

SEPTEMBER 2015



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

From the District Commissioner

Well by the time you read this the summer will be over and the winter term of Scouting will be about to begin, so I hope you all had an enjoyable break, Holiday or Camp.

Well I had a busy June and July with a lot of meetings and training to attend, but as is always the best part of this role is visiting Groups. I was Invited by both John and Steve to visit 1st Newton and 5th Heswall Cubs at Gladstone Camp Hawarden 5th July. It's not a camp site I have stayed at, but I was shown round and it is nice and compact and only 40 minutes down the road. When I arrived the Cubs were out on a circular walk and returned in time for lunch (a bit later than expected). Steve said they had met Sir William Gladstone outside his residence in the village, a past chief Scout now retired.

The following weekend I attended my first ever Gang Show workshop (I don't know how Liam twisted my arm). It was well attended with a good mix of experience and none in my case. They say don't act with children, I think it should be the other way round, but I have to say I have not laughed so much mainly due to a certain leader. Even if you are not thinking of taking part in the Gang Show, I think it is well worth attending just so you see how much hard work goes into the preparation.

The following day I was double booked with an ADC meeting and a visit to 1st West Kirby end of term BBQ. I feared the worst as I set off for we had had rain all day. It was still raining as I turned up, but in true Scouting style the event was thriving, loads of Parents eating and chatting whilst the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts took part in water fights (as if they were not wet enough) and on a bouncy Castle.

The next weekend Liam and I were at Merchant Taylors School for the County Programme Refresh day. We both had roles in the event, Liam with social media, and myself with the programme itself. It was nice to see many leaders from West Wirral and their comments will be passed back to county on a successful day.

The first week in August I was invited out to 1st Thurstaston Group Camp at Queen Charlotte's camp, I went up for their talent show camp fire. I have to say the Scouts know the leaders well as one patrol did a sketch pretending to be their Leaders. The usual songs were sung and it finished with a medley of party songs, unfortunately I could not do the Time Warp but did lead the Conga.

It was also this week that we said goodbye to an old friend in Dave Gardner who passed away. I met Dave just over 19 years ago when I came back into Scouting, he was acting as secretary at 4th Moreton. He was a man who always had time to talk and loved Scouting and was generous as well, not just with his time, but also in other ways. His name will live on at 4th Moreton in the Ging Gang trophy presented to the best Beaver every year.

I am pleased to announce that we have started some Leaders on training courses 2 on Archery, and we will be purchasing equipment so this will be available across the District to groups. We have also 2 Leaders attending the Mountain Leadership course September October and once they have completed their training and been assessed we will have Leaders who can take small parties into the Hills.

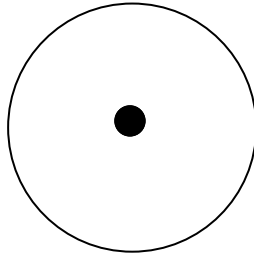
I look forward to hearing from you or being invited to your adventures over the next term.

Yours in Scouting

Phill



DAVE GARDNER
(1950-2015)



Perhaps few in today's District might know of Dave Gardner but all should appreciate that since he first joined the Cubs (at 1st Thurstaston) in the late fifties, Dave held Scouting, West Wirral and 1st Thurstaston very close to his heart. He kept himself well informed as to what was happening in the District and although his opinions could, at times, be forthright they were always worth listening to.

As usual, he was with us at the AGM in May this year before succumbing to a terminal illness early in July. Mercifully, his suffering was short and he passed away at Arrowe Park Hospital on 25th July.

During his time as a Cub/Scout/Senior Scout at 1st Thurstaston, he applied himself with enthusiasm and was rewarded by being selected as West Wirral's sole representative at the 12th World Jamboree held in Idaho, USA during August 1967 where he joined 12,000 other scouts from 105 Countries. This was the Movement's Diamond Jubilee year in the UK and the 1,300 Brits wore their newly introduced uniform (berets and long trousers) for the first time. Dave has often described his time in Idaho as a life defining experience.

During the seventies and eighties, Dave's role moved to the more administrative side of Scouting and notable contributions include:-

- Being 'parachuted in' to first 3rd Heswall then 4th Moreton as acting Group Secretary together with Mike White (who became Chairman) to help the recovery of these Groups who were experiencing difficult times

- Service as Royden Park Camp Field and District Headquarters Manager

- Service on the District Executive

- Service on the County Executive

- An enthusiastic helper with the Christmas Post in its early days

- More recently, Dave successfully applied for a grant from his employers (Carillion) which was applied to an Old School Lodge project of his choice

Dave was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1982.

It was during his service on the County Executive that Dave came up with the idea for a Merseyside County Mug to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Scouting which he also organised on behalf of County. These are relatively rare collectables today which is quite appropriate as Dave has long had a keen interest in Scouting Memorabilia which was kick started by his huge badge collection from the Idaho Jamboree. Indeed, it was notable that several members of the 'International Badgers Club' had travelled from around the UK to attend Dave's Funeral.

Also at Dave's Funeral (which was at St Bartholomew's Church, Thurstaston on 6th August) were several uniformed representatives of the 1st Thurstaston and District who appropriately formed a final Guard of Honour for this great lifelong friend of Scouting.

