

WEST WIRRAL HORN



The Newsletter of West Wirral Scouts



District Cub Scout Quiz
Winners - 1st West Kirby

FEBRUARY 2013

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

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From the District Commissioner

Dear Friends,

Well another year has arrived. Let us now look forward to 2013.{the down side is that we all are now a little older}. I wish you and your families a Healthy, Peaceful and Happy New Year. Thank you for the Christmas Cards and the New Year texts I received they were truly appreciated.

The "Scouting Vision Towards 2018" is a little nearer.

On the evening of Monday 3rd December the Cubs travelled to their annual carol service at the United Reformed Church, Heswall - the home of 6th Heswall.

Guess what, it poured down, the sign of worse to come, however the heavy rain did not affect the attendance at the service; I had very thoroughly enjoyable evening enjoying the Christmas carols. It was pleasure to see so many young people reading their prayers. I must congratulate Alan on his pronunciation of the name of the Rev. Gwynfor Evans. There was many a Welshman in tears. Many thanks to all who contributed to the service and special thanks must go to Alan Bennett A.D.C. Cubs and Christine Gorman who organised it.

On the following Sunday 9th December St. Andrew's Church was the venue of the Beaver carol service with a more than usual Christingle with a host of adult "volunteers" including the Mayor of Wirral Councillor Jerry Ellis, District President David Crossr {such bravery}. They were all very resplendent in bright orange tee-shirts. {Who was it who bought orange tee-shirts} Following the service, it was party time in the church hall.

A party would not be a party without "pass the parcel"; included in the circle was Fr.Peter Walsh who did do his best to "end up" with the parcel {without success}. Also "musical statues"; gosh those judges are tough I was so grateful I wasn't participating!! Food in copious amounts and of course the highlight of the afternoon - the arrival of Father Christmas! A great deal of hard work went into the whole day, thank you all. Chris Carlson A.D.C. Beavers and her team deserve a special thank you.

May I thank Clergy at the respective venues who allowed us to make use of their Churches.

The weather fluctuated between freezing and downpours of rain during the ten days of Scout Post. Thank you to all who worked so hard on the Post and it was also a pleasure to see some new District Explorers involved as well. I certainly hope that the predictions are correct, as forecast, and you all have been amply rewarded.

Mis-sort's night entails all of the equipment from downstairs being packed away into the upstairs loft; during this we endured temperatures of -3 or -4 degrees.

Throughout December I had the pleasure of presenting "woodbadges" to Tom Keough, 1st Frankby Greasby, and Dave Gorman, 1st Barnston. My congratulations to you both, they are well deserved.

I take this opportunity to bid farewell to Ron Jones who has not only relinquished his role as G.S.L with 2nd Greasby, but has also retired from scouting. Those of you that can remember the Gang Show staged at the "old" Floral Pavilion may recall the two "Guiders" Margaret and Lynne {complete with "Brownies"} that caused mayhem, both in the audience and on stage. Margaret, sorry I meant Ron, has now sent his guider uniform to the charity shop! Thank you Ron.

I would like to welcome Jenny Peek to the District team as Jenny takes on the role of A.D.C. Scouts as from the 1st January. I know that all the scout leaders will support Jenny during the forth coming year.

Just as this newsletter was about to be published we heard of the untimely death of Rob Wood - our thoughts are with Rob's family at this sad time.



Yours in Scouting

Ken

A pause for thought

WIRRAL HORN FEBRUARY 2013.

Excuse me for stating the obvious that a new year will hopefully bring you new opportunities, for we are still close enough from the beginning of January. A new year sees us committing to new year resolutions which means we see the possibility of a fresh beginning. A new start, to be who we hope to be, and what we hope to achieve.

If you are like me your resolutions may seem to get “mislaidd” and quickly forgotten. Well at least I can blame it on age! One of my perennial resolutions is I always plan to take more holidays - which I never do.

I would imagine that many of you don't take a personal holiday; I know that your holidays will be devoted to your annual group, scout or cub camp, taking your young people to experience the outdoors. Now that is a resolution that is worth keeping.

“May your God be with you always and resolve to keep you safe as you journey through life.”

“AARON”





THE VOLUNTEERS !!

I cannot believe how long it is since the Beaver Craft Day when we had over 80 Beavers yet again making the most wonderful things. I don't know why I am still amazed at what is made both in terms of variety and quality. We really do have some very talented leaders who come up with new ideas year after year and Beavers who rise to the challenge

The Beaver Carol Service was a spectacle to behold. The Beavers with their perfectly constructed Christingle Oranges, and then what can I say for the willing (victims), sorry volunteers, who stood at

the front of the church and made the event even more special. My grateful thanks to Eddie, David, Sue and of course Mr Mayor who was such a great sport. Jean and Jayne, as ever, I couldn't have done it without you. The day was topped off by a wonderful Christmas Party and West Wirral's annual visit from Father Christmas.

