

**APRIL 2014**



*Congratulations to 4<sup>th</sup> Heswall Sea Scout Troop, winners of the West Wirral Scout Quiz*

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

# From the District Commissioner

The month has seen the untimely passing of Sue Lunt the sister of John Pownall and a Cub Leader in 1<sup>st</sup> Newton for many years, our thoughts are with the family and John.

I have asked Phill Richardson to join the team as another Deputy District Commissioner and he has accepted. I shall soon be able to delegate and put my feet up!! I also welcome Ian Johnston as the new GSL for 4<sup>th</sup> Moreton.

At the time of writing this, the weather has taken a turn for the better, though we should not grumble for we have been very lucky, but it is nice to have reasonable weather for our events. The Orienteering event had a nice day although the ground was still very muddy. Congratulations to all those who took part and to Jenny Peek and the team. 7<sup>th</sup> Moreton went for an all Sections hike for charity. The Scouts started from Thurstaston Country Park the Cubs joined in at West Kirby and the Beavers at Meols and they all ended up at the Hut for a Hotpot. Well done. The day when the weather didn't matter as everyone was going to get wet anyway was the Sunday of the Cubs Swimming Gala. This was an amazing event with some close finishes and some fast races. Thanks to the team who put this on

The AGM season started early with 1<sup>st</sup> Barnston holding their's on the 4<sup>th</sup> March. Well done to the Treasurer in getting the accounts done so quickly. Liam and I attended to hear of all the things the Cubs and Scouts had been doing during 2013.

A number of people from the District have just come back from the County Residential weekend. This year they invited a number of GSL's attended (Sue Flush, Lorna MacLeod, Colin Ratcliffe and Richie Thornley) went on the Friday night. The DC's and youth members joined them at lunchtime on the Saturday - myself Phill Richardson and Matt Jones. We worked together in the afternoon on Saturday with the GSL's leaving about five, and the DC's stayed over to three on the Sunday. There were a number of visitors and the star was Wayne Bulpitt. We not only had a good time, but it was very informative and gave the opportunity for giving feedback to the County Team on issues we feel are important.

**Brian.**



# A pause for thought

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month you will, no doubt, celebrate Saint George's Day as the Patron Saint of England and Scouting,

But who was Saint George and what do we know about him? This question has been asked by more eminent historians than me, in fact they cannot agree. One fact is that he was never a "Knight of the Roundtable" he dates further back than that.

One school of thought is that he originated from Malta, but more likely he was born to Christian Greek parents in Lydda which was then in Palestine, or now is part of Israel.

George joined the Roman army and soon achieved the rank of Tribune, however the Emperor Diocletian ordered that all Christian soldiers to be arrested or renounce their faith; George refused and was beheaded on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 303. The dragon which Saint George is often depicted as slaying is thought to represent goodness triumphing over evil

His flag is incorporated in the union flag and was adopted by Baden Powell as the Patron Saint of Scouting for the following virtues:- Responsibility; Truthfulness, Devotion to Duty; A Brave Heart; A Noble Spirit and Dedication to Others.

All the qualities that you possess today in helping your young people achieve their full potential.

"May your God grant you His love to you who devote your lives to the dedication of others"

**"AARON"**



West Wirral District Scout Council  
Invites

**All West Wirral Uniformed members, All Non Uniformed Members, All West  
Wirral Committee members, District Officials, Friends and Readers of the  
Wirral Horn**

To the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
At Heswall Hall

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**Doors Open at 7.15pm      Prompt start at 7.30pm**

The AGM will be followed by an Open Reception and refreshments

**\*\* Please note that individual invites will not be issued \*\***

**2014 Group Annual General Meetings**

Please can I ask all groups to advise me of the date for your 2014 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

**Ann Ledson** District Secretary – 0151 678 8777

Annledson@aol.com





## 2014 Swimming Gala

This year Cubs from 9 Packs took part in the District Swimming Gala held on the 23rd February at Leasowe Leisure Centre.

Once again, as parents gathered in the spectators gallery, the cubs assembled on benches around the pool. looking on in anticipation of how cold the water would be. However they were all ready and raring to go the Heats got under way. The variety of swimming styles was a pleasure to behold, along with the loud cheering for every participant. It was soon evident that we had our normal mix of fishes, eels and cubs, but as all were enjoying themselves what the heck. For the statisticians amongst you, backstroke continues to be the least favoured swimming style, whilst freestyle was the most sort after event. After a short break when we held the Fun Race, the Finals commenced which saw some very close races, budding Olympians in the making. All the Finals were very close races, the results of each race, along with the overall results summary. See pictures at bottom of page of the individual race finalists

Overall results summary.

