

May 2016



Our competitors receiving their West Wirral District Trophies at the end of the Cheshire Hike 2016.

(see page 6 for full account)

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

From the District Commissioner

Again this last month has been a busy one. We had 5 troops out at the Great Escape where I was pleased to see Alan Seeley present Josh Darby with his Commissioner Award. For those that don't know, Josh helped save someone's life late last year on his way home from school. He quickly remembered his First Aid training and along with his friend called the emergency services.

Although I could not get out to the Cheshire Hike, I am pleased to see we had 5 teams in and that 1st Barnston finished an overall 3rd in the intermediate section. All the other teams from 1st Frankby Greasby and 4th Heswall also finished.

The Scouts section had their Bowling Competition, 1st Barnston Beavers had their first sleep over since reforming, 1st Newton Scouts have moved into the Group's old hut and have been doing a little decorating. The Cubs had their annual Poster Competition, and the Gang Show 2016 has been and gone. The visiting Gang Shows and special guests all had nothing but praise for the show. I can't wait for the DVD to come out. A BIG WELL DONE to Pete, Liam, Fiona and Paul for all your hard work in putting it together, to the band, stage crew and all those who made the event possible, and even everyone who helped clearing up at the end. But can all Leaders also pass on a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to those Young People who took part as they have done their Groups (Guiding and Scouting), their Districts proud. Finally, thank you to all those who came and watched the show.

I would like to remind everyone that our District AGM is on the 12th May and we would like to see as many of you as we can.

Finally I would like to wish Matty Jones all the best as he take on a new role as ADC Cubs for Birkenhead. Also thanks to Eddie who will hang up his quill for the last time after this Horn is put to bed, enjoy your free time.

Phill



A pause for thought

I travel by train quite often to Chester and I expect that you too are subject to listening to your fellow passengers talk on their mobile 'phones., often quite loudly. Although you try to ignore other people's conversations sometimes you just cannot avoid it. One such conversation the person used the expression "I tell you that really got up my nose". Obviously somebody or something had certainly irritated this person to the extent that they had to share it with us all.

Whilst sitting there I then thought what a wonderful and useful organ the nose is, then I thought about how wine connoisseurs sniff the wine first before drinking, a perfumer has to have a "nose" for blending perfume the same for tea or coffee blenders. Then randomly I smiled and imagined if in our profession we smelt of what we do. For example, do librarians smell of books, shoe repairers of shoes, solicitors of document's, printers of ink etc.; I realise that this is only a humorous exercise however the thought behind it is quite provoking.

I can image that you all "smell" of good humour, loyalty, a sense of service, dedication and the desire to do the very best for all the young people within the great movement of Scouting.

"Think of what you have achieved today and thank your God for your gift of love and dedication"

AARON.

West Wirral District Scout Council

Invites

All West Wirral Uniformed members, All Non Uniformed Members, All West Wirral Committee members, District Officials, Friends and Readers of the Wirral Horn

To the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At Heswall Hall

On Thursday 12th May 2016

Doors Open at 7.15pm

Prompt start at 7.30pm

The AGM will be followed by an Open Reception and refreshments

**** Please note that individual invites will not be issued ****



Congratulations to 5th Heswall Black Six who were the winners of the **Safety Poster Competition**

Thank you to our District President, Vice President and Ian Penny for judging so fairly. I presented Black Six with the shield at their newly painted and refurbished HQ.



During the Poster Competition the Cubs put forward ideas for the subject of next year's competition and after a vote it was decided that it would be.....**Camp Safety!**

The Cub section was well represented in the **Gang Show** and the Cubs that took part were an absolute credit to both their Groups and to West Wirral. It was a fantastic show and thank you to the production team for giving the Cubs the opportunity to perform so brilliantly on a Theatre stage.

The programme dates for District events up to Christmas will be in the next newsletter.

For those going to **Wingdings** I hope information is starting to come through and your planning is going well. If not please let me know.

Matty Jones has decided to stand down as District Cub Leader to take up another Scouting role away from West Wirral. I would like to thank him for his help and wish him well in his new position.

This does give me an opportunity to look at how the District Cub team is structured so if you have any ideas or suggestions please let me know.

