

MAY 2017

Scouts 2017 Shelterbox Scavenger Hunt in Liverpool



6th Heswall team at the winner's presentation.

St George's Day Celebration for West Wirral Scouts



Families and members of the Scouts watching fire juggling at the St George's Day celebration

From the District Commissioner

Well we are nearly half way through the year and groups are finalising their plans for summer camps.

St Georges Day this year was something a bit different and we couldn't have asked for a better day, a big thank you to all who attended. My thanks go to Chris Hughes for sourcing the entertainment (not me, I need to get Chris back for that one) and to Liam for the coordination with the council. Ideas are welcome for next year.

As a result of the Scout Association announcing our continued growth but requiring adults we received 6 enquiries and I am hopeful that at least 2 if not 3 will be joining us. On the back of this we have advertised for management roles on Dolt.org and on face book and are following up some enquiries. If you see one of these on your facebook feed please share, you never know which of your friends may wish to help.

May has been a busy month. I went back and helped at 4th Moreton's plant sale the first weekend, and on the Sunday helped run one of the bases at the Scavenger Hunt (the best thanks to Chris for organising that), it was a fantastic Day and it was nice to see 5 teams from 4 groups from West Wirral. West Wirral were well represented on our base and Jess and Calum ran another one so well done everyone, a great day was had by all. A big congratulations go to 6th Heswall Scouts for being their section winners.

We have also had our AGM. Can I just say a big well done to the prize winners and to all those who helped make it happen.

Let's not forget our District Camp the next day, we will have more on that in next month's Horn.

I'd like you to put 15th July in your Diary for Scouts, Explorers and Network (under 25) for our first own Youth engagement meeting. We will be running this alongside Birkenhead and it will be at Birkenhead School, so please support.

Safeguarding Training - I am pleased to announce we will have a Safeguarding Course on the 20th June at 4th Moreton so if anyone needs this training please contact me to book your places (we know there are a lot of you and this is a requirement) it will be around 2 hours long.

We are now in to AGM season but some Groups still haven't let us have their dates so can you please contact Ann Ledson.

Phill



Do you need ?

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

Uniform ?, Outdoor Clothing ?
Scouting Publications ?, Footwear ?
Tents? 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

Stop Press – most Group neckers available for £2.60 (youth) and £4.25 (adult) each

For orders or more information please contact

Alan Bennett

alan.bennett@bamnuttall.co.uk

07920 496 929



Another Thought From Aaron

Quite recently I was returning from a conference in London and as I normally do I had reserved a seat both for the outward and return journey. When I boarded the train at Euston station I found that there had been a mistake and no seat had been reserved although I did have my confirmation receipt. It transpired that a day or two prior to my return journey there had been a fire and some signalling cabling had damaged on the line, hence the train was overfull. When I explained my predicament to train concierge he offered me a free upgrade to first class, who was I to refuse such a kind offer!

When I was seated, sitting opposite was a young man engrossed in his "laptop" obviously completely oblivious to my presence. Enviously he looked up and noticed me. We both smiled and I asked what he was working on. He told me that he was an astronomer researching "light pollution" and how detrimental it was on how we observed the planets {he did use more scientific terms but I think that's what he meant}. He recounted the best place to watch the stars was in Northumberland because of the lack of house lights and street lighting. The young man left the train at Rugby. I was once again alone with my thoughts and I recalled when as a small boy, I was frightened of the dark and I thought if you opened the door at night the dark would intrude into the house. I did soon realise that light did "stream" out into the darkness.

The analogy between light replacing darkness is a wonderful message to bring to all people. I know that you probably do it unconsciously as you deliver Scouting to young people every day of every week. Bringing the light of fun, laughter, adventure and good citizenship.

I wonder how many young lives you have brightened over the years?

"May your God turn on the light of His love and banish darkness from your life forever"



AARON

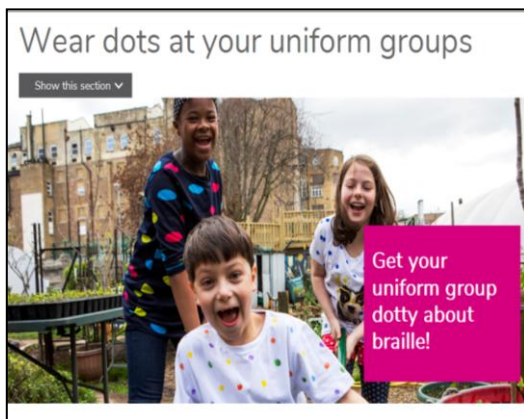
Editor's Patch

My guess is you've all been extremely busy over the last month, what with the District AGM, the Scouts Shelterbox Scavenger Hunt and District Camp, etc, and I'm looking forward to receiving lots of stories and photos that I can publish in the next Horn.

