



countywide outlook ... Scouting in Bedfordshire

December 2005

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a Merry Christmas to all our readers

award congratulations

Bar to the Medal of Merit

County

Tom Eastwood, County Treasurer

Bedford District

Carol Bandy	CSL	78th Cardington
Michael Cox	CSL	Clapham
Pete Kennedy	ASL	78th Cardington
Kathleen Lightbody	Pack Assistant	Holy Cross Goldington
Graham Merrick	ACSL	Putnoe
Richard Merryweather	GSL	Brickhill

Medal of Merit

County

Paul Ibbotson	County Chairman
Gerry Pope	ACC International

Bedford District

John Barnes	AGSL	Oakley
Derrick Painter	GSL	Oakley

Biggleswade District

Keith Bennett DC

Icknield District

David Gilkison	DCSL
John Worthington	DCSL

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Icknield District

Janet Gilkison	Group Secretary	Barton
Michael Meadows	ACSL	The Manor

Somerles District

Kamlesh Patel	BSL	3rd Somerles
Sharon Wise-Sharp	ACSL	16th Somerles

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If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy please notify the County Office

The editorial team is happy to include any relevant material provided it reaches the office before the copy dates: 15th January, March, June, September & November 2006





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news from the county commissioner

Friends,

Scouting in Bedfordshire continues to deliver a sound and exciting Programme to all young members, it is a delight to be able to join in a weekly meeting and see just what a young member experiences. The face of a young member tells me just how much he or she has enjoyed the evening and how much they are looking forward to the following meeting. A very big thank you to all Leaders and Supporters who give so much each and every week, you are all to be congratulated for the dedication shown.

Changes in appointment – Russell Ireson is now ACC BS and Sandie Nelson ACC CS. Please support Russell and Sandie by attending their forums, they both have plans for their Sections for the coming year to celebrate Beaver Scouts 20th Birthday and Cub Scouts 90th Birthday.

Someris have a new District Commissioner, welcome Kam Patel. Kam is looking forward to building his team and growing Scouting in the district. My thanks must go to Brian Goodchild the retiring District Commissioner for all his sterling work over many years, thanks Brian.

We welcome Steve Holman as ACC ES, Steve was working with the young leaders in Bedford and Ouse Valley prior to this appointment.

John Woodham has agreed to remain the Counties Safety Officer and is working hard to disseminate information gained after attending information/training days at HQ.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing Sandie, Russell, Kam, Steve and John success in their appointments.

County Camp 2007 – The Duke of Bedford has agreed to host our County Camp within the grounds of Woburn Abbey. The dates are Friday 4th May until Monday 7th May 2007. The cost will be announced in due course. I do hope that all districts will take part in this celebration of 100 years of Scouting. I can promise you a fantastic weekend full of FUN and SURPRISES!

December is a magical time for young people and sometimes their enthusiasm spills over into the Section meeting after taking part in Christmas festivities during the day at school. We should encompass that enthusiasm and channel it into the Programme so that the section meeting has that 'edge' leading up to Christmas. It maybe that you will have young members taking part in your Carol Service or you may be putting on a 'nativity' or a 'parents evening' whichever you do have a good time!

I look forward to attending as many Carol Services as I can, you never know we may have snow this year to make it even more magical!

Christmas is a time to reflect and spend time with your families. You deserve a break to do just that. My sincere thanks for all that you have done for Scouting in 2005.

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

That's all for now.
Take care.

directory updates

District	Appointment	Update
County	New ACC ES	
A & W	Appointment Sec	Telephone
Bedford	101st Kempston ADC BS	New GSL Cancellation
Biggleswade	New District Treasurer Anthony Gill - ESL	Address
Dunstable	7th Dunstable	New Contact
Icknield	Trevor Luckett - ESL	Address/Tel
Lea valley	New ADC Activities New Group—25th Beech Hill ISD Strathmore - GSL	New email
LL	New District Secretary 1st LL Site	Contact
Ouse valley	New District Chairman Harrold & Riseley	New GSL
Someris	Ross Park	Contact



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around the districts

Camping in the Czech Republic

This summer saw a group of Scouts from the 24th Someries (St Annes) Scout Troop undertake an adventure they will all remember forever. The 12 Scouts and 4 Leaders headed off to the Czech Republic as they took part in the return leg of an exchange with a Troop from Prague.

The camp was a lot different to those normally experienced by the Luton Scouts as they had wooden tents and a shower that you needed a friend to pump while you washed. The group flew from Gatwick to Prague where their Czech counterparts greeted them, and they were then taken to a site in the Czech wilderness for their week's camp.

The group constructed a Tepee and slept in it and also enjoyed day trips to two nearby towns. One Scout said "In Prague it was a great week and it was very different to camping in England. It was worth the journey and all the walking. I think the rest of our troop enjoyed it. Thanks to all the leaders we managed to have an excellent camp."

