

# Bedfordshire Countywide OUTLOOK

Information & Entertainment for Bedfordshire Scouts

## Tithe Barn HQ

In the outskirts of Barton-le-Clay in Bedfordshire, with stunning views across Sharpenhoe Clappers, a new £¾ million structure is taking shape that will enhance the natural beauty of the area according to the local council planning department. This isn't a pop star or footballers home, it is a Scout and Guide hut for the village's 250 enthusiastic youngsters. A tithe barn design, it will be unlike any other Scout and Guide hut in the whole of Great Britain.

Their current headquarters could hardly be described as elegant and stylish. The two site huts donated by Leslie Sell back in 1963 were falling apart. Group Scout Leader Dave Whitaker said "The Guides moved to nearby school premises and the village hall. The Scouts stayed put but kept our boisterous

games to a minimum. One day the back wall fell out. We put it all back and repaired the damage but we knew we were living on borrowed time."

Group Chair Carol Barnes said, "It was not until earlier this year that we had all the planning documents signed and we took a view that it was now or never. We realised we had enough money for the first phase to go ahead and the will to go out and raise another £88,000 to complete phase two in time for an opening next Easter. There were no fireworks or balloons it was just a quick telephone call to the builder saying it's time to start." Phase 3 and 4 will need more fund raising taking the final tally to well over £750,000.

Carol and her team are now devising all manner of

fund raising efforts. One which they hope will take off is an engraved paving stone. For £20 anyone can have their name or a goodwill message engraved on one of the paving slabs being laid around the outside of the building. Carol quipped, "It's the Barton equivalent of Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard."

At a recent opening ceremony a small crowd braved the rain to celebrate the topping out of the main wall performed by Brownie Amy Rowe and Cub Scout Ben Brown. Amy, armed with her trowel said, "It's going to be like a palace." A giant spade, loaned by Poplars Garden Centre, showed just how big the project had grown since it started 20 years ago. Carol said, "It's like a fairy tale come true."

*See more of this story on the County Web Site.*

**Bedfordshire Countywide Outlook** is produced by  
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# John Duley Writes...

I hope that you all had a chance of a summer break. Of course summer is one of the main camping seasons and I know that many leaders will have given up some of their holiday to take their section away. It is greatly appreciated that so many of you are willing to do this so that young people can benefit from one of the key elements of our programme.

Over the period the Associations plans to introduce 'Scout Active Support' units to replace the Fellowship were announced. I know that for many this will not have been good news however I think for many current Fellowship members this will not involve any great change as I am well aware of the support members give to their County, Districts and groups and the need for this is certainly not going to change.

We are now entering what appears to be the Conference Season with sessions for the CCs, DCs and GSLs taking place. There are some key debates needed in terms of how we take the movement forward in the coming years. At the CCs conference we will be considering the strategy to take us from 2012, when the current plans end, to 2018. Something of a challenge as we know that society will continue to change at its current rapid pace and if we are to remain successful we have to change to keep up. Change is not always easy and does cause some concerns but it remains critical to the movement. Our waiting lists, now to be called Joining Lists, continue to grow and we have to find new ways to deal with

these to ensure that we offer as many young people as possible the chance to take part in scouting.

I am sure that you will have read about the coming changes to the CRB process. There are obviously some concerns as to the restrictions that these may place on us all I can say at present is wait until we have clear guidance as I believe it will not mean any great change for us.

One other news story concerns the Water Tax and the success our actions have had in forcing a change to the proposals to protect voluntary and charitable organisations. Many thanks to all of you who have supported this campaign in any way.

As I write the plans for the selection of the Jamboree Contingent are being finalised and HQ have just announced the process for applying to be part of the International Support Team. I hope that in both cases we will see a number of our members looking to be part of the Jamboree in Sweden in 2011.

As always, therefore, there is a great deal going on and with Firework Night, Remembrance Day and Christmas rapidly approaching I hope that you will have lots of opportunity to have fun in your Scouting

John Duley  
County Commissioner



# STOP THE RAIN TAX CAMPAIGN!



**A Luton Scout Group, that helped spearhead a campaign at Westminster to change a water board levy on rain water, has won its case.**

Against the concerted efforts of OFWAT, the water authority quango, and the water boards who wanted to extract swingeing taxes from Scout Groups and churches, Environment Secretary Hilary Benn has just issued an instruction to OFWAT forbidding them from making this change. Instead he wants a considerably lower socially acceptable charge more in keeping with what Scout Groups and churches were paying before.

