



Look wide



Vol. 5 No. 3

The Newsletter of Great North Scouting

December 2008

District Commissioners Comments...

By the time you read this the District Carol Service will have taken place, and Colonies, Packs, Troops, Units, Network people, young people and those not so young will be winding down for the holiday period (I mean a wind down from Scouting, the Leaders and other adults involved will be channelling their energies into making sure everyone has a good time over the festive season). Can I remind the young people, that even though you may not like sprouts, a family member has made and served lunch, and it would be nice if you remembered to say thank you for all their hard work, and maybe even volunteered to help with the washing up.

If you would like to make a New Years resolution, and realise that you may have some time to become involved with Scouting, it does not need to be every week, it could be one of those important behind the scenes roles, speak with either the Group Scout Leader in your Group, or email me, I am sure your help would be appreciated.

The year has ended with competitions held within the Beaver Scout and Scout Sections. The PAULINE ARMSTRONG TROPHY, the collage competition for Beaver Scouts had entries from four Colonies, the 25th (last years winners), 47th, 82nd and Newbiggin Hall. Pauline's mother, sister and other close relatives judged the competition, and the winners were the 82nd. Congratulations to the 82nd, but also well done to the other Colonies who entered. Thank you to the Leaders of the 82nd who organised games for the young people who turned up with their collages.

SCOUT DISTRICT 5 A SIDE COMPETITION, This was won by West Gosforth Scout Troop, runners up Newbiggin Hall, Congratulations to all entries. Thank you Cate and Brian, for making sure the event happened, and that everyone had a good night.

Apart from the County Carol Service at St Andrews, Newgate Street, next Monday night, there are no more District Activities this year, but I know that there are still lots of parties etc about to happen within the Sections.

I would like to end my comments this year, by wishing every one involved in Scouting in Great North a very peaceful Christmas, happy festive period and the health to enjoy 2009.

Kath Tyson

Gosforth Sea Scouts - Dry Stone Walling - 29th October 2008

How hard can it be to build a dry stone wall? Well take it from those of us who went along to Housesteads on Hadrians Wall in the sub-zero temperatures this morning the answer is 'very hard!'. Apparently the professionals get paid £30 per metre. By those standards we should all start looking for a different job. It took six of us all day to **not** finish about 2 metres! But it was great fun!

This was part of the Chief Scouts Gold Award for two of our older Scouts and they performed admirably. Thanks to Gary and Kevin, National Trust Wardens, for their expert instruction and hospitality and Eddie and Quill, the dogs, who kept us amused all day.

Looking forward to our next visit in the New Year.

Brian Smith

Round

Don't Forget!
The deadline for articles for the first issue Look Wide in 2009 is the **25th January 2009**



Scout 5-A-Side Competition

The Great North District 5-a-side Tournament was held on Friday 21st November at Scotswood Sports Centre. 8 teams from 5 different groups entered, which was a new record for this event which is now in it's third year. The teams battled hard but it was always good natured and in the end we had very deserving winners in West Gosforth. Newbiggin Hall were close runners up losing in the final by 1 goal to 0. Unfortunately the presentation ceremony was a little lacklustre as earlier on in the competition a stray ball deflected off a player into the trophies which shattered into multiple pieces! Rest assured that new trophies will be bought and presented to the winning groups. I would like to thank Cate Watson from the 82nd for organising the venue and Ben Smith (Gosforth Explorers) and Lewis Rickard (Whitley Bay Explorers) for the thankless job of refereeing all the games. The final results where as follows:

Group 1:			Group 2:		
1st	Newbiggin Hall	7pts	1st	Gossy Scouts (West Gosforth)	9pts
2nd	The Saints (Sea Scouts)	6pts	2nd	Red Devils (49th)	6pts
3rd	Terrible FC (82nd)	3pts	3rd	82nd United (82nd)	3pt
4th	DJDAD (49th)	1pt	4th	Ginger Schnaps (Sea Scouts)	0pts

Final:
Gossy Scouts 1
Newbiggin Hall 0

Brian Smith

27th Newcastle
The 27th Newcastle are moving to our new headquarters in Silver Lonnen and are looking for new leaders, especially Beavers, as we widen our catchment area to provide more chances to children and young people in West Denton, Silver Lonnen and Scotswood areas. Anybody who is interested in spending time helping the group or have children / young people interested in participating in the activities Scouting has to offer, please contact me at ianweightman@msn.com or via Look Wide.
Ian Weightman

1st Westerhope Scout Group

On Sunday November 9th 2008, 1st Westerhope Scout Troop were very kindly invited down to St. Michaels Church in Newburn to take part in their Remembrance Day Service. Our Unit was represented by Andrew Potter (Scout), Jamie Nairn (Scout), Mathew Smith (Scout) and Ethan Wilson (Cub). Ian Rutherford (ASL), Kate Henderson (ACSL) and myself (CSL) also attended.

