

February 2014



The Scout Photographic competition 2013

The winning photograph submitted by 5th Heswall.

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

From the District Commissioner

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that it brings you all that you wish. Lets hope too that it will be a great Scouting year and that all the young people have an exciting and adventurous year. My wish for the coming year is that we can offer this excitement and adventure to a greater number of young people.

Since I wrote in the last Horn I have had a busy time. I attended the Beaver Craft Day held at 1st Thurstaston and this was a well organised and well run event. You can tell when there is little or no noise that they are all busy. When they changed bases it was a different matter and it was safer to stay out of the way. I would like to thank all those involved.

I went to two AGMs the first was 1st Frankby Greasby where Colin Ratcliffe was appointed as GSL to replace Phil Thornton. I later invested Colin at a Troop night. This was the second time I had invested him, the first being when he moved up into Scouts at 1st Thurstaston when I was Scout Leader there, so it was a privilege to invest him as a GSL now. The second was 6th Heswall's AGM. Christine Kenyon was there and after the business there was a Christmas quiz and I am delighted to tell you that our team of two came a creditable fourth. It was a pity there were only four teams!

On the Saturday, I went to the Cub Quiz held at 1st West Kirby. It started off with some spur of the moment questions, as the quiz questions had not arrived, but all went well and a good time was had by all. I was amazed at the knowledge these young people have.

That weekend some of 1st Barnston Scouts cycled from the sea to the source of the Mersey. They started at New Brighton and ended up at Stockport, camping overnight at Dunham Massey. They were met on their return by the County Commissioner and yours truly, at the Maritime Museum where I presented them all with their Expedition Award and the County Commissioner presented four of them with their Chief Scout's Gold Award. Well done to them all.

I was sorry to miss the Cub Carol Concert, but I had a prior engagement that I could not change. However I did get to the Beaver Carol Service and Party and that was a good event. A little moving for Chris Carlson as it was her last event as ADC Beavers. Everybody seemed to have a lovely time and they were blessed with a visit from Santa Claus. Now we welcome Jayne Oliver as our new ADC Beavers.

Then Christmas Post sorting and deliveries hit us, after the Groups had been selling stamps. It seemed to me that there were a lot of cards going through the system and we did end up delivering more cards than last year, but not a lot more.

**Yours in Scouting,
Brian.**

A pause for thought

WIRRAL HORN FEBRUARY 2014.

During this Christmas holiday I dare say like me, you have probably watched a little more television than you normally do. Once again there were the usual films that get repeated every year without fail.

However there was one program I particular enjoyed, and that was a collection of scenes from the "Morecambe and Wise" Christmas shows. The one I particularly enjoyed was the scene in which Eric Morecambe is playing the piano and Andre Previn is conducting the orchestra.

Andre Previn then points out that Eric is not playing the correct notes; Eric then grabs him by the lapels and tells him he's playing the correct notes but not in the necessarily in the correct order.

Do we sometimes have a tendency to be a little like Eric, losing sight of how important it is to have matters in the correct order! You see, that just as every member in an orchestra; although playing different instruments, needs to follow the same musical score to sound as one.

I feel sure that although you are all different personalities, you all join together, working as one in your Scouting to deliver that extra special quality.

"May your God grant you his love, protection and care as you serve others."

"AARON"





I would like to wish you all a very happy 2014.

Since the last report the Beavers have held their yearly Christmas craft day in St Chad's Church hall, Irby at the end of November. This was supported by 7 Beaver colonies, each one brought along different crafts for the Beavers to participate in and was enjoyed by all who attended.

We have had our Carol Service at St Andrews Church West Kirby, the service was conducted by our former D.C. Ken Jones, with the theme being Christmas around the World. Each Colony chose a Country and told us how Christmas was spent in that particular country. We invited 4 Beavers and a leader. After the service we had a party in the Church hall, we played a variety of party games. At the end Father Christmas arrived with a sack full of presents. Each Beaver took home a present.

I would like to thank Chris Carlson and Jean Jenkins for their help.