This scouting year is already becoming packed with events such as Bear in the Air, I do hope that you have all booked your tickets and are successful. We now need to re-think our district day out, as Knowsley was our preferred venue. The Wild West Camp planning is now well underway, it will be a brilliant event and it would be great to see as many Beavers as possible sleeping over - we will still, of course, have our own District Beaver camp later in the year.

The next event for Beavers is the Leader's meal out at the Railway in Meols 6th February 2013, I will be e.mailing out in the near future for numbers.



6th February - Leaders meal
6th March - Meeting 7:30 Hilbre

Chris Carlson

ADC Beavers

6320402

Chris_carlson@talktalk.net





District Quiz

On a cold but sunny morning Cubs from 7 Packs hurriedly read the last few chapters of Wikipedia before descending on 1st West Kirby's HQ for the annual District Cub Quiz.

Experiencing a slightly different and varied format this year, the Cubs were kept on their toes answering questions covering a wide variety of topics (including naming pop groups that this ADC has never even heard of). Finally, after all the scores were in and counted, the final positions were as follows;-

3rd Place 1st Frankby Greasby, 2nd Place 5th Heswall, 1st Place 1st West Kirby

Many thanks to Kelsey, Billy, Sarah Jane and Frank for helping organise the quiz event.

Cub Carol Concert

Well what can I say, what a fantastic event, from the great turn out of cubs and Leaders (and parents), the carol sung by 6th Heswall cubs, the brilliantly read prayers and readings by cubs from several Packs, the most novel Christmas story you'll probably ever hear, the tremendous collection of sweets and biscuits for the donation to Claire House, the kind donations for our chosen charity of "Give a child a Life" amounting to £219 and everything else. The best start possible to the Christmas season, many thanks to the Rev Gwynfor for his fun spirit (and difficult name to say), Heswall URC for lending us their church, Christine and of course, Mr Knobbly Knees himself, Martin Clauge, for yet another service to remember.



CLAIRE HOUSE



Up & Coming Events

Safety Poster Competition - this years topic will be Road Safety. Each pack can submit 1 poster per Six, posters to be passed to Alan at or before the swimming gala.

Swimming Gala - Leasowe Recreation Centre, Sunday 24th Feb 2013 13:00hrs to 16:00 hrs, cost £20 per Pack, see separate email for more details. Please let me know if your Pack would like to take part.

Next District CSL meeting

20:30hrs on 14th January 2013 at 1st Frankby Greasby's HQ, off Frankby Green, Frankby

Alan Bennett (ADC Cubs)

0151 606 0335 (07920 496 929)

alan.bennett@bamnuttall.co.uk



Coming soon to a campsite near you



Including West Wirral's very own

Rodeo Extravaganza

**Celebration Barbecue followed by Cowboy and
Cowgirl Campfire & Barn Dancing**

A full weekend of activities around the Wild West theme including

Wild West Re-enactment, Climbing Wall, Caving,
Archery, Branding, Laser Clay, Indian Drums, Barrel
Rolling, Ancient Indian Crafts, Spider Mountain, Totem
Poles, Catapults and many many more



When:- 7th – 9th June 2013

Where:- Dodge City, Hadlow Fields, Willaston

**Are you prepared for the Wild West
Experience of your Life ?**

Weekend Campers (including activities & camp fees both days) £30

Day Visitors (including transport & activities sat) £20

(Prices include camp Necker & sat barbeque)

Book your places with Alison Stirling 0151 677 3404 ASAP

hawkstone@ntlworld.com

COMING SOON

West Wirral Scout & Guide Charity Post

Let there be light and land line communication!

Despite the problems of the first week when we had a power failure one night (those on duty having an unexpected night at home) and having no BT connection with the other Sorting Offices for a week (mobile phone connection at H Q is variable) , we survived . That is due to the support of the Groups - with a couple of exceptions when someone forgot to come up!

It is time for me to offer a massive Thank You to all those who helped West Wirral Area sort and deliver 182,991 Christmas cards (an increase from last year). You also handled a good number of the total 454,272 cards delivered by the whole scheme, which exceeded last year's total.

The statisticians amongst you may notice that those figures don't tally with last year's. That is because the scales were re calibrated this year as we felt the old factor was not giving a true reading. If you were involved on Wednesday 12th you assisted with the biggest West Wirral single night total of 41,468.

