

FROM THE DC

St Georges-A Celebration of Scouting I meant to get this discussed at the joint leaders meeting last week but forgot! We are keen to receive ideas for this event, Fiona heads up the committee. It seems whichever date is chosen will clash with something or another. We will try and manage to mitigate the impact of clashes and hence positive input is really, really appreciated.

I'm quite excited by the various events organised for this term and year and hope to get to as many as possible and indeed visit every group and admire again and again what great stuff our leaders are doing.

APPOINTMENTS

A big welcome all our new leaders

Provisional Appointments:

Claire , CSL 8th Hampstead Tawny Pack
Mari , ACSL 5th Islington
Rev Fiona , AESL Phoenix ESU
Fred , ESL Scorpions ESU
 (previously ASL 19/23rd Islington)

Section Assistant appointments:

Tracy , 8th Hampstead Tawny Pack
Fiona , 8th Hampstead Tawny Pack
 (previously CSL)

Changes of appointment:

Dawn , ABSL 201st Islington
 (previously ACSL)
Judith , ACSL 201st Islington
 (previously BSL)
Paul , ACSL 201st Islington
 (previously ABSL)

Aileen DC

WINTER CAMP

Well it is here and on day one, Friday, we spent an hour and a half just waiting to drive into the campsite and sitting on a hill. We eventually got in and found somewhere to park and get our kit off the van and go to the site which was now surrounded in all directions by more tents. So much so it made one of our district camps look positively roomy. We found out that 3000 scouts and adults are camping here at the Gilwell site. The 7 mad explorers went to the rave later on and came back after midnight and were starting to moan about being cold. I had sat in the dark for three hours as the gas light would not work due to a technical fault (empty gas bottle). My laptop which I was working on for something to do decided it was too cold and died but Stephens trusty wind up radio kept me awake until the return of the mental 7.



I eventually went to bed about 1-30 ish and they were still going strong. We woke the next morning to snow and to find Stephen and Phil had got up early and gone to breakfast. We followed about 9-15 to find a huge line of people all waiting in front of us. About 45 minutes later we managed to get some hot food inside us to warm us up. Much needed!

I then went home for the day as there is not much for the adults to do and left them to do all the activities including Zorbing, fun fair rides, dodgems, climbing, Quasar, and all sorts of other stuff.

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WINTER CAMP CONTINUED

I got back and Martin was very happy to see my phones battery! He was on the phone to his girlfriend when his phone died and he was desperate to tell her that and that he was not angry with her!!

The disco, sorry rave, finished and they came back to the tent which this time had light as I had got a new gas bottle. I got lots of stories of their exploits at the rave and the girls girls girls!!! I will keep this a secret as promised !! They were all exhausted and announced they were going to bed so I did not need no more telling. Off I went as well.



It was about 8-30 when we arose and got packed and made our way to the breakfast hall taking some of the kit to load in the van. We went and queued again on a longer queue today so it seemed we had a laugh at Phils expense, sending him off to a non existant dustbin. Bless him!! The raving seven went off to do more activites whilst I set about getting more kit to the van and sorting out the mess tent. They arrived back and we got the tents down which were now very wet as it decided to rain. We loaded and went for dinner and then left for home arriving back and sorting out the wet tents. Well as good as it was this will be our last winter camp. We felt it was oversold and the queues were far too long. We will be looking for an alternative event to replace this one.

Mark Darlow Act Explorer Leader

FUNDRAISING

12th Hampstead have for some years now organised bag packing at M & S, Camden Town. They have 2 shifts of 4 hours each per day, on the week end before Christmas and the few days running up to and finishing Christmas Eve at 2pm. With 8 + Scouts per session, they average £500. Hard work but rewarding. The Scouts even enjoy it, I think. At least we always have willing volunteers! They get a 15 min break with refreshments provided by the store. You need every till managed to give maximum impact and maybe groups can get together to cover Sainsbury who have asked if the Scouts would be interested next year?.

On that note putting on my hat as gsl of the 201st we do Asda at Christmas covering a weekend. We have done this for two years now. I agree the most effective way to make the most money is to cover every till. We had 24 to cover which is a lot but we managed to do nearly all of them this year and money raised to date from Asda is (year 1) £1800 (year 2) £2092. A great fundraiser. Give it a try.