May I remind you all of the Beaver Leader meeting on Thursday 16th January at 1st Thurstaston H.Q. at 8pm. If you cannot make the meeting either send a representative or your apologies to me. **Please remember not to park in the Village hall car park.** Thank you.

Dates for your 2014 diary:-

Beaver Challenge Friday 7th February, St Andrews Church hall, West Kirby.

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.

Jayne Oliver

oliverjn@talktalk.net

0151 648 1754





Tug-of-War Tournament

It was a glorious day for the District Tug O War event at our District Cub camp at Queen Charlottes Wood. After being well fed the previous day with loads of food based activities and building up our strength with the camper badge activities we were all prepared! The stage was set well before anyone else was up. Up went the bright orange border, down went the tape and the marks were sprayed onto the grass! The perfect stage for the competition! 10 teams were entered into the first stage of our league but only 1 could win!

Following what at times was a very close round of pulling, grunting and other Tug-of-War'y activities;-

In 4th place - **BA OO** , (4th Moreton A)

In 3rd place - **Army Andrews**, (St Andrews)

In 2nd place - **Thor's Thunder**, (1st Thurstaston B)

And the Winners of the West Wirral District Cubs Tug O War 2013 were

Ali Aba, (2nd West Kirby)!

Children In Need Splash Party

In mid November 160 cubs and Leaders descended on Europa Pool in Birkenhead, joined by some scouts, for the annual Splashparty event. The aim of the evening was to have fun splashing about, riding the waves and shooting the slides, oh – and raise money for the Children in Need charity at the same time.

On the day we made £443.01 on the entrance charge and a massive £170.80 on cakes sales by 1st Thurstaston, making £613.81 in total. I think you will agree that this was a tremendous achievement and a great big thanks must go to all the Packs and Troops that took part

Over the last 4 years we have raised around £1,700 for this very worth charity – something that we are very proud of. Pudsey rang me the other say to say a great big

THANK YOU

to all the young people who have taken part over the years.

District Quiz

Cubs from various Packs around West Wirral, having spent the week reading various encyclopaedias, watching television and reading comic books (all in the interest of gaining knowledge you understand) descended on 1st West Kirby's HQ for the Annual Cub Quiz. Having confiscated iphones, iPods', mobiles and other such 'late gathering of information' tools at the door the 5 rounds of General Knowledge,

Science & Nature, Local Knowledge, Entertainment and More General Knowledge took place. After lots of head scratching, deliberating and not a little conferring the results were announced as follows;-

Pack	Team Name	Round					Total	
		1	2	3	4	5		
4th Heswall	The Wonga's	9	10	8	10	18	3 rd	55
4th Moreton	The Cool Cubs	11	10	4	11	14	4 th	50
1st Frankby Greasby (McClean)	Scuma & Epic Box	11	9	11	12	21	1 st	64
St Andrews	The Brain Busters	14	8	8	11	15	2 nd	56
4th Moreton	The Super Cubs	12	8	4	11	13	5 th	48

Carol Service

Well its official now - Christmas is on its way. Just as some people only think it's the start of Christmas when they see the latest coca cola advert, the ADC Cubs only thinks its Christmas when the Cub Carol Service takes place. And what a service it was, with some brilliant readings by the cubs, some wonderful dramatisations by the cubs (especially Herod who was very authentic), and some outstanding donations by the cubs (and possibly their parents) to the Claire House Children's Hospice to the magnificent sum of £154.43.

Many thanks to the Rev Gwnfor for organising the service, and to Christine for coordinating the various contributions.

Merry Christmas.

Up & Coming Events

Safety Poster Competition

This year's 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.

Grand Final to be held at 6th Heswall, 18:30hrs on Thursday 20th March (t.b.c.),

Swimming Gala

Leasowe Recreation Centre, Sunday 23rd February 12:00hrs to 15:00 hrs., please can you let Alan know by the 16th February if you intend taking part. Cost £20 per Pack; see separate email for more details.

St Georges Day

Believed to be being held on 27th April,

District Cub Outing – Sat 5th or Sun 6th April, Chester Zoo

Alan to check on prices, buses etc. and send out email before end of Jan re this event.

