



countywide outlook ... scouting in bedfordshire

April 2004

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congratulations

awards

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Rex Rothwell-Jackson, Chairman Walton Firs
David White, ACC Scout Fellowship

Silver Acorn

Cynthia Sutherst, County Archivist

Medal of Merit

Martin Clarke, DESL, Bedford
Gillian Guess, ADC GD, Leighton Linlade

news from the county commissioner

Friends,
I must congratulate Dunstable and Ouse Valley as their membership has increased. Well done to Dick Short and Martin Clark! Unfortunately I have to report that our membership overall has decreased, the largest decrease being in the Beaver Scout Section. Seven Districts have fewer members.

Martin Wesley DCC for Development has been talking to DCs on just how plans can be put in place to help grow the Sections and Leader Teams. Make sure that your Group has a development meeting planned with Martin and that you are looking at ways of increasing your membership, because every young person in Bedfordshire deserves to benefit from Scouting.

Saint George's day is almost upon us. This is an opportunity for us to be seen by the public as we parade and celebrate this important day. Please remember, if we are to be seen as part of the largest youth movement in the world, we must be seen to be wearing the correct uniform. We are a movement and we have moved on to a more up to date style, one where young

county directory amendments

A & W Bedford	8	Change of details for District Chairman & Treasurer
	10	New contact details for DC—County Commissioner Delete DESL—Young Leader Unit
	11	Change of GSL details for Holy Cross Goldington & Great Barford
Biggleswade	12	Delete ADC AT
	13	New GSL for 1st Langford
County	6	New email for County Archivist
Dunstable	14	New contact for 9th Dunstable
Guides	23	New telephone number for County Secretary
Lea Valley	17	Chiltern & Air Scouts merged to form Lea Group New ADC S, DCSL and District Secretary Delete ADC Activities
Somerley	20	Delete 26th Somerley, merged with 2nd Somerley New Email for Scout Shop Manager

The County Chairman and County Commissioner
invite

All Leaders, Assistants, Helpers, Instructors, Administrators
& Scout Fellowship

to

Bedfordshire Scouts Annual General Meeting

to be held on Wednesday 19 May Commencing at 7.45 pm
at The Rufus Centre, Steppingly Road, Flitwick.

Produced by Bedfordshire County Scout Council, The County Scout Office, The Leslie Sell Activity Centre, Molivers Lane, Bromham, MK43 8LD, Tel/Fax: 01234 826079,
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The editorial team is happy to include any relevant material provided it reaches the office before 10 am on the relevant copy date: 15th of May, July, September & November 2004





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news from the county commissioner (continued)

members had a say in it's design and colour. Don't let any adult in Bedfordshire disappoint a young member by wearing 'old style' clothing, which is not uniform any longer.

I must congratulate 'Bromham Group - Livingstone Pack' who recently held a fundraising evening, the theme being 'James Bond'. The amount raised was £142.12 and has been donated to The Leslie Sell Training and Activity Centre towards the new ablution block, many thanks to you all it is much appreciated and will help with the final funding of this development.

The County Downsman Challenge for Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network ran over the weekend 13/15 February, based at Youlbury Campsite in Oxfordshire. It certainly was a weekend of strenuous incident packed adventure, mud, FUN and of course purple ducks! My congratulations to those who took part, you certainly showed your true Scouting spirit and my sincere thanks to Nev and his team for the excellent planning and running of the event. Watch out for the dates of next year's challenge!

The camping season is upon us and if we are to get the OUT into our Scouting we have to be prepared. Is our equipment ready, has it been checked since it last went out, do we need to replace or purchase new equipment? All are necessary check points prior to each

'Residential Experience' to ensure you are ready to enjoy the experience without having to panic at the last minute about equipment!

The new modular training is progressing very well and I have to thank our County Training Manager Alec Hissett and his team for all their hard work. Last weekend saw the first of the 'Residential Experience' training ie modules 16, 17, & 18. It was a FUN weekend with leaders taking part from all Sections. Everyone looked completely shattered as they went out the door, but they were still smiling, so that said it all. Well done to all those who attended!

The District & Group AGM season kicks off with Ampthill and Woburn District on Thursday 6th May, if you have not heard when your AGM is ask your GSL. It is certainly a meeting you should attend and hopefully you will all encourage the parents of your young members to attend also. Why not encourage the young members to actually take part, this is always a pleasure and something which ensures everyone is involved. The County AGM is on Wednesday 19th May to which everyone is invited to attend. I shall look forward to seeing you all there.

