

October 2014



South Shields Scout Sailing Regatta 22nd - 25th August, 2014

See Page 4 for details.



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

From the District Commissioner

Here we are back to the hobby we love, Scouting. I hope you had a good break, though by the time you read this you will have forgotten all about it. We now set our sights on the run up to Christmas with Carol Services, Christmas Post and all the Christmas associated programmes.

I know that Christmas Post is a large commitment not only for the Leaders but also for parents but please remember that it is not only a fundraising event for our Groups - we give a large amount of money to local charities and we are providing a service to the local community as well. It also helps to raise the profile of Scouting in our community.

We do need to make an effort to let the general public know what we do for the young people today and that it is not shorts and big hats and seeing old ladies across the street. Our Movement has moved on over the years and we embrace all that the young people want, that they do not otherwise get from sitting in front of a computer. We offer adventure and fun in controlled environments. We should be proud of what we are doing.

I have been very pleased to see the varied and interesting programmes that are being offered in this District, but I am a little disappointed that some young people are not getting the opportunity to go camping. We need to work together more with joint camps so that those who cannot take their young people away on their own can embrace camping. So I am asking the stronger Groups to offer to take another Group with them.

The Scouts and Guides have been talking to Alder Hey Hospital to see if there is anything that we as a County can do for them. They would like to have a Group or Section to attend once a fortnight, Leaders and young people, to run activities for the patients. We have around 120 Groups in the County so each turn would only come round now and again. The hospital will provide the space and we would have 'Chaperones' there and as it will only be occasionally we will not need to go through the NHS vetting procedure. I think this would be a good opportunity for the young people to give something to the Community and I am sure that they too will benefit from the experience. Think about it and I will forward on more details when I get them

I have just been informed that certain members in our District have had their work recognised by the Scout Association with various awards. Congratulations to them all. Details will appear in the next Horn



Brian

A pause for thought

WIRRAL HORN OCTOBER 2014.

Would it be beneficial or a disaster if we all were given a sort of daily chart that we had to tick whether we had done something positive or negative as the case may be? Say for instance June 24th - Oh yes - managed to journey to work without being short tempered despite the road works. Put a "Tick" on the chart.

June 25th, woke up on the "wrong side of the bed" and have been "grumpy" with everybody all day. Oh no! - Big X on the chart. Every single day's actions recorded.

Could you imagine what our charts would look like especially if it was open to public gaze! Thankfully that chart doesn't exist, for mine might be a disaster.

We all have a built in "chart" and we know when we do something good, or when we do something not so good.

I know that one positive action you think is probably never recorded is the time you dedicate volunteering for the benefit of young people in Scouting.

I do truly believe that it is recorded somewhere on a very special chart.

"May your God be the recorder of your actions as you share love and kindness in your lives"

"AARON"





South Shields Scout Sailing Regatta 22nd - 25th August, 2014

Early Friday morning, the trailers packed with bags, tents and three Fevas, we set off in convoy for the 5 hour drive to South Shields Sailing Club. Our team consisted of 7 Explorer Scouts, and 10 Sea Scouts. Upon arrival, we unloaded the boats and put up the masts, so that the boats would be ready to rig for the next day's sailing. We then headed to the campsite where we pitched everybody's tents, had a cooked dinner at the sailing club and then turned in for the night.

The next day after an early start and breakfast, with a short safety briefing from the race co-ordinators, we began the first day of sailing. This was made more difficult by the lack of wind, but many of our scouts managed the conditions very well which meant that they put themselves in a very good position in their categories for the next day's sailing. As we were racing next to a large shipping lane, we saw a variety of huge ships, such as cruise liners and container ships moving past during our races, which gave an impressive backdrop to the competition. Unfortunately, later that day some races were postponed, and boats towed in off the water, because the wind had dropped completely making sailing extremely difficult. Therefore everybody got changed into their dry clothes and used the entertainment that the sailing club had provided for us including a PlayStation, table football and a pool table. After dinner we headed back to the campsite and made sure that we had everything prepared for another day's racing.