District Cub Skills Day / weekend – 10th & 11th May

Following many years of wonderful Skills Day, Christine has 'retired' from organising this event and looking at new ideas. Building on previous suggestions that the Skills day could be developed as an overnight event, with Packs deciding to either camp or attend for just the day. Early days but probably around £20 per Pack for overnight stay, £10 per pack for daytime only. Teams of 6 cubs, at least 3 under 9 1/2, at this stage 1 Team per Pack. 1st Thurstastons HQ. If you are interested please let Matty know 0151 342 2102 jonesy456@live.co.uk

Cub Camps – Spring and Autumn

Sandiways 13th to 15th June 2014

Queen Charlotte Wood, 26th to 28th Sept

If you are interested in attending the June camp there is a planning meeting at 19:30hrs Tues 25th Feb at 1st Thurstaston's HQ. If you are unable to attend this meeting please let Sue Flush know of your interest anyway.

Next District CSL meeting

Next Cub Leaders District Meeting 20:30hrs, 28th April 2014 at St Andrews H, namely the MACLEOD BUILDING, MUMFORD LANE, MEOLS

Alan Bennett (ADC Cubs)

0151 606 0335 (07920 496 929)

alan.bennett@bamnuttall.co.uk





Scout Photographic Competition 2013

Five troops took part in this competition - 5th Heswall, Hilbre, Overchurch Upton, St Andrew's, Meols and 1st Thurstaston. The competition took the form of a knock out, with each troop scoring points according to which round they were knocked out in. Thus if an image was knocked out in round 1 it scored 1 point, if in round 2 - 2 points and so on. The judge, Diana Magor, MPSA, EFIAPb, CPAGB, BPE2*, LRPS has judged local and international photographic competitions as far apart as West Cumbria and Florida, USA.

After 6 rounds 5th Heswall emerged as the winners with 30 points. Overchurch Upton came 2nd with 21 points, Hilbre 3rd with 19 points, Thurstaston 4th with 11 points and St Andrew's 5th with 10 points. The winning picture overall was also taken by 5th Heswall.

Congratulations to those troops that took part. Since the competition began the Trophy has been won by 1st Frankby Greasby, 1st Barnston, and St Andrew's, Meols. Perhaps it's your troop's turn in 2014. I am always willing to bring cameras along to any troop function. 5th Heswall borrowed cameras from me at the Wild West Camp -to good effect. All troops attending that camp were offered the loan of a camera, but only 5th Heswall, Hilbre and St Andrew's took up my offer.

Brian Magor



District Website(s)

We have, at the moment, three websites serving the district - one District website run by me, one dealing with some District events and with the Cub Section run by Alan Bennett, and one with dealing with the Scout Section run by Jenny Peek. These websites are of varying quality and all have faults to a lesser or greater degree. In addition, these websites are all "owned" by individuals rather than by the District, and as such are dependent on each individual's goodwill and position in the District. This is not a safe situation and it sends a mixed and confusing picture.

There are also Facebook pages - one District Facebook Page in which the latest entry refers to the Gang Show of 2012, and one for the Scout Section which is up to date. Facebook pages fulfil a different role to websites, and I do not propose to deal with these - although one could argue that to have two Facebook pages whose addresses differ by only one letter and one of which seems little used does not make sense. Again, Twitter pages also fulfil a different role to websites, but can, if wished, be incorporated into websites as required.

Both Liam, who ran the District website before me, and I have had great difficulty in getting information to keep the District websites up to date so we need to find a way to make the website more accessible to those who have a contribution to make. Or, in other words, put the responsibility for updating information in the hands of those who have the information.