The next edition of Countywide Outlook is not until June, some of you will already have enjoyed residential experiences by then as well as many other outdoor activities. What ever you take part in make sure that everything is safe:
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- Has the 'risk assessment' been carried out?
- Are there sufficient leaders?
- Have the leaders the correct qualifications?
- Is everybody wearing the correct clothing for the activity?
- Is the correct equipment being used?
- When everything is in place, is everybody having FUN!

Take care.

St George's Day on 23 April celebrates the patron saint of England and Scouting. It is believed that George held an important post in the Roman army under the reign of Emperor Dioclesian. Dioclesian persecuted christians and George was put to death for his strong faith and for speaking out against the emperor's prejudice.

According to legend, St George slayed a dragon that was terrorising Libya and eating the sheep they relied on for food. The dragon was about to kill a princess when St George killed it with a blow from his lance. Afterwards, George preached to the locals and converted them to Christianity. For his bravery the king gave George money, which he gave to the needy. Due to his chivalrous behaviour (protecting women, fighting evil, dependence on faith and helping the poor), devotion to St George became popular in Europe after the 10th century and he was named as the patron saint of England.



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Activities News ...

Events...

Target Sports Group

The target sport group is aimed at adults who want to do either archery or shooting. The group is open to all Leaders, Helpers, Network members, and administrators from novices to the experienced marksmen. The aim of the group is to give adults an opportunity to either learn how to shoot, improve their skills or just to meet other adults from around the county and swap ideas. The sessions, based at Bromham, cost £3 and the dates for 2004 are 23 May, 18 July, 26 September and 21 November.



Climbing Group

A lot like the target sports group, but based on climbing. Open to all members of the association over the age of 18 who are interested in either learning new skills or brushing up their technique. The group will be based at Boyd Field, Henlow. The first meeting of the group will be on Sunday the 18th of April between 2pm and 4pm and the session will cost £3.

If you're interested in either Group, contact Trevor Sharp (Trevor.Sharp@comau.co.uk) for more information and to reserve a place.

Training...

Archery and Rifle Shooting Courses at Gilwell Park

There is a four day GNAS Archery Course being run on April 3rd, 4th, 17th and 18th, 2004. The cost is £195.00 including lunch and dinner and camping. There is also an NSRA Rifle Shooting Course on 17 April. The cost is £50 including lunch. For more information on either of these please contact Gilwell Park Camp Office (020 8498 5411) for more details.

Possible Archery Course within the county

I have had the offer of a GNAS archery course to be run within the county but we need eight people to register an interest for this to be considered. If you would like to register an interest, then please contact Trevor Sharp (Trevor.sharp@comau.co.uk). Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis. When there are enough applicants Trevor will arrange the course and forward the information about dates, price etc., at which point the first eight people on the list who are still able to attend will get places.

Mountain Leader Training

The 2004 West Lancashire Mountain Leader Training Programme for this year includes a number of opportunities for Leaders looking for Single Pitch Award Training and Assessment as well as Mountain Leader Award Training. Details from:- <http://www.mountain.westlancashirescouts.org.uk/>

Resources...

Urban Outdoors

The new urban outdoors website has been launched to promote the new free Urban Outdoors programme support material. It's aim is to promote activities in the urban environment and highlights ways that activities can be incorporated into your normal meetings. See the website, <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/urbanoutdoors/> or contact the Headquarters Info Centre (0845) 300 1818 for more details



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the county **DOWNSMAN** event

A few of the Downsman team came to Harlington on 23rd January to give the Explorers a taste of what the Downsman was all about. There was a short film to watch and then several bases to try. At the end of the evening the Explorers were very keen to go on the Downsman Weekend. I was really surprised when two Explorers who have always been reluctant to camp, even in the summer, were suddenly very keen to camp in February.

In the end 12 Harlington Explorers took part, aged from 13½ to 17½, making 3 teams. There were several Explorers who would have liked to go but the short notice meant they were already committed to other things. The three youngest members were teamed up, at my request, with two people who had taken part before.



I went to one of the Downsman planning meetings and I was very impressed with the number of people involved in the organising of the weekend. Most of them had taken part in the Downsman before and had come back to help. Two of the organisers, Nev Andrews and Simon Betts, came back to Harlington later that week

to meet the Harlington teams and answer any of their questions.

The teams had to meet up before the weekend to sort who was bringing items of kit. They also had to complete the tasks they had been set before they could go which involved finding out about their chosen famous Explorer (Famous Explorers being the theme of the weekend) and making a large compass which they had to carry with them during the weekend.



A coach, sponsored by Bedfordshire Police Partnership and Crimebeat, was provided from Toddington to Youlbury Campsite near Oxford. From arriving at Toddington the Explorers found their weekend planned in detail. After putting up their tents they played a wide game which involved purple ducks and covered the whole campsite. These purple ducks (about 300 of them) appeared throughout the weekend and seem to have become the Downsman Mascots.

