

## CHRISTMAS 2015 & NEW YEAR



### Remembrance Sunday

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

# From the District Commissioner

October has been a quiet month District wise. The ADC's have continued to visit all their sections and we are pleased to see a varied programme across them. This was extended to County when early in the month a number of Beavers and Cubs attended the first County International Day over in Liverpool at St Margaret's School. This gave the Beavers and Cubs a chance to taste a number of different activities following an International theme, with ideas and activities to inspire our young people. Look at how our fellow Scouts from around the world live. Over 500 young people attended from across the County and I am sure they all came to our pancake base in the first hour.

The same day and same place a County Group Scout Leader morning. Liam ran one of the sessions on social media. We were well represented with a number of our Groups, thank you.

The following day was Join the Gang at Frankby Greasby . This was the first audition / first rehearsal for next year's Gang Show titled "Best of British". It was an experience the young people took in their stride and I am sure this will be yet another great show next April 7-9th, please put the date in your diary. Though this won't be out until December there are still a few places if you know any young people or adults contact Liam:- [artechdesignuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:artechdesignuk@yahoo.co.uk)

19<sup>th</sup> October Andy and I were invited to Hilbre Cubs for craft model building using recycled items only. Some of the models were very creative. Richie then gave a short presentation on his participation in this year's Jamboree.

Young Leader training was next covering the last Modules. The next training will hopefully sign off a number of Young Leaders with their Explorer Young Leader Belt.

The last Saturday of October, Caroline and I followed over a 100 Cubs around Chester Zoo. This is always a great day and the young people seem to have their favourites, mine is the Bat House. I do have to say the new Islands are fantastic and the cubs did spend a long time here.

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November I was off to Runcorn with Liam and Jimmi for the Network re-launch. As a reminder all Leaders that are 18-25 are automatically members of this section and we are looking forward to the re launch on 4/5 December.

Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> Liam and I joined members of our District at Remembrance Day Services. Liam braved the weather in West Kirby and I attended St John's in Greasby.

By the time I write next month's article we will be well into the Scout Post, which has become an integral part of not only our fundraising but also our contribution to our communities. Please push this when asking for help from your parents.

Keep the invites coming.

**Phill**

# A pause for thought

Have you noticed that according to the television adverts and the supermarket shelves Christmas once started in November, now it starts in October. I know that many of you are very busy people for not only do you have jobs, homes and families to attend to... you also have the added responsibility of your scouting commitments.

There are the 101 things you need to organise and buy, the tree, the turkey, the vegetables, the festive "cheer", cards to write then post.

The origin of sending Christmas cards was a British invention, the idea of Sir Henry Cole who in 1843 was interested in the new Public Post Office how more "ordinary people" could use it. Yes, you are right he was a civil servant.

His friend the artist J. Horsley designed the first card and a 1000 cards were printed and sold for a shilling each {a huge amount of money} As printing techniques improved cards became cheaper to buy and post. Just as today cards depicting nativity and snow scenes were popular. Victorian postmen wore red uniforms and were known as "Red Robins" that could explain why we see robins on our cards.

Many of you will be working hard over the coming weeks on the charity post so you know the story of the cards you will deliver.

On of the items I forgot to mention is the presents you have to buy and wrap. Part of Christmas is that we all enjoy giving and receiving gifts.

The greatest gift of all is free to you; a child born in a stable to a young mother, her husband a simple carpenter. The baby worshipped by kings and shepherds. So may this Holy child bring you the gift of love, peace and eternal life.

*"May the true message of the first Christmas be yours, peace on earth goodwill to all men. "*

**"AARON"**





Yes!...Cub Scouts are 100 years old next year and we have some great ideas to celebrate throughout the year. If you have any suggestions or thoughts please let Matt or myself know and we can discuss them at the next leaders meeting.

It's been a busy Month and I've managed to get around some packs and will hopefully have been to all by Christmas. My survey of biscuits so far see's Overchurch Upton in the lead but there is time for that to change!

We had a great time at Chester Zoo with good weather and now that the Islands are fully open it made for a really interesting day. The Zoo only kept a few of the Cubs as new exhibits!

