

## October 2015



Find out how a Church could literally help you to  
navigate and find your way.

(see page 7)

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

# From the District Commissioner

Well by the time you read this the first month of this term will be over and the nights will be closing in. I don't want to depress you, just make you think how can we still keep the "out" in Scouting over this term. The one thing I have noticed when visiting AGMs and Groups is how varied a programme everyone does have. We have the usual visits to the Fire Stations and the Hoylake Lifeboat station, but we also have a number of Groups going to a Synagogue, a Group going to a local Garage, Groups going to the pet shops and Tesco as part of a weekly programme. Maybe this is the time to partake in such activities and try something new and maybe involve some of your Parents on rotas if you don't have the Leaders to cover ratios.

Since September's Horn I have had notification of a number of Wood beads and service Awards and am looking forward to awarding these at Group meeting or District Events. Those of you who believe they are due their Wood Badge please get your GSL to send all training dates so we can process them.

Finally you all should have had the emails re Network Commissioner and ADC Cubs, but in case you have missed it I am pleased to welcome Jimmi Richardson as Network Commissioner (Jimmi will be contacting all 18-25year olds shortly), and Andy Longstaff as ADC Cubs. I am sure you will join me in wishing them both well in their new roles and I am sure you will give them all the your support.

Yours in Scouting,

**Phill.**



# A pause for thought

A man visited his local pet shop and bought a budgerigar complete with a brand new cage, his ultimate aim was to have the budgerigar “talking” within a week. He quickly returned home and sat next to the budgerigar and began to recite “who’s a pretty boy”, the budgerigar refused to “talk”. The man wondered if the budgerigar was bored, so he returned to the pet shop and purchased a mirror. This he installed in the cage so that the bird might think that his reflection was another budgerigar, still the bird refused to “talk”.

So being desperate the man returned once again to the pet shop and bought a bell and ladder so the budgerigar could occupy himself by walking up and down and banging the bell.

The man was by this time confused, he had bought a mirror, bell and ladder and despite all his efforts the budgerigar refused to “talk”

The man retired to bed defeated by the bird’s lack of response, in the morning the budgerigar was leaning against the bars of his cage muttering. The man was elated; the budgerigar was finally “talking” although very faintly. The man pressed his ear to the cage to hear the budgerigar state “doesn’t that pet shop sell any blinking bird seed”!

A silly story you may say, but the man was more concerned with the “improvements” he could offer that he forgot the basics.

Unlike you Leaders who never forget the basics in the Scouting you offer young people—for once that’s in place you improve their quality of life.

***“May your God grant always to open, humble, honest and be truthful in all your endeavours”.***

**“AARON**





I'd like to start my first report by thanking Alan Bennett for all that he has done for the Cub Section over the past 5 years. His hard work has been appreciated by so many.

Christine Gorman supported John and then Alan as a District Cub Leader but has decided to step down from the District team. Thank you Christine for your support of the Cub Section during the past 13 years and good luck continuing your Scouting at 1<sup>st</sup> Barnston.

Matt Jones is staying on the District Team and I'm looking forward to working closely with him as he continues in his role as District Cub Scout Leader.

I'm really looking forward to working with all the Cubs and Leaders within the District and will try to continue providing an interesting, varied, active and challenging District programme. If you need help or support with anything please give me a call.

This year the Safety Poster competition theme is Computer Safety.

Entries need to be with me by the swimming gala and the usual rules apply of one poster per six and one six will be chosen to represent their pack at the Grand Final in March.

Dates for the coming year can be found in the District Diary on page 10 - Full details will follow:-

## **Andy Longstaff**

ADC Cubs

Mobile - 07766 743074

Home - 0151 648 2822

e-mail – [arl@hfcl.co.uk](mailto:arl@hfcl.co.uk)





# The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

SEPTEMBER

1st Brian Magor

2nd Lynn Wain

3rd Steve & Ruth Wynn

4th Maureen Tucker

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)





## MEETING A CHIEF SCOUT IN A FIELD

Over the first weekend of July, 1<sup>st</sup> Newton and 5<sup>th</sup> Heswall Cubs shared a great camp together at the Gladstone Centre, Hawarden. On the Saturday morning we set off on a 4 mile hike which took us past the imposing gates of Hawarden Castle in the middle of the village. In need of a break we stopped and the Cubs were told that Hawarden castle was the family home of a previous Victorian prime minister and currently by a 'previous Bear Grylls'

This is Sir William Gladstone, great grandson of the prime minister, who will be 90 this year. He was educated at Eton and became headmaster at Lancing College where he was very encouraging of scouting. He became Chief Scout between 1972 and 1982 and was particularly interested in developing scouting in deprived areas of the inner cities and new housing estates.

