

March 2015



Beavers visit **Kailash Buddhist centre in Oxton.**

To: West Wirral Team

District Commissioner West Wirral

Brian Tucker will be retiring as District Commissioner in May 2015. Brian has given the Role and the District exemplary service over the past few years and I wish to record my grateful thanks to him for his time and commitment as one of my leadership team here on Merseyside.

I am delighted to advise Brian's successor as District Commissioner will be Phill Richardson, currently Deputy District Commissioner. Over the next few months Brian and Phil will work together to ensure a smooth transition that will allow Phill to undertake his new role at the AGM.

I trust that you will all join me in thanking Brian for his great work over the past few years and welcome Phill to his new role.

Alan Seeley
County Commissioner



From the District Commissioner

Firstly I would like to congratulate Phill Richardson as the District Commissioner Elect. I wish him well in that new appointment which will take effect from the Annual General Meeting on 7th May 2015. In the meantime he will be working closely with me to learn the job. Liam is staying on as Deputy District Commissioner. However, I am still the DC until the AGM and will be making the decisions. The buck will still stop with me.

Lin and Steve Dodgson have moved to run a pub near Wrexham and have stood down from their roles of GSL & AGSL of 2nd West Kirby but will still have roles to keep them in touch with the Group. I am pleased to announce that Simon Day will be taking over as GSL. We wish him well.

Jenny Peek is now working away for a large part of the week and is standing down as ADC (Scouts) and I thank her for all that she has done for the Scout Section while she has been in that role and I wish her success with the new job.

It has been a reasonably quiet month as we do not seem to have got back into the swing of things after the Christmas and New Year break. However, we did hold a local Adult Awards event for those people who were unable to attend the County event. It was a nice evening and was, I believe, a success. I would recommend to those of you who achieve an award in the future to attend the County event if at all possible as it is a good evening and County can afford better cakes than the District.

I, along with a number of you, attended the Christmas Post Presentation evening and it does show us what even our small part in the scheme does for the local community. It is also nice to receive the cheques. This year Roy Kenyon wasn't there so I got to hold the District cheque for longer than usual. Normally he takes it off me before I can sit down.

This month has seemed to be dominated by Compass our new membership database, which has had a number of issues and we will be dealing with the Census by the old method. The system has caused a number of you heartaches but once it is up and running as it is intended it will be a very useful tool. So there is a light at the end of the tunnel and it isn't the training coming in the opposite direction.

We had our GSL meeting at the usual time of the year and had a talk from Alan Bennett one of the Regional Development Officers. One free give away was a vacancy board to put up where parents or the public will see it and hopefully it will attract some volunteers.



I also attended the Beaver Challenge where the young people have a fantastic time trying the various challenges. Some were harder than the others but everyone had a go and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I turned down a number of offers to have a go as I did not want to show myself up.

Brian.



Lions Community Award

Wirral Lions Club sponsor this award, which is presented at the Annual General Meeting, for service to the community. It can be awarded to a Group, Section or an individual. It is accompanied by a cheque for £100 made payable to the Group.

The type of thing it has been presented for have been;

Converting waste ground near a church to a garden.

Entertaining people in a Care Home.

Working with non-Scouting Special Needs

The types of thing that could be considered are:

A Scout helping an elderly neighbour with shopping and errands.

A Beaver Colony or Cub Pack keeping a church garden tidy.

Running a fundraising event to support a charity.

Community is one of the Zones of the Balanced Programme and allows the young person to explore the community in which they live, discovering local people, places and facilities. It also gives them [the opportunity to offer help and service.](#)

Please give this some thought and get your entry in to me by 31st March 2015. Thank you.

Brian Tucker.

NOTE TO HOLDERS OF TROPHIES

Would holders of trophies awarded at the 2014 Annual General Meeting please make sure that these are cleaned and returned to me by Friday 27th March 2015.

Thank you.

Ann Ledson

District Secretary, 10, Dodd Ave, Greasby, Wirral. 0151 678 8777

District Executive Committee Nominations

At the Annual General Meeting, Thursday 7th May 2015, we elect the District Treasurer, the District Secretary and members to sit on the District Executive Committee.

All members of the District are asked to submit nominations for election to the District Executive Committee.

The elected members do not represent individual Scout Groups or Sections. They play a full part as members of the District Executive Committee but their particular role is to represent the interest of all members in the District.

The following qualify for nominations:

All Scouters, Administrators, Section Assistants, Skill Instructors, Advisers, Members and Associate members of the Scout Association.

Please give this matter some thought and take the opportunity to nominate a suitable person to fulfil any of these roles. Please ensure that your nominee is prepared to stand, before submitting his/her name. The Committee generally meets 5 times a year at District Headquarters.

Please submit your nominations to – Ann Ledson, 10 Dodd Ave, Wirral, CH49 1RR **by Thursday 5th March 2015.**

West Wirral District Annual General Meeting – Thursday 7th May 2015

Just a reminder of the forthcoming District AGM – Thursday 7th May 2015 at Heswall Hall. Please ensure you look out for an update in future Horns.

