our annual District Camp. After a weekend full of preparing and cooking food, and preparing and laying out their campsite the cubs were still full of beans and ready to be awarded their Chef and Campers badges. Many thanks to Sue Flush and her amazing Leader team for organising another successful District camp.



Greenwood Forest Park, North Wales

Sat 2nd November saw 160 cubs and Leaders from 9 Packs set off from the Wirral in a couple of double decker buses and head off across the Welsh border towards NW Wales. The trip along the A55 overlooking the Dee Estuary and eventually the Menai Straits was a delight with views across the sun kissed water – just so long as you didn't look inland. Upon arrival at the centre we instantly increased their visitors that day by around 600% - and we soon found out why.

The local weather forecast was right, and soon after arrival the heavens (and then some) opened and we experienced a spectacular rainstorm of limitless proportions. Having said that, after a couple of hours the skies sort of cleared and the remainder of the day was ok. Needless to say the cubs all thought it was great, a chance to splash amongst some brilliant outdoor activities.



Many thanks to all the Leaders present for making the day such a success for your Young People, from the comfort of the indoor café they did all appear to be having fun.

Up & Coming Events

District Quiz - sat 30th November, 10:00hrs to 12:00hrs at 1st West Kirby's HQ, Teams of 4 cubs, free entry. Ideally of varying age range, please let Kelsey know ASAP if your'e Pack if taking part, whether 1 or 2 Teams and if there are any food allergies..

Cub Carol Concert – reverted to Monday 2nd December, 18:30 to approx 19:30 hrs, at the Heswall URC. More details to be advised in due course. Collection to be for the Claire House charity – see link below for more information on this in case you would like to build it into some Pack meeting award work also

<http://www.claire-house.org.uk/>



5-a-Side Football Tournament - Leasowe Recreation Centre, confirmed sat 25th January 2014 14:00hrs to approx 18:00hrs depending on how far you get in the tournament, please can you let Alan know by end of November if you intend taking part. Cost £20 per Pack, see separate email for more details.

Safety Poster Competition - this years (well technically its next years) topic will be Rail Safety. Each pack can submit 1 poster per Six, from which one Six will be chosen to represent their pack at the Grand Final. Posters to be returned to Alan by swimming gala,

Swimming Gala - Leasowe Recreation Centre, confirmed Sunday 23rd Feb 2014, 12:00hrs to 15:00 hrs, please can you let Alan know by end of January if you intend taking part. Cost £20 per Pack, see separate email for more details.

Next District CSL meeting

Monday 13th January 2013 at 4th Moreton HQ 20:30hr

Alan Bennett (ADC Cubs)

0151 606 0335 (07920 496 929)

alan.bennett@bamnuttall.co.uk



Explorers

This month Explorers opened a new unit in the 3rd Heswall HQ, Marks Way, Pensby, this will be open every Thursday 7.30pm – 9.30pm. We still have 2 units open in Moreton, Barnston Lane, every Wednesday & Thursday, 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

I would like to say a big thank you for the support of the District in my new role, and the support with the opening of the new unit.

We would like to welcome Jo Day to our Explorer team, who will be running the Heswall unit.

We took 20 Explorers to Forest park camp site, Sandiways this month, for a 24hour wide game. They worked together in their teams, trying to find items that have been dropped off by the leaders, whilst defending their lives and equipment and trying to take items from other teams, building shelters, cooking on trangia's, so much going on. A full report of this camp will come soon from the leader who organized it.

Christmas is fast approaching; we will be coming together with the Scouts on the 6th December for our Christmas celebrations, church service and disco, venue and time to be confirmed.

Explorers will be helping out at the District HQ in Roydan Park with the scout post. They help out as porters every year and always do a great job. In January we treat all the Explorers who have helped out with the post to a day out, their choice.

To finish the year the Explorers have their own Disco 'Snow Ball' this is held at the Moreton unit, Barnston Lane, on Friday 20th December, 7.30pm – midnight.

I would like to wish all in the District a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year on behalf of the District Explorer Team

Sue Walton
District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC)
Email – suewestwirraexplorers@outlook.com
Mobile – 07941881744
Home- (0151) 677 7336





The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

NOVEMBER

1st Peter Lewis

2nd Ann Cross

3rd Pat Chettenden

4th Thomas Richardson

Their cheques are in the post

Congratulations

So have you got your numbers yet?