I'll report on the Children in Need Splash Party in the next newsletter.

The District Carol Service is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December and full details have been sent to all packs.

The 10 Pin Bowling has proved popular again with all 20 lanes now taken so I'm sure that will be an enjoyable and festive occasion (Christmas hats welcome).

Please let us know if you are interested in the 'Centenary Party' in January, it would be great to see you all at 1<sup>st</sup> Thurstaston HQ to help us celebrate.

Good Luck with the Scout Post!

All that remains is for Matt and I to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

**Andy Longstaff**

ADC Cubs

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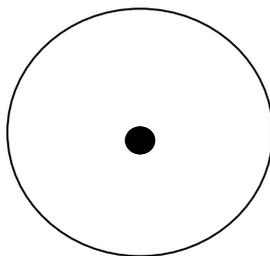
### **3<sup>rd</sup> Heswall Cub Chester Zoo visit**

Chester Zoo —, a big thank you to Andy our new in post ADC for organising what was a lovely day, our cubs thoroughly enjoyed their visit. We started the day heading straight to the Islands where we met our DC Phil; I invited Phil onto our boat armed with a camera as we were investing Jonathan in our pack. First investiture in the Islands said the zoo keepers! Jonathan will have lovely memories too.

The cubs, full of excitement, moved quickly around to see as much as possible. I think they did a really good job of that although we nearly got mixed with the chimpanzees, think we brought a few playful monkeys home with us!

**YIS**

**Akela 3<sup>rd</sup> Heswall.**



### **CHARLIE UPTON**

It is with great sadness that we heard that Charlie Upton had passed away. As a boy he joined St Catherine's Scout group Birkenhead. This was the start of his long association with scouting.

Having worked his way through the Scouts and Ranger Scouts at St Catherine's, he was asked to form a Cub group in Greasby, known as 2nd. Greasby Scouts. With his help the group developed into what it is today with all sections represented.

Through a lifetime friendship with Bill Banks of 10th Birkenhead he was involved in the purchase of a cottage in Cwm Penmachno by both groups. This cottage still provides accommodation for scout groups and families. Charlie was instrumental in setting up the Scout Post in the Greasby area and worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the sorting operation. He will be greatly missed by all who benefited from the dedication he showed to Scouting.

**Ron Jones, 2nd Greasby Scouts**

0151 678 3987, Ronscout@gmail.com



## Scout Section Report – Wirral Horn November 2015

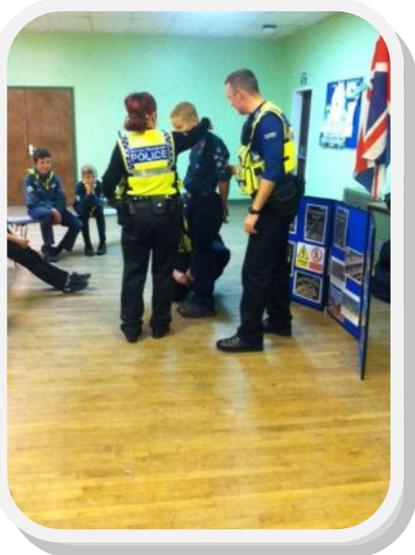
Remembrance Sunday this year brought with it many church parades in our local groups and areas. We have had some excellent reports and feedback complimenting our Scouts on their dress and behaviour on this special day. Steve joined Scouts from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Heswall for their annual service and march alongside other local community associations, whilst Jenny joined 3<sup>rd</sup> Heswall for the annual Mass of Remembrance at Holy Family in Pensby. All troops had a great turn out and Scouts were a credit to West Wirral. Well done to all troops who took part in remembrance parades.



We have continued with troop night visits and managed to call in at 1<sup>st</sup> Frankby Greasby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Greasby, 6<sup>th</sup> Heswall, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Heswall to see what is happening out and about in our District. With visitors giving demonstrations, to wide games, problem solving, and traditional scouting skills, the Scouts in our area are certainly offered a varied programme, thanks in no small part to the work of the section leaders.

Here are a couple of troop night photos to give you a taste of what they have been up to.