The next morning everybody racing in the under 13's category had to leave early for a race before breakfast, this was to try and use as much time for racing as possible while the conditions were at their best for the day of sailing. Again there were only light winds, but as the day continued the winds did become stronger which made for easier sailing. At around one o'clock in the afternoon, the racing for the weekend finished, and everybody changed into their scout uniform for the awards presentation. We did very well as a Scout group, with wins in the under 13 slow handicap from Matthew Waddington and Henry Ruddock, and another win in the under 15 slow handicap from Ethan Paul and James Youngson.

Overall it was a very tiring, but very enjoyable weekend on the water with everybody making a great effort in the races.

Alex Youngson: West Wirral Explorers and 4th Heswall Sea Scouts



On your bike with 1st Barnston and Halfords

At the beginning of summer Halfords joined The Scout Association's Corporate Partner scheme and with it launched some new cycling resources and in-store workshop's for cub scouts. As a keen cycling pack and looking for activities to complement our cycling programme, 1st Barnston cub scouts were the first local pack to take up the offer of a workshop at Halfords Bidston store. So first Wednesday in July, four cubs and three scouts (who gate-crashed as the evening clashed with a school event) got down to getting their hands dirty fixing punctures and learning the key points about safe cycling. The evening was also a great test of their cycling knowledge. The cubs were some of the very few young people who knew that having a bell on your bike was a legal requirement for riding on the road! (Our 'two-tings' alert is an important part of the pack's safe cycling programme.) At the end of the evening all four cub scouts, who had completed their work over the summer term on the cyclist award, were duly presented with their badges by the Halfords bike hut team. Our thanks go to Halfords for their support and workshop for our young people.

Dave Gorman, GSL

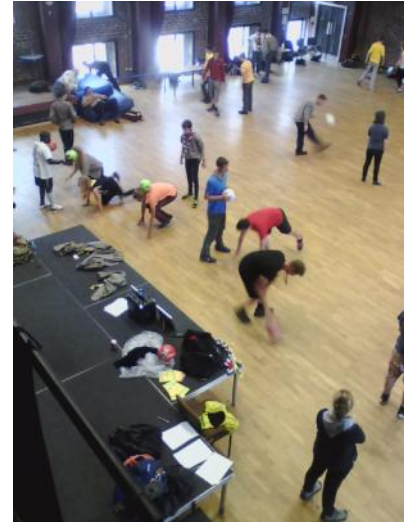
1st Barnston



Pier Head



St. Lukes



Keep Uppy at the Black E

Chamboree City Zone

During the summer holidays Dave and I were invited by Cheshire Guides to help out on the Chamboree City Zone in Liverpool. Chamboree is Cheshire Scout County's international camp based at the Cheshire Showground in Tabley, near Knutsford. The camp was a brilliant international experience for Scouts and Guides with over 5,500 people attending, including some West Wirral groups.

The City Zone experience gave the Scouts and Guides a day out exploring Liverpool. Each group had a self-guided tour around the city's sights and attractions with an opportunity to join in some activities at points on their tour. Places visited included: Albert Dock, the museums, Anglican Cathedral, Radio City tower and Chinatown, among others. Some of the activities they got up to on their tour included: graffiti art, Liverpool fashion, football skills, and many others on their 10-base tour.

On the first day we were based at St Luke's (also known as 'the bombed-out church') where groups got a chance to learn about the history of the church during the war, while inside the scouts and guides got a chance to do some graffiti art. Another day saw us based in the new Museum of Liverpool where visiting groups discovered the pop-culture scene of 60s Liverpool and an opportunity for a fashion show in some of the clothes of the period. On the final Friday, Dave was based in the Black-E community centre up in Chinatown where Explorer Scouts were taught various balancing and 'keepy uppy' football skills.

Each day finished for all groups at the Pier Head where they enjoyed a short calypso concert and some magical street artist skills before boarding the buses back to Tabley. The great weather in Liverpool during the week hopefully made the City Zone an experience to remember for all our visitors.

Christine Gorman, DCSL

Short Break at Gilwell?