The group returned home at 2:00 am tired but full of stories from their adventure. The camp was a



fine culmination to the 3 years of hard work put in by Ian Williams Scout Leader of the 24th Scout Troop.

An older Scout, 24th Someries

The Southern 50 Challenge

The event is for teams of 4 and is open to all members of the Scout or Guide Movements over the age of 14 years. There are THREE routes, 50 miles and 50km open to all, and a 30km route for Explorer Scouts only. The event is a test of good orienteering as well as physical ability and good team-work and, unlike other well known hikes, local knowledge will not be of help as the route will not be disclosed until the day of the event. All teams therefore start with exactly the same chance of winning a trophy. It is this difference that has made the 'Southern 50 Challenge' a successful and rewarding event in the past and, we hope, for many more years to come

The walk starts at 06.00hrs on Saturday 11th February 2006 when the first two teams depart. Subsequent teams will then depart at timed intervals. A presentation ceremony will be held on Sunday 12th February at 10.00hrs. Indoor accommodation on Friday and Saturday included along with meals.

The majority of this walk will take place in the Chiltern Hills around and through Buckinghamshire and surrounding Counties. It can be very demanding due to the undulating terrain and the possibility of adverse weather conditions at this time of the year.

Greater London North Scout County

Contact: Walk Secretary Tel: 020 8361 2830 or 020 8886 5480

E-mail: southern50@hotmail.com
www.scouts-gln-southern50.org.uk

Tsunami Scout Aid Fund Update

The UK's 500,000 Scouts who have extended the hand of friendship to Scouts in disaster areas affected by Boxing Day's surprise tsunami earthquake have already raised over £148,000 to aid the world wide "Tsunami Scout Aid fund".

Check out the website at:

www.scout.org/tsunami/tsunami_tsacontrib_e.shtml

Thank you to all those who contributed



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adult training

2006 Training Courses

All at Bromham

Closing date 6 weeks prior

Mod 3 and 18 full day

Sunday 8th January
 Saturday 4th March
 Sunday 7th May
 Sunday 10th September
 Saturday 4th November

Mod 4 Tools for the Job (Managers) evening

Tuesday 7th March
 Thursday 19th October

Mods 5, 7, 8 & 9 Saturday & Sunday (not overnight)

11th & 12th March
 (5 and 7 on Saturday, 8 and 9 on Sunday)
 23th & 24th September
 (8 and 9 on Saturday, 5 and 7 on Sunday)

Mod 10 First Response full day

Saturday 7th January
 Sunday 5th March
 Saturday 6th May
 Saturday 9th September
 Sunday 26th November

Mods 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 19 Saturday and Sunday (not overnight)

20th & 21st May
 (11, 12 & 14 on Saturday, 13, 15, 19 on Sunday)
 18th & 19th November
 (13, 15 & 19 on Saturday, 11, 12 & 14 on Sunday)

Mods 16 & 17 Monday evening and Friday to Sunday (includes two overnights)

Monday 13th March and 31st March to 2nd April
 Monday 4th September and 6th to 8th October

Mods 20, 22 & 23 full day

Saturday 4th February
 Sunday 15th October

Mod 21 full day

Sunday 25th June

Mods 24 or 26 part day (depending on attendees' roles)

Saturday 22nd April
 Sunday 3rd December

Mod 25 Assessing Learning full day

Sunday 5th February
 Saturday 24th June
 Saturday 14th October
 Saturday 2nd December

Mods 28 & 29 Saturday and Sunday (not overnight)

18th & 19th February

Modules 1 and 6 to be delivered in District after consultation with the LTM.

Modules 27 and 30 to 36 will be arranged when the need arises.

How to Apply

Please contact your relevant Local Training Manager for details on how to register:

Alec Hissett	01767 650052	Amphill and Woburn, Icknield, Lea Valley, Leighton Linlade and Someries
Pearl Farr	01234 300506	Bedford, Biggleswade and Ouse Valley
David Betterton	01525 222135	Dunstable



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Under 8s at Cub Scout Meetings

There have been numerous questions asked over the confusion of just when a Beaver Scout may attend Cub Scout meetings and on the number of outings allowed per year. Below are the guidelines written by Stephen Peck, Director of Programme and Development and David Shelmerdine, Secretary of the Scout Association for your information.

Background

This note provides clarification and briefing on an issue that has been the subject of some confusion recently. This note supersedes all other information and advice which you may have heard or been given previously.