As the Hymns and prayers went ahead, the Troop were captivated by Vicar John Sinclair's words and sermon and the troop were given the chance to think about exactly what Remembrance Day is all about. We were reminded of all those who gave and are still giving their lives to ensure our freedom and safety.

After a 50 min service in the Church, during which our Scouts were taken over to the Memorial Wall for the 2 min silence to watch the poppy wreath being lain, the congregation then left the church and walked to Newburn Memorial Statue where prayers were said and we sang our National Anthem.

One Scout said "It was very emotional and one of the saddest things I've seen, but its good to know people still care about those who gave their lives for us"

Days like today are essential for our Troops to understand our Country's history and I would like to thank Newburn Parish for the experience.

Becky Boyd

Gosforth Sea Scouts - Barrasford Weekend - 14th-16th November 2008

We have just returned from a great weekend at Barrasford. The weather was very kind to us. It was very windy on Friday night but we were greeted by a crisp blue morning both days. This enabled us to do a lot of outdoor activities.

Friday night started with a night hike where the scouts heard the spooky tale of the Three Poachers, the story of the Devil Temple and the sinister story of the train with the children who never came home. Apparently they didn't believe any of them. If that was the case why didn't they sleep a wink on Friday night?

On Saturday a group went off on an all day hike to practice for their expedition challenge. Bob tells me that after a very slow start (2.5hrs to do the first 1.5miles!) they actually did very well. Whilst they did that the rest of us went off to Hexham to visit the Abbey and the Gaol. The Abbey was very interesting but was perhaps eclipsed by the magnificent pile of leaves that the wind had collected outside. At one point Henry managed to completely bury 8 scouts! After a picnic lunch we then went to the Gaol where we had a guided tour and a hands-on Tudor session during which we learnt the many uses of stale urine. The staff at the Gaol were incredibly helpful and made it a great visit and I'd recommend it to any other Cub or Scout group looking for a trip out, perhaps if camping at Dilston. Finally it wouldn't be fair to not mention that Josh managed to take a trip to the Ladies toilets in Hexham and had to be rescued by Fiona. In the evening we had a campfire and told some of the oldest and worst jokes known to man.

On Sunday another group went on a hike and tried to out do the previous group by walking off in three different directions at the start before finally being shown the correct way to go after 30 mins of trying. The rest of us had a great time building bivis down by the river.

Many thanks to John McKenzie who helped out over the weekend and Alex who came on Sunday in his Limo to help the stranded hikers. Well done to Fiona who won scout of the camp and was presented with Geoff, a pet log.

Brian Smith

And About

Just For A Laugh
Why does Father Christmas like to work in the garden?
Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe !

Brunton Park

We have had a great time this term working towards the Northumberland Challenge. A calendar with photos of the Cubs taken in different parts of Northumberland has now been put together and is due to be printed in time to be sent out at Christmas. Some of us were more adventurous than others when two of our helpers, Lesley and Christine, presented us with an interesting selection of local Northumbrian delicacies to try - such as pan-haggerty, black pudding, pease pudding and singing hinnies.



We also held an evening of traditional music and dancing, inviting the members of a local dance group, the Cloggies, to perform some of their clog dancing routines and three local pipers to play a lively selection of tunes on their Northumbrian pipes. We enjoyed their excellent performances and learning about the history and traditions of each. Duly inspired, we decided to learn some ceilidh dance steps as our “doing something different” challenge. As this happened to fit in so well with this year’s Children in Need theme, we challenged the Cubs’ families to a dancing competition at our “Strictly Come Ceilidh Dancing” evening; the Scouts dressed up as the judges and Bruce Forsyth; Akela, in a scary blonde wig, was transformed into Tess Daly and the Cubs put on a great display of dancing to narrowly beat the families into second place! Music was provided by Peter the piper, Jen the concertina player and Sam O’Neil, a Scout, on the recorder. At the same time we ran competitions and sold Pudsey cakes and biscuits. We raised £207 for Children in Need whilst having a lot of fun! Many thanks to all those who supported this and gave up their time to help.

Jackie Morley

Newbiggin Hall

Newbiggin Hall have had another busy period just lately, The Cubs and Scouts went on a Ghost hunt in the dark this time, and Julia is still screaming her head off after David managed to frighten the life out of her. He was made to go and stand in a dark corner by himself, that sorted that out.

The Cubs went Snow-tubing and Bell-boating over the last few weeks, with the Beaver section having a swimming night at the local pool. The Scout Troop did very well by coming second in the recent football competition. First time they had entered and they are looking forward to winning the next one (Ahem!). A big thank you to the organisers for a good evenings sport. Our Scouts also spent an evening rock climbing and boating on the Tyne.

Now Christmas is here we can chill for a little while. Merry Christmas to all!

James Gibbons

And Finally...

As we near the end of 2008, I have started thinking about how many things have changed over the past 12 months, and in turn I look forward to the new adventures that 2009 promises! All that leaves me to say is, Good Luck for your 2009 adventures,

**Merry Christmas and
Best Wishes for the New Year!**

John