We offer our condolences to Dave's Mum and his long term close friend, Di, and her family.

(RMT)

A pause for thought

WIRRAL HORN SEPTEMBER 2015.

Do you like detective stories? I do and have done so even when I was a young boy and to answer that question yes, I once was a young boy!

If you are a certain age you will remember the characters of "Dick Barton "special agent, with his two best friends "Snowey White" and "Jock Anderson", I had to listen to him on the radio! Then there was the famous detective Sherlock Holmes assisted by Dr. Watson.

Moving forward I sat transfixed as "Dixon of Dock Green" appeared on the television followed a little later by "Z Cars". I suppose if you looked at these programmes now they would appear a little simplistic or perhaps we weren't as sophisticated or discerning as we are now.

Many detectives have followed since those early days such as "Columbo", "Maigret", Inspectors Linley," and Frost, etc.; I know that you could compile a long list of such fictional detectives.

I thrilled by the action of "James Bond" and the latest of such hero's is the Mission Impossible series. With the catch phrase of "your mission should you accept it is....."?

Well you have accepted your mission and you are the agents that devote your time and deliver the secret vital message of Scouting to young people.

"May your God help you grow in wisdom and love as you reach out to others with your knowledge."

"AARON"



Geoffrey Knowles 1919 - 2015

Some of the longer serving members may well remember Geoffrey. I believe he was a Scout Leader at Hilbre in the late sixties I came to know him when I joined in the seventies in the then role of Badge Secretary.

He recently passed away at the age of 95 and I attended his funeral on Friday 3rd July to represent the District. He was very interested in the community and a very active man. He was a member of Rotary, had been a trustee of Hoylake Cottage, had been a magistrate and had been involved in the Lifeboat Association and Hoylake Sailing Club.

Brian



The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

JULY

1st Joan Quaile

2nd Laura Pringle

3rd Margaret Pollard

4th Jean Coppack

AUGUST

Jean Head

John Pownall

Tony Arnould

Mary McLellan

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

Orienteering in Sefton Park

A sweltering evening at the end of June saw 1st Barnston scouts out at the Deeside Orienteering Club summer evening event in Sefton Park, Liverpool. Clashes with school drama productions saw just four scouts tackle the courses round the park in south Liverpool. The park's famous 120-year old Palm House with its statues of Columbus, Cook, Mercator, and Henry the Navigator, and its lakes and parkland features make this a great place for orienteering. This was the first time we've competed in Sefton Park and to make the challenge even harder all four scouts opted to move up a level to compete on adult standard courses.



In an orienteering colour-coded event such as this one, the courses are ranked by colour for their technical (navigation) difficulty and length in order: Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Green, and Blue. Yellow and Orange courses are designed to be suitable for juniors and the Scout Orienteering Activity badge is set at the Yellow standard. Light Green courses are suitable for adult beginners and Green and Blue courses are for more experienced adults, with Blue being the longest and most technically difficult.

Michael, Joe, and Ben found the Light Green course (11 controls, 3.54km) very challenging and they found themselves having to use many more of the higher technical skills. The scouts didn't manage to get inside the colour standard time but nevertheless picked up some useful orienteering skills and found the challenge a good learning experience. Meanwhile, James stepped up to taking on the Green course (14 controls, 4.72km) and against a field of 21 adults finished in 8th place in a time of 46:45, comfortably inside the colour standard time of 56:21.

With the rest of the troop returning, we move on now to our last competition of the summer in Birkenhead Park at the end of July.

If you would like to find out more about orienteering, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I'm also happy to run courses for scouts and explorers looking to boost their navigation skills in the new Navigator Staged Activity awards to stage level 4 as well as covering technical parts of stage level 5; again, please get in touch.

Dave Gorman, GSL

1st Barnston Scout Group

1st Barnston take on BP

It felt like we were in the autumn orienteering season during most of the wet and cool July this year. Luckily for the last event in Deeside OC's 'summer' evening series the weather was good as five orienteers from 1st Barnston took on the challenge of Birkenhead Park. With the school holidays in full flow, numbers were fewer than usual but nevertheless the courses that were set were up to their usual stiff challenge. This year the summer season ended in the style of an 'urban sprint', which is often used in urban parkland settings. An urban sprint splits the courses into two or more legs with orienteers working with two or more maps with controls set in a dizzying switchback format so while the parkland terrain might be easier than normal the orienteers thinking has to be quick and accurate as even little mistakes can be costly.

Our four junior scouts competed on the single leg Yellow course, 2.0km/11 controls, and scored good times and results that boosted them towards gaining their Orienteering Award. Bethany led the foursome home gaining 5th place in the 12 competitor event with a time of 33:50 closely followed by Melissa, Anna, and Abbey. The yellow course followed a route from Balaclava Field around the Lower Lake, crossing the Swiss Bridge, through the Sunken Garden and up to Cannon Hill before finishing back near the Visitor Centre.