Saturday's main task was an 11-mile hike south of the Campsite incorporating seven bases. The whole hike ran like a Military exercise. Before they set off each

team had their kit inspected to make sure they had the correct emergency equipment. They were given an envelope giving them more detailed instructions, which was to be only opened in an emergency. Every base had at least two people on it with several other people driving around the Course. I went down to help but they had more than enough volunteers so there was very little for me to do. Every base kept in touch by mobile phone with a control room at the Campsite. The location of every team was plotted on a large map and each team was logged in and out of each base. The control room would know a team was lost before the team knew they were lost.



In all 35 people took part in eight teams. Not all the teams were made up of Explorers as some had competed before as ventures and had come back again. I think it was quite important to have teams who had competed before as the Harlington explorers were completely new to this type of event. They learnt, from the more experienced teams, the importance of preparation before the weekend and also some of the Downsman



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competitions history. Having teams who had taken part before meant that more attention could be given to the Explorers to ensure they got the most out of the weekend.



There was a common theme running through the bases which was teamwork. Every base required the team to work together to achieve the aim. Points were awarded for each base. This theme continued into the Sunday activities. Saturday's bases included Canoeing, Map reading, Bearings and a short speed hike. My favourite base was where the team had to stand inside a large tractor tyre and navigate a 15-minute course, picking up purple ducks, without touching the tyre with their hands. Only their bodies pulling away from each other kept the tyre in place.

Most of the teams arrived back at the Campsite before it became too dark only to find that they were expected to cook their own meal, backwoods cooking style. They were presented with mackerel to go with the vegetables they had been given earlier at one of the bases. First they had to gut and clean the fish. Again they were marked on the cooking including how they worked as a team.

On Sunday all the bases were on Youlbury Campsite. They ranged from archery and climbing to a blind trail and a base where the competitors had to pull against a bungee rope and pick up various objects from the other end of the base. Care had been taken at the blind trail and bungee running to ensure everyone got extremely muddy.

The whole weekend finished with a presentation ceremony which although it finished a lot later than planned was an essential part of the weekend. It summed up the work that had been put into the running of the Downsman and praised the efforts of all competitors. Each team was given their scores for each base and was presented with a certificate. Harlington managed 2nd, 6th and 8th in the rankings.



Overall I felt the whole weekend was well organised with care being given to make sure everyone enjoyed themselves in safety. The emphasis was on teamwork amongst the competitors but it was clear from meeting the people running the Downsman that **THEY** also worked well as a team. Many of them had competed in the event before and because they had enjoyed it so much were very

willing to help. They are also aware of the areas to be improved and have already started talking about next year's competition.



Harlington Explorers were very tired, not to mention muddy, by the end but they all enjoyed the weekend and would all compete again. I certainly would love to have been in the competition but unfortunately I'm well past the upper age range. However, this did not prevent some of the Downsman Team from having a go at the muddier bases as can be seen from the Downsman website.

I recommend the Downsman competition to every Explorer Unit. It's not for the faint hearted and each of my 12 Explorers, despite being very muddy and



tired, came home knowing that they had been personally challenged, sometimes to their limit, and had survived....and they had enjoyed it.

Cathy Sheehan
Harlington Explorer Leader



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adult training

Since the launch of the new scheme in January, a number of the Modules have been delivered as Training Courses and have been generally well received by those who have attended. We recently visited Leighton Linslade District to explain the new scheme and answer questions from leaders. If you have not yet heard about the changes, contact a member of your District Team and ask them to arrange for us to attend one of your District meetings.

There is still a need for more Training Advisers. While all districts have Training Advisers in place and are helping adults to plan and complete their training, there are not enough to meet the need. If you are an experienced leader and would like to help other adults through their training please consider taking on this role. Contact either your Local Training Manager or me for full details of what is involved.