If you don't have your numbers yet contact

Christine Kenyon

0151 677 1820

christine.kenyon@talktalk.net

TRAINING

Young Leader Training

Monday Nov 18th - 7.30pm, - 9.00pm @ Explorer HQ, Barnston Lane, Moreton

Modules D and E - Kids behaving badly and Game on !

All these Modules are designed to help you in your role as Young Leaders,
so please come along if you can - please email Sue Flush on sue.flush@o2.co.uk
for more details or to confirm your attendance.

Old School Lodge Accommodation Charges - effective from Jan 1st 2014					
There is a minimum charge based on the cost of 12 visitors - Additional visitors will be charged at the appropriate daily rates.					
Non Scout /Guide Individuals or Organisations		Members of Scout and Guide Associations		Members of Wallasey / W. Wirral Scout Districts	
Cost /pers/night		Cost /pers/night		Cost /pers/night	
First 2 nights (per night)	£ 18.00	1st 2 nights (per night)	£ 10.80	1st 2 nights (per night)	£ 9.00
Each extra night	£ 13.10	Each extra night	£ 8.45	Each extra night	£ 6.55
Quick Calculator		Quick Calculator		Quick Calculator	
Length of Stay	Total Cost /pers	Length of Stay	Total Cost /pers	Length of Stay	Total Cost /pers
2 Nights	£ 36.00	2 Nights	£ 21.60	2 Nights	£ 18.00
3 Nights	£ 49.10	3 Nights	£ 30.05	3 Nights	£ 24.55
4 Nights	£ 62.20	4 Nights	£ 38.50	4 Nights	£ 31.10
5 Nights	£ 75.30	5 Nights	£ 46.95	5 Nights	£ 37.65
6 Nights	£ 88.40	6 Nights	£ 55.40	6 Nights	£ 44.20
Please note that accomodation charges for bookings over the Christmas and New Year periods are subject to a special rate. Please check with our booking secretary for further details.					
2014 Special Offer Bookings made before November 1st 2013 will be charged at 2013 rates					

Dates for your Diary

2013

November

12	ADC's	DHQ	20.00
18	Young Leader Training	Explorer HQ	19.30
19	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
22	Charity Post stamps on sale		
23	Getting Started Course	Fire Service HQ Liverpool	
24	First Response course	Liverpool	
28	AGM	6 th Heswall	

December

9	Charity Post Sorting offices open.		
14/15	First delivery of Charity Post.		
18	Last date to post Xmas cards.		
21/22	Second delivery of Charity Post.		

2014

January

16	BSL's meeting	1 st Thurstaston	19.45
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February

7	Beaver Challenge	TBA	
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March

April

5	Beaver Day outing	Martin Mere	
27	St. George's Day Parade		

The Editor's Bit.

We welcome all who are changing roles within the District and wish them well in their new positions of responsibility. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this District Newsletter during 2013 , your articles and photographs have been much appreciated.

I look forward to meeting up with old friends at the Christmas Charity Post sorting office in December, but take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

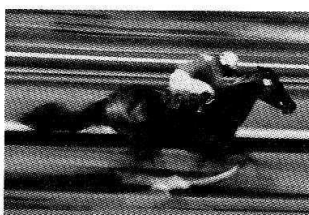
Yours in Scouting,

Eddie.



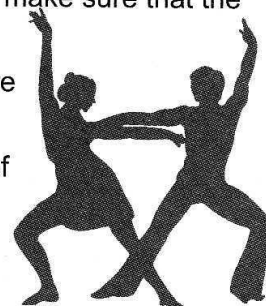
RACENIGHTSRUS

Race nights are fun, exciting and a great way to raise money for any reason. Servicing the North West of England , we aim to provide the complete race night service and will supply everything you need to make your event a great success. A well put together race night is tremendous fun for everyone especially if raising money for charity or associations.



To book a disco/karaoke call 07960 388144
or email racenightsrus@ntlworld.com

Mobile discos and Karaoke for all occasions, Music to Suit All Tastes, Fantastic Light Show and Smoke Machine, Highly Recommended. Not only do we want to make sure you & your guests have a great night, we also want to make sure that the Mobile Disco or Karaoke Disco you hire from us is worry free, and that you, and all of your guests, have a night that you will



To book a disco/karaoke call 07983 626045
or email racenightsrus@ntlworld.com