I'm looking forward to catching up with your summer activities so please keep me informed and I'll do my best to offer help and support.

Andy Longstaff
07766 743074
0151 648 2822



Scout Section Report – Wirral Horn May 2016

Scout leaders, here are some diary dates for section events that are confirmed:

St Georges Day Celebration Sunday 24th April 2:50pm for 3pm start, St Andrews, West Kirby.

Scout Leaders Meeting Thurs 28th April, Hilbre HQ, 7:30pm prompt.

Merseyside Scout Section 5 A Side Football Sat 11th June, West Park Rugby Club, Prescot Road, St Helens.

Further details on all events will be distributed to SL's.



Scouts have been as busy as ever since our last report.

"We held our bowling competition at New Brighton on Thursday 31st March. There were 13 groups taking part, some entering 2 teams so we had 17 lanes occupied by scouts at one time. We had a vast variety of talent bowling them balls, one scout (Chris Butt) having scored 224 himself managed to beat some of the teams on his own. At the end of the night 4th Moreton came away as the winners.

What I would like to say is that as far as I could see the behaviour of our Scouts was very good in the eye of the public, well done. "

Steve Arbon ADCS

Scouts from 1st Barnston, 4th Heswall, and 1st Frankby Greasby entered the Cheshire Hike and obtained excellent results. This is a very challenging week-end hiking across countryside and the ten Scouts who took part did an excellent job; all are very deserving of their Expedition Challenge Awards. Here are our competitors with the West Wirral District Trophies for the hike, thanks to Dave Gorman for presenting them on the final day.



We'd like to end the report this month with a huge ***BRAVO*** to all involved in the 2016 Best of British Gang Show. It was a brilliant show this year thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who went to see it. Congratulations to the cast and crew who are all undoubtedly STARS!

Jenny Peek-ADC(S)

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<http://www.westwirralscoutteam.com>

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

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

The 50th Cheshire Hike

A special 50th annual Cheshire Hike took place on the first weekend in April over the fields and footpaths of Cheshire. The Hike is open to teams of two Scouts or Guides from troops and units from across Cheshire and the former West Cheshire districts in Wirral and is a major event in the local scouting calendar.

This year five teams from three troops in West Wirral took on this challenging expedition-style event. The Hike is run in four age-related sections: Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Senior Plus, and the routes this year were concentrated in Mid-Cheshire with starts in Grappenhall (senior), Chelford (Intermediate) and Sandbach (Junior), with the finish for all in Winsford.



1st Barnston set off from Chelford

The Hike is primarily a navigation challenge with half a team's score coming from navigating and noting observation boards (OBs) along the correct route while the other half come from good progress along the route; preparation and use of kit; good display of scouting skills at 'incident' checkpoints; and, expedition camping skills at the overnight base camp. Teams only get to know their routes on the day of the Hike and have to plot these accurately on the 1:25000 scale map. Once their kit is checked and route plotted a team can set out on their routes, which are 31 km for Junior; 41 - 46 km for Intermediate; 48 – 58 km for Senior; and, 53 – 58 km for Senior Plus over the two days.

The first teams left their starting locations just after 7am on a dull and wet Saturday morning with rain falling constantly for the whole morning. Luckily the rain moved northwards after lunch and the afternoon was a lot brighter with rapidly improving hiking conditions underfoot. By mid afternoon the first teams were checking into their overnight base camp, pitching their tents, and cooking an evening meal under the scrutiny of the marshals and scorers. All teams have to be in base camp before darkness falls, roughly about 6pm, or else they will be picked up on the route by 'sweeper teams' of Leaders and retired from the Hike. This year all teams were in the base camps before the cut-off time. Once the evening meal and camp chores are over most teams settle down to relax and try to sleep after the efforts of the opening day.