Looking ahead to Summer, it's the best time of year for getting out and about and putting the 'out' in Scouting so make the most of the nice weather and have lots of fun, and don't forget to drop me a few lines with what you've been up to and put in a few photos, it's nice to share your experiences with everyone.

Janet Jones
Wirral Horn Editor

Email: janetscout@gmail.com



If any groups took part in the 'Wear Dots...raise lots' event during May to help support Braille, I'd love to hear from you. Why don't you drop your story into an email and we can publish it next month?

Did you Know???

ABOUT THE KOOLAMUNGA TEST

Long ago, somewhere in Africa, a little place called Koolamunga had a Scout troop but no Cub Pack. When the missionary, John Cristy, sent out word that he was going to start a pack, all the boys who were too young to be Scouts rushed over to join.

John looked out at rows and rows of faces - black, white, brown, yellow, and some so dirty you couldn't tell. It was impossible to start a pack with 40 or 50 Cubs! "You can't be a Cub until you are eight," he said, "so would everybody younger please go home."

Nobody left. The six and seven-year-olds stood as tall as they could and tried to look tough. John realized he would have to sort them out some other way. So he told them the Cub Law. And then he said, "Next week, we will have an obstacle race. You can all come, but I shall start the pack with the 12 boys who do their best to keep the Law during the race."

A big crowd gathered on race day. The Scouts came along to help John pick his 12 Cubs. John designed an obstacle course so tough that it automatically eliminated the boys who were too young. The others had to run half a kilometre downhill to the river through prickles and a mangrove swamp with knee-deep mud. Then they had to swim across the river. On the other side, they had to climb a steep bank, go along the top, cross over the river again by a fallen tree bridge, and finally climb 300 m up the hill to the finish.

"This is not a race," John told them. "It's a test to see who can really do his best to keep the Cub Law." And he was already sorting them out. Some jabbered away and didn't listen to the rules. One put his foot over the starting line. "Ready, steady, GO!" John shouted, and off they went.

Very soon, some of them were yelling and swearing at the prickles. In the swamp, some gave up, pretending they were hurt. One boy thought he would be clever and sneak along the bank instead of swimming across the river.

A small boy caught his foot in a floating branch and thought it was a crocodile. John didn't blame him for yelling, but noticed a red-headed boy swim back to pull the branch free. Then he saw a white hand shoot out and duck a black head. That settled the white boy's chances, but the black face came up smiling and the boy swam on without complaint. On the tree bridge, there was a good deal of bumping, some by mistake and some by mistake-on- purpose.

Only 20 boys finished the race, and the first 12 home were sure they would be chosen. But the Scouts put aside those who had cheated or taken short cuts, those who had pretended to be hurt, and those who had sworn or lost their temper.

John chose only boys who had done their best to keep the Cub Law. There were 11 of them. For the 12th, he chose a boy named Peter who was watching but hadn't taken part in the race. John knew his mother was ill. She'd asked Peter to look after the younger children to make sure they didn't fall into the river, and he did it without a grumble.

And who do you think he asked to be his sixers ? He chose the red-haired boy who had turned back to help with the crocodile that wasn't a crocodile, and the black boy who came up smiling after being ducked.

And that's how the 1st Koolamunga Pack began. If you'd been there, would you have been one of the 12 chosen ?

-- Leader Magazine, January, 1989



There is no Beaver Report this month, watch out for some more news next month.

Dates for your diaries are in the District Dates on the back page

ANYONE FOR ARCHERY ?

Archery is now available for Cubs, Scouts, Explorers & Network within West Wirral Scout District.



We are currently able to run sessions for up to a maximum of 12 per instructor and are available from just £20 per session (either run as part of an evening or on a Saturday) and can be part of your weekly evening programme or as an activity as part of your camp.

Sessions can be run indoors or outdoors* at various locations around the district and we will come and assess your HQ at time of booking.

For further details and bookings contact Ritchie Thornley or Mark Mackay by email at: [**westwirral.archery@gmail.com**](mailto:westwirral.archery@gmail.com)

*subject to conditions

Here Comes the Summer . .



I'm sorry I missed out on the fantastic **St Georges Day** celebrations. All the feedback was great and the photographs and videos I've seen look like everyone was enjoying themselves.

I hope the planning for you Summer Camps is going well, please let me know where and when you are going so I can call in and say Hi. 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.....**Cooking & Food Safety!**

The dates for the **2018 Gang Show** have been finalised and it will take place at the Gladstone Theatre in Port Sunlight from 8th to 10th March. It's a fantastic experience for all who take part and I would encourage you to get your Cubs involved when the full details are issued.