Alec Hissett
County Training Manager—01767 650052

Mod 3 Tools for the Job (Section Leaders) 1/2 day at Bromham

Saturday 12th June
Sunday 12th September
Saturday 6th November

Mod 4 Tools for the Job (Managers) evening at Insys

Thursday 8th July
Tuesday 19th October

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

25th & 26th September
(8 and 9 on Saturday, 5 and 7 on Sunday)

Mod 10 First Response full day at Bromham

Sunday 13th June
Saturday 11th September
Sunday 7th November

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

22nd & 23rd May
(11, 12 & 14 on Saturday, 13, 15, 19 on Sunday)
20th & 21st November
(13, 15 & 19 on Saturday, 11, 12 & 14 on Sunday)

Mods 16, 17 & 18 Friday to Sunday at Bromham (includes two overnights)

15th to 17th October

Mods 20, 22 & 23 full day at Bromham

Sunday 10th October

Mod 21 full day at Bromham

17th July

Mods 24 & 26 full day at Bromham

Sunday 9th May
Saturday 4th December

Mod 25 Assessing Learning full day at Bromham

Saturday 8th May
Sunday 18th July
Saturday 9th October
Sunday 5th December

Mods 28 & 29 Saturday and Sunday at Bromham (not overnight)

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd October

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.

The closing date is 6 wks before the course.

How to Apply

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

Roz Peel	01525 754151	Ampthill and Woburn, Dunstable, Icknield, Lea Valley, Leighton Linslade and Someries
Pearl Farr	01234 300506	Bedford, Biggleswade and Ouse Valley



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notice board

A brave man!

Nigel Taylor (DC Ampthill and Woburn) is running in the London Marathon on 18 April. He is running for a charity called "LOOK". The charity helps children and young people with serious sight problems and their families. They provide information on, amongst other things, education and specific eye conditions relevant to the lives of visually impaired children and young people. LOOK is dedicated to ensuring that loss of sight does not limit a young person's life chances. He is aiming to finish the race in under three and a half hours.

Nigel has to raise at least £750, with any shortfall being met personally, and is looking for sponsorship. Gift aid is available where the charity can claim back the income tax on the amount donated. If you are willing to sponsor him please contact Nigel on 01525 633134—nigel.taylor14@ntlworld.com

Malvern Challenge

The Ultimate event for all Scouts & Guides—Explorers and Senior Section Guides under 16 years 25-27 June 2004

A whole weekend of activities which starts Friday night with The PARTY headlining “Beyonce” and featuring Guest DJs and entertainment. Saturday’s main event is the Malvern & more testing Cotswold Challenges, both 7 mile activity hikes. Participants are in patrols and rotate around checkpoints including a caving maze, jousting, abseiling a rock face, mountain bike obstacle course, video challenge, laser clay and climbing wall competition, Fort Boyard and other traditional skill type checkpoints eg map reading. Points are given at all checkpoints and trophies awarded on Sunday. Later on Saturday the emphasis changes, where all the Scouts & Guides will be able to participate in a wide variety of sport competitions and activities. This is followed by the now famous talent show, with more disco and headline band “Girls Aloud”. Finally we conclude with a firework display. On Sunday there is a Fayre with loads of attractions including Euro bungee, gladiator games, fair rides, bucking bronco, crystal maze, car driving and many stalls and a craft section where everybody will be able to make something—everything is free.

Over 2,700 attend so make sure you book your place now. We also want the Leaders to enjoy it, so all the food is provided. All they need to do is bring a tent and the boys/girls; there’s even a Leaders’ bar throughout the weekend. The event is in Gloucestershire. For an information pack call the Malvern Challenge hotline 01242 240736 (24 hrs) or fax 01242 240750. Email info@sr-mc.org. Website www.sr-mc.org. Dates for 2005—1-3 July 2005.

Sun Run 2004

For all older fun loving members of the movement—Explorer Scouts and Senior Section Guides (Age 15 upwards), Scout Network, Leaders, Fellowship, etc 2-4 July—The Coolest Midsummer Weekend at the Hottest Event of the Year!

It all starts with an Ibiza Uncovered party (with bar) on Friday evening—sun lamps provided so bring sun tan lotion! Entertainment provided by the Chip Shop Boys, Guest DJs and Dancers. Recuperate on Saturday, watching top entertainment, jugglers, comedy acts, street theatre and live bands. Also participate in gladiator games, fair rides, bouncy castles, bucking bronco, Euro bungee and a wide variety of sport competitions—football, volleyball, etc and of course for the energetic, the famous Sun Run and Moon Run.

This year we have new routes for both runs, circular routes starting from the site—the Sun Run is now even more testing with the distance this year being increased to make it a full marathon (26.2 miles) but for those who still wish to participate in a run but cannot face the distance we have the Moon Run which is 13 miles. Those not running can carry on partying at the campsite while waiting to see the runners finish.

Over 1500 attend every year, so it is an ideal opportunity to meet new units and forge new friendships! The event is in Gloucestershire. For an information pack please phone the Sun Run hotline 01242 240736 (24 hrs) or fax 01242 240750. Email info@sr-mc.org. Website www.sr-mc.org. Dates for 2005—8-10 July 2005.



