

SUMMER 2013



Bear Grylls at the Wobble Board Competition

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

From the Acting DC.

Hello there.

As most of you will be aware I was asked, at the AGM, to be Acting District Commissioner. This is to keep the District going until such time as a new District Commissioner is appointed. So it falls my lot to pen this article.

The AGM was its usual slick style, but I thought it was much more light-hearted and fun this year and my thanks go to Nigel and Ann for all the hard work they put in to making it all work.

So far I have had a GSLs' meeting and an ADCs' meeting, and Maureen and I had the great pleasure of attending the Wild West Camp on the Saturday. What a wonderful event and what glorious weather. There were so many exciting activities, and some quieter ones, but nevertheless interesting and testing our skills. I even tried the Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting. I thought that the Cave Bus was fantastic and I would love to have had a go at that, but I was not small enough. We both had a wonderful time, but most importantly the young people were thoroughly enjoying themselves. There were so many things to do that even if not every base suited everybody, they still had plenty to enjoy.

It was also nice for me, as it gave me the opportunity to get to know more of the leaders in the Groups.

I would like to thank Alan Bennett, his whole team and the Groups who put on bases, for all the hard work that made this a camp that the young people will remember for a long time.

The Group AGM season is upon us and I will try to attend your AGMs. Unfortunately there are two on the same night, but perhaps if one has an early start and the other is later, I might make the end of the second AGM. Some dates have not yet been sent in.

This is the last Horn before the Summer break, so I wish all those of you going away to camp a happy, successful, and hopefully sunny time. I hope you have all sent in your NAN forms!.

I look forward to continuing acting as your DC ,for as long as I am required to, and to working with and for you all.

Brian Tucker

RON POPE

It is with sadness that we report the recent passing of Ron Pope. Ron was a dedicated Scout Leader with 1st Frankby Greasby at the time when I was associated with the Group (1970's). Youngsters from that era benefited greatly from the effort that Ron put into Scouting and he will be missed by many.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jenny, at this time.

Eddie.

(Editor)

District AGM – 23rd May 2013

At the AGM the following District Trophies were presented: -

Dave Blackwood Trophy Overchurch Upton Scout Troop

Reg Cooke Trophy St Andrews Beavers

Eric Tate Trophy Matthew Jones, 1st Thurstaston

Fitzpatrick Cup 6th Heswall Cub Pack

Presidents Prize 1st Thurstaston Group

Explorers Trophy Sam Cooper and Emily Ratcliffe

Overchurch Upton won the Community Service Award, presented by Malcolm Pimbley on behalf of Wirral Lions.

Peter Taylor was awarded the 'Overcoming Adversity' Award.

The following officers were elected: -

Ann Ledson District Secretary

Roy Kenyon District Treasurer

The District Commissioners nominations to the District Executive are: -

Brian Tucker, Tim Smith, Caroline James, Becky Lee and Tom Keough.

The following were elected to the District Executive Committee – Kath Simpson, Andy Costall and Brian Magor. John Oliver and John Powell are still serving having been elected in 2012. There is one co-opted member, Eddie Snell.

Award for Merit

Dave Coulson Scout Leader, St Andrews, Sue Flush GSL, 1st Thurstaston, Dave Reed Group President, 1st Thurstaston

Peter Wallace Scout Leader, 2nd Greasby

Chief Scouts Commendations

Paul Beacall ASL 1st Frankby Greasby & District Mountaineering Adviser

Christine Gorman District Cub Scout Leader, Dave Gorman GSL, 1st Barnston, Roberta Gray Treasurer, 2nd Greasby

Karen Lawrence AGSL/BSL 1st West Kirby, Shelagh Nugent BSL, 4th Moreton, Jayne Oliver BSL, 1st Thurstaston

Kath Simpson ABSL, 1st Frankby Greasby, Brian Sterling Treasurer, 7th Moreton, Susan Wilson ABSL 4th Moreton

The meeting approved the District President's proposal that Ken Jones, Eddie Snell and Nigel MacLeod be appointed as Vice Presidents for West Wirral District.