The basis of this issue is first the Children Act 1989 states (In summary) that young people under the age of 8 years may not be out of the care of their parents for more than two hours, unless that care provision is registered with the local authority under the Act and open to inspection by OFSTED. The Act applies to England and Wales. Similar legislation applies to Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The Current Situation

Despite strenuous efforts to obtain a definitive answer there remains no statutory definition of 'care' in the Act. Therefore it is still unclear whether the regulations apply to Cub Scout meetings. It is unlikely that we will be able to get a definitive answer and therefore we must continue to advise Leaders not to have under 8s at Cub Scout meetings.

The two hour rule applies from the time an under 8 is placed in the 'care' of another to the time that the parent resumes that care. This will often be longer than the actual Section meeting. So our advice to the Movement must remain – as are the current rules – that under 8s should not attend Cub Scout meetings.

Guidance

When giving advice to Leaders and other members of the movement in England and Wales the following may help.

'At the current time, and despite numerous efforts by Headquarters, it has not been possible to get a clear statement from the Department of Education and Skills that under 8s may attend Cub Scout meetings on a regular basis without the possibility that the Pack may need to register as a 'care' provider with the local authority. We are therefore continuing to advise that under 8s should not

attend Cub Scout meetings. This is in order to protect Leaders from potentially contravening the Act.

It is tempting to get into a discussion about the 'two hour' rule. This is very unhelpful as it can appear to provide a loophole. Any local interpretation of the Act could result in our Leaders contravening the law. Our position remains (as it always has been) that Leaders should not have the responsibility of making these decisions – hence the clear unambiguous statement above.

This advice will need to stay in place until the relevant authorities are able to provide absolute clarity on whether Scouting activities are exempt under the Act. This may never be obtained.

Link Activities

Given the above link activities between Beaver Scout Colony and Cub Scout Pack will need to be handled very carefully. Two positive suggestions are that older Cubs could attend Beaver Scout meetings to explain to the Beaver Scouts about how the Pack operates and what they can expect when they become a Cub. It would also be possible for Beavers to attend Pack meetings with their parents in attendance. This approach has the benefit of enabling the Beavers to be part of the Pack meeting and provides an opportunity for the parents to meet the Leaders and for them to see what happens at a Pack meeting.

Sleepovers

Exemptions in the Act indicate that the Scout Association's rules and guidelines for Sleepovers are unaffected.

Day Trips

Advice given for provisions for day trips for Beaver Scouts remains unaffected. Up to 5 visits of over 2 hours a year to unregistered venues are permitted under the Children's Act. Unregistered venues are likely to be campsites, school fields etc. There is no restriction for visits to registered public places such as Zoos, Theme Parks etc.

If you have any questions about this issue or are concerned in any way please contact the Programme & Development Department at Gilwell Park.



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Bedfordshire Beaver Scouts 20th Birthday Bash (Wet and Wild)

2006 marks the 20th anniversary of Beaver Scouting in the UK mainland. To celebrate this event, the County Beaver Scout Forum are planning an event similar to the Beaver Scout Dome Day held in 2000 to celebrate the new millennium.

The Bedfordshire Beaver Scouts 20th Birthday Bash (Wet and Wild) will take place at the Leslie Sell Activity Centre, Bromham, on Saturday 13th May. It is hoped that all Districts will attend, giving a potential attendance of 1200 Beaver Scouts.

The fee for Beaver Scouts will be £5.00, to cover the cost of brought-in activities and instructors, drinks throughout the day and a commemorative clock to make and take home. There will be no charge for adults attending as helpers/leaders or organisers.

Transportation to and from the venue will be the responsibility of groups/districts.

The day will start at 10 am and finish at 4.30 pm although Districts will be advised of staggered arrival and departure times to avoid traffic congestion.

All Beaver Scouts should travel to and from Bromham in full uniform. They should bring with them an old set of clothes, including footwear, which will not hurt if they get muddy, swimwear, a tee shirt and a small towel for any water based activities such

as a water slide. There will be no swimming or deep water activities. Everyone, including adults will require a packed Lunch.

The activities during the course of the day will be split into three main zones, the Wet Zone, the Craft and Cooking Zone, and the Frontier / Wild West Zone. The day will end with a traditional Camp Fire.

In order to run this event successfully, the Beaver Scouts will require a high degree of supervision. It is therefore proposed that BSL's stay with their own colonies as they go around the activities. Cub Scout leaders from across the County will be asked to help man the activity bases. Please bare in mind the recommended ratio of one adult to four Beaver Scouts when taking part in outdoor activities.

Each District should provide a tent, or tents, large enough to accommodate their own Beaver Scouts' personal belongings. The tents may also be required as changing rooms and in the event of bad weather, for lunch and for taking shelter.

If you would like to be kept updated on how the plans are progressing, please send me your contact details.

Russell Ireson, ACC Beaver Scouts
russell.ireson@ntlworld.com . 01582 346124



THE NATIONAL SCOUT & GUIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"Where else could you turn up as a stranger and leave having met some of the best friends of your life?"

