

## District Commissioners Comments...

I was delighted to see that Joe Lyndsay from the Gosforth Explorer Scout Unit has gained his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. A super achievement, congratulations.

I was also pleased to hear that Rick McLellen (BSL at the 82nd) has, with very good results, graduated as a Dentist.

We had the Scout Section Camp, and I would like to thank Paul Frost for co-ordinating, and the Scout Section Leaders for organising the activities which made this a successful weekend. I would also like to thank Tim and his team who led the climbing. The Cub Scout Camp went well, and again congratulations to Sarah for co-ordinating it, and thank you to all the Leaders and parents who supported this event for our young people.

The Sports Day was a will it take place or not event, as the weather was not very kind. I am delighted to say that the events were ran and Kingston Park Beaver Scouts won the Beaver Section Trophy, the 82nd won both the Cub Scout and Scout Section Trophies, well done to everyone who participated.

We are winding down for summer, please take care with any non Scouting activities that you will do, and come back refreshed to start working towards your sectional award in September.

*Kath Tyson*

## News From Chil

Congratulations to Brunton Park Cubs for coming second in the County Sanderson Flag competition and to West Gosforth thanks for representing Great North too. The event was a very wet one - with rain showers and watery games too.

District Cub Camp was a great success and with so much parental involvement we are counting it as our 'Big Adventure' - (see [www.scouts.org.uk/bigadventure](http://www.scouts.org.uk/bigadventure)). We went to West Hall Campsite at Whitburn and chose a pirating theme including wide games, crafts, ready steady cook, pirate science, tracking and shelter building. Mike Gibson a Northumbrian musician and storyteller came to lead sea shanties at campfire. On Sunday we went to the beach and went rock pooling as well as sandcastles and games. Being a bit foggy at times over the weekend we experienced the Souter fog horn blowing every 21 seconds during the night! The competition was won by 25th Newcastle for excellent teamwork. Big thanks go to all the leaders and parents, to Becky and Ian for gorgeous grub, and Great North Fellowship and Gosforth Explorers and YLs attached to various packs for all their help.

*Sarah Haswell*



# Round

## Gosforth Sea Scouts

*Survival Camp 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 2009* - A few weeks after Bear Grylls became the new Chief Scout six intrepid sea scouts set out on a Friday night for the unknown. We picked our way through the overgrown nettles and followed the steeply descending path down into the secret glade, across a narrow wooden bridge, through scented swathes of wild garlic, and finally we made it...to the County Survival Weekend. Along with five other groups we made our camp in the undergrowth and spent the weekend lighting fires, snaring and skinning rabbits, gutting fish and preparing nettle and wild garlic soup. We even made chapattis on an open fire and an apple and rhubarb crumble. Some of the older scouts and explorers spent the night under 'bashers' or in fern shelters they had made - which was very impressive given the heavy rain we had both nights. We also had a visit from the local constabulary, the County Commissioner and the County Training Manager to see what we were all up to. I think they were all very impressed. On the down side we managed to melt two bowls and one pair of wellies by the fire, and I think someone's socks are a little on the 'brittle' side now. We all had a great weekend and would like to express our thanks to Paul Henderson (ACC Activities) and all his superb team for organising the weekend, and Stephen Hogg for letting us use his farmland for the weekend.

*Tall Ship Sailing* - 12 scouts, 1 Young Leader and 2 Leaders spent the weekend on Faramir, a Cirdan Trust vessel, sailing from North Shields to Hartlepool and back. The mist was a bad omen as we set off and soon a large swell made most experience the pleasures of violent sea-sickness. We had planned to spend the night at anchor but our skipper took pity on us and went into the Marina at Hartlepool for the night. The return journey was however much better and everyone was in high spirits as we anchored just inside the harbour at South Shields and had a picnic on deck in the sunshine. Everyone took turns to experience all the ups and downs of life at sea from helming the ship to cleaning the heads (toilets), cooking and cleaning to hoisting the sails and acting as lookout. We all learnt a lot about sailing, teamwork and perhaps mostly about ourselves, and all the Scouts gained their RYA start yachting certificate.