We continued the hike into and through the estate grounds. Lo and behold, just over a stile coming towards us was a very upright and youthful looking elderly gent walking with two sticks. Yes, it was indeed Sir William. Having explained why we were on his private land (scouts using the Gladstone centre have permission to walk the estate) he was delighted to see us and entered into a lively Q&A session. He had good memories of his time as Chief Scout and retains a good interest in the movement and its members.

**Steve Pillow CSL 5<sup>th</sup> Heswall**

## Finding your way in the religious landscape

This autumn my cub leader team is running a programme towards meeting the needs of the new navigator staged award. They are also taking the opportunity of introducing our young people to using other clues in the landscape to find their way. At 1<sup>st</sup> Barnston we're particularly fortunate (blessed?) to have a traditional English church alongside our church hall HQ. Christ Church has many significant features which can be helpful in finding direction.

Traditionally, churches are most commonly aligned east-west with the altar at the eastern end. This is quite noticeable in very early English churches where the church is often not perpendicular to the road that services it, many of which came along much later. More recent churches have compromised their layout to fit in with access roads and paths and may vary a little from a strict east-west alignment, but in general most follow roughly the traditional alignment. Christ Church is aligned roughly ENE-WSW with the altar at the easternmost end. Some churches were built in alignment with sunrise on the feast day of their patron. The church tower is normally at the western end, as it is with Christ Church. The door to the church is also generally located at the western end, so one enters and faces the altar, and often on the sunnier southern side. The door to Christ Church is at the west end but on the north side.

Stained glass windows in churches are also traditionally sited with a preference for uplifting scenes of hope, the Resurrection or Ascension, being popular in the east end and memorial windows in the west end. Christ Church's east window depicts The Ascension.

Graveyards are just as rich in navigation clues as the churches they surround. Graves are traditionally aligned east-west with the gravestone at the western end. This is so that souls face the rising sun on the day of their resurrection. The most desirable part of the graveyard is the south side and this is traditionally where the oldest graves are located. The west and east sides were less desirable. The north side was initially reserved for the un-baptised and was less popular. Of course nowadays parish graveyards are becoming overcrowded and it's now necessary to use all sides. Still, much can be made of the fact that the oldest gravestones will be found on the southern side, the newest on the northern side. This is very true of the graveyard at Barnston.

There are also often a lot of obvious clues on churches such as weather vanes or sundials. Christ church has a traditional weather-cock on the west tower, often facing SW into the prevailing wind. You should also not forget nature's clues, many of which can be found in churchyards. The weathering on gravestones tends to be greatest on the reverse (western) side because most of our winds and rain blow in from the west-southwest, the prevailing direction. Pitting and rain streaks can often be found on the exposed west side of some gravestones. If you know your lichens these too can be a good clue to directions, with black lichens favouring exposed top parts of gravestones; white and yellow lichens favouring the damp west side; and, the rusty orange ones favouring the drier south side. Mosses prefer the wetter north side of churches.

Other religious buildings also show many navigational clues. The Qibla, a niche in the wall of a mosque, shows the direction of Mecca. The Ark in a synagogue is located so that those praying before it are facing Jerusalem. Similar to churches, Hindu temples are also often aligned facing east. And many historic and archaeological sites of possibly ancient religions are also located in line with

the compass, such as Stonehenge.

So next time you're out doing navigation with your young people don't forget to use some of the clues in our religious landscape to add some variety to your map and compass work. Observation is an important scouting skill!

**Dave Gorman, GSL**

**1<sup>st</sup> Barnston Scout Group**



'reverse (west facing) side of gravestone showing rain streaks and black and white lichens'



'reverse (west facing) side of gravestone showing pitting and white lichens'



'Christ Church from north side showing bell tower with weather vane on right (west) side; cross on top of altar (east) side on left; and under-used graveyard on north side'



## Navigation Quiz

To complement my article on navigating using the landscape I'm setting you the challenge of a prize quiz, with the prize being a handy grid reference tool. All answers to me by e-mail by the end of the month of publication. Winner will be the first correctly drawn answer. There are 5 questions, answer Q1-4 using the appropriate letter, but Q5 answer requires you giving the name of the object. Feel free to pass on to your scouts/explorers but emails from leaders/adults only please.