Please note that the 2014 AGM is Thursday 8th May 2014 at Heswall Hall.

Can I take this opportunity to thank 1st Barnston Scout Group, members of the District Team, Executive, ADC's and all those involved in this years AGM for their help and support. In particular, thanks to Richard Twemlow and Phill Richardson for help producing and printing the annual report.

Thanks to Chris & Guy Carlson and Ruth & Steve Wynn for assisting with the refreshments.

Your help is really appreciated – Thank You.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all members of West Wirral District, both past and present, for making my term as District Secretary so enjoyable. In particular, the support and friendship you provided to myself, Gail and mum back in May 2006 will remain with us forever.

Thank you again and I look forward to seeing the District continuing to go from strength to strength.

Nigel MacLeod

A pause for thought

Do you ever think back to your schools days, maybe with rueful smile as you recall some happy or disastrous event that may be better forgotten?

Can you still recall the “nicknames” you had for the teachers; I think you never forget those.

Did you have a favourite subject? One you had a natural ability for and that you enjoyed especially?

I remember the physics lesson when we discovered magnetism and its properties. A magnet under a piece of paper and iron filing sprinkled over the paper; by moving the magnet I could make the filing “dance”, I was a real scientist!

It appears that magnets are used quite often in everyday items; for example in your television, radio etc.: anything thing that uses a speaker. If you have a burglar alarm or even the humble cat flap they both make use of a magnet. You are all familiar with the compass that uses a magnetic field to point you in the correct direction. Some people are even described as having a magnetic personality!

I would assume that you as the leaders of young people, have that type of personality to point your young in the right direction.

Love is even a stronger type of magnet, yet there is one love that is stronger than we could ever imagine.

May your God draw you ever closer to His love and you find the attraction you need for life”

“AARON”





District Cub Skills Day

Cubs from 10 Packs descended on 1st Thurstaston HQ for the annual Skills Day. After carrying a number of activities such as map reading, tent pitching, crisp eating, running, catapulting amongst others, St Andrews (Meols) were a close second to 1st Thurstaston (Reed) who are this years Skilled Cubs of the Year.

Many thanks to all the Leaders (Young and older) who gave their time to run activities (particularly bearing in mind the slightly less than summer weather) and to Christine for all the planning and co-ordination of the event.

West Wirral Wild Wild West Experience – see separate report for more detail but what a weekend (of course those in the know will realise that I'm slightly biased). It was held over one of the warmest weekends of the year, with cubs from 12 packs joining Beavers and Scouts on a weekend of fun, fun and fun.

Up & Coming Events

Cub Camp – 27th to 29th September, Queens Charlotte Wood, planning meeting arranged for Tues 18th June at 1st Thurstaston HQ, please contact Sue Flush if you'd like to attend.

Next District CSL meeting

Monday 9th September 2013, 20:30hrs at 7th Moreton's HQ

Alan Bennett (ADC Cubs)

0151 606 0335 (07920 496 929)

alan.bennett@bamnuttall.co.uk



Skills Competition 18th May 2013

I switched on the radio on the morning of 18th May only to hear the weathermen forecasting a cold day full of rain! Keeping my fingers and toes crossed and ever the optimist I headed to 1st Thurstaston's HQ where once again they were hosts to this years' Skills competition.

This year there were 10 teams (with up to six cubs in each) representing packs from across the District, 1st Thurstaston (both Fletcher and Reed), 1st Newton, 1st Barnston, 3rd Heswall, 5th Heswall, Overchurch Upton, 4th Moreton, St Andrews and 1st West Kirby.

At the Global base cubs were challenged on their knowledge of Fairtrade chocolate and the 'sweet' part of this base asked the cubs to correctly identify 6 different flavours of chocolate. Many thanks to 3rd Heswall for running this base and for stoically resisting the temptation to indulge themselves!

The cooking base challenged cubs to prepare a dessert for a fictional 'DC's Retirement Dinner' which involved choosing fruit and melting (even more) chocolate. They were also asked to identify several exotic fruits. Many thanks to 1st West Kirby who also resisted the challenge of eating any of the chocolate covered fruits, but there wasn't quite the same temptation here given that the cubs had prepared them.

