



Look Wide



Vol. 5 No. 6

The Newsletter of Great North Scouting

June 2009

District Commissioners Comments...

This month the weather has improved and the Groups are certainly getting out and about. Some super activities are taking place, Climbing as part of the Gosforth Explorer Scout Programme, Young Leader Training for Explorer Scouts who are part of the Young Leaders Unit. There were 12 young people at the first training session, and their contributions, logic and thoughtful comments were really encouraging.

In June, the Scout Section will be at camp, at our site at Scots Gap, my thanks go to Frosty (Scout Leader from the 49th), who is co-ordinating. This will be an adventurous back to basics camp. Many of the Troops are going on weekend camps, and doing out of door activities, this is what Scouting is really about.

Apart from the Scout Section, the Cub Scout Section is at camp at the end of June, Sarah (my District Cub Scout Leader) is leading and coordinating the event which will take place at West Hall, near the beach at Seaburn. Please remember the sun protection cream.

Beaver Scouts are not being forgotten, an activity is being arranged to complement the Beaver Scout Programme, news to the Colonies soon. Pre warning, the Pauline Armstrong Trophy, which is a collage competition for the Beaver Scout Section will again take place in November, please encourage your children to become involved in making the collage, the Leaders will know the title of the piece of work they are to produce. On this evening we invite all Beaver Scouts to come along and take part in an activity night at St James and St Basils Church Hall, come and join in.

Adults, please feel free to volunteer with any of the activities, your support is always needed. I spent the last Bank Holiday Weekend at Kielder with West Gosforth, their Leaders are being trained, and it is a tradition with the Group that they have a camp at Hawkthirst, the Scout Association site. The District Commissioner put her money where her mouth is, and joined them as the permit holder, it was a weekend I really enjoyed, the young people and Leaders and parents worked well together, congratulations.

Fellowship continues to work at both Group and District level, including giving a local school a taste of Scouting, thank you Vince.

This month we have two important, but very different events,
JUNE 16th District Annual General Meeting, to be held at House on the Hill, Chris Eldridge (the Assistant County Commissioner for Explorer Scouts) is the County Commissioner's representative. Richard Gee, the District Chairman, looks forward to meeting as many of you as can attend.

Strawberries and Sparkling wine are, I understand the refreshments.

JUNE 20th House on the Hill Open Day / Sports, again details are with the Groups, come along, encourage the young people to join in, brothers and sisters welcome to join us.

I look forward to meeting with you around the Groups and Sections, remember if you would like to help please mention it to one of the Leaders in your child's section, or contact me. You do not have to be available every week, but many hands (or adults helping in the case) means the job of a section Leader is lighter. I can be contacted by E-mail at kathyson@talktalk.net or by phone on 0191 2867639.

Kath Tyson

Don't Forget!

The deadline for articles for the July issue of Look Wide is the
28th June 2009

New Chief Scout!

For those of you who may have missed the news over the past few weeks, Scouting has a new Chief Scout, **Bear Grylls**.
For more details see <http://www.scouts.org.uk/media.php>

Round



82nd Scout Group JOTT

On the 9th of May I went to Craster and did the JOTT with the 82nd Cubs. It was 6 miles long. We saw lots and lots of nature. We stopped off at a beach and had lunch and climbed about on the rocks. We saw hairy caterpillars, centipedes, ladybirds, as well as sheep and horses. We had lots of fun with all my friends and we did some map-reading skills. At the end we played in the park and got our badges. It was pretty hard, but I managed. The Beavers did a 4 mile walk and the Scouts did an 8 mile walk and climbed up really high cliffs and rock faces. The Beavers had a very long lunch. If you go to Craster you might be able to see our names carved on a rock at the beach. I wish I could do it again. Why don't you try it next year?

Cormac Parks (Cub at the 82nd Newcastle)

West Gosforth Scout Group

Cubs

As part of their work towards the Hobbies Badge several of the Cubs brought in a wide range of materials and equipment to demonstrate their different hobbies: spin stix, skiing, swimming, script-writing, squash, skate-boarding and fishing. They have been making pictures of these for a display for their Art Badge, too.