Cheshire Hike Senior base camp

A bright start to Sunday saw all the teams strike camp, pack their kit, and set off on the second day of the Hike. Sunday's routes are shorter than Saturdays but still a big navigation challenge with teams focusing on getting to the finish in Winsford before the 4pm deadline. Good progress was made by all teams and not long after 1pm saw the first teams check in to the finish at Winsford

Academy and by 3pm all teams were in. This year saw a rare 100% completion rate: all teams who started managed to get to the finish. (Last year's Hike saw only 75% of teams complete.) There were a lot of sore feet hobbling round Winsford Academy but also a lot of smiles and a feeling of enormous satisfaction at completing a really tough scouting challenge. All competitors who complete the Hike are awarded the Cheshire Hike necker and can wear it with a lot of pride. The scores were soon totalled and just after 4.30pm all the teams, Leaders and parents packed into a full sports hall to

congratulate all the teams on their efforts and to present the prizes. There are prizes for the winners in all sections in all the districts as well as the overall county winners.



This year's West Wirral scores were:

Junior Section (total entry of 69 teams with highest score 2331 points)

1st West Wirral, 42nd place overall: Daniel Clark & Ollie Beenham, 4th Heswall Sea Scouts, 1967 points

Intermediate Section (total entry of 93 teams with highest score 3138 points)

1st West Wirral, 3rd place overall: Ben Williams & James Wright, 1st Barnston Scouts, 3114 points

2nd West Wirral, 28th place overall: Adam Newell & William Wilcox, 4th Heswall Sea Scouts, 2666 points

3rd West Wirral, 72nd place overall: Adam Shepherd & Ben Perez, 1st Frankby Greasby, 2141 points

Senior Section (total entry 36 teams with highest score 3479 points)

1st West Wirral, 35th place overall: Luke Atherton & Henry Smith, 1st Frankby Greasby, 1362 points

Senior Plus Section (total entry 13 teams with highest score 3535 points)

No West Wirral entries in this section

The three district trophies were shared between the three troops which entered this year. Notably: 1st Frankby Greasby Troop was taking part in its first Cheshire Hike for over 20 years; 4th Heswall Sea Scouts Juniors were taking part in their first Cheshire Hike; and the team from 1st Barnston completed their third Cheshire Hike, in which on two of those occasions they've finished 3rd overall in the county competition, narrowly missing out on the big prize by just a few points each time.



Photos, highlights and all the scores can be found online on the Cheshire Scouts county web pages: <http://www.cheshirescouts.org.uk/events/cheshire-hike-2016.aspx>

Check out the official Hike video, linked from the page above or here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G-kool2IO8&feature=youtu.be>

The Hike more than qualifies for the Expedition Challenge Award (and a Nights Away, at least two Hikes Away, and possibly Navigator 3, and other awards too!).

Congratulations to all our teams on their efforts and achievements.

The next Cheshire Hike takes place on the weekend 1st/2nd April 2017, somewhere in Cheshire. See you there!

Dave Gorman, GSL

The Dee Marshes Night Hike

For many scouts a night hike comprises a hike in the dark from early evening to near midnight followed by a sleepover. 1st Barnston scouts take a night hike literally at its word and theirs comprises a hike literally through the night: from dusk to dawn.

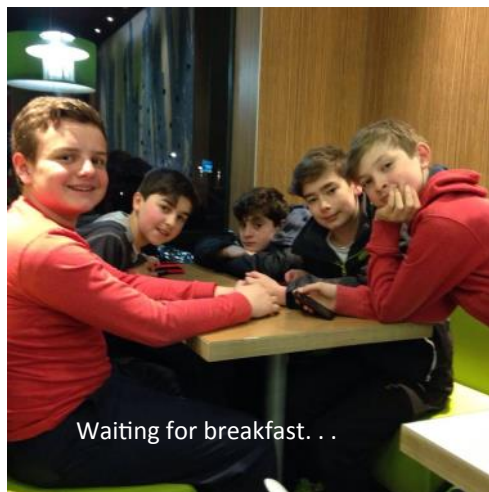
On our latest night hike on a Friday night in early March, five scouts a Young Leader and three Leaders set off from our HQ at Barnston Church Hall. We were joined by David Blackwood from 1st Frankby Greasby scouts who we invited to join us to find out more about our hiking programme in preparation for the Cheshire Hike a month later. A night hike is not only a test of navigation skills in the dark but also a test of endurance when the body is tired and the night is long, cold and dark.



The night hikers prepare to set off.



At the old baths Parkgate.



Waiting for breakfast. . .