"What a relief," said Scout Leader Mary Maybury at St Joseph's Scout Group who took part in the Westminster protest in July along with her Cub Scouts. She added, "The new tax, due to be compulsory next year, was about to add around £500 a year to our costs. It would mean an extra £10

on the membership fee for all the 53 Scouts we have in the group. No one could see the sense of it."

The rain tax levy was introduced last year by some water boards and was due to be rolled out around the country by the end of 2010. It saw some Scout groups facing a 500% increase in their water rate overnight. The Scout Association launched a concerted effort to overturn the decision and, against all the odds, they won. "At last, a triumph for common-sense," said a relieved Mary.

OFWAT, the organisation responsible for the control of water charges, ignored the charitable status of organisations such as the Scouts in its search for more money to fund its operation. Mr Benn has now forced them to eat humble pie and go back to the drawing board for a more socially acceptable solution.

Bedfordshire Scouts County Commissioner John Duley, who was part of the national lobby, said it was great news for the Scouts. He added: "I am very pleased to hear that sanity has prevailed. Our leaders will now be able to concentrate on providing youth work as opposed to raising additional funds to pay hugely inflated water bills.

"I am particularly glad that the Minister has kept the promise he made to do something about the issue. It means that Bedfordshire Scouts will be able to continue offering affordable scouting to young people."



## Waqar Sheikh YOPEY

A leader from the county's only Muslim Scout Group has been nominated for a Police Young People of the Year award. Waqar Sheikh, 23 and an assistant Group Scout Leader of the 25<sup>th</sup> Beech Hill Islamic Society of Great Britain Scouts, is in the running for the top prize of £1,000.

Group Scout Leader Faraz Mir said, "Waqar gives 100 per cent in helping other people. He's a good team player, very reliable and full of enthusiasm. He's my right hand man. He's also very much appreciated by the young people in the group.

Waqar said, "It's really rewarding to see the way my Cub Scouts learn new skills and grow into mature, well-disciplined young people who are an asset to society." He added, "I feel I am giving something back to society and the community I work in. I'm quite lucky to be in the UK and fortunate to have what I have. But I realise that others are not so fortunate and I try to help them."

Apart from the Scouts, Waqar has been involved with six children's charities and has helped to raise money for orphans all over the world.

If Waqar is successful he will attend an awards ceremony in a few weeks time hosted by the Duke of Bedford at Woburn's Sculpture Gallery.

# Tree O'Clock



Biggleswade Scout Group are all ready to help set a new world record on December 5<sup>th</sup> when they will plant over 100 trees at a site in the town. They have just one hour to do it to help the BBC organisers reach their target of one million trees and a new Guinness World Record.

Organised by Cub Scout Leader Nick Gurney, the team of diggers and planters will be at their site in time for the 11am start. "It's all down to team work," says Nick, "And a good bit of elbow grease as well." When fully grown, the trees will form a leafy avenue down one of the main roads into the town. Other Scout Groups can take part as long as they register before the end of October. The link for a pledge form is:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock/pledgeform.shtml>



## Project 8 2 1

Project is a weeks camp run by a national Scout Fellowship, for Explorer Scouts (aged 14-18) from across the UK. The camp is held in the ancient Epping Forest, which extends from M25 into North East London. During the camp participants complete four conservation tasks within the forest.

Project 821 is running from Sunday 22nd until Saturday 28th August 2010. For further information & to apply visit:

<http://www.explorersproject.org.uk>



## Henlow Clifton Strike Gold



This badge is the highest award available in the Scout Section. It is gained by completing:

- Promise Challenge
- Community Challenge
- Fitness Challenge
- Creative Challenge
- Global Challenge
- Outdoor Challenge

Plus two of the following three:

- Adventure Challenge
- Expedition Challenge
- Outdoor Plus Challenge

Six Henlow/Clifton Scouts have just received their Chief Scout Gold Awards after three years of effort. The ceremony took place at their HQ on Boyd Field and the certificates, the first signed by new Chief Scout Bear Grylls, were presented by Assistant County Commissioner for Scouts Ken Brooker.

The lucky six are Jack Brightwell, cousins Chris and Cari Panton, Adam Biggs, Robert Wenham and Thomas Hardy. Ken Brooker said, "I have great admiration for these young people for the way they kept going for over three years and the hard work that went into this achievement. They are a credit to their Scout Group."

The Scouts tackled various challenges on their way to their gold award. For a fitness challenge they ignored stodgy and junk food in favour of healthy eating. Five a day became their unofficial motto. They spent weeks running from home to meetings and discovered other ways to improve their fitness. Jack Brightwell said, "We tried out several new sports such as volley ball and cycling. I'm now much fitter than I was."