The National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra started in 1976 and has met annually all over the United Kingdom ever since.

The NSGSO brings together about 70 young people every year for a seven day course which normally ends with two public concerts of varied and challenging music. All members of the Orchestra are active members of the Scout Association or Girlguiding UK, aged between 13 and 30 and are proficient players of at least one orchestral instrument. The course is led by an experienced orchestral conductor and supported by a team of professional musicians as section tutors. Intensive rehearsals are interspersed with an active programme of varied sports, crafts, Scouting and Guiding activities. The 2006 course will be held in the south west, venue yet to be confirmed, from Sunday 30th July to Sunday 6th August.

Application Forms for the 2006 course now available.

Enquiries: Derek Jackson, Organiser. Tel: 01189 341 939 E-mail: djnsngo@yahoo.co.uk



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notice board

Founder's Day 2006

The 2006 Founder's Day/Thinking Day Service will take place on Saturday 18 February at Westminster Abbey and Westminster Methodist Central Hall in London. Admission to both services is by ticket only and attendance is open to all Members of the Movement. It is hoped that young people will be given every encouragement to attend the services.

Whilst exact times have yet to be confirmed, we expect the doors to open at approximately 10am and the services to finish around midday.

If you would like tickets for either of the services, please contact the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818 by 23 December 2005.

Gilwell Winter Camp

The winter camp will be taking place from 6-8 January 2006 and approximately 2,000 young people are expected to be camping in the worst of the British weather. The activity camp for Scouts, Guides, Explorers and Rangers will provide a huge range of activities, from a Log Flume and Dodgems to old favourites such as a simulator and quasar. More adventurous ones should include quad bikes and climbing.

For more information and a booking form please see www.wintercamp.org.uk or call Gilwell Park on 020 8498 5411

Nights away

The Programme Team at Gilwell Park is keen to find out just how many 'nights away' young people can and do achieve between joining Beavers and leaving Explorer Scouts. We know for example that some 6000 Nights Away (stage 5 - for 50 nights) were awarded last year - but how many Scouts now far exceed this figure? If you, or your Scouts have exceeded this amount, or you have a view about how we recognise residential experiences, the Programme team would very much like to hear from you on programme@scout.org.uk.

Get cracking with the new Cub Scout Badge

A Special Chef's Badge for Cub Scouts has just been launched, so it's time to get cracking! Sponsored by Lion Quality egg producers, the Leader packs are free and contain a full colour poster with activity sheets that can be photocopied. For each Cub Scout there's also an 'Easy Eggs' leaflet full of fun ideas to take home.

To celebrate the launch of the new Chef's Badge and Crack an Egg Month, there is also a smashing competition that Cub Scouts can enter. See the new Scouting magazine (page 81) to find out how one of your Cub Scouts could win a family trip to Centre Parcs and £250 for your Pack!

The Leader's pack is available through the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.

How far will you go to protect the planet?

After the tremendous success of last year's event, The Gimmie 5 Challenge will be taking place in 2006, from 18-26 March, and this year there are some more great challenge ideas to inspire you!

The Gimmie 5 Challenge is a fantastic fundraising initiative that has been created between The Scout Association, and WWF, the global conservation organisation. Money raised will be split equally between The Scout Association's World Friendship Appeal, which provides financial assistance for Scouts from around the world to attend the Centenary World Scout Jamboree, and WWF's international projects which protect habitats and rare and endangered species. Groups that take part can also keep 25 per cent of the money they raise!

Log onto www.gimmie5.org.uk to download your 2006 Challenge Pack



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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CAMPSITES

HENLOW

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

Warden:

P Bellamy

Boyd Campsite, Church Road,
Henlow, SG16 6AR

Site Tel: 01462 811424

boyd@campsite.freeserve.co.uk

paulbellamyuk@hotmail.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 01525 854159

LONGROVE

Studham, Bedfordshire
(Studham, Kensworth & Whipsnade
Group Campsite)

Bookings:

John Coleman

40 Northview Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Beds LU5 5AH

Tel: 01582 613150

MILTON BRYAN

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

Bookings

Julie Richards, 2 Recreation Road,
Houghton Regis, LU5 5JW 01582-611943

kennith.richards@ntlworld.com

Warden:

Phil Thorogood—01908 583335

8 Chapel Street, Woburn Sands, MK17
8PG

Phil@berti2000.fsnet.co.uk

SHARNBROOK

Yelnow Lane, Sharnbrook, Beds
(Sharnbrook Group Campsite)

Bookings:

Dr J Best

1 Windmill Court

High Street, Sharnbrook

Beds MK44 1PG

Tel: 01234 782223

The Leslie Sell Activity Centre Molivers Lane, Bromham, Bedford

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bromham.camp@btinternet.com