

## District Commissioners Comments...

This month saw the Scout and Beaver Scout Sections holding competitions. The Scout Section 5-A-Side Football Competition was won by West Gosforth Troop (for the second year in succession). The Pauline Armstrong Trophy (Collage Competition for the Beaver Scout Section) was won by Kingston Park Colony. Both events were well supported and on behalf of the young people who took part, I would like to thank all the organisers.

I spent a night at a Gosforth Explorer Scout Meeting, where the Explorers were giving reports of their recent Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award Expeditions. Again lots of work had been put into preparing the presentations, long past are plain verbal presentations, the visual support was good, thank you. After the reports some Bronze and Silver Awards were presented.

We are now coming to the Christian Festival of Christmas, a time for giving and receiving gifts. The

most important gift that a young person can receive is the gift of time, and I would like to thank anyone who has given the gift of time to Scouting in any way in Great North over the past year. I hope everyone has a good break at Christmas and has a Happy, Healthy and Fun time in Scouting in 2010.

*Kath Tyson*



### Just For A Laugh

What's the best Christmas present in the world?

*A broken drum, you can't beat it!*

What's brown and sneaks around the kitchen?

*Mince Spies!*

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

*Snowflakes!*

## Great North District Carol Service

6:30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

at

Westgate Road Baptist Church  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6NX





# Round

**Don't Forget!**  
Following the Christmas break, the deadline for articles for the February issue of Look Wide is the **24th January 2010.**

## 82<sup>nd</sup> Newcastle - WINGS 2009

On the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 6 leaders from 82<sup>nd</sup> Newcastle Scout group took 24 young people aged from 10 years to 17 years of age to WINGS 2009 International Scout & Guide camp at Windsor Great Park for one week. The following is a brief account of the week written by the Scouts.

We turned up to the church hall at the crack of dawn, tired but excited about the long and exciting journey ahead. We entered the bus where we would spend the next seven hours anticipating the week ahead. This journey gave us lots of much needed rest as we would need to be fully charged for the week ahead.

We arrived, trouble free and were sent to our allocated space where we would set up our camp. Typically the rain came but we worked hard as a troop to set up camp relatively quickly and with all equipment. That night the opening ceremony took place with the theme being spies. It was here that we saw the sheer size of the camp with people from all over the world waving flags from their countries. There were approximately 6,000 leaders and young people from 29 countries. The



opening ceremony was ended by a disco with amazing strobe lighting and lasers. On the first day of the camp we took part in a culture exchange, where each camp would make food or play games from their cultures. Being from Newcastle we made Panhaggarty and had Newcastle Brown ready for those allowed and wishing to drink it. Sting was played in the background; flying the Geordie flag. This gave us time going round other campsites to meet different people and

learning about other cultures. Each day there were activities for us to take part in, these ranged from caving, folk dancing, crafts, archery, learning to hula hoop, rifle shooting to water sports. In the evening the activities ranged from a neon disco, screening of 'Madagascar', WINGS X Factor and a display from The Kawadhi dancers', a group of American Scouts who perform native American dancing.

Blenkey managed to find a nice Norwegian girl ;) and is still in regular contact with her. All the girls came running to James: D and James is now getting stalked!!!!!! Oh yes and James was named alpha male: D. All of the older Scouts worked hard at international relations!!!

Some of the quotes from Scouts;

'WINGS was good and I met loads of people' – Lily

'Awesome – nice to meet people from different countries' – Andrew

'mint it was very good' – Josh

'I collected loads of badges, and swapped them for badges from other countries' – Rosie

*Carol Preston*

## 82<sup>nd</sup> Newcastle - Beavers

For Children in Need, the Beavers colony at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Newcastle Scout group attended in non uniform and made a donation to Children in Need. To do something different for Children in Need the colony night was handed over to Katherine Larby, who at 8 years old is one of the older Beavers. Katherine took control of the night, acting as the Beaver Scout leader, she led the opening ceremony as well as the end ceremony where she handed out badges to deserving Beavers. Katherine led the games and kept good control of the Beavers throughout the night. It was a games night and the leaders and young leaders joined in the games under Katherine's direction. Everyone enjoyed the night and Katherine was a natural, I think we have found a future leader in waiting. *Carol Preston*

## 1st Dinnington Scout Troop

October:- At the start of October was a day hike on the Simonside hills to prepare for the County Badge Week-end. On the 24/25th, the Expedition Challenge, eight Scouts took part in hike around Kielder Water, a 27 mile hike in very wet weather with an overnight stay at Hawkthirst, and were pleased to gain their badges.

November:- Sunday 23rd, Scouts did a day trek on Bikes from Dinnington via tracks and roads through to Old Harley on the coast, had hot soup and lunch, then back to Dinnington as part of the Cyclist badge.

*Alan Proudlock*



## 1st Westerhope Cubs

We've had a very busy term, all 23 of our Cubs have completed their Chef badge doing things like smoothie making, biscuit decorating, soup cooking and a visit from a Sui Chef, Iain Patterson who did show cooking on a burner. (The Chilli was a lil spicy but they boys all tried it and mostly enjoyed it! We did use a full bottle of juice after though hehe). We have invested 5 new Cubs (2 moved up from our Beaver unit).