Once all the individual event races were completed, together with the Relay, it was time to make the presentations of medals and certificates. This then allowed the overall Team results to be announced, which were as follows;

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

1<sup>st</sup> Thurstaston (Reed)



2<sup>nd</sup> Place

2<sup>nd</sup> West Kirby



1<sup>st</sup> Place

1<sup>st</sup> Thurstaston (Fletcher)



I must also mention all the West Wirral Explorers who turned out on mass to act as time keepers for the Gala, without whom we would be unable to hold the event. They also took the opportunity to hold their very own Explorer race, which this year saw a 400% increase in the participants. In the end, George Cain and Dan Vilela were unable to keep quite close enough to the leaders, and

so;-

3rd Place Dan Pickett

2nd Place Alex Bates

and yet again, despite having competition this year,

**Joe McNeil took 1st Place.**



Many thanks also to Dave the Starter and Christine the Timekeeper for their smooth organisation of swimmers and races. But most of all loads of thanks to all of the Cubs who yet again displayed a sportsmanlike attitude over the whole event. Whilst some of the heats weren't entirely close, the cubs (and family spectators up in the gallery) cheered and clapped every cub home, irrespective of time taken. All in all, very well done to everyone

**Alan Bennett.**





Scouts have been busy enjoying a jam packed programme of activities so far this term.

We have held District events: the Scout Quiz Night saw a battle of the brains between twelve teams from across the District, congratulations to 4<sup>th</sup> Heswall who were winners on the night. We also held the annual orienteering challenge at Royden Park. Twenty two Scout teams and three Explorer teams participated in three separate categories this year. The weather was cold and wet and there was mud everywhere (I think the Scouts like the muddy bits!). In spite of the weather our young people all took on the challenge to complete the course and were a real credit to our leaders. With plans in the pipeline for many more events including the bowling competition, the Beavan Challenge, the Great Escape, the Big Adventure, Scout Bala canoe weekend, Master At Arms weekend and our own Wild West camp, Scouts show no signs of slowing down any time soon!

Around the District our troops have been busy with their own programmes. A weekend in Snowdonia at Denoilen was enjoyed by 2<sup>nd</sup> West Kirby; the Equinox Challenge in Delamere Forest which was attended by Scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> Barnston & 1<sup>st</sup> Frankby Greasby, a huge well done to those Scouts for completing this physically demanding challenge. Results of the challenge are currently being verified but 1<sup>st</sup> Barnston did achieve first place in their section on the day, a brilliant achievement, well done Scouts! Fundraising has been taking place too with bag packing by 1<sup>st</sup> Thurstaston and car washing by 5<sup>th</sup> Heswall. We have also had a Chief Scouts Gold Award achieved by Billy O'Keeffe from 3<sup>rd</sup> Heswall who was presented with his award at church parade on Mothering Sunday, congratulations to Billy on your award.

West Wirral Scouts have now made our mark in the online Scout community and we have our very own website, Facebook page and Twitter feed! We have already been joined by several other troops/groups



around the District and look forward to seeing many more join us soon. There is a link ready for all groups on the front page of our website, if you do have a website that is not currently linked up please let me know, so I can get all of those links working. If you don't have a website why not think about starting a Troop or Group Facebook or Twitter feed? It's a quick, easy and free way to take your first steps into the online Scouting community and we can link to those instead!

Next district Scout Leaders meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> Moreton HQ, 7:30pm prompt. Please send a representative (another section leader / GSL / non uniformed troop assistant) for your troop if a member of your leader team is unable to attend.

*Jenny Peek ADC(S)*

[adcjenny@westwirralscoutteam.com](mailto:adcjenny@westwirralscoutteam.com)

<http://www.westwirralscoutteam.com>

<http://www.twitter.com/WestWirralScout>

<http://www.facebook.com/WestWirralScout>







In the past month we have invested 20 new members, which brings our numbers up to 92, out of them more than half are young leaders in the District.

Explorers played a big part at the Scout post presentation evening, serving the refreshments at the end of the night. Also some of our Explorers performed a few songs as part of the gang show.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> Feb Explorers took over the Riverside Bowling in New Brighton for the Explorer Bowling competition, with over 40 Explorers and Leaders taking up 9 lanes. 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Moreton Thursday unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Moreton Wednesday Unit and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Heswall Unit.

Explorers came along to the Cubs swimming gala to help with the time keeping, I would like to thank Alan for putting on an Explorer race for them at the end.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March it was the Scout/Explorer Orienteering Competition, 12 Explorers attended; it was a lovely day, sun shining, for them all to take part. A big thank you to Dave Gorman and Dave Blackwood for organizing it for us.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March the Explorers are taking to their bikes, they are cycling from West Kirby marine lake to Hadlow fields along the Wirral way. On arrival they will be making their shelters to sleep in and lighting their fires to cook their own dinners. When all the hard work is done, a chill out around the fire before bed. Then cycle back to the marine lake in the morning.