The Special Challenge this year involved identifying different flavours of crisps and drinks as well as testing their knowledge of national dishes from around the world. Thanks to 1st Newton for running this base and once more resisting the temptation to eat the base! (You can see a common theme to this year's Skills Challenge!)

5th Heswall (with help from a Young Leader) ran the World About Us base. This involved matching the types of wing, beak and feet to a large range of birds and also identifying the habitat in which they were commonly found. The practical part of the challenge asked them to select the best seeds and food and then make a fat-ball bird feeder.

The creative mini-pioneering base led by 1st Thurstaston leaders challenged older cubs to make a catapult with canes and elastic bands, while the younger cubs were asked to design and build a raft made from various sweets such as marshmallows (barrels) and strawberry pencils (poles) and tie them together using strawberry laces (rope).

First Aid/Safety this year involved correctly identifying items to go in a First Aid Kit and knowing why they were important. The other part of the challenge involved identifying a range of safety hazards and tying an elevated sling. Thanks to Matt at Thurstaston for his help with this base.

Overchurch Upton led the fitness base which challenged the cubs to run a relay race in which they had to collect articles (from A to Z) in alphabetical order. Not knowing that xylophone begins with an X (rather than Z that it sounds like) had cubs running round even more. This base did have the effect of losing all those calories gained earlier on the other bases!

The second creative challenge led by 1st Barnston taught cubs how to make a woggle from Para cord using decorative knots and weaves. This gave many of the cubs a new green and yellow woggle as a memento of the day.

St Andrews successfully navigated older cubs around a map of 'Scout Island' and younger cubs

around a map of 'Cub Scout Island' testing their knowledge and skills of maps and navigation.

The final base challenged the cubs to pitch and strike a tent. On an unseasonal cold day this outdoor challenge had cubs with cold hands working very quickly and 4th Moreton leaders also braving the cold (all day long!) in marking their efforts.

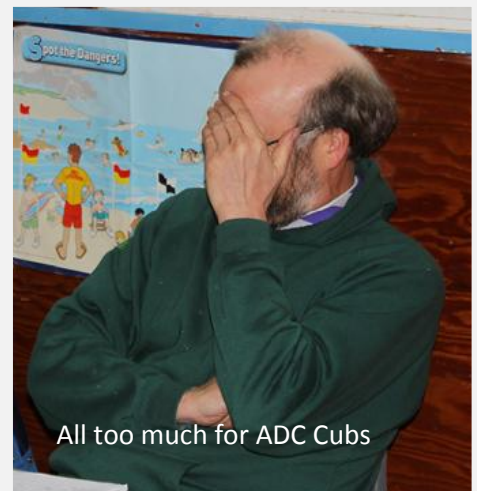
It was even so cold this year that Alan bought the leaders chips at lunch time to warm them up!

This year's competition was won by 1st Thurstaston (Reed) pack with St Andrews coming in second place. Very well done not just

to the winners but to

all the packs who entered the challenge. Thanks again to the leaders for running the bases, 1st Thurstaston for hosting the event, and to Alan for helping out with the many administration tasks on the day.

Christine Gorman



All too much for ADC Cubs



Winners 1st Thurstaston



Food preparation



Second Place St. Andrews



Putting up a tent.



Pioneering

cubs

Recently been at a campsite near you



7th – 9th June 2013

Dodge City, Harlow Fields, Willaston

Were you ready for the Wild West Experience of your Life?



Over the weekend around 500 of West Wirral Scouters, young and old, enjoyed the warmest and possibly the most fun packed, weekend of their Year so far.

The Organisation Team would like to thank everyone who contributed (far too many to mention individually, even in the new look electronic format Horn) to making the event something really special for the Young People of West Wirral. Without your

- your help and support,
- you providing and running activities,
- your "Can do" attitude,
- you giving way way more than the job description 2 hours a week

the event wouldn't be what it turned out to be.



Friendly Indians?