1<sup>st</sup> Frankby Greasby were visited by the British Transport Police. “Volunteers” were chosen and the police gave demonstrations of how their equipment worked and the techniques they used when arresting or handling criminals.



6<sup>th</sup> Heswall were completing their Local Knowledge Badge by taking part in a Cryptic Challenge. They were given grid references and a cryptic clue to specific locations and, in patrols, had to find the locations for as many clues as possible in a given time limit. Extra points were awarded for taking a photograph of themselves at each location as proof.

Currently, we are busy planning an all-new Christmas event for the Scout section; West Wirral's First Annual Scoutenanny! This will be taking place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 6:30 – 8:30pm, further details will be sent to SL's.

Our next SL meeting after Christmas is on **Thursday 21st January 2016, 2nd Greasby HQ, 7:30pm.**

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

*Jenny Peek ADC(S)*

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<http://www.westwirralscoutteam.com>

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

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



## Answers to October Navigation Quiz

Thank you to all those who attempted the quiz in the October edition. The answers to the questions are:

**Q1. In the UK, more branches grow on which side of trees?**

B: South

In the UK the southern side of a tree, which is the sunnier side, has more growth and is often called the 'heavier' side. An effect called phototropism causes the branches on the sunnier side, south-facing in the northern hemisphere, to grow out towards the light, while the branches on the darker north side will tend to grow more vertically. The effect is more pronounced on deciduous trees than on evergreens and easier to see on prominent isolated trees.

**Q2. So-called 'guy roots', long and thick roots, are often found on which side of exposed trees in the UK?**

A: South West

In the UK the prevailing wind tends to blow from the south west. Trees use their roots as anchors or guys and they tend to grow thicker and longer on the windward side, especially exposed trees.

**Q3. A rainbow seen in late afternoon will always be seen generally in which direction?**

D: East

A rainbow is an optical phenomenon caused by the refraction of sunlight. The critical angle in refraction of light at the air/rainwater interface is  $42^\circ$ . If the sun is higher than this angle, such as in the middle of summer days, you will not see a rainbow. Rainbows are bigger and easier to see when the sun is low in the sky. To observe a rainbow the sun must always be behind you. If you observe a rainbow in late afternoon, when the sun is setting in the western part of the sky, it must be opposite in the east. To observe the rainbow you must be facing east.

**Q4. Which celestial body always sets directly west?**

E: The star Mintaka

A common myth is that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. It does not, except on two days in the year; the equinoxes (in March and September). The direction in which the sun rises and sets changes with the seasons due to the tilt of the Earth's rotational axis. However, a celestial object that lies on the celestial equator, which is inclined to the tilt of the Earth, will always rise and set in the east and west respectively. The three stars in the constellation Orion's 'belt' lie close to the celestial equator, with Mintaka, the westernmost star (on the right as you look at the belt!) lying nearly on the equator. When you see Orion rising and setting in the winter months you will see Mintaka rising and setting almost directly east and west respectively.

**Q5. Which object found on many houses in the UK generally points in a south easterly direction?**

Sky satellite dish

The Astra 2 satellite from which many people receive Sky TV is in geosynchronous orbit (rotating in time with the Earth) above the Equator in a direction that is nearly South East from places in the UK.

If you are interested in boosting your navigation skills or those of senior scouts or explorers (to level 4 staged navigator award), please let me know and I'll see if I can set up a skills course for you.

**Dave Gorman, GSL**

**1st Barnston Scout Group**

**david.gorman54@tiscali.co.uk**

## Merseyside Scouts Aviation Camp



On the last weekend in September, Ben Williams and I attended the very first Merseyside Scouts Aviation Camp in Manchester.

The camp was based at Manchester City Airport & Heliport, Barton Aerodrome. The airport is a general aviation airfield located in Eccles, just five miles from Manchester city centre. About 120 aircraft are based at the airport which sees about 50,000 take-offs and landings every year.

We arrived on Friday evening at our camp site in a field at the end of the runway at Barton. There were about 20 scouts on the camp and the evening was very busy putting up tents, mess tents, and lighting before daylight disappeared.