The six tested their team spirit with community challenges. Group Scout Leader Sarah Panton said, "They did a great job clearing away about a ton of submerged debris from a water-filled ditch at our camp site and getting thoroughly muddy in the process."

A global challenge saw them heading off for Haarlem in Holland on the North Sea coast near Amsterdam. It was the site of the Dutch Jamboree where they met Scouts from other countries and were amazed at how much they had in common.

Chris Panton said, "We also completed our outdoor and expedition challenges with hikes we planned around the town best known for its tulip fields. We learned how to tie knots, light fires and cook our meals over them. And we spent time understanding how to use knives and axes safely. It was cool! I even learned how to abseil, build a raft and use a longbow."

The six Scouts camped out for a combined record of over 350 nights on the three year route to their award. They now move on to the Explorer Scout Unit and yet more challenges.



# St George's Square Luton Scouts Day

Shoppers and passers-by enjoying the summer sunshine were given a grandstand view of what Scouting offers in Luton's St George's Square one weekend in July. The challenges were fast and furious all day with all manner of events to entertain and wonder at. Organised by a committee of 7 Scouters, chaired by DC Kam Patel, the event brought together the talents of all three districts in the town.

Young people could have a go at a 30 foot climbing wall and other less energetic activities. Teams of Scouts took part in a cannon run with the guns constructed out of wooden panels held together with pegs. The route took in the new water feature in the square so everyone was soaked. At the end of the run the teams had to reassemble the cannons and fire a woollen ball from them.

Sells Seventh Scout Group put on an impressive pioneering demonstration to show how to build a bridge out of poles and rope. Lea Valley Cubs and Scouts spent their time cooking all manner of delicious foods ready for lunch.

An amateur radio station on site brought messages of support from European contacts throughout the day giving the event an international flavour.

Special guests who took part in the cannon run were County Commissioner John Duley and Mayor of Luton Cllr Mohammed Riaz. They were matched against a team of Beaver Scouts – and lost!

The day ended with a traditional camp fire sing-a-long led by Assistant County Commissioner (Cub Scouts) Alan Burnham.





When Scouts take their annual summer camp it's not unusual for them to get their hands dirty. But this year, Brocks Explorer Unit from Maulden decided to take it a step further. Their week-long trip to Cromer in Norfolk ended with eight of the twenty one Scouts getting covered from head to toe in a spectacular mud-fight. Only their eyes were visible. They all left feeling refreshed and smooth thanks to the mud treatment that's been a tradition in the Unit for seven years. "We can recommend mud baths for your complexion," said the girls. Their male companions just grinned.

During the week they took part in a breathless range of exciting activities including go-karting, an assault course and a high ropes device that had them suspended 60 feet in the air. This was a highlight for many of them. Four of the Explorers were also invested into the Unit during the week by Major Anthony Gurney, 84 who owns the fields they camped on. When asked about his involvement in Scouting he said, "Scouts have used these fields since 1926." He added, "I was surprised at the number of females in the Unit. They weren't allowed in my day. I can see it must be an excellent experience for the young women you have." Major Gurney is the District President of North East Norfolk Scouts.

Explorer Scouts Robert Johnson, 16, and Charlotte Adams 17, agreed. Robert said: "I think it's fantastic. It allows access to a lot more people and creates a greater social atmosphere. And it doesn't soften the activities for the boys. It's great fun for everyone." He added, "I've grown up around Scouting and I think it's a great way to make good friends and take part in activities that normally I would have little chance of doing in my spare time."

Charlotte added, "I was jealous of the things my brother was getting up to so I decided to give it a go. I've loved it ever since."

The highlight of the week for both of them was the chance to take a bath with a difference. Robert said, "The mud fight was something else. It was really good fun, And it's great that we did something crazy to end our week".

Charlotte, who was also in the mud fight, said: "It was hilarious, and got very competitive, even if it took a while to get the mud off and out of the clothes. My mum wasn't impressed with the washing when I arrived home!" Explorer Scout Leader Dave Davies, who organized the camp, just shrugged and said, "Well, that's teenagers for you."

# James Ward

## Has the lot

A Cub Scout from the 1<sup>st</sup> Linslade Scout Group has just gained his 33<sup>rd</sup>, and last, activity badge and a place in the record books. He is the first in Bedfordshire to gain every possible award and only the fourth in the UK.

James Ward, 10 started his record breaking run with a fitness challenge two years ago. He said, "I ran and did exercises to improve my stamina." A year later, and halfway through his mammoth haul, he gained his water activities badge, a stage two swimmer award and demonstrated his seafaring skills in a kayak. He remarked, "I love anything to do with water."