### **Young Leaders**

There has been great turn outs to all the young leader training sessions, with around 25 – 30 attending. On the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, the Young leaders completed modules I & C – What did they say and that's the way to do it.

Coming up

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March, Module B – Take the Lead. This is taking place at West Kirby HQ, Lang lane, 7.15pm - 9.00pm.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> April, Module K – First Aid. This is taking place at 4<sup>th</sup> Moreton HQ, Paulsfield Road, 10am – 4pm  
There has also been 2 presentation evenings about the young leader scheme for leaders to attend.

**I would like to wish all our Explorers and Leaders and everyone else, who are in the Gang Show the very best of luck, have fun and enjoy it. It is a wonderful experience and I recommend it to everyone.**

**Yours in Scouting**

**Sue Walton**

[suewestwirraexplorers@outlook.com](mailto:suewestwirraexplorers@outlook.com)





# The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

MARCH

1st John Pownall

2nd Alan Bennett

3rd G & M Dutton

4th Ann Ledson

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](mailto:christine.kenyon@talktalk.net)



The London Marathon is one of the world's largest and most famous long-distance running events. It sees people return year on year to join 40,000 fellow runners including professionals, amateurs and celebrities all looking to experience this incredible challenge.

Colin Ratcliffe, Group Scout Leader of 1<sup>st</sup> Frankby Greasby will be undertaking the event in aid of the

**Scout Association** on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and is forming part of the Charity Running team of five competitors. This in turn will help develop the adventurous activities we offer to our 400,000 youth members and with your help we can offer Scouting to even more children and young people including the 36,000 currently on waiting lists.



Colin's involvement in Scouting started as a young boy, in the footsteps of his Grand Father and Father who were committed to 1st Thurstaston Scout Group as both Group Scout Leader and Scout Leaders. He followed them by joining Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts, as well as being an Assistant Leader for a short while. After taking a break for a number of years Colin became a Cub Scout Sectional Assistant and in December 2013 took over the role of Group Scout Leader. The West Wirral District Commissioner, Brian Tucker originally invested Colin when he was 11, has recently reinvested him 35 years on. Colin's son Toby started his Scouting in Beavers, and is currently a Scout at 1st Frankby Greasby. His daughter Emily is an Explorer with West Wirral as well as a Young Leader with 1st Frankby Greasby. Look out for Emily and Toby as they are both appearing on stage in the cast of 'Evolution'.

The Scout Association has brought a lot of joy and experiences to his family, and this challenge is a way of giving back to such a worthwhile movement, that helps transform the lives of young people across the UK.

Please help Colin to raise £2,000 in sponsorship, and wish him luck for the challenge ahead.

You can sponsor him directly through his JustGiving webpage, which is [www.justgiving.com/Colin-Ratcliffe-London2014](http://www.justgiving.com/Colin-Ratcliffe-London2014) or contact him via email at [1stfrankbygreasby@live.co.uk](mailto:1stfrankbygreasby@live.co.uk)

**JustGiving™**

## Cycling over the Pennines on the Longdendale Trail

Trail cycling is a favourite activity of 1st Barnston Scouts and the Group fits in a trail ride most months. One of the trails featured in many rides by Barnston scouts last year is the Transpennine Trail (TPT). The TPT is a classic long-distance trail (215-miles) for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders across the breadth of England from Southport to Hornsea. It forms part of the European Long Distance Path E8 from Istanbul in Turkey to Cork in Ireland.

1st Barnston Scouts have covered many of the local sections of the trail on day rides, with the ultimate aim as a troop to cumulatively cover the whole trail. Our latest TPT ride before the winter saw us push our route out up and over the Pennines, cycling the 15-mile Longdendale Trail section of the TPT from Hadfield to Penistone. The trail follows the line of the old Woodhead Railway up the east-west Longdendale Valley. The trail is traffic-free and keeps to the south side of the valley away from the growl of Sheffield-bound traffic on the busy A628.

Early one Saturday morning, seven scouts and four adults loaded up the transit with their bikes and kit and headed out east along the M56, M60, and M67 to Hadfield. This typical High Peak Derbyshire village (on the border with Greater Manchester) is best known as its TV fictional double 'Royston Vasey' (The League of Gentlemen). We parked up in the trailhead car park near the station and headed out east on the old Woodhead line in a deep cutting. The ride is easy going and you don't notice the slight uphill gradient. After about a mile of cycling we suddenly emerged from the cutting and caught sight of the view of Longdendale with its chain of reservoirs running down from the Woodhead Pass. The trail surface is made of compacted gravel and gives a good foundation to ride on even in the wet. Initially the trail keeps to the high side of the valley with the reservoirs far below. There is one crossing of a minor road before arriving at Torside, where we took a short break.