*Brian Smith*

## Brunton Park Cub Pack

In June we represented the District in the County Sanderson Flag Competition held at Astleigh Community High School, Seaton Delaval. The theme of the competition was "Water" – the weather duly obliged by raining on and off throughout the afternoon! The Cubs hardly noticed, as they got pretty wet playing all the games anyway and had a great time. At the end of the afternoon the winners were announced - we were just beaten into second place by one point! Congratulations to our team for working so well together: Manav Chopra, Thomas Cornell, Jerry Durkan, Matthew Meyer, Lewis Mooring and Andrew Murtagh.

Unfortunately the weather was determined that the theme of the District Cub Scout Camp, held last weekend at West Hall, Whitburn, should also be water! It rained when we were putting up our tents and for the rest of Friday night and then lashed down all through the night on Saturday – the only good thing was that it drowned out the sound of the fog horn which was blasting out every 31 seconds! However, we were very lucky throughout the day on both Saturday and Sunday as we were able to take part in a full range of exciting activities on a pirate theme. We spent Saturday at the campsite preparing interesting meals, holding scientific experiments, laying trails, building shelters, making bandanas and playing wide games. The camp fire on Saturday night proved very popular with our Cubs – we had fun watching all the Packs' and the Explorers' sketches. We spent Sunday making sandcastles on the beach, paddling, looking in the rock pools and playing some games before walking wearily back to the campsite, packing up our tents and coming home – tired, wet and mucky, but having had a brilliant time!

*Jackie Morley*

### Don't Forget!

This issue was due to be sent out prior to the summer break, the next issue of Look Wide will be October. The deadline for articles for the October issue is the **10th October 2009**

## **Griffin Explorer Unit**

*Griffins Row to Victory* - The Mighty Griffin Explorer Unit did the District proud when they saw off Whitley Bay to become winners of the County bell boating competition in June. After a comfortable win on the first race they couldn't believe it when they heard it was going to be a "best of three races" competition. The second race was very close so it was down to the last! With tired arms the Griffins managed to keep in the lead and crossed the finishing line with resounding cheers from the bank. The traditional water fight and dive in the river and swim to shore finished the afternoon off nicely! "I didn't think we stood a chance, never mind win!" was a comment heard from an elated Explorer Scout. Gwyn McKenzie our County Commissioner presented the unit with their certificates and medals.

*Griffins Take On Mountain Bike Challenge* - The Griffins, not being a unit to refuse a challenge, spent last weekend competing in the annual Northumberland County Explorer "3579" Challenge Event. Partnering up with Ponteland Explorers, the challenge involved cycling from Nenthead Mines to Derwent Reservoir, finishing at Ponteland Scout Hut a total distance of around 80km. The Saturday involved some of the hardest cycling the unit has encountered with several hills to endure - "This is horrible!!" said one Explorer at the top of a steep climb. However smiles were all around as they crossed the finish line where a well earned BBQ awaited. As well as the cycling, the unit tried windsurfing on Derwent reservoir, went underground at Nenthead mines, and competed in orienteering, archery, and rifle shooting as part of the event. "We'll be back next year" the Explorers announced as they went home no doubt to a long sleep! Having little experience in mountain biking, a well deserved congratulations is due to the unit for completing what must be the toughest Explorer event on the calendar.

*Steve Barnes (Barney)*

**Just For A Laugh**  
Who invented lightning?  
*Some bright spark!*

## **Griffin Explorer Unit - Walk for peace**

Members of Griffin Explorer unit took part in the walk for peace. This was organised by Newcastle City Council and Newcastle Council of Faiths. We met at the Hindu Temple (Milvain Ave) in the west end of the city and walked to the Venerable Bede Church (Church Of England). We continued the walk to the Newcastle Central Mosque (Elswick) and finished at the Sikh Gurudwara. We walked with a police escort and were made welcome by each faith. We enjoyed tasting food for all the faiths and were shown around the various places of worship. We were joined by various faith leaders, Bishop Martin (C of E), Lord and Lady Mayoress, Local Councillors, Hari Shukla and leaders of the various faiths. We would recommend this event to all, so watch this space. Should this happen next year, we will let County Office know.