In the meantime, please ensure this date is in your diaries.

Ann Ledson

District Secretary, 10, Dodd Ave, Greasby, Wirral. 0151 678 8777

A pause for thought

Have you ever noticed how much “signage” we have to encounter either as a motorist, cyclist and as a pedestrian on our roads and pavements. We tend to absorb this information automatically sometimes without even being aware. For example last week I was travelling along a motorway there was the sign indicating two lanes ahead where closed, speed limit 50 mph. Leaving the motorway two signs indicating two roundabouts and safety cameras. Journeying into town 30 mph. no left turn, no waiting, road works, traffic lights, crossing ahead etc.; etc.; I am sure that you are all experiencing the same thoughts as I do.

Then there are the famous logos that have been the product of design departments and the P.R. teams with which we are all familiar. Try to picture the logos of “His master Voice” “McDonalds” “Audi” as there are many more, you could probably name a lot of more of them.

Several years ago Scouting changed their logo to present a more modern image to young people, however what they will never change is the ethos that it represents.

You all deliver that great adventure to young people, you do it without even thinking, through dedication, humility, care, and concern that is a sign that you are doing your best for all.

“May your God grant you strength, comfort and peace to you in your service to Scouting.”

AARON





On Friday 6th February we held the Beaver Challenge at St Andrew's Church hall, in West Kirby. We had 8 Colonies attending, each bringing different games:- fishing, Pin the woggle on the Beaver (not a real Beaver), target heads, car challenge, bean bag darts, these are just a few of the games. All the Beavers thoroughly enjoyed the event. The winning teams were:- in first place 4th Heswall, 2nd place 4th Moreton and in 3rd place 1st Thurstaston (Thor), well done to those teams and to everyone else who participated. The next Beaver leader meeting will be on Wednesday 4th March at 1st West Kirby Scout hut, 8pm.

Forth coming events:-

St George's Day Sunday 26th April. (Details soon)

Gullivers World Saturday 16th May.

All Section camp, 13th & 14th June Sandiways forest camp site.

Beaver camp weekend 11th September. (Details soon)

Beaver Skills Day 17th October, St Andrew's Church hall, West Kirby.

Christmas craft day 14th November, St Chad's Church hall, Irby.

Carol Service & party, Sunday 6th December, St Andrew's Church & hall.

Jayne Oliver A.D.C. Beavers

oliverjn@talktalk.net

0151 648 1754 /mobile:-07949457622



1st Thurstaston Thor Beaver Colony

On Thursday 15th January we had a very interesting visit to the Kailash Buddhist centre in Oxton. When we arrived we were greeted by Joanna and Ten Wang. Joanna was not ordained so she did not have a Buddhist name. Before we went into the Great hall we were shown where to hang our coats and put our shoes, as you don't wear shoes in the hall. When we entered the hall all the Beavers were told to pick up a mat and find a space on the floor to sit. She started by asking the Beavers if they had ever visited a Buddhist temple or anything similar. Joanna then explained about the origin of Buddhism. The founder of Buddhism was a Prince called Shakyamuni, he was born a royal Prince in 624 B.C. in a place called Lumbini which is now part of Nepal. 'Shakya' is the name of the royal family into which he was born. Muni means 'Able one' his parents gave him the name Siddhartha and there were many wonderful predictions about his future. He left the palace at the age of 29 and went into the forest to meditate, he stayed there for 6 years and attained enlightenment. He left the forest and started his teachings and became known as Buddha. His aim was for people to attain nirvana. Ten Wang then showed the Beavers his robe and explained what each part meant. The Beavers were shown a picture and statue of Shakyamuni, they were shown what their prayer books looked like, they were wrapped in gold cloth. They were shown the statues on the altar and the offerings given by followers. Near the end of the night Joanna asked the Beavers if they would like to do some Meditation, they all enjoyed learning how to meditate. We said our goodbyes and returned to the Scout hut.

Jayne Oliver Beaver Scout Leader & A.D.C. Beavers

Adventure Camping FirstAid Sleepover Challenge Camp
Cooking Badges Fire Entertainment Fun TheBases:
TheTent RelightMyFire LetsOrientTheCompass StayingAlive
MasterAtArms LetsGeoTheCache TimeToChallenge



WEST WIRRAL CUBS CHALLENGE AND ADVENTURE CAMP 2015

£40 Per Team of 6 Cubs
That's only £6.66 per Cub!

Open to every pack in West Wirral Scout District
Fully Inclusive (Packed Lunch needed for every child on
Saturday!)

6 Challenge bases on the Saturday
1 "Time to Challenge" on Sunday

Email Matthew Jones, DCSL on
Matthewjones.DCSL@outlook.com
To register TODAY!



Dates: Sat 9th - Sun 10th May 2015

Location: 1st Thurstaston Scout HQ

Time: Sat 9:30 arrive for 9:45 Flag and Opening Ceremony

Cost: £40 per team

How to enter: Each pack is allocated 1 team space and I will be operating a reserve space list if you would like another team. let me know at time of booking and I will reserve a space for you (First come First Served for reserves).