We soon had the camp up and we all gathered in the mess tent for our first session learning about how aircraft engines work. The evening finished with hot dogs and hot chocolate before we turned in for the night.

We were up early at 7am on Saturday morning and enjoyed a breakfast of sausages, hash browns, bacon and beans! The morning aviation session comprised a number of workshops and talks on flight and aircraft and a talk from a meteorologist on weather. In the afternoon we mapped our flight routes for Sunday and enjoyed our first trip onto the airfield learning about air traffic control and marshalling and taxiing of aircraft. Dinner on Saturday evening was a great chicken curry. After dinner we started on our task of building our model airplanes, revising parts of the aircraft as we did so. A busy day soon ended as we headed off to our tents.



Sunday morning saw us make a prompt start as we needed to be on the airfield for 9am sharp. As we assembled on the airfield we were given a briefing on the safety rules that apply to all airfields.

We then enjoyed a tour around the aerodrome seeing airplanes and visiting the hangars, culminating in a visit to the air traffic control tower. For a small airport it was very busy! Cliff, our course instructor, then invited us to the café for drinks and then we were sorted into groups for our experience flights.

Flights took place in 2-seater or 4-seater fixed wing light aircraft (Cessna 152 and Piper PA) and scheduled for 30 minutes. After completing all pre-flight safety checks, it was a fantastic thrill to line up on runway 28R and take off. My instructor climbed the plane up to cruising height and once we were lined up he handed over control of the plane to me. (Brilliant! X-box simulators cannot beat the real thing!) It was a very delicate touch on the joystick and you didn't need to move it much to bank the aeroplane. Sadly, the flight was soon over as we touched down on runway back at Barton.

We struck camp and packed away before receiving our certificates and badges. I really enjoyed the weekend and would definitely recommend it to other scouts!

Our thanks to all the leaders who put on this terrific experience and to City Airport for hosting the camp.

**James Wright, Ben Williams**

**1st Barnston Scouts**





# The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

## **NOVEMBER**

1st Brian Magor

2nd Ann Cross

3rd Pauline Richardson

4th Thomas Richardson

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)

# Dates for your Diary

2015

December

6	Beaver Carol Service & Party	St. Andrews	
7	Charity Post Sorting Office opens		
7	Cubs Carol Service	Holy Family Church	
9	Scoutenanny	TBA	
16	Last Posting Day for Charity Post		
17	Cubs Ten Pin Bowling		

2016

January

11	CLS's meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Frankby Greasby	20.30
16	Cubs Centenary Thank you Party	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurstaston	
21	SL's meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Greasby	19.30
23	Cubs 5-a-side	Leasowe	

February

7	County Patrol Leaders Day		
21	Cubs Swimming Gala	Leasowe	
23	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
27	"Scouts speak up"	L'pool Town Hall	

March

18/20	Great Escape	Tawd Vale	
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April

2/3	50 <sup>th</sup> Cheshire Hike		
18	CSL's meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Barnston	20.30
21	District Executive	DHQ	19.45

May

8	Shelterbox Challenge	Liverpool	
12	District Executive AGM	Heswall Hall	
21	Cubs District Skills Day/District Hike		

# The Editor's Bit.

I hope you all have a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year. In particular would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the District Newsletter over the last year. I look forward to seeing a number of you at the sorting office in Royden Park, as once again we all get involved with the Scout & Guide Charity Post. As this issue of the Wirral Horn covers Christmas and the New Year can I remind everyone that the deadline for articles for the next issue is 10th January 2016.

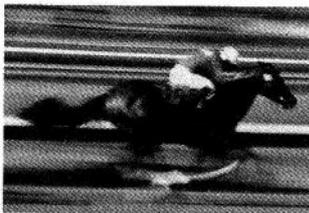
Yours in Scouting,

**Eddie.**



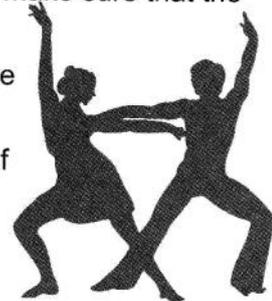
## RACENIGHTSRUS

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)

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