As always we heard of numerous people who hadn't realised the date of last posting so we must make every effort to get the message across at the point of sale. We dealt with 2,820 cards on the so called Mis- sorts night at Royden.

We are also very appreciative of the loan of equipment from Island Electric Hoylake (Cherry picker) and Deeside Laundry (van) as without those our task would be almost impossible

The Presentation Evening is on February 5th at Wallasey Town Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Many sincere thanks again.

Joyce MacLeod (Area Organiser. West Wirral)



Legacy Scout Groups

Have you ever wondered about the name of your scout group, and in particular why there are gaps in the numbering system?

Your group is numbered the 4th, but what happened to the 1st, 2nd or the 3rd. When did these other groups exist, when did they close, where did they meet and for what will they be remembered.

West Wirral has had many such groups, with group names such as:-

1st Heswall was one of the earliest of the West Wirral Groups. First registered in 1921, the group headquarters was originally at the Puddydale before moving to Sandy Lane, Heswall. The group closed in 2003, through a lack of leaders and the headquarters is now used by 5th Heswall.

2nd Heswall, was a “part time” group catering for convalescing cubs, and was formed in 1949. It was based at the Heswall Children's Hospital (now the site of TESCO), closing in 1960.

Following the introduction of Venture Scouts, a district unit known as Fiveways Venture Unit was formed in 1969. This group recruited members from the surrounding area and they met in the hut (formerly 1st Pensby), at the rear of where 3rd Heswall are today. Peter White (former DC and District Chairman) was the leader. The group closed in 1975.

1st Pensby operated between 1939 and 1956, whilst 1st Irby lasted only a very short time between 1932 and 1936, as did 2nd Irby which closed in 1945.

Moreton, in the 1930's 1960's was an area strong in Scouting. This was partly because of a large catchment area, but was also influenced by the Overchurch camp site.

1st Moreton formed in 1926, operated until 1932 when it amalgamated with 4th Moreton. The group reformed as 1st Moreton (Presbyterian) in 1962, but closed again in 1968.

2nd Moreton was registered in 1927 and existed until 1937. The group reformed in 1947 and had a headquarters in Barnston Lane. The group had been strongly led by Ken Wynne. (Former District Vice President), but closed in 2005.

3rd Moreton was formed in 1928 and met at the Mission Hall until 1942.

5th Moreton was a Sea Scout group formed in 1929, but closed in 1937, before reopening again in 1943 at Moreton Parish Church. It closed again in 1946 through a lack of leaders. It was reformed again in 1949 by the Salvation Army, only to last a year.

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6th Moreton was registered in 1955. In 1966 the headquarters was destroyed by fire. The group closed in 1985, and the replacement headquarters in Salacre Lane is now occupied by 7th Moreton.

The **Greasby and Frankby** areas had a number of groups.

1st Frankby was formed in 1929 and 1st Greasby was formed in 1938. Each group existed independently until combining in 1946 to form the 1st Frankby-Greasby. The old 1st Greasby headquarters in Greasby village (opposite Manor Farm), burnt down in 1959.

Hoylake is an area that has seen many group changes.

1st Hoylake was formed in 1920 and met at the Grove Lads Club. The group had many scouts gaining the King Scout badge. The group closed in 1962, with members transferring to 1st Great Meols.

2nd Hoylake, formed in 1928 was sponsored by the Hoylake Welsh Presbyterian Church. Although continuing until 1940, many members of the group left to form Hilbre in 1931. Kingsmeade School opened up the group again in 1950, but this only lasted until 1954.

3rd Hoylake (St Catherine's) existed between 1951 and 1962.

4th Hoylake (Methodist) opened in 1966, but only lasted 2 years.

1st Meols, was formed in 1922, and met at St John's Church Hall, but closed in 1927.

1st Great Meols was registered in 1949 and operated until 2006. Not long before their demise they built a new headquarters, later to become the headquarters for the Explorer Scouts, before they moved to the old 2nd Moreton headquarters. The headquarters has been the new home of St Andrews (Meols) since 2011.

4th West Kirby operated between 1932 and 1940 and was sponsored by West Kirby Presbyterian Church.

As with 2nd Heswall, West Wirral has had attachments to other institutions.

This was true of the group at the Liverpool Crippled Children's Hospital (later Margaret Beavan Hospital, Leasowe), where between the wars; convalescing youngsters were encouraged to join the movement. Here two scouts were awarded the Cornwell badge (The badge of courage).

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The Leas School on Meols Drive was a Public School, which had a cub pack and scout troop. This group opened in 1930 and closed in 1975, with the school being demolished not long afterwards.