On Remembrance Sunday 5 Cubs, 4 Scouts, 4 young Leaders and 3 Leaders attended St Michael's Church Newburn and read a poem called "Why wear a poppy". The boys were excellent and very well behaved, I am very proud of their behaviour and attitude on the day!

We also have a visit organised to the Cinderella Panto at the Theatre Royal on Dec 3rd where 11 cubs and 12 scouts will be attending.

Finally the Cubs and Scouts attended a walk to Catering hole on Halloween organised by Mark Carroll (SL), all who attended enjoyed the spooky day!!

*Becky Boyd*

## Newbiggin Hall

The last couple of months have been a busy time for us all, and with Christmas coming it isn't getting any quieter.

We held a group camp at Rattingate just outside Carlisle and we all had to remember that although stars are very pretty they also mean its going to be a cold night in tents. Jimmy and Debby ended up wearing all the clothes they had with them long before dawn broke, and they eventually surrendered to the cold and made a very very early morning coffee. However as is the way with these things the Scouts themselves slept as though it was a warm summer night. In fact Peter Frame had to be dragged out of his sleeping bag and was instructed to be cold, like the leaders.

Being close to Halloween ghost stories were told and Debby now knows she can jump 10 feet straight up without too much effort, thanks to David.

The Cubs all discovered the ancient art of making fire and standing in the way of the smoke. While the Scouts practised laughing at them. Various tasks were set for the weekend including getting lost and being found a few times, a very fine tradition amongst certain leaders.

With the festive season rushing towards us, some of the Scouts are helping out at St Wilfreds Christmas fair.

Our "A" team came runners up at the 5-a-side competition again, the Beavers took part in the collage competition. We still have out indoor camp fire to come, the Group Panto trip, the Christingle and the Winter of Woe Warhammer event. All this and more before our Festive break, I for one will need it. A Merry Christmas to you all.

*Jimmy Gibbons*

# And About

## Griffin Explorer Unit - Christmas Fair

Open to all members of Great North and our guiding friends.

**Saturday 12th December 10:00-11:30** at

**Westerhope Methodist Church**, Stamfordham Road, Westerhope.

Treat yourself to a mince pie before trying your luck on the chocolate tombola, buy a chilli hat, hotdogs and various stalls, and who knows you might even win a £100 worth of Eldon Square Vouchers in our raffle!!

This has been organised by Griffin Explorer Scouts as part of their tall ships 2010 fundraising campaign.

More information from available from Debbie Owens on 0191 2673594 or

E-mail [debowens1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:debowens1@blueyonder.co.uk).

## Griffin Explorer Scouts

Members of the Griffin Explorer Scout Unit joined up with Gosforth Explorers and Young Leaders to take part in a 2 day Explorer SET (Scout Expedition Training) weekend last month. This ensured that when they come to do their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, they have the necessary skills and experience. There were plenty of skills covered such as advanced navigation, safety procedures in the event of an accident (no mobile phone signal here!), and the best types of food to cook on backpacking stoves when you are in the middle of the countryside. Full kit was carried for the whole of the two days over 20km which started and finished at Alwinton in North Northumberland. Other useful things learnt included making sure you check what you are carrying (one pair of Explorers carried a tent plus half of another group's by mistake on the first day!).

### Tall Ships Carol Concert

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Christ Church North Shields @ 7:30pm

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Richard Coates School, Ponteland @ 7:30pm

Tickets, £8 each, available from Debbie Owens, Dave Bennett, or just pay on the door.

A superb weekend was had by all – weather was excellent, we had a camp fire on the Saturday night and we even got to see some tactical army training across the valley in the Ministry of Defence area. It was with heavy footsteps that we reached the cars at the end of the second day with one Explorer asleep before we even left the car park! Thanks to Cas for organising the weekend.

*Stephen Barnes (Barney)*

## News from Chil

Entries for the District Cub Challenge 2009 will be displayed at the Carol service - during refreshments - the entries will be judged by the Fellowship and members of the executive. The theme is international Scouting - thanks in advance to those packs who have contributed an entry. Events for 2010

- Skills sharing event – 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan in the afternoon finishing with food. Scout and Beaver leaders to be invited too. Venue and exact timings TBC.
- Lillia Quiz – 11<sup>th</sup> February at the 25<sup>th</sup> (English Martyrs)
- Indoor/Outdoor Games sometime in week 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April at House On the Hill (if available).
- County Camp – Medieval Marra somewhere near Powburn 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May,
- Cub Scout Skills in Oct and a one night sleep over in November in a Newcastle city centre venue – if we can get one.

Future meetings for leaders and assistants (and anybody else who wants to)

- Tues 12<sup>th</sup> January, 8pm, at Helen Langley's – ½ meeting, ½ social – bring food.
- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> March, 8pm, at Cathy Holliday's
- Tues 29<sup>th</sup> June, 8pm, at Jackie Morley's

*Sarah Haswell*

## And Finally...

There is only enough space left to say Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2010.

*John*