*Debbie Owens*

## **Brunton Park Beavers**

Beavers have been very busy this term. Most have been working towards the Outdoor Challenge, Safety activity badge and Emergency 1 activity badges. We learned about water safety prior to visiting Big Waters as a colony at the end of May. After half term we covered the green cross code and what to say to strangers with a visit from our local Community Beat Officers. Mrs Durkan taught us how to deal with open wounds and how to open an airway for the Emergency Aid 1 badge and left us a quiz to complete. We have been having fun and games sessions with Chief and Ranger Diane learning about dangers inside and outside and knowing what to do in an emergency and taken worksheets home to gain points for our lodges. We had a surprise visit by the Fire Brigade which Sam Bowers dad organized as part of Sam's Friendship Challenge badge and this also taught us further safety facts. We had great fun as we all got to use the hose and soak the firemen - thanks Sam! We are having a fair ground themed evening following the Hoppings with games and ice cream and then it will soon be goodbye to five Beavers who leave for cubs at the end of term. Beavers certainly is fun and friends for us.

*Serena Meyer*

# **And About**



### **25th Newcastle**

News from the 25th Newcastle. Lesley Widdowson and Julie Donisthorpe were delighted to receive their 10 year awards for working with the Beaver Colony. The Beavers are having a day out in York, travelling by train.

The Cubs have spent a day at Cullercoats then they will be at Cub Camp at West Hall .They are flying to Pack Holiday in Northern Ireland in August. There will 42 Cubs, Brownies, YLs and adults, staying at a Guide Pack Holiday house in Craigavid not far from Belfast. We have activities on site, visits to the Ulster Folk museum, a river trip and the Belfast Eye. Action packed! We are hoping for sunshine too.

*Angela Ryan*

### **Gosforth Explorer Unit**

Nine Explorer Scouts and three Leaders set off walking from Garrigill, near Alston, at 4.30pm on the afternoon of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. At 7.30pm we arrived at Greg's Hut, an old lead miner's cottage just below the summit of Cross Fell, which is now used as a bothy for hikers to stay in. We cooked an evening meal on our camping stoves and trangias and had a fairly early night in anticipation of a very early start to watch dawn break on the Summer solstice. However, it was too cloudy to see the sunrise at 4am as originally planned, so we were forced to stay in bed and set off for the summit later, arriving at the top of Cross Fell at about 9.30am. We spent the rest of the morning there and returned to Gosforth at about 4pm that afternoon.

A team of six Explorer Scouts and one leader acted as the service team for the District Cub Camp at West Hall. They supported Saturday's activities enthusiastically (particularly the wide games, when the Cubs delighted in being chased by them!) and worked very hard washing and clearing up throughout the weekend. After cleaning the hut thoroughly when the Cubs went off to the beach on Sunday they were given the choice of a range of interesting and challenging activities to take part in – and chose to go down to the beach to play in the sand and build sandcastles!!

*Ian Morley*

### **Newbiggin Hall**

The Beaver Section have been very busy lately, we have had a visit from the Fire Brigade the Beavers were excited when a Fire Engine turned up and they were all allowed to try out the hose, wear helmets and clamber all over the engine. Everyone ended up having their cars washed regardless of how dirty they were before. All the Beavers have planted Sun Flower seeds and are to bring them back to the lodge after the summer holidays, the Beaver with the biggest sunflower will receive a prize. The Lodge has also completed the Hikes away badge and every single Beaver completed the walk even though some of them had never walked so far before, they finished the hike with a song in the hall.

The Cub section went to West Denton Pool to work towards their Stage 1 Swimming badge, all those who attended gained the Stage 1 and 4 others gained the Stage 2 badge, well done to all of you. The Cubs have also been learning how to read a map and use a compass, although we haven't let them loose on the world yet, a map reading exercise is being planned for the near future. All of the Cubs have been working towards their craft badge making model heads, covering the tables in paint and glue, getting glitter on the carpet and generally having fun making a mess.

That's all for now from Newbiggin Hall have a good Summer

*Jimmy Gibbons*

### **And Finally...**

It is quite amazing how quickly the past year has gone by, and it has been great to see all the different activities that have been completed during that time. I hope you all have a great summer and that the weather is good for all the activities that are planned.

*John*