District Outing – Harry Potter World (After discussion this has been put on the back burner as it was generally felt that it needed to be part of a sleepover or weekend. With District Cub Camp late Sept and the potential costs also contributing to the decision)

The next **CSL meeting** will be held on Wednesday 13th September 7.15 @ 3rd Heswall. As we have all the dates in the diary I would like to use some of the meeting to focus on sharing ideas so please bring along something you feel may benefit or help the other packs in West Wirral.

Our Cubs have been enjoying a wide variety of trips and activities and I've been lucky enough to enjoy a few of them as I've been getting around the packs. Please keep me informed of what you are up to and I'll do my best to call in say hello and offer help and support.

Andy Longstaff (ADC Cubs)

Tel: 07766 743074 / 0151 648 2822

Dates for your diaries are in the District Dates on the back page



This month has flown by as we have been busy with events, troops visits and of course preparation for our District Camp!

Shelterbox Scavenger Hunt 2017

On 7th May, a glorious spring day, saw over 500 Scouts and Cubs from across the north-west region arrived in Liverpool to take part in the 2017 Shelterbox Scavenger Hunt. This is not only a fun event for participants, but it also promotes Scouting and raises both awareness and funds for the global organisation Shelterbox to help provide relief after natural disasters and conflicts.

Starting early in the morning, teams registered before setting off on a city wide scavenger hunt following clues, fact finding and completing challenge bases at various locations. Leaders from West Wirral were running the "Africa" base in St Johns Gardens and over a six hour period provided challenges for around 400 Scouts (yes we were shattered!). Challenges including raising a giraffe (blindfolded), catapult targets, tower building and a blindfolded obstacle African safari!

At the end of the day team answers and scores are submitted and the results are calculated. This year we were very pleased to see the Scout section prize won by 6th Heswall who took first place over all the other competing teams – what an achievement, congratulations! Well done also to the teams from 7th Moreton, 1st Newton and 1st Frankby Greasby who took part. All participants had a fantastic day and we are already looking forwards to next year's event.

Here are some photo highlights from the day:

7th Moreton on a blindfold African safari!



1st Newton successfully safari to safety!



1st Frankby Greasby do the dab on the waterfront!



6th Heswall team at the winner's presentation.



We have tried to get back out to visit some troops this month and have had fun joining in with local hikes, making bridges from spaghetti and marshmallows, discussing global issues and happily presented Scouts with badges and awards for their achievements too. It's great to see the troops across the district engaged in such a wide variety of programmes and activities.

As I type, we are in the final stages of preparation for the District Camp and look forwards to Scouts enjoying a weekend of fantastic activities, trying something new and having loads of fun times.

Notice for leaders – For personal reasons, the backwoods cooking skills day can no longer run on 1st July as planned so it is being postponed. We hope to hold it later in the year.

Leader support – Now that you are not going to be busy on 1st July you may like to join the “Programme Refocus” day being run in Liverpool. This is a training day for leaders where you can attend workshops on a variety of aspects from challenging behaviour to scouting skills and a deeper look at your section programme.

Places are limited but at the time of writing there are still spaces in the Scout section.

For more info and to book on visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/programme-re-focus-tickets-31872779341>

Jenny Peek ADC(S)

adcjenny@westwirralscoutteam.com

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

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

Dates for your diaries are in the District Dates on the back page

WE'RE BANKING ON YOU!

West Wirral Scouts International 100 CLUB

First draw May 2017

Running until April 2018

We are running a monthly draw which will give you the chance to help the contingent and also a chance of winning more than your money back. For just £12 your number will be entered into a monthly draw for a year. Each month, the winner will receive £30 and two runners up £10 each. (n.b. there could be special draws if we manage to sell more than 100 numbers!).

Contact us to save your number today!

If you have a favourite number we will do our best but suggest you register a.s.a.p to avoid disappointment.

For more info and to register contact:

Melanie George at
howardandmelanie@live.co.uk
or Wendy Wolstencroft at
wwolstencroft@msn.com

www.westwirralscoutteam.com

SCOUTS⁺

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About the Old School Lodge, Deiniolen (Activity Centre)

The Old School Lodge, originally the 19th Century Village School, was extensively refurbished prior to its opening in 2001.

Set in large wooded grounds with a gently flowing stream and a breathtaking view of the mountains beyond, the Lodge is situated four miles from Llanberris and the foot of Snowdon itself. Bangor and Anglesey are also nearby.

For further information and booking details

<http://www.oldschoollodge.org.uk>

The lucky winners for May 2017 Activity Centre Number Club Draw are:

1 st	Sue Flush	2 nd	Ray Head
3 rd	Anne Cross	4 th	Bernie Hailwood

Congratulations ☺

If you don't have any numbers yet for the Activity Centre Monthly
Draw then please contact:

Christine Kenyon:
or Email:

Tel: 0151 677 1820
christine.kenyon@talktalk.net

St George's Day Celebration for West Wirral Scouts



Families and members of the Scouts watching fire juggling at the St George's Day celebration

MEMBERS of West Wirral Scouts celebrated St George's Day at the weekend with a giant picnic and fire display.