Gilwell Park, just outside Chingford, Essex, at the southern edge of Epping Forest, is one of The Scout Association's activity centres and the home of HQ. It is where all the various HQ departments are based and where major events such as Gilwell24, Reunion, Fundays, and Wintercamp are held each year. The 108 acres of heritage scouting make it the home of scouting in the UK. Gilwell Park is also the home of the Wood Badge, where the first leader training event took place in September 1919.

A central feature of the park is the White House, which acts as the park's hotel and conference centre. Did you know that you can stay at The White House and enjoy its comfortable heritage at very competitive rates compared to London hotels? With London just a 25-minute train ride away, Gilwell can be an ideal base for discovering the area.



White House Gilwell



Park Reception Gilwell



Park Scout HQ Gilwell

We were planning to ride over the Transpennine Trail this year, however, faced with a rain-filled start to August the thought of all those puddles and downpours made us look elsewhere. What about Gilwell? Being in the south-east it managed to escape much of the wet weather and with August being a quiet time when most international camps have finished, the park tends to be quiet.

So one weekday morning we set off with bikes on the train to London. Arriving at Euston at a time when there are restrictions on carrying bikes on the Underground, presented us with a challenge to find a quiet route across the city to Liverpool St. station. Actually, there is quiet route through the squares which avoids all the busy roads to catch the Chingford train. Once in Chingford it's a simple mile ride to reach Gilwell and the White House which was to be our base.

On his visits to Gilwell, Dave's explored many of the local cycle trails and this time our challenge was to ride the length of the River Lee Navigation from Hertford to London, which flows through nearby Waltham Abbey. We split our route into a two-day ride each of about 25 miles.



London from Gilwell Park

Hertford stands on the River Lee at the point where it changes from a small stream to a canalised river. To avoid a long round trip, we made use of the train from Enfield Lock to Hertford and started our ride by Hertford Castle. The upper Lee Navigation runs through a picturesque wetland of lakes and flooded gravel pits which are an ornithologists' heaven. The cycle route along the towpath is excellent and makes for a good day's ride down to Waltham [Gilwell Park] Abbey. The big challenge of the ride comes at the end with a steep climb up Daw's Hill to Gilwell.

There are lots of places to see near to Gilwell, including the historic armaments sites of Royal Gunpowder Mills and Enfield Lock, but for excitement nothing beats the Lee Valley White Water Centre in Waltham Abbey, where the canoe slalom events of the London Olympics were held and which provided us with an easy rest day.



Lee Navigation outside Hertford



Lee Valley White Water Centre

]

On our final day we cycled down Daw's Hill and picked up the River Lea Navigation again at Enfield Lock. The lower Lee Navigation now follows the line of the large reservoirs that fill the Lea Valley to the east of London. The cycle route follows the Lee towpath through the suburbs of Walthamstow and past Hackney Marsh to reach the Olympic Park near Stratford. A short spur allows one a view over the whole of the site: the stadium, velopark, aquatics centre, Copperbox and the orbital.



Olympic Stadium

The Lee Navigation meets Bow Creek at Three Mills and the cycle route follows the Limehouse Cut on its final stretch to Limehouse Basin where our 50-mile cycle ended as it met the Thames.

It is possible to extend the route on to Canary Wharf, cross the Thames by the Greenwich Foot Tunnel, and climb up to a finish at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, home of the Greenwich Meridian. We rode down to Canary Wharf before cycling back through Wapping and Spitalfields to Liverpool St, to pick up our heavy bags, and then on to Euston to catch the train home.



Canary Wharf

If you're down in London and looking for a comfortable place to stay, at a good room rate, with only a short train ride into the city, why not check out the White House at Gilwell Park? Highly recommended and a great base for some urban cycling!

Dave & Christine Gorman
1st Barnston & West Wirral

POR for the Future

Policy, Organisation & Rules (POR), as many will know, is the rule-book we follow in scouting. In 2012 The Scout Association's Operations Committee approved a fundamental review of POR. It was recognised that POR has developed over time and this has led to unintentional contradiction and ambiguity within the documentation. Likewise, the size and complexity of POR has led to widespread confusion and misinterpretation. The POR we have today has not largely changed for over 10 years and is still essentially in the style of the 1985 paper version, even though it's now published on-line.