The Wild Wild West Show



Archery



5th Heswall's winning totem Pole



Lasso practice



Firing the bottle



The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

JUNE

1st Chris Hughes

2nd Gail Bottle

3rd Brian Magor

4th John Pownall

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

Old School Lodge Accommodation Charges - effective from Jan 1st 2013					
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)	£ 17.00	1st 2 nights (per night)	£ 10.20	1st 2 nights (per night)	£ 8.50
Each extra night	£ 12.40	Each extra night	£ 8.00	Each extra night	£ 6.20

Quick Calculator		Quick Calculator		Quick Calculator	
Length of Stay	Total Cost /pers	Length of Stay	Total Cost /pers	Length of Stay	Total Cost /pers
1 Night	£ 17.00	1 Night	£ 10.20	1 Night	£ 8.50
2 Nights	£ 34.00	2 Nights	£ 20.40	2 Nights	£ 17.00
3 Nights	£ 46.40	3 Nights	£ 28.40	3 Nights	£ 23.20
4 Nights	£ 58.80	4 Nights	£ 36.40	4 Nights	£ 29.40
5 Nights	£ 71.20	5 Nights	£ 44.40	5 Nights	£ 35.60
6 Nights	£ 83.60	6 Nights	£ 52.40	6 Nights	£ 41.80



Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from Merseyside, including contingents from West Wirral, met at Liverpool Festival Gardens to break two world records - that of the longest continuous hand shake and the largest number of Wobble Board players. Chief Scout Bear Grylls flew in by helicopter and managed to meet and greet every member of Merseyside Scout District at the occasion



Bear Grylls with 1st West Kirby



Chief Scout



Two other well known gentlemen

BALA WEEKEND

Scouts and Explorers from West Wirral took part in the annual canoe weekend at Bala.

The weather on Saturday morning was wet and windy, but conditions did improve and the sun came out for some photos.



Dates for your Diary

2013

July

11	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
10	Safeguarding course	4th Moreton HQ	
11	ADC's	DHQ	20.00
13	First Response course	Liverpool	

August

September

7	Getting Started Course	Fire Service HQ Liverpool	
9	CSL's meeting	7 th Moreton	20.30
10	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
18	ADC's	DHQ	20.00
22	First Response course	TBA	
27/29	Cub Camp	Queens Charlotte Wood	

October

3	GSL's & AGSL's	DHQ	19.30
6	First Response course	Wallasey District HQ	
10	Safeguarding course	Lowlands, West Derby	
19	Management & Support Essentials	Waterside Lodge Southport	
26	Section Essentials	Fire Service HQ Liverpool	
27	Residential Experiences Mod16	Tawd Vale	

November

12	ADC's	DHQ	20.00
20	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
23	Getting Started Course	Fire Service HQ Liverpool	
24	First Response course	Liverpool	

December

Last copy date for next Newsletter is 10th August.

The Editor's Bit.

There have been lots of District activities since the last Newsletter and I had hoped to be swamped with articles. However, as usual, that was not be. My thanks to Brian Magor, who sent photos of each event so that, at least, the newsletter could contain a mention of what had taken place.

A great deal of time and effort has gone into the revision of the Newsletter, together with an overhaul of the District Directory to enable it to be sent out as an e.mail attachment. It seems such a shame that it is not supported more enthusiastically.

One of the objectives of the new format was to extend the circulation to parents and youngsters . However, this will not achieve much if the newsletter does not contain material which might excite the youngsters, and encourage their parents to take more interest in the movement.

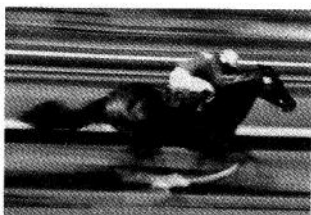
Please do support your District Newsletter.

Eddie.

**REMINDER: The next deadline for articles and photographs is
10th August 2013.**

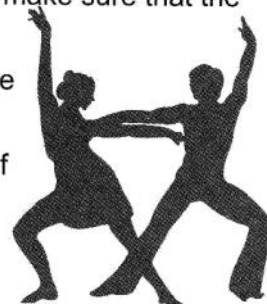
RACENIGHTSRUS

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