



countywide outlook ... scouting in bedfordshire

February 2004

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news from the county commissioner

Friends

A very Happy New Year to those of you who I haven't yet seen in this exciting new 2004! I say exciting as changes are still taking place with Adult Training being delivered in modular format. Each adult now goes through training having the local support of a Training Advisor. Districts will also start to change over to the New Nights Away Permit Scheme which will allow a much wider scope with less paperwork. There are three levels of Nights

Away Permit, these are:

1. INDOOR - For any Sleepover, indoor Pack Holiday, youth hostelling or similar event.
2. CAMP SITE - Camping in sites where there are toilets, water and waste disposal facilities.
3. GREEN FIELD - For camping where all facilities need to be provided by the camp team. Obviously if you are given a Green Field Permit, you can lead camps at

the other two levels. If you want to know more look in January's Scouting Magazine which takes you through the A to Z of The Nights Away Permit Scheme.

Once we are all comfortable with the new training methods and leaders have been assessed and allocated Nights Away Permits we can all be proud of the fact that Bedfordshire has faced up to all the changes over the past few years. As a County we have worked with them and enjoyed the planning and implementation for the benefit of all our young members. Some people thought that we had experienced too many changes in a short space of time but actually we encompassed each change as it happened. That shows true Scouting spirit!

I was able to attend most Carol Services and the Peace Light Service thanks to members of the County Team who were able to drive me around. I certainly enjoyed seeing you all especially the young members who actively took part. It's very

county directory amendments

A & W	8	New DC & District Team changes
Bedford	10	District Email additions/updates
	10	Norma Burgess, DBSL Delete
Biggleswade	12	District Treasurer New Address & Telephone
County	6	Canoeing & Kayaking New email address
	5	Safety Coordinator New email address
	7	Adult Training Updated
	5 & 7	Change to County Office Hours
Dunstable	14	ADC AS, District Sec New Email Address
	14	Change of Badge Secretary & Scout Shop Contact
	14	1st Totternhoe New GSL
	14	4th Dunstable New Address for GSL
	14	1st/3rd Houghton Regis New Scouter in Charge
Icknield	16	New GSL St Josephs
	16	Sells 7th Delete GSL
LL	18	New District Treasurer & Chairman
	18	Delete ADC IT, DBSL, DCSL

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

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countywide outlook

news from the county commissioner (continued)

rewarding to see young people gaining confidence as they are given responsibility and always a pleasure to witness. My consultant has given me the OK to drive once more and I am now out and about again!

I am pleased to announce that Nigel Taylor is the new District Commissioner for Amptill and Woburn and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him every success in what is a very busy role in Scouting. I know that Nigel has much support in Amptill and Woburn which was evident when I announced his appointment at their Carol Service, a very moving but encouraging start for him.

I continue to search for a new District Commissioner for Bedford District. As you all know Pearl is standing down after serving 10 years and is now one of our Local Training

Managers. I hope that I will be able to announce her successor in the very near future. Thanks must go to Pearl for all her hard work and dedication during those 10 years and for holding the fort whilst the search takes place.

They say no news is good news, so I feel those that braved the annual winter camp at Gilwell over the weekend 10 & 11 January have returned safe and well although I fear were probably cold and wet. I am sure they are richer from the experience of camping under adverse conditions.

I know that teams are meeting to plan St George's Day Services and that there are different ideas on how to celebrate this very important day. Whatever you decide to do remember to actively include the young members. It might be a good idea to invite young members into your planning meeting to hear their ideas!

Whilst thinking of St Georges Day, let's think about how we are seen in public!

Are we in the correct uniform? (Old style may not be worn, it isn't uniform anymore!)

Are our badges sewn on in the correct positions?

Are our badges and name tapes correct?

(No pin badges to be worn except for the official HQ name badge)

Are we wearing a Scouting Smile?

So welcome to 2004, my sincere thanks for all that we shared in 2003 and for what we will share in 2004 and beyond.

Take care.

The County Kent challenge Hike Sunday 9 May 2004

- 8-10 miles with some challenging and amusing bases
- Route around the Milton Bryan (Woburn) area
- Patrols entering must consist of between 4 and 6, one of whom must be a PL and one as APL.
- Map reading and good time keeping are essential skills.
- Entry is free
- Entry is limited to the first 40 patrols, so don't delay
- Full details including start and finish times and locations will be sent out to patrols entering.
- The event should be finished by 17.30 hours.
- No limit to number of patrols from each troop, providing that they meet regulations.
- Contact: Alison Kelly, 01525 370377-alik@freenet.co.uk

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR TEAM?

Regional Cub Scout Challenge

Congratulations to Bromham Livingstone Pack who won the 2003 Anglia Region Cub Scout Challenge.

The challenge was to make a 10 minute video in which the Cub Scout Pack "Demonstrate its Talents". It was to feature the whole pack, if possible, and no adults, although they could be involved in all other aspects of production.

The Bromham video featured a be-wigged blonde Akela who was proud to witness all her cubs showing off their talents (often in costume) to potential recruits.