All three websites are to be merged. A target date has been set for 1st March but this may slip according to how things progress. I have obtained free web-space on the ukscouts server. The District website will operate as a Word Press multisite. To see what it might look like go to <http://www.iscout4wordpress.org.uk/themes/scouts/>. For the moment, there will be two super-administrators, Liam and myself, who will be in control of all sites, but each section -Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers etc will have their own site with their own administrators. In addition, each Group in the District will be given their own site and administration rights. They may continue to operate their own web sites in addition to the District Group pages if they wish. In order to make this a District project, a website team will be set-up - each member of this team will have training and defined administrator rights. This is to ensure District "ownership" and continuity. The format will be rather like the Scout website because the program and the themes are similar to the one that Jenny is using for the current Scout Section website. Between now and 1st March the new sites will be gradually set up and training given to those who wish to be administrators. There will be no compulsion - for instance if an ADC or GSL does not wish to be directly responsible for his/her pages, he/she can either delegate or leave it to one of the website team.

One of the things the District website team should be looking at is identifying the various audiences the website is aimed at, and making sure that these audiences are well served. How far should the website be an archive is another area of discussion. We must, however, be realistic. There is little benefit in creating website pages where there are already ample useful websites in existence. In addition, those who make suggestions should also provide possible ways of implementing those suggestions.

As a further element, I would like to set up a team of District photographers. These could be scouts and explorers as well as leaders. One of the criticisms of our current websites is that the photographs are often of poor quality. In addition, some of the stock photographs used by some of the websites are not of our scouts but generic scouts. We need to build a library of stock photos of West Wirral Scouts in action. If we have a team of photographers available for District and Group functions then we can ensure that a higher standard of photography is demonstrated on our websites. As a side effect, those scouts who have completed a certain number of assignments can be awarded their photography badge.

I will be contacting Groups in January and February with more information and requests for volunteers.

Brian Magor

District Webmaster



Happy New Year.

I would like to welcome Sue Flush and Phill Richardson to the Explorer team, they will be running the Young Leader training scheme. If you would like to know more about the young leader scheme there are a couple of presentation evenings scheduled in February.

Monday 10th Feb @ Explorer hut, Barnston Lane, Moreton, 7.30 – 8.30pm or Thursday 27th Feb @ 1st Thurstaston 7.30-8.30pm. If you would like to attend please contact Sue or Phill.

Sue Flush – 07771870987 sue.flush@o2.co.uk

Phill Richardson – 07966515613 phill@rich-print.co.uk

All the units have come together for a number of events. They all met up at Royden Park for a wide game. They battled in their teams to collect as many glow sticks as they could. Also they played hunt the leader and man hunt. To finish the night off 7 new members were invested.

Explorers also came together for a night hike from West Kirby to the Explorer hut in Moreton. Along the way they enjoyed a chippy supper.

The Explorers played a big part at the scout post sort being porters. Many thanks to all of you who helped and to all who helped delivering the post.

All the explorers have had their input in planning the programme for the next term, some of the things they will be doing include, planning their own camp, cooking, orienteering, pioneering (giant catapults) bowling comp, go karting, 1st Aid and many more.

To end the year the Leaders and the forum members transformed the Explorer hut for their annual Snow Ball. I would like to thank you all for your hard work, the hall looked amazing. Connor Murphy, a former explorer, came to play in his band; the Explorers really enjoyed it, the leaders did all the music, and a buffet, a great time was had by all.

Yours in Scouting

Sue Walton (DESC)

suewestwirraexplorers@outlook.com





The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

December 2013

1st G & M Dutton

2nd Maureen Tucker

3rd John Pownall

4th Sue Flush

January 2014

1st Pauline Richardson

2nd Nigel MacLeod

3rd David Hulme

4th Bernie Hailwood

Their cheques are in the post

Congratulations

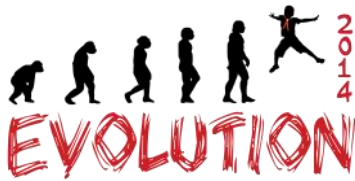
So have you got your numbers yet?

If you don't have your numbers yet contact

Christine Kenyon

0151 677 1820

christine.kenyon@talktalk.net



2014 has got so much to offer – The Big Brownie Birthday, The Winter Olympics, The World Cup and..... The West Wirral Scout and Guide Gang Show entitled 'Evolution'

After the success of 'Heroes & Villains' in 2010 and 'A Night at the Movies' in 2012 the team have been hard at work writing the 2014 show which has now evolved, is well into rehearsals and looking like it's going to be another fantastic show.

