

## District Commissioners Comments...

The District continues to be active, we have started a new Beaver Scout Colony at the 47th (Holy Cross, Fenham), Cub Scouts were involved in a County Competition, we had several Troops involved in the County Badge Weekend, and Explorer Scouts completing their expeditions towards various levels of the Duke Of Edinburgh Award. Next year there will be a Medieval Marra Camp over the last Bank Holiday in May, this is the ideal opportunity for Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts to camp and complete some activities together, Beaver Scouts can attend for a day visit. Look on the County website for more details.

## Coming Event Reminders

### *Beaver Scout Pauline Armstrong Collage Competition*

The theme for this year is *The Countryside*. Just a reminder that the collage should be no more than 3ft x 3ft and should be all the young peoples own work using a variety of materials, names of Colony on the reverse please. The competition will begin at **5.30pm** on **Friday 13th November** at the 82nd meeting place, the Church Hall, St. James & St. Basil's in Fenham. The hall is on Ravenside Road, just off Wingrove Road. If you are unable to attend personally, please send your entry with a parent. Games are organised for visiting Beavers, if Beavers attend it will go towards a joining with other Beaver Scout activity, co-ordinator Carol Preston.

### *Scout Section District 5 A Side Football Competition*

The venue for the competition has been confirmed as All Saints College, West Denton Way, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 2SZ, on **Friday 20th November**. We have booked two tarmac outside floodlit pitches, co-ordinators, Cate Watson and Brian Smith.

### *District Carol Service*

This will be held at Westgate Baptist Church on **Monday 14th December**.

*Please put these dates and times in your diary.*

*Kath Tyson*

## Griffin Explorer Unit - Halloween Party

A Halloween Party open to all members of Great North (and anyone from our Guiding friends) is being held at Westerhope Scout HQ on Friday 30 October. The party has been organised by the Griffin Explorer Scouts as part of their Tall Ships fundraising campaign.

Entry is £3 which includes the world famous "Grab a donut without using your hands" event!! And entry to the best costume competition. There will be a

variety of stalls and opportunities to buy hotdogs and drinks. The party is from 6.30pm to 8pm finishing with the prize for the best costume. Tickets and information are available from Debbie Owens – email [debowens1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:debowens1@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 0191 2643594. So don your most gruesome outfits and come along for a fun evening!!

*Steve Barnes (Barney)*



# Round

## Brunton Park Cub Pack

The Autumn term has only just begun but we have already had two visitors to our Cub Meetings in connection with the Global Challenge; Dave Mowbray came with some interesting slides and anecdotes about his visit to Uganda to help us find out more about International Scouting, and Sherrie Knowles from the Waste Management Department at the Civic Centre talked to us about recycling. We are currently keeping a four weekly record of ways we are trying to save energy and recycle.



Four of our older Cubs enjoyed a day up at Scots Gap at the start of the term, where they took part in the Older Cub Scout Skills Day. Much as they enjoyed learning about knots and stoves and building fires etc, one of the highlights was playing a wide game called "Kick the Can". While the nights have still been light and warm enough we have started our meetings by playing this game and it is proving so popular that the Cubs are keen to continue playing in the dark! At the beginning of October six of our Cubs – Thomas Cornell, Mark Evans, Adam Forster, Matthew Meyer, Lewis Mooring and Liam Shipsey – once again reaped the rewards of working well together as a team by winning the District Cub Scouts Skills Competition. Well done!

*Jackie Morley*

## West Gosforth Cub Pack

With a large number of enthusiastic new Cubs joining the Pack this term we have been working on the Cub Scout Membership Award while the older Cubs are working towards either their Map Reader Badge or their Road Safety Badge. Some of the Cubs have been out and about taking pictures of a range of road signs to help with this.

Work on the Global Challenge has so far included illustrating a selection of useful energy saving tips and hosting a visit from Mark Manley, from Newcastle City Council's Waste Management Department, from whom we learnt many useful facts about recycling to help us with our efforts to increase the amount and range of what we recycle. We've even managed to find time to come 2<sup>nd</sup> in the District Cub Scouts Skills Competition, well done to the lads involved!

We are grateful to the increased number of parents who have volunteered to help out this term, and to Gosforth Explorer Scouts for putting up notice boards and sorting out the storage of our equipment to make meetings easier to run. We look forward to some combined events with both the Explorers and the Scouts later this term.

*Jon Carey*

### Just For A Laugh

Why didn't the ghost go to the Halloween party?  
*Because he had no body to go with?*

### Don't Forget!

The deadline for articles for the December issue of Look Wide is the **29th November 2009**

## News from Chil

We held the skills day for older Cubs on Sat 19th September at Sawmill Campsite, Scots Gap. Designed to introduce cubs to activities they will be doing in Scouts the activities included - tent pitching, first aid, an introduction to stoves and how to boil water to make a pot noodle, fire lighting, learning useful knots and map reading. Congratulations to the following who completed the activities, I hope you enjoy moving on to Scouts - Josh Bell, Dean Armstrong, Callum Crosbie, Kieron Burrows, Kyle O'Connel and Ben Clark - 25th Newcastle; Matthew Nelson, Matthew Wood and Rachel Armstrong - 82nd Newcastle; Lewis Waugh, James Dunn, Ben Dobson, Cameron Hamilton, Jake Ramsay and Alex White - 1st Westerhope; Michael Mcelvanney - 49th Newcastle; Tim Hastie, Liam Eltringham and Matthew Bone - 1st Dinnington; Callum Williams and Scott Harrison - West Gosforth; Anthony Shanley, Locan O'Toole, Nathan Paley, Findlay Green, Dylan Ayres, Kieran Watlingly and Robert Sanderson - Kingston Park; Joe Kirk and Sam Johnstone - All Saints Central Gosforth; James Ramsay, Joe Hunter, Patrick Harrison and Andrew Murtagh - Brunton Park.