The 2004 Challenge will be announced at Easter



countywide outlook

from around the districts

Scout circus performer stars in treetops assault course

A Scout circus badge winner who juggles and performs stilt walking in Luton's town centre recently took to the treetops in Thetford forest and showed that he was also a star performer on the high wire. Thirteen year old Tommy Reade who is a Scout with St Augustine's in Icknield led the way for the rest of his troop on the aerial assault course just two weeks after gaining his circus performer award, the first in Luton.

Organised by ASL Paul Fleckney and GSL Caroline Vargas, five Scouts took to the treetops in a thrilling, and occasionally, heart stopping adventure trail over 80 feet above the forest floor. Paul's son, Cain, one of the youngest Scouts, dreamed up the idea while on holiday. He trawled the internet for details and convinced his fellow Scouts that this was a fun event they could not miss.

A cold winter downpour only served to make the adventure more thrilling and decidedly muddy. The assault course started with a low level rope bridge at just 15 feet, rising to over 80 feet high amongst pine

trees bigger than the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree. On the way to the final death slide they swung Tarzanlike from one tree to another, negotiated a series of leg and arm aching cat's cradles and found their way through wooden barrels with breathtaking glimpses of the ground far below. As the Scouts found their way through the forest canopy, only jet fighters from nearby RAF Lakenheath were above them in the rain clouds.

When Tommy Reade was asked what it was like, he summed up the excitement in two words, "It's cool!" he said. He reserved a more detailed comment for the safety concerns. As a circus performer, Tommy is no stranger to the risks involved in dangerous activities. He said "I liked the way we were all made responsible for our own safety. If we didn't use the safety harness properly we could fall. There was no safety net so at each point I attached myself to a safety line before moving off down the rope bridges."

To reach the end over a mile away the Scouts had to complete

30 rope bridges, zip slides, Tarzan swings and cargo net landings. They climbed up rope ladders to each location then followed a precarious rain soaked runway before taking a death slide at nearly 20 mile per hour down a wire into cargo netting or a sand pit.

Sure footed and fearless, Tommy Reade showed the others how to scamper through the trees with the same agility as a real life Tarzan. But at least one member had to conquer a fear of heights before following him. GSL Caroline Vargas had her own mountain to climb before she set foot on her first rope ladder. But she gritted her teeth and got on with it. After hitting her first cargo net at speed all she could say was, "That hurt!". She bravely went on to complete the course.

The other Scouts who took part were Darius Fleckney (14), Mitchell O'Brien (13) and Arran Hunt (12). They all agreed it was a 'fab' event and one they all want to do again.

Peter Sutherst
Icknield District PRO

2004 Explorer Scout event

Are you aged between 13 and 18 or Staff (18+)
"Cornwall Explorer Scouts" 'Smuggler 04 International
Explorer & Senior Section Jamboree'
Sunday 8—Friday 13 August 2004.
Enjoy five fully packed days plus evening entertainment
you will have a fantastic time!
Activities Staff (18+) also wanted.
www.smuggler04.org.uk - admin@smuggler04.org.uk.

HQ Adult support Material

The full range of adult support material is available from the Scout Information Centre. Demand remains high for all resources and is very high for a great new resource called **The Adults Personal File**.

This material details the full range of training support available to all adults no matter what their role in working with young people or adults in Scouting. The cost of this material is £5.00.



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from around the districts

Cub Scouts are Crafty!

Back before Christmas Cub Scouts from Ampthill & Woburn participated in their annual handicraft competition. There were nine categories for them to enter. There were separate competitions for eight, nine and ten year olds. The Cubs could enter as many categories as they wanted and this meant that some were overflowing with entries.

With leaders dropping the items off over a steady period, bigger tables had to be brought in to cater for all the entries.

The categories were:

- Make and present a tray of sweets
- Make a set of wind chimes
- Write a limerick
- Make an origami model
- Make a Christmas decoration (using ping pong balls)
- Design and make a board game
- Make a pom pom figure
- Design a feature that you would like at your local campsite
- Design a collage for a new Cub Scout activity badge

After nearly two hours of judging (and tasting of the sweets), the winning entries were identified for each age group.

The wind chime category attracted some original entries with one made out of cutlery, another from shells and a third from earthenware.

The top three entries were displayed at the Carol Service where the certificates were awarded.

Nigel Taylor , DC

The Leslie Sell Activity Centre, Bromham

Book now to ensure your site for camping or the indoor accommodation

The new Toilet and Shower Facilities are now open and offer campers 4 hot and cold showers, 4 toilets and wash hand basins in both the Ladies and Gents

If you would like to visit the site or make a booking please contact the County Secretary by phone or email.

Beacon Assault

Pictured here are the Scouts from Leighton and Linslade District at the beginning of the Beacon Assault.



Eleven teams took part in the challenge on a glorious autumnal day before Christmas.

The 6½ mile course took them over Ivinghoe Beacon, through Ashridge and down into Aldbury before completing the circular route by following the Greensand Ridge back to the start.

Eight bases had to be completed as well as answering a question sheet about various points passed along the route.