POR Review Team meeting at Gilwell

In early 2013 a project team was recruited to manage the work of the review, which will be far-reaching and extensive. The team consists of voluntary members with a wide-range of roles in scouting with only one HQ member acting as co-ordinator. In May last year I was invited to apply to join the team and passed the interview board chaired by Carl Hankinson, Chair Operations Committee.

A lot of work has been done since last year with meetings and online and phone conferences taking place regularly. I have come to know Gilwell Park very well in this time though I have had no time to enjoy the attractions of the

place as meeting days and weekends tend to be packed, starting early and finishing late. For one-day meets I tend to leave on the 06:45am train from Liverpool and might not be back until 10:45pm. Weekend meets are a little easier but the project is still demanding on time and effort and there's always a lot of work to do on the train in advance of the meetings.

An essential part of the project is to review the way that the rules and policies in POR are presented to ensure that the movement is provided with clear and unambiguous information. Likely changes to the structure and format of POR will have wide reaching impact to the movement and all changes and their ramifications will need careful consideration. Furthermore, technology and the media that we now use to access information have changed significantly in the past 30 years and we are also looking at how people access and read POR, both now and in the future. The team is committed to producing a single governing document that is comprehensive, up-to-date, easy to use, and clear in its style language and meaning. The task is huge: not only are there 163 pages of rules in POR but these are accompanied by (at least) 568 factsheets, many of which contain interpretations of rules and their own policies! And we should not forget the technological hurdles to surmount in getting all this online in an indexed and searchable form.

Policy	Structure	Membership	Activities & Programme	Operational & Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Policies Safety Legislative Method and Purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Structure How we're run Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Adult Appointments Awards Suspension Uniform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities (based A-Z) Activity Planning Permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance Finance Administration

A lot of the planning and fundamental groundwork is now almost complete and the core of the review is about

to start. Once this is underway and gaining momentum there will be consultations to ensure that the project is meeting the needs of leaders, managers and supporters. The new POR will be completely different and while no final structure has been agreed thus far, the diagram below shows a proposed 5-strand structure the team is currently working on. Each team member brings a range of skills and experience and I'm particularly involved with the structure and membership categories.

The team presented some of its initial work at the Gilwell Reunion in early September and used the event to consult with leaders. The project completion date is late next year but this may be delayed into 2016 as the team continues to uncover even more POR challenges. If you wish to know a little more about the project or have any questions or ideas about POR, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Dave Gorman, GSL & HQV

The 88th Gilwell Reunion

In September, Gilwell Park, the home of UK scouting, hosts the annual Gilwell Reunion. This year's Reunion, the 88th, took place on the 5 – 7th September. The event is for all adults in scouting and traditionally celebrates the annual reunion of the members of the 1st Gilwell Park Scout Group, which comprises all those leaders who have completed the Wood Badge course of training. This year was my first Reunion weekend.

I travelled down on the train on Friday evening with Dave who was helping to run an exhibit at Reunion and meeting with his POR colleagues on Sunday. The event is always busy and the camping fields are packed but luckily I didn't need to search for a space as I stayed at the nearby Premier Inn in Sewardstonebury. This year just over 2,400 adults attended the event and the quiet on my last visit in August was replaced with the busy hubbub of camp. This year the event was visited by Bear Grylls, Chief Scout, his first reunion too.