Ed

FEB EVENTS

Sat	4 Feb	18-30	Cub New year party @ SC
Sat	4 Feb	10.30	Scouts Winter Adventure
Mon	6 Feb	19.30	Appointments Meeting
Wed	8 Feb	19.30	Service Crew
Wed	8 Feb	19-30	GSL/Managers Meeting
Sat	11 Feb	10.30	Explorer D.of E. Training Day (organised by 8th Hol)
Sat/Sun	11 & 12 Feb	W/E	GLN "Southern 50"
Wed	15 Feb	19.00	Finance Committee
Sat	18 Feb	19.00	District Quiz
Sat	25 Feb	t.b.a	Beaver 5-A-Side Football @ Scout Centre
Sat	25 Feb	t.b.a	Cub Chess Competition @ t.b.a.
Sat/Sun	25 & 26 Feb	W/E	Chiltern Challenge

MARCH EVENTS

F/S/S	3 to 5	March	W/E	GLNE Monopoly Run Gilwell Park
Tues	7	March	19.30	District Team Meeting
Wed	8	March	t.b.a.	Cub Uni Hoc 1 @ SC
Sat	11	March	t.b.a.	County Beaver Dominoes
Mon	13	March	19.30	Appointments Meeting
Wed	15	March	t.b.a.	Cub Uni Hoc 2 @ SC
Sat	18	March	t.b.a.	Poss Scouts Climbing Day
Wed	22	March	19.30	District Executive
Wed	22	March	t.b.a.	Cub Uni Hoc 3 @ SC
Sat	25	March	t.b.a.	Beaver War Museum Trip

EVENTS

Julian is known to us as the GSL of 8th Holborn, but as with many Scout Leaders he wears other hats - in his case a Barrister's wig. Eagle-eyed Scouts may have spotted recently, along with the editor, an article in the Camden New Journal about a book written by Julian on 'Outdoor Activities, Negligence and the Law'. Published in December 2005 by Ashgate Dartmouth this was described as a 'timely and important book which helps to correct some of the myths of our "compensation culture" and offers a fascinating account of some of the legal cases on risk and the outdoors'. The book was recommended by Professor Richard Lewis of Cardiff Law School as 'essential reading not only for lawyers seeking the wider and historical context of their work, but also for all those involved in providing young people with "the experiences of life".'

We asked Julian for some signed copies of the book for a competition, and he has kindly donated three - the alternative is to buy one, and as law books cost, it would set you back £55. So here is your chance to pick one up for free.

RISK AND THE OUTDOORS JULIAN

Most activities in the outdoors organised by schools and voluntary organisations like Scouts are incredibly safe. But recent years have seen several tragedies, and this in turn led to legislation and the tight regulation of many outdoor centres, with successive governments issuing guidelines for teachers and others supervising adventurous pursuits. Despite the views of some, including certain teachers' unions, the law only intervenes when supervision is negligent, and sadly on some occasions even reckless. Mythologies have arisen, including the suggestion that a 'blame culture' is so overwhelming that no youth worker, teacher or Leader can sensibly engage anymore in outdoor activities. Indeed, the pretext seems to be used to ban everyday trips to museums, the public library or the local park.

The legal reality is very different, and my book explores the cases and the legislation, and tries to point out some practical guidelines to assist in risk assessment.

In reality, the most acute risks in outdoor activities are the hazards encountered on the roads in getting there! This is because most outdoor activities are well-conducted, and obvious hazards are well-guarded against. For example it would be unthinkable for Scouts to engage in water activities without a buoyancy aid - and yet half the drownings in watersports occur when none is worn.

We can all learn lessons from when things go right - and also sadly when things go wrong. Continual updating of knowledge is therefore very important. A pioneering cross-country ski trip by the legendary explorer Fridtjon Nansen way back in 1883 saw him setting off 'in moonlight' into uninhabited mountains in Norway, accompanied by his dog, Flink. He was equipped with 'a piece of

cheese and some home-made crispbread', but had no compass nor map, no tent nor sleeping bag, and he rested by pulling on a woollen sweater, his only extra clothing, and lying down behind a snow hummock. His diary records that 'the dog, poor devil, had a bad time'! Over a century later Nansen would practically be certifiable for the foolhardiness of such a venture, as we have learned so much more about the obvious dangers.