An enthusiastic team took part in the District Games Competition, and came second, thereby earning a place to represent Great North District next month in the County Sanderson Flag Competition.

Cubs and Scouts

The highlight of the half term was the Group Camp at Kielder, which involved the Cubs, Scouts, several leaders and parent helpers. The two meetings beforehand were spent practising putting up tents and packing and unpacking kit. They left on Friday evening and returned on Monday afternoon, having had a busy and exhausting time (that was just the leaders and parents!) Activities for the Cubs included sailing, archery, orienteering, backwoods cooking, hiking and a visit to the falconry centre. Twelve Scouts took part in the Survival Camp, learning how to make shelters and cooking their own food on an open fire. Other activities for the Scouts included canoeing, crate-stacking, pole climbing and archery. Raffle tickets were earned every time someone did something helpful or generally impressive; the Cub prizes were won by Charlie Derbyshire and Will Fenwick, whilst winners of the Scout prizes were Sophie Daniels and Sylvie Armstrong

Katherine Shorrock

Griffin Explorer Unit

The Griffin Explorer Unit continues to ensure their Scouting skills are up to scratch with the building of a 12 foot high monkey bridge outside the House on the Hill.

For many of the unit, experiences of pioneering had been the use of canes and string inside the meeting place. With the sunny nights we have had the opportunity to take these skills and build some large scale projects outside. This is where our Explorers have realised that the square lashing learned in Scouts needs to be spot on! As one Explorer said when an A frame with 15 foot lashing went up, "Wow - that is some height!"

There are a variety of poles, pulleys and lashing ropes at the House on the Hill which everyone is welcome to come and use. The Griffins would be more than happy to help out during an evening or on a weekend. This is a relatively easy-to-learn Scouting skill (also requiring teamwork) which has minimal cost!

Over the next few months the Griffins want to continue to improve their skills, it would be interesting to know which Groups have Pioneering equipment that we could maybe borrow, should a project be planned that needs more equipment than we have at present at House on the Hill. For more information please contact Barney on 0789 6659590

Stephen Barnes

82nd Newcastle Scout Group

May has been a very busy time for the 82nd Newcastle Scout group. On Saturday 9th May, 14 Scouts, 7 parents and two leaders joined Gosforth Sea Scouts to undertake JOTT in the Ingram alley in Northumberland.

Earlier in the day 11 Beavers & leaders with parents and siblings, 8 Cubs & leaders along with 2 parents set off from the car park at Craster to undertake the Craster Coastal route, the Cubs doing the circular route with Beavers walking along the coast to Bathhouse point and back. The weather was kind to the Beavers and Cubs although not so generous to the Scouts and a great day was had by all. The youngest participants were 7 week old twins who joined their older sister and brother (and parents of course!) walking with the Beavers.

The following week the Scout section with the addition of a couple of Beavers did a bag pack at Sainsbury's in Heaton to raise money for this years camp at WINGS2009 in August. It was a long day, 10am to 6pm but well worth it when the contents of the buckets was counted and we had raised an amazing £1,222 for the camp. Shoppers were also generous with their Active Kids vouchers which will help the group secure very valuable equipment.

The month was rounded off by a brilliant group camp at Moor House in Durham, 22nd – 24th May which included a Beaver sleepover on the Saturday night. The different sections took part in different activities such as Survival skills for the Scouts, Archery for the Cubs and climbing wall for the Beavers as well as other activities.

Leaders are having a well earned rest over the half term before the next busy programme of activities.

Carol Preston

47th Newcastle (Holy Cross) Cubs

Communication - We all know about mobile phones and e-mails but who knows how to use a public telephone? The cubs of 47th Newcastle do! As part of their communication badge they all located the nearest phone box and made an emergency call to report a road traffic accident. It was...I have been told "the best part about doing the badge!!" well done to all those who completed their badge. JOTT - The cubs recently joined with All Saints cubs on a hike to Prudhoe Castle. We all met in the Central Station and then took over a carriage on the train to Wylam. A two hour hike saw us land at the Castle hungry and thirsty. The Cubs found the hill around the castle excellent for rolling down! They all then completed a quiz on different aspects of the castle before a one hour quick hike back to the train station. Everyone had a great day so a special thank you to Helen Langley for organising it.