I started out early on Saturday and by 9.30 am the place was buzzing with activity. There was over 100 activities, bases, and exhibitors to seek out over the weekend with something for everyone including: marketplace stalls selling scouting and non-scouting wares, such as Scout Shops; activities, from high ropes to dowsing; practical skills, from first aid to bushcraft and other crafts; workshops, from Compass training to equality and diversity; HQ services, from Information Centre to Activity Centres, International and Brownsea; Fellowships and Support, from faith groups to SAS; among many others. I got round many stalls and exhibitors but the range is huge and it can be very tiring. At noon I went on one of the popular heritage walks around Gilwell led by Colin Walker. I

managed to catch up with Dave for lunch in the Colquhoun International Centre, during which we caught a glimpse of the Chief Scout passing through. Dave returned to his exhibit and I managed to get within 50 metres of the Chief Scout as he toured the exhibits. At 3pm there was a reception on the Training Ground and I got to meet and talk to Wayne Bulpitt, the UK Chief Commissioner. I met up with Dave again as the exhibitors closed for the day and we found time for a cup of tea in The Lid before heading off to the RC Chapel for Holy Mass with other National Catholic Scout Fellowship members celebrated by Bishop Richard Moth, the Catholic Bishop for Scouts.



Afterwards the evening live entertainments kicked off and the bars in The Lid and the Queen's Squiffy Woggle on Essex Chase began to fill. Sadly, I missed the traditional campfire entertainment as Dave and I were invited to dinner back in Sewardstonebury. I thoroughly enjoyed the day.

On Sunday, Dave had a POR Team meeting and so I headed off into London for a tour of the Palace, before meeting up with him later that afternoon at Euston to catch the train home. Dave's meeting started and finished early and he had time to attend the Scouts' Own on the training field and the 1st Gilwell Park Annual Meeting, that marked the end of Reunion for another year.



Reunion is an amazing scouting event. You get to meet lots of people and see lots of scouting activities, resources and ideas exhibited. It's packed and noisy, maybe a little too noisy in the late evenings I hear, and you have little time to catch your breath. You do get to see and experience a really big unique scouting event and I would recommend the experience.

Christine Gorman, DCSL

Please remember to get your articles to me by the 10th October if you want them printed in next months Wirral Horn.

Eddie.



The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

September

1st Joan Quaile

2nd Pauline Richardson

3rd G & M Dutton

4th Tony Twemlow

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 2015

effective for bookings made from November 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
--	--	--

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.

cost/pers/night	£19.00	cost/pers/night	£14.25	cost/pers/night	£ 11.40
-----------------	--------	-----------------	--------	-----------------	---------

Bookings made before this date will be subject to 2014 Rates



Dates for your Diary

2014

October

4/5	Beavan Challenge	Sandiways	
22	GSL's meeting	DHQ	20.00

November

3	Christmas Post distribution	DHQ	19.30
17	GS Support Event		
19	ADC's meeting	DHQ	20.00
20	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
22	Christmas Post Stamps on sale		
22	Beaver Craft Day	St Chad's Hall Irby	10.00

December

7	Beaver Carol Service	Details later	
8	West Wirral Sorting office opens	19.00	
17	Christmas Post last collection		12.00

2015

January

February

3	Christmas Post Presentations	Wallasey Town Hall	19.30
---	------------------------------	--------------------	-------

The Editor's Bit.

I hope that you all have had a good summer break and are now ready to start your autumn Scouting sessions with renewed enthusiasm. Some Groups will have been camping and I hope that I will receive a few short articles about your experiences.

My thanks to Christine & Dave Gorman for providing most of the articles for this edition of the Wirral Horn—without their contribution, and Alex Youngson's report about the Sailing regatta, the Newsletter would have again been very short of news.

Can I appeal to the ADC's and GSL's to encourage Groups to use the Newsletter to inform the wider District membership about interesting events taking place in our Scouting area.

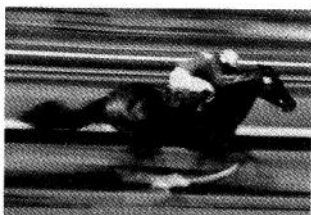
Also can you let me have dates for any event you are planning for inclusion into the District Diary.

Eddie.



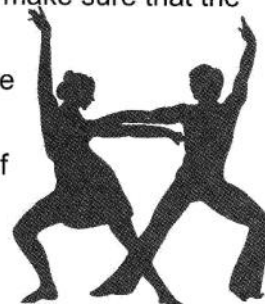
RACENIGHTSRUS

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