James, our single senior scout, once again took on the serious adult competition on the Green course. (In the colour-coded orienteering system, Green is the 'standard' adult skill level just below the 'advanced' Blue level and three levels above that set for the Scout Orienteering Award.) The Green competition was split into two legs with the first leg covering a 3.1km/17 control course in the Lower Park and the second leg covering a 2.8km/18 control course taking in controls in the Lower and Upper Park. While the competitors could enjoy an untimed break between each leg to catch their breath and take on water, most took no more than 2 minutes meaning that this was effectively a long 5.9km/35 control sprint. James, the only Junior on Green, finished 5th out of 14 competitors with an overall time of 60:04.



Next season we can look forward to events in Arrowe Park, Hightown Dunes, Reaseheath, Rivacre, Speke Hall and Sefton Park. For now this was a successful end to the summer orienteering season and a good way to start the holidays!

Dave Gorman, GSL

Dave Wright, ASL

1st Barnston



Programme in Focus Day

On a Saturday at the end of last term, Merseyside Scout County ran a programme support event called 'Programme in Focus'. This took place at Merchant Taylors' Girls' School in Crosby and was open to Leaders and Young Leaders from across the county. I joined a number of Scouters and Young Leaders from West Wirral at the event as well as some new Leaders from Wallasey district from my work with the Leasowe Scout Project.

The day comprised a selection of workshops giving practical support, knowledge and resources on a range of topics supporting scouting programmes. The workshops included:

- Managing Volunteers : Building effective teams, using Young Leaders effectively, finding new help and keeping them.
- Log On For Success! : A guide to using IT to support programmes, Social Media Do's & Don'ts, & staying Safe Online.
- Money, Money, Money! : A guide to Gift Aid, securing financial support, tips for different finance methods for success.
- Put the Out into Scout! : Outdoors practical programme ideas and support.
- Scouting for All! : Delivering effective programmes for all including different faiths, diversity, & special needs.
- Making the basics fun : Practical tips on delivering basic scouting skills in a fun & age appropriate way
- Are you game? : Delivering effective games, with a purpose that support your programme.
- What a Wonderful World : Support to deliver the International element of the Programme.
- Programme Refresh Uncovered : Section specific look at the refreshed programme, resources and what they mean to you.
- It's good to talk! : Help with running effective section forums, and making your programmes youth shaped.

People were asked to select up to six workshops they wished to attend.

The day probably gave more support to newer Leaders but nevertheless there was something new for even more experienced Leaders and an opportunity to network and meet other scouting people from around the county. Wirral Scout & Guide Shop provided a shop facility, especially for those leaders looking to familiarise themselves with the new programme resources and publications. The most popular workshops were the practical and outdoor focused: Put the out into Scout; Making the basics fun; and, Are you game, however, there were good tips to be gained from even the less hands-on but more cerebral workshops. Workshops ran for 30-40 minutes, which was sufficient for the information-centred ones but Leaders might have got more from the practical workshops if they had lasted longer, maybe 60-90 minutes. Even though the day ran from 9 am – 4 pm, with a free lunch for attendees, the time seemed to pass fairly quickly as you moved through the workshops. Many people felt that a reduction to maybe three or four longer workshops might have been better, however, newer Leaders appreciated the wider choice and less intensity of the day's programme. The new leaders I am mentoring from Merseyside's newest scout group, 1st Leasowe, found the day very useful and felt it was a valuable training support activity. From the training perspective, more experienced Leaders attending the event also fulfilled their five hours annual on-going learning requirement. It was also good to see 1st Leasowe, with which I do scouting in Wallasey, welcomed into the county.



All-in-all a useful event!

Dave Gorman, GSL

1st Barnston

Project Volunteer

1st Leasowe

Dates for your Diary

2015

September

11	Beaver Camp	Sandiways	
11/13	Mersey Moot	Tawd Vale	
24	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
25/27	Cub Camp	Queen Charlotte Wood	
27	Cub Camp Tug of War – (Camp open for day visitors)		

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	

November

14	Beaver Christmas Craft Day	St. Chads, Irby	
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		

2016

January

February

7	County Patrol Leaders Day		
23	District Executive	DHQ	19.45
27	“Scouts speak up”	L’pool Town Hall	

March

The Editor's Bit.

It seems to me that most members of West Wirral must still be on holiday as there has been little news to report this month. My thanks to the Scouters of 1st Barnston for their contributions—without their articles the newsletter would have been very sparse indeed.

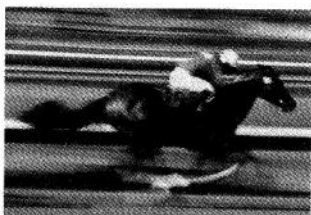
My condolences to the families of both Dave Gardner and Geoffrey Knowles. Dave Gardner contributed to the District Newsletter on many occasions and I knew Geoffrey through my contacts with Probus.

Eddie.



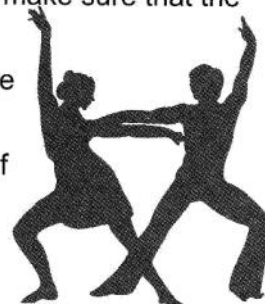
RACENIGHTSRUS

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.



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To book a disco/karaoke call 07983 626045
or email racenightsrus@ntlworld.com