Calday Grange was a group at the grammar school between 1925 and 1930.

Heswall Nautical School only existed between 1925 and 1927.

3rd West Kirby at, West Kirby Convalescent School, between 1929 and 1967.

1st Torpenhow (later 2nd Frankby), was at an open air convalescent school in Frankby which opened in 1927, and closed in 1980.

Despite the loss of all these groups, West Wirral is now stronger than ever, and currently has 17 groups.

“mr gooley”

2013 Group Annual General Meetings

Please can I ask all groups to advise me of the date for your 2013 Annual General Meeting, so I can ensure members of the District team will be available to attend.

As the DC has asked that there be no more than one AGM on a specific date, can I ask that you have a couple of dates in mind.

Please can I ask that all dates are sent via myself and not e-mailed, phoned or sent via text to the DC or DDC. Thank you.

Thanks

Nigel MacLeod

District Secretary 0151 648 3219

Nigel_macleod99@yahoo.co.uk

West Wirral District Annual General Meeting Thursday 23rd May 2013

Just a reminder of the forthcoming District AGM Thursday 23rd May 2013 at Heswall Hall. Please ensure you look out for an update in future Horns.

In the meantime, please ensure this date is in your diaries.

Would holders of trophies awarded at the 2012 Annual General Meeting please make sure that these are cleaned and returned to me by Sunday 7th April 2013. Thank you.

Nigel MacLeod

District Secretary, 6 Daleside Close, Irby, Wirral. 0151 648 3219

District Executive Committee Nominations

At the Annual General Meeting, Thursday 23rd May 2013, we elect the District Treasurer, the District Secretary and members to sit on the District Executive Committee.

All members of the District are asked to submit nominations for election to the District Executive Committee.

The elected members do not represent individual Scout Groups or Sections. They play a full part as members of the District Executive Committee but their particular role is to represent the interest of all members in the District. The following qualify for nominations:

All Scouters, Administrators, Section Assistants, Skill Instructors, Advisers, Members and Associate members of the Scout Association.

Please give this matter some thought and take the opportunity to nominate a suitable person to fulfil any of these roles. Please ensure that your nominee is prepared to stand, before submitting his/her name. The Committee generally meets 5 times a year at District Headquarters.

Please submit your nominations to Nigel MacLeod, 6 Daleside Close, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3XX by Thursday 7th March 2013.

Dates for your Diary

2013

February

1	WWGS Pantomime	St Andrews, W.Kirby	19.30
2	WWGS Pantomime	St Andrews, W.Kirby	14.00
2	WWGS Pantomime	St Andrews, W.Kirby	19.30
3	First Response course	1 st Thurstaston	
5	Presentation evening Wallasey Town Hall	19.30	
5	ADC's	DHQ	20.00
6	Beaver Leaders Meal		
9	Getting Started Course	Fire Service HQ Liverpool	
13	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
10	Residential Experiences Mod16	Tawd Vale	
24	Cub Swimming Gala	Leasowe	13.00

March

6	BSL's meeting	Hilbre	
10	First Response course	Wallasey District HQ	
12	Safeguarding course	Waterside Lodge	
23	Section Essentials	Fire Service HQ Liverpool	

April

17	ADC's	DHQ	20.00
20	Management & Support Essentials 4 th Moreton HQ		

May

2	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
11	Getting Started Course	Fire Service HQ Liverpool	
23	DISTRICT AGM		

If you are planning an event please let me
have the date so that it can be added to the diary.

The Editor's Bit.

This month I have produced two versions of the Newsletter - this usual printed leaflet and a version which could be e.mailed to members. The new version is my first attempt to provide the District with an alternative which could significantly reduce postage costs. I have suggested to the DC that he e-mails this new version to ADC's & GSL's for comment. The sub committee set up to review this change will meet shortly and it would be helpful to have some feedback from groups.

Eddie.

ROB WOOD

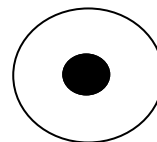
Just as we were going to press with this Newsletter we heard of the untimely death of Rob Wood.

Rob had early connections with 1st Frankby Greasby and was Treasurer for both the Geoffrey Beavan Challenge and the Wallasey and West Wirral Activity Base Committee.

In addition to the above commitments he co-ordinated Training in the District.

For many years Rob was involved with the Charity Post sorting office at Royden Park, and was very much in evidence there just before Christmas.

Our condolences are extended to Rob's family.



The "HORN" is the Newsletter of the West Wirral District Scout Council, Wirral, Merseyside.

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