And yet in July 2004 a group of 39 schoolgirls had to be rescued from near the summit of a 2,500 peak in the Cairngorms in Scotland. They were found wearing school uniform skirts, trainers and bin liners, strung out along a mountain track as high winds, rain and mist swept over them. They were part of a group of 60 schoolchildren from a North London school, with just two teachers (!), one of whom had borrowed a mobile telephone to call 999 and ask if their driver could somehow manoeuvre the coach up to the summit (!), or alternatively whether 'the group could be airlifted off the peak by helicopter'! The Head of Mountain Rescue declared himself to be 'flabbergasted' and that the group were 'a rain shower away from death'. But what should you take with you on any trip that is longer than a walk to the postbox? Many lists are compiled of 'essential equipment' and a hundred years ago in 1906 a famous compilation was made in Seattle by a group called The Mountaineers. You can check their 'Essential Ten Item List' on <http://www.traditionalmountaineering.org/Essentials.htm> when you will hear a very familiar noise in the Pacific North West as the accompanying soundtrack: endless rain! So why no waterproofs in that list? Perhaps because you have to wear them all the time anyway?

So what would be your list in 2006 of ten essential items for going on a Scout outing in the hills, with some quick supporting reasons?

A short essay with your name and group should be sent to the editor of the newsletter by 1st March, and we will see who the winners are.

mark.darlow1@tesco.net

ED



2006 marks the 50th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the UK, now an important part of youth activities generally, but core for the Explorer Scout section. We are told 'there will be a series of exciting, high profile events across the UK in 2006 to celebrate, to thank, and to raise funds', and plan to be part of them.

Many congratulations to Julia, Sam, Mark and Alannah, who recently received DofE Gold Awards at St James's Palace, following very hard work over a number of years.

From the Holborn Herald the newsletter of the 8th Holborn

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It looks as though at long last we have found a suitable daytime user for the Centre. We are still in discussion on the final terms but as they hope to start in February this is just to let you know who they are and when they will be around.

They are known as the Film and Video Workshop and are an educational charity set up some 12 years ago. They are at present based at Hungerford School and will stay there but want to expand. Brian Bench who was involved with training in GLC for many years and is deputy head of the school, is also on the management committee.

The charity specialises in helping both young people and adults use digital media and part of the deal is that they will provide some courses for us.

They will be using all the Centre, except the office, Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm and the extension at weekends if we do not need it. They are prepared to be flexible if we need the premises earlier on some nights but it is now even more important that rooms are booked with Brian as early as possible.

They are using the computer room for an office but part of the deal is that some computers will be set aside for scout use and upgraded and linked to the internet. The initial arrangement is for one year but they hope to build up over that period and if all goes well we will renew at the end of the initial period.

By the time this newsletter is out we would have held a workshop for Administrators in the District. This was aimed at Group Chairmen, Group Secretaries and Group Treasurers and would have discussed those roles and given advice on what is available within the District and how to get money out of the taxman for scouting. Copies of some helpful guides were available, one per group, and if you were not able to attend these are being delivered so watch out for them if you are an administrator.

Finally now that the census is complete you have to consider the payment of capitation. Alvis will let you know how much very soon and I do ask that you pay this promptly as we have to pay the County before the end of March. The rebate is conditional on prompt payment so please start to organise your finances now.

BRIAN

From the Marketing and Communications Team at Gilwell Park

"COMPENSATION CULTURE"

Thanks to everyone who took the time to fill in the on-line "compensation culture" survey over the Christmas period. The data provided enabled us to make a positive informed contribution to parliamentary select committee. To find out what we said: go to this link <http://www.scouts.org.uk/news/archive/2006/jan/110106.html> <http://www.scouts.org.uk/news/archive/2006/jan/110106.html>

FOOTBALL FEVER

In May 2006, Scouts can enjoy a great offer on tickets to see the Music Industry Soccer Six celebrity football tournament, one of the most well-known events on the celebrity calendar. This year, the event will be taking place at top Premiership football stadiums in Birmingham on Sunday 14 May and West London on Sunday 21 May. Tickets for the event cost £10 for Birmingham and £15 for London. As a special offer, Groups who buy tickets can keep 20 per cent of the net ticket price, which can help with the cost of travel to the venue, or other expenses on the day. If Scouts book to go with friends or family, they will also enjoy the discounted price of £8.30 for Birmingham and £12.45 for London. Tickets go on sale from 1 February. To book go to www.ticketmaster.co.uk and quote the reference SCOUTS, or call the Scout booking line on 0870 4000 696. For detailed information about the venue, gate opening times, parking and travel arrangements, check out the Soccer Six website from 1 February at www.soccer-six.com. For further enquiries email fiona.brennan@scout.org.uk