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

A: North B: South C: West D: East E: The sheltered side

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

A: South West B: North West C: North East D: South East E: The left hand side

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

A: Towards Chester B: West C: North D: East E: South

Q4. Which celestial body always sets directly west?

A: The Moon B: The Pole Star C: Jupiter D: The Sun E: The star MIntaka

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

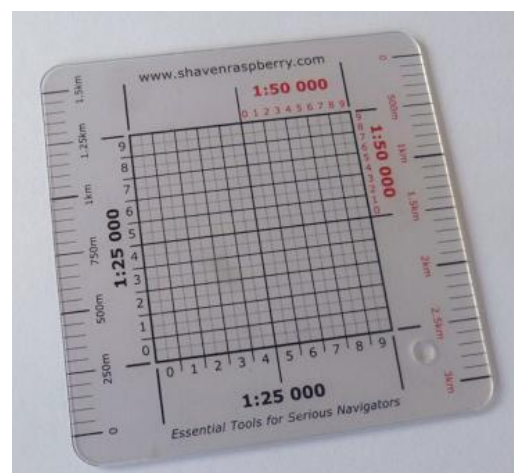
Good luck!

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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Barnston Scout Group**

**[david.gorman54@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:david.gorman54@tiscali.co.uk)**



PRIZE: A Grid Reference Tool

# Dates for your Diary

2015

October

1	Merseyside Scouts Conference & AGM	
2/4	Geoffrey Beavan Challenge	Forest Camp
9/11	The Feast of Lanterns	Tawd Vale
17	Beaver Skills Day	St. Andrews
30/1	Scarefest	Gilwell Park
31	District outing for Cubs	Chester Zoo

November

14	Beaver Christmas Craft Day	St. Chads, Irby	
14	Children in need Splash Party	To be confirmed	
18	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
21	Charity Post Stamps on Sale Today		

December

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

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	
23	Cubs 5-a-side	Leasowe	

February

7	County Patrol Leaders Day		
21	Cubs Swimming Gala	Leasowe	
23	District Executive	DHQ	19.45



# BEAVERS



# CUBS

Do you need ?

Badges ? Programme Resources ?  
Group Name Tags ?, Outdoor Equipment ?

Uniform ?, Outdoor Clothing ?

Scouting Publications ?, Outdoor

Footwear ? Leaders Clothing ?

In fact, do you want anything that is  
advertised on

<http://shop.scouts.org.uk/>

If yes, then the **West Wirral Scout & Badge shop**

can get it for you cheaper,

Friendly service, prompt delivery,

bulk buying discounts up to 30%

You save, we save

**A Win Win situation for all of  
West Wirral Scouting**



For orders or more information please contact

Alan Bennett

[alan.bennett@bamnuttall.co.uk](mailto:alan.bennett@bamnuttall.co.uk)

0151 606 0335

07920 496 929

# SCOUTS



# EXPLORERS



## Can You Afford not to use the West Wirral Scout Shop for your Clothing?

	Beavers		Cubs		Scouts		Explorer		Adult	
	Retail	Badge Shop	Retail	Badge Shop	Retail	Badge Shop	Retail	Badge Shop	Retail	Badge Shop
Uniform Top					£17.00	£12.46	£21.00	£15.40	£21.00	£15.40
Activity Polo Shirts	£10.50	£7.70	£11.50	£8.44	£13.00	£9.54	£16.00	£11.74	£16.00	£11.74
Activity Tee Shirts										
Sweatshirt	£12.00	£8.80	£12.50	£9.16			£30.92	£23.32		
Hoodie	£13.50	£11.88			£20.00	£17.60	£20.00	£17.60	£28.00	£20.25
Trousers	£16.00	£11.74	£16.00	£11.74	£31.50	£19.80	£29.00	£19.80	£27.00	£19.80

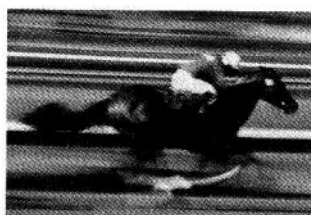
## The Editor's Bit.

Can I remind everyone that the next deadline for articles for November's Newsletter is the 10th of October.

Eddie

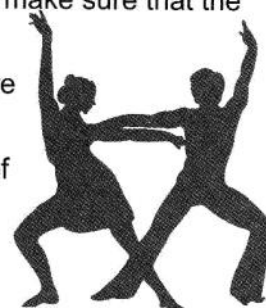
# RACENIGHTSRUS

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)