More than 350 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers walked to the Wirral Country Park carrying their flags which represent the 16 Scout Groups across the West Wirral scout district.

The youngsters walked from Heswall, Caldy and Royden Park for the fire display which symbolised St George slaying the fire breathing dragon – this also includes flaming swords, fire juggling and fire eating.

All members also renewed their Scout promise.

Following a national appeal for new leaders, Scouts in Wirral West received six new leadership enquiries which will allow the Scouts to offer everyday adventure to more youngsters.

District commissioner Phill Richardson said: "It was fantastic to see so many young people out enjoying the sunshine.

"It is when the sun is shining and the young people are out having fun that makes being a Scout Leader so rewarding."

The Scout Association aims to change lives by offering six to 25-year-olds fun and challenging activities.

For more information visit www.westwirralscouts.org.uk



**We're celebrating more volunteers
than ever before,**



but we still need more.

West Wirral Young Leader Training Programme for 2017



Dates / Venues for 2017:

Sat 3 June – Module K – 1st Thurstaston HQ, 10am – 3pm

Mon 11th Sept 2017 - Modules A – 1st Frankby Greasby

Oct 2017 – Modules D & E - date and venue tbc

Nov 2017 - Module F & The Missions - date and venue tbc

From September all training starts promptly at 7.30pm and finishes at 9pm - please arrive in good time

ADULT SUPPORT & TRAINING



Course Information

Below you will find details of all courses currently run by Merseyside County.

Details concerning this year's courses can be found by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.merseysidescouts.com/adult-support/course-information>

Getting Started (Welcome and Induction)

This informal course is intended for all new adult members within the County and will last for one evening, run every other month. The course is an enhanced getting started that will seek to offer an exciting introduction to new adults and springboard both their membership to the movement and their training needs.

- 16th September [Book Now](#)
- 18th November [Book Now](#)

Pre-requisite(s): Provisional Appointment

Duration: Half day

Section Essentials

This full day course is intended for all new Beaver Scout, Cub Scout, Scout or Explorer Scout Leaders; or leaders who are moving between Sections. The course offers essential information on being a member of a Section Leadership Team as well as essential Section specific training.

- 21st October  **Book Now**

Pre-requisite(s): Getting Started

Duration: One Day

Management and Support Essentials

This full day course is intended for all new District Commissioners, Assistant District Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders. The course offers essential information on undertaking a role whereby you have a responsibility to manage or support other adult volunteers.

Introduction to Residential Experiences

This one day course is a necessary requirement for all leaders.

- 8th October  **Book Now**

Pre-requisite(s): **Getting Started** & ideally Section Essentials or Management and Support Essentials

Duration : Half Day

Nights Away

This course requires a full day of preparation and then a residential weekend at Tawd Vale Scout Camp. It offers a fantastic opportunity to develop skills for offering residential experiences for adults from all Sections and is the first step for attaining a Nights Away permit for adults who do not yet possess the skills required.

- 23rd to 25th June [E Book Now](#)

Pre-requisite(s): **Getting Started and Module 16** ideally Section Essentials or Management and Support Essentials

Duration: One Day and One Weekend

Safeguarding

As you will have read in Phill's DC report, he's organised a Safeguarding Course on the **20 June at 4th Moreton HQ**.

This is mandatory training and everyone who hasn't done it needs to get in touch with Phill and book a place ASAP. The course lasts around 2 hours long.



DISTRICT DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:



JUNE:

- 08 **Beaver Leaders' Meeting**, 8pm at District HQ
- 17 **Cub Skills Day**, 1st Frankby Greasby (info to follow)
- 24 **County Scout 5 aside Football**

JULY:

- 01 **Scouts Backwoods Cooking Training Day**

SEPT:

- 08-10 **Belgium Contingent Second Camp**
- 22-24 **District Cub Camp**, Queen Charlotte Wood
- 29-1/10 **Beavan Challenge**
Beaver Sleepover at Chester Zoo –
Date/info to follow

OCT:

- 14 **Cubs District Outing** to Greenwood Forest Park

NOV:

- 04 **Beaver Christmas Craft Day**, St Chads, Irby

DEC:

- 03 **Beaver Carol Service / Xmas Party**, St Andrews
- 4or5 **Cub Carol Service** – venue tbc
- 14 **Cub Bowling** at New Brighton

2018 – Planning Ahead:

8-10 March – West Wirral Gang Show, Gladstone Theatre