The sun had set nearly an hour before we set off from Barnston just after 7pm and headed south to Gayton, down Cottage Lane, and turned onto the Wirral Way heading for Parkgate. The going was good on a calm but very dark night, the thin crescent moon having set early on in the evening. It was soon supper time as we called in and enjoyed a fish & chip supper in Parkgate.

Refreshed we made our way through Little Neston down to the Dee marshes at the (now closed!) Harp Inn. Heading south we soon made Denhall and with just the occasional sound of bleating sheep or a hunting owl we headed out over the marshes towards the border with Wales. The wide open spaces of the marshes are a really atmospheric place on a dark night just after midnight right on the England-Wales border. With the lights of Dee-side and Shotton guiding us southwards deeper in Wales, we soon met the river Dee at Hawarden Bridge.

The long, straight, and silent Dee river path stretched out now before us. At just over 14 miles into the hike tiredness started creeping up on us but there was no time for a nap now! Onwards we hiked passing under Queensferry bridge, passing the lights of the Airbus factory on the far shore, and the bridge at Saltney Ferry, the lights of Chester now appeared in the distance. Having hiked just over 20 miles and the time after 4am, we passed round the Roodee and entered the city of Chester. Cold, tired and hungry and with everywhere quiet our destination was obvious, the golden arches of McDonalds of course! As we enjoyed a well-earned breakfast, the sun rose at 6.33am and brought an end to the night. Our last part of the trek saw us head to the station to catch the early morning train back up to Spital, where we were collected by parents.

This is a great route for a night hike. The paths are good and the navigation is quite easy. Apart from parts of Little Neston, you don't pass through any residential areas and the wide open spaces of the Dee marshes are great for night time hiking.

At just over 21 miles this was a challenging night hike! We all enjoyed the experience, even though we were all tired from our efforts, and we look forward to our next night time adventure. (We hope David from 1st Frankby Greasby enjoyed it too and also hope it encourages him to try a similar hike with his scouts!)

Ben, Joe, Michael, Ollie, and James

1st Barnston Scouts



BEAVERS



CUBS

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Footwear ? Leaders Clothing ?

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alan.bennett@bamnuttall.co.uk

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SCOUTS



EXPLORERS





The Activity Centre Number Club Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners are:-

APRIL

1st Nigel MacLeod

2nd Alex Roberts

3rd Pat Chettenden

4th Paul Stephenson

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

May

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------|
| 6 | Group AGM | 5 th Heswall |
| 8 | Shelterbox Challenge | Liverpool |
| 10 | Deadline for articles for Wirral Horn ... send to janetscout@gmail.com | |
| 12 | District Executive AGM | Heswall Hall |
| 15 | Group AGM | 4 th Heswall |
| 21 | Cubs District Skills Day/District Hike | |

June

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11 | Scout 5 a side football | West Park Rugby Club, St. Hellens |
| 11 | Group AGM | 2 nd West Kirby |
| 14 | GSL's Meeting | DHQ |
| 13 | ADC's Meeting | DHQ |
| 18 | Group AGM | 1 st Thurstaston |

July

August

September

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 15 | First Response Refresher | TBC |
|----|--------------------------|-----|

October

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 10 | ADC's Meeting | DHQ |
| 19 | GSL's Meeting | DHQ |
| 29 | First Response Course | TBC |

November

December

The Editor's Bit.

This is the last time I will edit the District Newsletter for at the AGM I will pass this task to Janet Jones. I wish Janet every success in her new venture, and I am sure that you will all support and encourage her to take the Newsletter forward.

Once again my thanks to all who have contributed to the Newsletter in the past.

The next deadline for the newsletter is 10th May and all articles should be sent to Janet—her e.mail address is janetscout@gmail.com

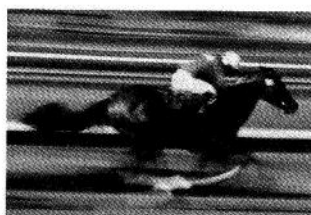
Yours in Scouting,

Eddie.



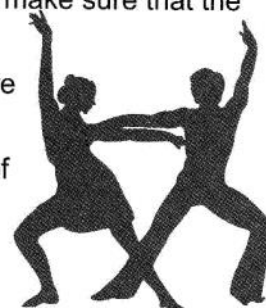
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