He is an astronomer, enjoys camping, takes part in martial arts, does scientific experiments and skates. Earlier this year, to the astonishment of his parents, he learned horse riding and animal care for his equestrian badge. "That's when I knew he was going for the full armful," said his mother.

For one of his final badges James demonstrated his mountain biking skills to gain his cyclist badge. This also involved a knowledge of road safety and cycle care. His last Cub Scout meeting before joining his Scout Troop was an evening cycle ride with his 26-strong Cub Scout Pack around Tiddenfoot Pit organised by Cub Scout Leader Tracey.

His mother Maxine reckons she has sewn on every badge except one as part of her contribution to the record. Now she's expecting to continue with more badges when James moves to the Scouts in October.



James has gained his: Air Activities; Animal Carer; Artist; Astronomer; Athlete; Athlete Plus; Book Reader; Camper; Chef; Collector; Communicator; Cyclist; DIY; Entertainer; Equestrian; Global Conservation; Hobbies; Home Help; Home Safety; Local Knowledge; Map Reader; Martial Arts; My Faith; Naturalist; Navigator; Personal Safety; Physical Recreation; Road Safety; Scientist; Skater; Sports Enthusiast; Water Activities; World Faiths Activity Badges. He has also gained his Emergency Aid; Hikes Away; Information Technology; Musician; Nights Away and Swimmers Staged Badges. Not forgetting his: Promise Challenge;; Creative Challenge; Community Challenge; Fitness Challenge; Global Challenge; Outdoor Challenge; Outdoor Plus Challenge and finally, his Silver Chief Scout Award.

# Caddington Scout Group's

# Badge Mountain

Twenty four Beaver and Cub Scouts from the Caddington Scout Group collected a record 100 challenge and activity badges at their end of term meeting at Four Ends School. Around 90 parents, leaders and friends filled the school hall to see Group Scout Leader Rita Tims and her Beaver Scout Leader Janet Kay make the record breaking presentation. It was the climax of the year for these young Scouts.

During the meeting they enjoyed a range of activities that will go towards more badges. They decorated biscuits with icing, fruit and sweets for their creative badge. They made colourful spiders out of dyed pipe cleaners for an artist badge. And they showed their map reading skills for yet another badge.

For Cub Scout Sam Booth, 8 this was a family affair as Dad and Mum helped her find 12 locations on a map covering a

complicated course over unfamiliar territory. The map covered Newport in South Wales. One of many Beaver Scouts found biscuit making more to his taste as part of his Creative Badge. He even went back for seconds and thirds just to make sure he knew how to do it properly.

Among the many awards the most deserving was the Gordon Wellstead Memorial Trophy which went to Cub Scout Harry Richardson, 8, as the most improved Scout in the group. He said, "My best friend won it last year so I'm really proud to be chosen this year." The award was presented by Rob and Doris Wellstead on behalf of Gordon a long time member of the group.

Four Cub Scouts, Dylan, Christian, Owen and Jamie received their Chief Scout Silver Award the top honour for Cubs. All four will now move to the Scout section in the nearby village of Slip End.





Badge. For this they were trained by Scout Leaders and radio enthusiasts Roger Swann, Brendan Owen and Nick Jarman.

They learned about the airways and signal strength, international call signs and the phonetic alphabet as well as establishing personal radio contact with 25 overseas stations. Ray Aldous said, "They did remarkably well and learnt an awful lot. Many contacts gave them full marks for clarity and wished them every success."

On Sunday afternoon, after successfully completing a 30 minute test, all five received their special award from tutor Roger Swann. He said, "All of them are almost up to the standard for their 1<sup>st</sup> stage Novice award from the Radio Amateur Association." He added, "These days we no longer teach them semaphore or morse code but they do have to recognise call signs and be able to use the phonetic alphabet for direct voice links. They are a credit to their Scout Groups."

Jamboree-on-the-Air started as an experiment in 1957 at the Sutton Coldfield international gathering of Scouts and has been organised as an annual event ever since. It brings together Scouts from over 200 countries to share a common brotherhood. Surprisingly, language is not a barrier. The universal language of the airwaves is English.



In a weekend of hectic activity, Luton Scouts connected to Scouts all over the world for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air. It was their chance to share Scouting experiences with Scouts in many countries who were all

taking part in this amateur radio event of the airwaves.