THE GIMMIE 5 CHALLENGE

If you are one of the hundreds of Leaders across the UK who have already registered for The Gimmie 5 Challenge 2006, we'd love to hear what events you've got planned! Email the Gimmie 5 team with your ideas and fundraising events at info@gimmie5.org.uk and you might see them featured on the Gimmie 5 website. The Gimmie 5 Challenge will be taking place from 18-26 March. If you have not yet registered, there is still time to receive your Gimmie 5 Challenge Pack by logging on to www.gimmie5.org.uk <<http://www.gimmie5.org.uk/> and entering your details. To receive a pack by post call the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818 (local rates apply). The event is a great way for all Sections to have fun raising money for WWF, the global conservation organisation, and the World Friendship Appeal.

Groups who take part can also keep 25 per cent of the money they raise.

THE FUN OF SCIENCE IN CAMBRIDGE

The Cambridge Science Festival is a free celebration from 15 to 26 March featuring talks, workshops and demonstrations where academics and entertainers come together to make science a fun day out for the whole family. The theme will be 'Planet and People' and will focus on the environment. Held around Cambridge University, it is a public event for all ages, providing the opportunity to dig in and learn more about science and how it affects the world around us. More information can be found at www.cambridgescience.org

FAIR AND TASTY

The new website for Dubble Fairtrade chocolate www.dubble.co.uk <http://www.dubble.co.uk/>, is designed for young people who are hungry to change the world chunk by chunk! An ideal resource for the Global Challenge badge, the Dubble website is choc full of information about Fairtrade, cocoa, co-operation, Ghana and of course yummy chocolate! Kids can sign up to be a 'Dubble Agent' and complete Fairtrade related missions. Dubble chocolate was launched through a partnership between Comic Relief and The Day Chocolate Company in 2000, bringing to the market the first Fairtrade product for kids, complete with award winning Fair-trade education materials distributed to over 15,000 schools and now over 50 000 Dubble Agents signed up to change the world chunk by chunk! If you have any questions about how a youth group can stock Fair-trade chocolate please email stockists@dubble.co.uk If you have any questions about the Dubble website please email dubblehq@dubble.co.uk

GET YOUR SOCKS ON

Cub Scout Oddie products are flying off the shelves so ensure you don't miss out by putting your order in today. With prices between £2.99 and £5.99 there is no excuse that you are too poor after Christmas and with 10 per cent of all proceeds going to the World Friendship Appeal, you can be sure your purchase will go towards helping young people from around the world attend the Centenary World Scout Jamboree. The following merchandise is now available through the Information Centre online catalogue - www.scoutbase.org.uk or by calling 0845 300 1818.

Continued

Cub Scout Oddie - Book

A fantastic 40-page book written by two Cub Scouts as part of Read With Me Week 2004. £3.99 (Code CSODDIEB)

Cub Scout Oddie - Socks

A pair of Cub Scout Matching Odd Socks™ which fit most Cub feet (up to size 3) - £2.99 (Code CSODDIESOC)

Cub Scout Oddie - Large Socks

Same as above but larger (adult size 4-11) - £3.99 (Code AODDIESOC)

Cub Scout Oddie - Book & Socks Set

Get a great deal by buying the book and socks together! Socks fit most Cub feet (up to size 3) - £4.99 (Code CSODDIEPACK)

Cub Scout Oddie - Book & Socks Set (large socks)

Same as above but with larger socks (adult size 4-11) - £5.99 (Code ADODDIEPACK)

Other Oddies products are available at www.oddieworld.com or by calling 020 7720 1231.