Email Me at matthewjones.DCSL@outlook.com for a space or for more information.

Every group will be asked to run a base however all resources will be sourced for you and the base planned out.

Deadline for Applications: Friday 24th April 2015 (Non-Negotiable!)



1st Thurstaston Cubs had an unlikely visitor! The Cubs arrived at the hut to be met with a British Red Cross Emergency Communications Vehicle parked on the drive! What could this mean?

We are doing the communicators badge of course! We had a visit from the Communications Officer for Merseyside who brought along his very expensive (£60,000) van! Fully equipped with a kitchen, 2 communications desks radios and computers, heater, generator, 2 story tall Arial and of course blue

lights and sirens!

He gave the Cubs a print out of the phonetic alphabet and some useful radio shortcuts! We practiced sending messages to one another using the i-Comm radios and headsets. Then we got to look around the vehicle and set off the “Blues and Toos”.

It was a memorable night to say the least! A massive thank you to Lee, the British Red Cross Communications Officer and Matt a (now) DCSL for West Wirral, but also a First Aid Trainer and Assessor for the British Red Cross.

If you would like a visit from the communications vehicle or an Ambulance please get in touch directly with me on my email below.

Thanks

Matt Jones

DCSL

Matthewjones.DCSL@outlook.com

0784 9619 475



2015 is officially the year of adventure! Well... For Cubs anyway!

The Scout Association has released activities for Cub Packs to do throughout the year from March to December! These activities are aimed at gearing us all up for the centenary of Cub Scouts in 2016! There are lots of things to do and they are already planned for you! Just download the session plan, get the resources and off you go!

Don't forget to involve your Beaver colonies in these activities too! Some of your groups Beavers will be Cubs in 2016 so these activities will be a great way to get your Beavers interested and enthused for Cubs! Here is the link to all the activity plans and to see the official 2016 celebration badge! <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=12,746>

Lots of exciting plans ahead! Lets make sure we are all geared up and excited for the centenary of Cub Scouts in 2016!

Yours In Scouting

Matthew Jones

DCSL

matthewjones.DCSL@outlook.com

0784 9619 475

2016... A Year of Celebration!

'Action and Support Team' - to help plan and run our events over the Year of Celebration!

Alan & I are currently looking to 'recruit' people into our 'Action and Support Team' for the 2016 centenary of Cub Scouts. We have lots of huge plans in the pipeline and I'm sure there are more out there so if you think you can help us deliver a year of outstanding celebration then we want to hear from you! Weather you are a CSL, ASCL, CSSA, YL or OH we want you on our team!

We have 3 major events to organise so far which are our Thank You Event (Jan/Feb), Adventure Camp (Aug) and Promise Party (Dec)! As well as lots of events in-between!

We know peoples time is valuable but if you think you can help please get in touch with Matt on matthewjones.DCSL@outlook.com / 0784 9619 475 or Alan B.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Matt Jones

DCSL



The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

FEBRUARY

1st Laura Pringle

2nd Neville Pollard

3rd Ann Ledson

4th Ann Coulson

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

Dates for your Diary

2015

March

4	BSL's meeting	1 st West Kirby	20.00
21	Equinox Challenge		

April

22	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
26	St. Georges Day		

May

7	District Executive AGM	Heswall Hall	
16	Beavers trip to Gullivers World		

June

12/14	West Wirral All Section Camp	Sandiway	
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July

14	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
25	Amsterdam Adventure		

August

September

11	Beaver Camp	Sandiways	
25	District Executive	DHQ	19.45

October

17	Beaver Skills Day	St. Andrews	
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November

14	Beaver Christmas Craft Day	St. Chads, Irby	
18	District Executive	DHQ	19.45

December

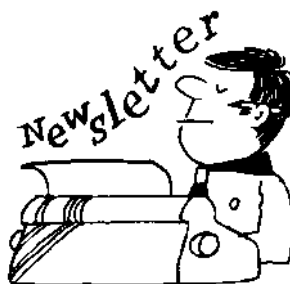
6	Beaver Carol Service & Party	St. Andrews	
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The Editor's Bit.

Can I add my personal congratulations to Phill Richardson on being made District Commissioner Elect.

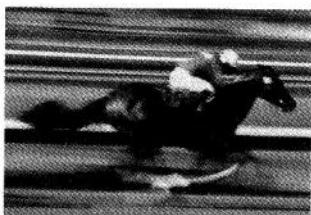
Last Month we received a very complimentary comment from the County Commissioner that our Newsletter was a jolly good read and we were congratulated on its content & layout. I was particularly pleased to receive these comments as normally the months go by and I get little or no feedback. Can I remind everyone that the deadline for articles for the Newsletter is the 10th of the month—this is your newsletter which relies upon your contributions.

Eddie.



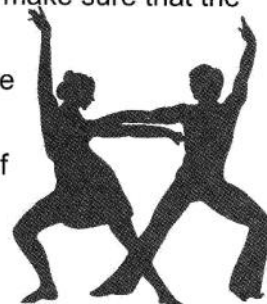
RACENIGHTSRUS

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