Helped by veteran radio amateur Ray Aldous, the Scouts spoke to contacts as far afield as the USA, Finland and a radio station north of Moscow. Other links included Greece, Italy, Hungary and Holland. Apart from numerous contacts in the UK and Ireland, the Scouts spent some time learning about international Scouting from the World Scout Headquarters in Geneva.

Five of the Scouts: Aaron Chamberlain of Manor Scout Group, Jake Cady who is with the Warden Hills Scout Group and Daniel Hard, Nathan Roser and Nathan Baker from St Augustine's Scout Group devoted their entire weekend to completing their Communicators



Friday 20 November  
**Children in Need**

# NOTICEBOARD



**International  
Peace Light  
Services**



Bedfordshire Pilgrims (WSJ Sweden 2011) Contingent selection camp is taking place on the weekend of 21st & 22nd November. Candidates will take part in team building exercises and will also be interviewed by the leadership team to gain a place in the contingent that will be going to the Jamboree.



## **Sport Relief 2010 19 - 21st March**

**Rise to the challenge and  
take part in a  
Sainsbury's Sport  
Relief Mile**

**1,3 or 6 Miles it's your  
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**For more information  
<http://www.sportrelief.com>**

This year, the peace light is being collected from the Holy Land between the 21st and 28th November and will arrive in Vienna on the 12th December.

From Vienna, the Peace Light will commence it's long journey to all the corners of the Earth and will be coming to Luton and Bedford during the week beginning 14th December.

Keep an eye on the County Web Site for updates on these local services nearer the time.

# TRAINING 2009 & 2010

A Food Hygiene Course has been organised for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at Lea Scout HQ, Luton.

This course is industry recognized and can be used 'outside of Scouting'. It is a good way of asking Wood Badge holders to continuing their personal development or just to give the 'camp cook' some good food hygiene knowledge.

The course is moderated by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and is the Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering.

This is a 6 hour course (09:30 – 16:30) covering the topics listed below.

1. The law
2. Food Safety Hazards
3. Temperature Control
4. Food Handlers
5. Principals of safe food storage
6. Cleaning
7. Food Premises and equipment

At the end of the course the candidates will be able to complete a multiple choice examination. There are 30 questions to be answered and if the candidates get 20 questions correct they will receive a Food Hygiene Certificate which is valid for 3 years.

As this course is not a 'standard' Scouting modular course, there will be a fee of £35 per candidate, payable upon booking. This covers the course fees, examination and certificate. Guides, friends, work colleagues are welcome to attend the course, booking via the County Office.

As this is a very popular course don't forget to book early to avoid disappointment.

The Training Calendar for 2010 is available for download from the County Web Site along with directions to the Training Centres  
Visit the Adult Support pages at  
<http://www.bedfordshirescouts.org.uk>

# Supporting your local Scout camp sites

## HENLOW

Boyd Campsite, Church Road, Henlow  
(Biggleswade District Campsite)

Warden: P Bellamy  
Boyd Campsite, Church Road,  
Henlow, SG16 6AR

Site Tel: 01462 811424  
info@boydcampsite.com  
[www.boydcampsite.com](http://www.boydcampsite.com)

## JORDANS CLOSE

New Road, Great Barford, Bedford  
(Bedford District Campsite)

Warden: David White  
4 Fair Way, Great Barford,  
Bedford MK44 3LT

Tel: 01234 870837  
dw@great-barford.demon.co.uk

## LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Memorial HQ, Grovebury Road  
(1st Leighton Buzzard Group Campsite)

Bookings: Sarah Roberts  
Tel: 01525 854159

## LONGROVE

Studham, Bedfordshire  
(Studham, Kensworth & Whipsnade Group's site)

Bookings: Jenny Rushmer  
60 Church Road, Studham,  
Dunstable, Beds LU6 2QA

Tel: 01582 872567

## MILTON BRYAN

Church End, Milton Bryan, Beds  
(Amphill & Woburn District Campsite)

Bookings: Julie Richards  
2 Recreation Road, Houghton Regis,  
LU5 5JW Tel: 01582-611943  
kennith.richards@ntlworld.com

## SHARNBROOK

Yelnow Lane, Sharnbrook, Beds  
(Sharnbrook Group Campsite)

Bookings: Dr J Best  
1 Windmill Court  
High Street, Sharnbrook  
Beds MK44 1PG  
Tel: 01234 782223

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For availability or a brochure please call Rita Lewis on 01234 824080  
or email: [bromham.camp@btconnect.com](mailto:bromham.camp@btconnect.com)

**Bedfordshire Countywide Outlook** is produced and edited by Mark Webb (Won-tolla).

The Managing Editor is Peter Sutherst, and the Editor-in-chief is John Duley.

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