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National Scout Fellowship Gathering 25 - 27 June 2004

This will take place at Chalfont Heights Scout Camp, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire. The theme of the event is 'London' and this will include fancy dress and entertainment. There is plenty of indoor accommodation but provisional bookings and an idea of numbers interested in the event are required as soon as possible.

Contact:

Scout Fellowship Regional Secretary,
Miss Jeannie McGuire, 2 Montcalm Close, Hayes,
Middx. UB4 9HF—Tel: 020 8841 9828
Email: jeanbm McGuire@hotmail.com

Pitch up for recycling

Win one of two fantastic Wild Country tents from Terra Nova! There are two ways to win with the Eurosource Scouts Appeal:

Tent 1 (new to the appeal) - All you need to do is sign up and complete one collection of mobile phones and/or printer cartridges (worth £50), by 31st August 2004.

Tent 2 (existing collectors) - For every business that you sign up by 31st August 2004, to collect on behalf of your Group, you will receive one entry (multiple entries allowed).

These fantastic tents sleep up to six people and are fully waterproof. To find out more visit www.terra-nova.co.uk.

Archives

The County Archivist is always on the look out for old photographs and interesting information on events and well known people in Bedfordshire Scouting. If you have anything you think suitable, please contact the County Archivist, Cynthia Sutherst on 01582 731498.

Unfortunately old uniform cannot be taken

New Website

www.urbanoutdoors.org.uk

Wow!!!

The Urban Outdoors website, the new activities playground, has gone live and has already achieved the number one position of most visited web-sites for 'urban outdoors' in the United Kingdom. Visit the site to get a taste of some of the great ideas, some great ideas and to order your free full colour activity pack of over 20 real cool urban outdoor activity ideas.

Scouting 2007 update

Do you want to celebrate Scouting's Centenary by helping young people to change the world for good?

New opportunities are available to join the Scouting 2007 team, which consists of both volunteer and professional staff. These staff vacancies are regularly advertised on the web site, and range from short-term commitments as part of the International Service Team, to long-term roles planning the Jamboree programme or web site technical and marketing roles.

For details of all of the latest opportunities, visit the Staff Vacancies page at the Scouting 2007 Staff Vacancies (<http://www.scouting2007.org/english/staff.php>)

Excess equipment

If you have any excess equipment in your Group, please don't forget the Explorer Scouts who are often on the look-out for equipment.

the Editor

The Countywide Outlook editor is at present receiving treatment for cancer and we would like to wish her well.

Pam wishes to thank all those who have sent her cards, flowers, their wishes and prayers



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Regional Cub Scout Challenge 2004



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People

The Regional Challenge for 2004 is being organised by Essex and will run from September to December. Packs are asked to plan at least one programme activity to raise awareness of Deafness and at least one fundraising activity. The aim is to raise sufficient funds to provide one Hearing Dog per County at a cost of £5,000

Your ADC will receive a pack from The Hearing Dogs, which has lots of ideas and worksheets in it. Please ask to see it and obtain copies of any items you need. Money raised should be sent to the Bedfordshire County Scout Office.

There will be a top prize for the pack that raises the most money overall and a prize for the pack raising the most money in each County. Every Pack who raises money will receive a certificate.

Ideas

- Contact Hearing Dogs and ask if there is anyone in your area willing to give a talk to the Cub Scouts
- Sponsored Dog Walk - plan a route - invite Family, Friends, Scouts and Beaver Scouts and their dogs. Beg or borrow other dogs and sponsor them for the distance they walk.
- Dog Show (maybe include other pets) - Good Luck with this one
- Design a Dog Coat competition
- Learn some simple sign language - perhaps the Promise.
- A sponsored "Recognise that sound" competition with a prize for the most right.
- A themed evening on dogs, you could paint faces as dog characters and maybe use 101 Dalmations or Lady and the tramp (have a spaghetti sucking competition)
- Design your ideal dog
- Visit a local Dogs home and find out how they look after the dogs
- Visit a Vet

Resources

- www.hearing-dogs.co.uk—Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, The Grange, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 9NS - Tel 01844 348100
- www.rnid.co.uk - royal national institute for the deaf
- www.ndcs.org.uk - national deaf children's society
- Kim's Game & Other Sense Training Resource Pack . This is based on the theme of the five human senses and can assist you with pack programmes ideas over the next few months. It will also give you some ideas for the fundraising challenge. Included are details on how this can be linked with the Cub Scout progressive award scheme and Scout family badge requirements. To order your copy of the 'Kim's Game & Other Sense Training' book send a cheque for £2.50 payable to Essex Scouts to: Bill Marshall 47 Western Road Brentwood Essex CM144SU