Catherine Holliday

Ingram Valley....the Final Frontier.

This was the location of the West Gosforth, Gosforth Sea Scouts and 82nd Newcastle JOTT Hike 2009. Their mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life forms and new civilizations, to boldly go where no Scout has gone before.

On Saturday 9th May; 40 Scouts along with their parents and leaders supported by Barney's Army (the famous Griffin Explorers) invaded the Ingram Valley in order to undertake the annual JOTT Hike. The weather at first was very welcoming as it enticed the groups into the wilderness, however a sudden downpour during the course of the afternoon did ensure that even the Scout with nice new footwear took them back home scarred by rain. All groups made it back to base in one piece, some a little earlier than expected "oh that was where we supposed to go" and some later than expected "we kind of went the wrong way". As groups arrived back, a general sense of accomplishment was felt by all participants.

At the end of the event a well deserved BBQ was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all the parents who helped with this event, without your support we would not have been able to run it.

Cate Watson, SL 82nd Newcastle

And About

Dates to Remember

June

Tuesday 16th **Annual General Meeting** at the District Headquarters, House on the Hill, 19:30 start. **All welcome.**

Saturday 20th District Sports Day for all sections at House on the Hill

Saturday 20th Sanderson Flag (Cub County Competition)

News From Chil

Thanks to all packs who entered one or more teams for the Indoor Games competition, the weather being good and the evening light along with a safe grassed area meant it was indoor/outdoor games. We had a paper aeroplane competition, cub mummification in toilet paper, a new version of rounder's, a relay and the old favourite - transporting peas using straws. The winners were Brunton Park and runners up were West Gosforth who will go on to represent the District at the County Sanderson Flag on 20th June at Seaton Delaval. *Sarah Haswell*

1st Westerhope Cubs

This term we have been working on our Nature Badge, so far we have had visitors in from Wildlife Trust doing Butterfly pollen game & mini beastie making, the Bird of Prey centre came in with a Barn Owl and the Family Science team came along with Owl Pellet Dissections (that was an eventful evening!). The Cubs loved all the activities so far and are looking forward to finishing the badge by completing activities on the Life cycle of a Butterfly, Insect Investigations, Changing seasons of a tree and a walk along Newburn riverside.

We also invested 2 new Cubs, welcome Luca and Brandon who have moved up from Beavers!!

Becky Boyd

Brunton Park Cub Pack News

We started work on our Community Challenge at the end of last term by visiting our local Church and talking to the Reverend Andrew Shipley. Not only did we learn about its history and some of the traditions, but we also discovered that it serves our community by hosting a great range of other activities. The Cubs were intrigued by the safe and the old records that were kept in it. This was followed at the start of this term by a visit from our two local Neighbourhood Beat Officers, who talked about the problems they encounter in our area and the ways in which we can help. The highlight for the Cubs was probably being "locked" behind bars in the back of their van!



We took part in the District Games Competition - congratulations to Arjun Anilkumar, Manav Chopra, Thomas Cornell, Jerry Durkan, Matthew Meyer and Andrew Murtagh who came first and brought the trophy back. Six Cubs had a great time taking part in the County Bell-Boating Race at Newburn, sharing a boat with All Saints to represent Great North. A visit to Whickham Thorns to tackle the assault course and archery rounded the half term off nicely. *Jackie Morley*

Gosforth Sea Scouts

We had a very interesting joint meeting with Gosforth Explorers on the 22nd May. They taught us about contact photography. Essentially we made images by laying everyday objects onto photographic paper, exposing it to light, then developing them. Some of the images were pretty cool. Everything from Primark shades to Dad's old medals. We also used a shoe box 'pin hole camera' to take a photo of the church. Thanks in particular to Leon for arranging everything. *Brian Smith*

And Finally...

There's not much room left, May looks like it has been a great month. I'm looking forward to reading next month of all the activities that are taking place before the summer break. *John*