The Cub Scout Skills competition was held on the 1st October, kindly hosted by Kingston Park. The teams who entered were - Kingston Park (2 teams), 82nd, 25th, Brunton Park, and West Gosforth. Congratulations to the winners - Brunton Park, and runners up West Gosforth, who will represent Great North District at the Peel Award on 17th October at Morpeth.

For both events many thanks to all leaders and parents who helped run these events and the Cubs who made them happen.

*Sarah Haswell*

## Gosforth Explorer Unit

Whilst the rest of the Scouting world may have been enjoying a well-earned rest in the Summer, some members of the Gosforth Explorer Unit and their leaders were busy throughout the holidays helping with the major task of sorting the storage areas at Montagu Scout Centre where they meet. Firstly they emptied the store cupboard, spreading the contents over the entire Hall floor, so that the assistant Explorer Scout Leader, Dan, could build new shelves; then came the job of sorting what was needed and putting it back; this was followed by a tentative peek into the loft space to see if there was any more useable camp equipment to add to the main store – which led in turn to a major sort out of the loft contents! Finally, after many trips to the tip and much sorting, sweeping and tidying, new notice boards were put up in the hall, painted and work mounted on them ready for the Group AGM. The Explorer Scouts and their Leaders experienced a great sense of achievement and an understanding of an important aspect of what Scouting is all about – working together and co-operating! Well done and thanks to those who helped. Good work continues to be done on a weekly basis maintaining the Scout Centre grounds which forms part of the Service section for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Three Explorer Scouts are currently taking part in the SET (Scout Expedition Training) course, which has involved two evenings training followed by a weekend at Whitburn Shanks in the Cheviot Hills. Further Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are planned this term, together with a programme packed full of activities such as rocketry, model making, metal work and bow-making.

*Ian Morley*

# And About

## Sea Scout Centenary Circumnavigation 16 - 23rd July

As part of the celebrations to mark 100 years of Sea Scouting an ocean going Tall Ship, the Thermopylae Clipper, has sailed the full way round the coast of Britain. The journey took 8 weeks and each week-long leg was crewed by a different group of Sea Scouts. The leg from Edinburgh to Grimsby was the turn of past and present members of Gosforth Sea Scouts.

This was a wonderful experience for those who took part. It involved living the full nautical life, sleeping, eating and sailing in watches at the beck and call of the wind and tides. En-route they berthed at Eyemouth, Blyth and Hartlepool. The final section involved getting up to leave Hartlepool in darkness at 4am, sailing through the dawn and getting to Grimsby at 9.30pm. They finished the week exhausted but having had a week that they will never forget. For a full account of their trip visit [www.centralgosforthscoutgroup.co.uk](http://www.centralgosforthscoutgroup.co.uk) ->Sea Scouts -> News and read Bob's Blog. This was updated (almost) daily during the trip which allowed friends and family back home to track their progress.

Many thanks to the skipper and crew from the Discovery Sailing Project who ran the circumnavigation, and to (Captain) Bob Shuttle for giving up a week of his summer holidays to supervise the Scouts. Congratulations also to all the Scouts who gained their RYA Competent Crew Certificates during the week.

*Brian Smith*



## Newbiggin Hall

We had a nice quiet Summer break with only the Scout section getting together over the holidays.

Debby and Jimmy were persuaded by a number of the Scouts that it would be a good idea to have a day at the Games Workshop store in Newcastle, and along with the staff from the store they organised the SUMMER OF SLAUGHTER day. Most of the Scouts seem to take part in Warhammer 40k which was good because Jimmy and Debby didn't know a single thing about it apart from it empties the wallet/purse very quickly. So it was just as well that the staff at GW were all very keen to make sure the Scouts had a great time. They organised a tournament and somehow at the end of a day of heated discussion and some very strange sound effects we had a outright winner, well done to Peter Frame for winning all of his matches and being declared Master of War (Summer Slaughter 10). After this somehow we have been persuaded to run a 40k Club at NBH and we have a couple of enthusiastic helpers to help with the running of a campaign that should keep the Scouts busy (on none troop nights) until Christmas when a new Master of War will rise out of the ashes victorious, or will it? That's all for now.

*Jimmy Gibbons*

## And Finally...

As the clocks have now gone back, and the nights seem so much darker, it adds a new dimension to outdoor activities. I hope everyone enjoys the activities that have been arranged and I look forward to reading next month what has been happening.

*John*