Longdendale Valley

From Torside onwards the valley narrows and the scenery is dominated by the high moorland. We soon arrived at the old Crowden Station, where the station buildings still stand, now as private house, but the platforms have long disappeared. We're now on the last pull up to the main feature of this old railway line, the Woodhead Tunnels. The old railway line part of the trail ends at the entrance to the Woodhead Tunnels. There are three tunnels, with the newest one (Woodhead 3) now being refurbished to carry the main electricity cables from Yorkshire to Manchester.] There then follows a rugged section over the moor and across Windle Edge, the highest point of the TPT (435m/1427') before we drop down to Dunford Bridge and the eastern portal of the Woodhead Tunnel.



Woodhead Tunnel

Stepping over from Derbyshire to West Yorkshire called for an investiture! At Dunford Bridge, at the start of the Upper Don Valley section of the ride, we invested Rosie into the Group.



It was soon time to ride on, following the route of the eastern section of the Woodhead Line, paralleling the young River Don as we dropped down from the heights into Penistone, finally finishing our ride at Penistone Station where we met our support crew.



It was then time to pack up and head back home but we took a slight detour to Holmfirth, home of another TV classic 'Last of the Summer Wine'. We sadly just missed a cup of tea at Sid and Ivy's café but we did manage to replenish our 'carbs' with some Yorkshire fish and chips and to eat them while sitting on Norah Batty's steps!



As we travelled back over Holme Moss we discovered how lucky we had been with the weather as the heavens then opened and pelted us with a terrific hailstone storm. This is a great one-day ride, mainly on safe off-road trails. It was also good preparation for our expedition and a good place to end our year's cycling on the TPT.

**Alex, Steph, Jack, George, Rosie, Joe, and Olly**

**And Dave Gorman, GSL, 1st Barnston**



# Dates for your Diary

## April

5	Beaver Day outing	Martin Mere	
6	District Cub Outing	Chester Zoo	
7	Wirral DC's meeting		
16	SL's meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> Moreton HQ	19.30
27	St. George's Day Parade		
28	CSL's meeting	St Andrews	20.30
29	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
30	ADC's meeting	DHQ	20.00

## May

8	DISTRICT AGM	Heswall Hall	19.15
10/11	Cub Skills Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurstaston	
17	Beaver Day Out	Gullivers World	

## June

7	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurstaston's AGM		
13/15	Cub Camp	Sandiways	
17	GSL's meeting	DHQ	20.00
21	2 <sup>nd</sup> West Kirby's 70th anniversary AGM		
28	Beaver Sports Day	TBA	

## July

7	GSL Support Event		
16	ADC's meeting	DHQ	20.00
24	District Executive	DHQ	19.45

Articles for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by  
10th April 2014

# The Editor's Bit.

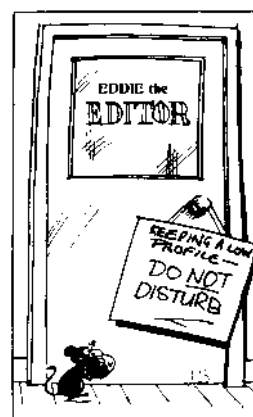
Please take particular note of the open invitation to the District Annual General Meeting on page 4. This meeting will be held on Thursday 8th May at Heswall Hall, and personal invitations will not be issued.

From what I read in some of the Section reports, Leaders sometimes plan to hold investitures in unusual places. If you were invested in an unusual place and the event was very special to you, please drop me a line and share your experience with the readers of this newsletter.

Also consider supporting Colin Ratcliffe who will be taking part in the London Marathon in aid of the Scout Association ( see page 11 for details).

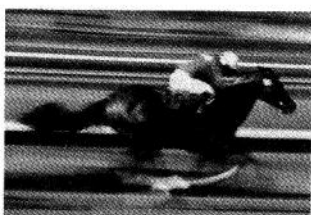
The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is 10th April.

**Eddie.**



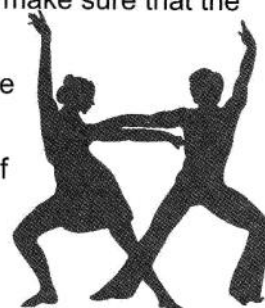
## RACENIGHTSRUS

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](mailto: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](mailto:racenightsrus@ntlworld.com)



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