TAKE TO THE SEAS FOR THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

Portsmouth is the UK's host stopover for The Volvo Ocean Race, which is scheduled to finish on 17 June. Volvo has teamed up with The Scout Association to offer you the chance to come aboard and witness the Volvo Ocean Race from the water! A boat will be used exclusively by Scout Members and their families and will offer the chance to view the start of the penultimate leg of the maritime race. This momentous occasion will take place on Friday 2 June, 2006 in The Solent and will cost £30 per ticket. There will be room aboard for 250 people and it is on a first come, first served basis so please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested (discounts for group bookings are available). Telephone the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818 to reserve your seats! Visit www.volvocars.co.uk/sailing for more information on the gruelling Volvo Ocean Race.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FAITHS AND BELIEFS TEAM

Faiths and Beliefs is one of the major fundamentals of Scouting, affecting all that we do. To support this important area of work The Scout Association has a number of roles that are currently vacant: Faith Con-

tacts :

Faith Contacts are the point of contact between The Association and individual faiths. Answering detailed questions and providing advice to the Association on specific issues on each individual faith. We currently have vacancies for Hindu and Baha'i faith contacts. For role descriptions for Faith Contacts please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/fab/support/index.htm

SCOUTING MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to find an individual to contribute to the writing of spiritual and faith-related Scouting magazine articles. You do not necessarily have to have a theological background but a passion for spiritual ideas and practical ways for implementing faiths and beliefs in the programme. If you would like to join our writing team please contact us. Faiths and Beliefs Young Person representative. We are looking for a young person to join the team. Are you interested in Faiths and Beliefs and looking to help the Movement at a national level? Interested? See the role description at www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/fab/support/index.htm If you are interested in any of these roles please email faiths.beliefs@scout.org.uk or call Mark Waghorn in the Development and Diversity office on 0845 300 1818 for more details. For more information on Faiths and Beliefs please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/fab/index.htm <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/fab/index.htm>

FLIGHT OF THE FANTASTIC

Bramhall Air Scouts, in Greater Manchester East County, are the proud owners of their own glider and wish to give other Groups the opportunity to experience this exciting activity. Their glider is based at the Denbigh Gliding Club in North Wales and is within 1.5 hours driving from Manchester. Alternatively, you may wish to camp, but you will require a 'Green field' Nights Away permit. However, the Group hope to be in a position to provide a permanent static caravan for use later this year. Taking up this activity is never cheap, but through the assistance of the Denbigh Gliding Club they are able to offer gliding flights at a cost of £17 inclusive of temporary Gliding Club membership, insurance and launch fee for a 15 minute flight. Additional flying time is at £6.50 or each 10 minutes. For further information or to make a booking, please contact Frances Lomas on Tel. No. 0161 439 7889 or by email: franceslomas@yahoo.co.uk

Scouting started nearly a century ago, and today there are 28 million Scouts worldwide, in 216 countries and territories. In 2007, Scouting celebrates its worldwide Centenary. This is an opportunity to promote the values, benefits and achievements of Scouting to the world, and also for the millions of Scouts around the world to make a real difference to the lives of others through their Centenary activities. The single theme for all events and activities for the Centenary of Scouting and the 21st World Scout Jamboree is: **2007: One World One Promise.**

Thousands of activities by millions of Scouts will help to change the world for good. Worldwide Centenary Programmes will include:

- *Gifts for Peace
- *Join-in-Centenary
- *Scouting's Sunrise



and World Centenary Events will include:

- *21st World Scout Jamboree
- *International Congress in Geneva
- *Brownsea Island Sunrise Camp

Today, Scouting is a million times bigger than when it first started. It involves girls and boys, men and women from every race, religion and culture, and nearly every country in the world.

The aims of the jamboree WILL BE

- To celebrate 100 years of Scouting
- To demonstrate the unity of World Scouting
- To improve and promote the quality of Scouting
- To promote peace
- To demonstrate the unique value of Scouting
- To provide enjoyable and beneficial experiences
- To demonstrate a commitment to nature and the environment
- To show concern for all communities



This will be achieved through three main groups of Centenary Activities:

Worldwide Centenary Programmes, which link together Scouts globally in their home countries to promote peace and justice through shared activities and celebrations. These include [Gifts For Peace](#), [Join-In-Centenary](#), and [Scoutings Sunrise](#).

World Centenary Events, which bring together Scouts from countries around the world to a common location to take part in activities and programmes to promote international friendship and understanding. These include the [21st World Jamboree](#), the International Congress in Geneva, and the [Brownsea Island Sunrise Camp](#).

National and Local Celebrations, which celebrate Scouting's local history and bring together communities to help make the world a better place. A wide range of [National 2007 Activities](#) are planned.

Planning is now underway for the jamboree to be held in Hylands Park Chelmsford, Essex. Our district have the opportunity to send some scouts to what will be an amazing life changing event. If you want to apply to be a part of the 21st world jamboree, applications will need to be in by the 18th Feb to the District Commissioner.

Ed