Our cast for the 2014 Show 'Evolution' stands at 74 so as you can see it is a fantastic opportunity for those in West Wirral and Wallasey aged 9 and above to work together as a team to produce a high quality production. Over 30% of our cast return to take part in the next show which we believe demonstrates their enjoyment of the 'Gang Show Experience'.

'Evolution' takes place at 7.30 from Thursday 27th to Saturday 29th March 2014 with a 2.30 Matinee on Saturday 29th at The Gladstone Theatre in Port Sunlight Village.

Tickets are available by calling 07905 534906 or by completing the booking form on the website www.wfgangshow.org.uk We hope you like the photos and videos of the past shows on there, but you may not know that you can also find West Wirral Gang Show on Facebook and Twitter! You can find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/wfgangshow> and on twitter @wfgangshow

We look forward to welcoming you for a walk through the ages at one of the shows.

Andy Longstaff

A massive Thanks and Congratulations to all of you who assisted with the scheme. As always a wonderful team effort with so many press ganged (willing?) helpers turning up at Royden.

From Set Up to Dismantle it was evident that everyone was willing to offer help where needed.

The final result was 484,847 cards delivered by the scheme. West Wirral Groups delivered 190,000. Our busiest night being December 10th when we handled 32,280 cards.

Joyce MacLeod West Wirral Area Organiser.



To All Collectors, Sorters, Deliverers,
and all Scouts & Guides.
West Wirral Scout & Guide
Christmas Post.
Royden Park HQ .

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

ACTIVITY PERMITS

With the new membership database coming in shortly we need to record permits held by leaders on their individual records. There is no difficulty with Nights Away and Water Activities as the District holds records for these. In fact the Nights Away permits have already been added to the member's records and the Water Activities will be added shortly.

What we don't seem to have in the District is any records of other Activity Permits. Would leaders please let me know what other activity permits they hold so that I can enter these on to their records.

ASAP please.

Brian

briantucker@talktalk.net

Dates for your Diary

2014

February

6	GSL's meeting	DHQ	20.00
7	Beaver Challenge	St Andrews Church Hall	
17	ADC's meeting	DHQ	20.00
23	Cubs Swimming Gala	Leasowe	12.00
25	District Executive	DHQ	19.45

March

April

5	Beaver Day outing	Martin Mere	
5or6	District Cub Outing	Chester Zoo	
27	St. George's Day Parade		
28	CSL's meeting	St Andrews	20.30
29	District Executive	DHQ	19.45

May

8	DISTRICT AGM	Heswall Hall	19.15
10/11	Cub Skills Day	TBC	

June

13/15	Cub Camp	Sandiways	
17	GSL's meeting	DHQ	20.00
28	Beaver Sports Day	TBA	

July

16	ADC's meeting	DHQ	20.00
24	District Executive	DHQ	19.45

August

September

10	ADC's meeting	DHQ	20.00
17	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
26/28	Cub Camp	Queen Charlotte Wood	

The Editor's Bit.

Well I hope that you all had a very good Christmas break and I wish you a Happy New Year.

I was invited to the Beaver Scout Carol Service at St Andrews Church and was relieved that I was not asked to dress up as a Christingle this time. The Beavers were on good form and were a credit to the District. At that service Chris Carlson acted as ADC Beavers for the last time, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for the help and co-operation she has given me over the years.

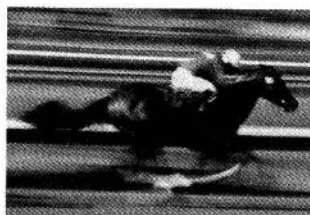
I add my welcome to Jane Oliver who takes over from Chris as ADC Beavers.

Eddie.



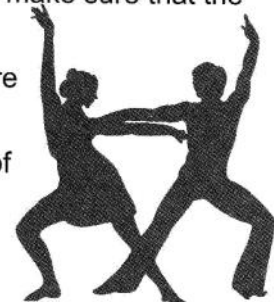
RACENIGHTSRUS

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