First Linslade gained the highest points and were awarded with the customary box of chocolate bars

Alison Kelly, ADC Scouts

Operation Christmas Child

Bromham Beavers and Cub Scouts from both Livingstone and Scott Packs took part in Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritans Purse which has been established to meet the needs of victims of war, poverty, famine, disease and natural disasters.

It involved obtaining, filling and wrapping a shoe box in Christmas paper to create a present for either a Boy or Girl. The charity then despatched the boxes to the needy.

A total of 57 boxes were collected and all the boys had fun preparing these gifts.

David Heard, CSL, Bromham Livingstone



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When we get home

by Paula Taylorson,
4th Dunstable Campbell Pack

When we get home,
Our mums like to know:
“Did you use your soap each night?
Were you good and so polite?
Did you brush your teeth up white?”
Wouldn't you like to know?!

When we get home,
Our mums always say:
“Were you happy all the time?
D'you wear your hat in the sunshine?
Who pegged your washing on the line?”
Wouldn't you like to know?!

When we get home,
Our mums have to ask:
“Did you have nice things to eat?
Are those your socks upon your feet?
Was your tent kept nice and neat?
Wouldn't you like to know?!

When we get home
Our mums like to know:
“Did you ever shed a tear?
Did the Leaders have any beer?
Will you go again next year?”
Wouldn't you like to know?!

When we get home,
Our mums like to hear:
That the food's not cooked her special way;
That we missed her every single day;
And then we don't know what to say ...

Did you see this poem in January **Scouting**
where Paula was Star Reporter of the month?

Bedfordshire Scouts AGM Advance Notice

Wednesday 19 May 2004—7.45 pm
The Rufus Centre, Steppingly Road, Flitwick
Make an entry in your diary now

All are Welcome

Voluntary opportunities in Forestry Commission woods

I have just taken up post as Community Ranger for the Forestry Commission and will be working in woodlands in your local area. Specifically, the woods are Maulden, Chicksands, Potton, Wilstead and Stanford Woods and Rowney Warren.

I am contacting Bedfordshire Scouts to see if any of your members would like to become a volunteer and be actively involved in helping to manage these wonderful resources.

There are many practical tasks to choose from; these include cutting coppice in the winter, mowing rides in the summer, and ensuring paths and rights of way are kept open and clear throughout the year.

We would also like to increase our range of events in the woods, such as open days and guided walks, and extra help with these would enable us to do so. Above all, we want people who enjoy coming to their local woods to feel a stronger connection with their environment, and to have the opportunity to make it even better in the future.

I shall be producing a newsletter to let people know what we are doing already, and how they can get involved, including forthcoming volunteering opportunities.

If you would like to be put on the mailing list, or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be contacted at the address above, or by phoning the Yardley Hastings office on 01604-696239.

Nicky Booth, Community Ranger

Census 2004

We know that no-one likes form filling or data collection but it is very important to get our records correct. It is so necessary these days to ensure that everyone is recorded, for the safety of the young people we work with and insurance purposes.

Remember to include **everyone** on your return.

Stop Press

**Professor Jane Lewis has been appointed a
Chief Commissioner of England.**

www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/pr/headlines.htm



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adult training

New Adult Training Scheme launched in Bedfordshire

January saw the new scheme launched in the County and the Training Team has been busy planning the provision of training throughout 2004. All the Modules required to complete your Wood Badge training are available, at least once, as a training course during 2004. In addition there are a number of alternative methods to gain the necessary learning. For those of you who are part way through your training and need to transfer to the new scheme we have a conversion chart that identifies which Modules you will need to

complete. The Local Training Managers are currently working through each District's leader records and identifying those of you who will need a Training Advisor. You will be contacted when your Training Advisor is assigned and this will be your opportunity to meet and work through what training you need.

We have visited several Districts to explain the new scheme and answer questions from leaders. If you have not yet heard about the scheme or would like to know more please contact a member of your District Team. We are only too willing to come to your District and explain the changes that are taking place.

We are:

Alec Hissett
County Training Manager

Roz Peel
Local Training Manager
(responsible for Ampthill and Woburn, Dunstable, Icknield, Lea Valley, Leighton Linlade and Someries)

Pearl Farr
Local Training Manager
(responsible for Bedford, Biggleswade and Ouse Valley).

Alec Hissett
County Training Manager

Walton Firs say 'Thankyou'

Saturday 17 January was the date of the Annual "Crew Do" at Walton Firs Camp Site. Our way of saying "thank you" to Service Team Members for the hours of work and support they have given the site over the previous year.

This year was a "Casino Night" in the Training Hut. No real money changed hands - just Walton Firs Dollars and Screwfix washers. Roulette, Black Jack, Dice and a sausage & chip supper was enjoyed by all.

A pair of cufflinks in the style of roulette wheels were presented to Barry Gingell for receiving the biggest payout. (Cheam Crew). Lots of other prizes, all connected to



casino games were handed out and Cheam Crew will receive the trophy for the crew who did the best on the night.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and most people "dressed" to suit the occasion. We did manage to survive a bank raid during the evening. Three members of our crew fooled the cashier by turning the lights off - the cashier headed straight for the meter leaving the

bank unattended. Most of the money was recovered from the shower cubicle in the ladies. What were you doing in the ladies toilet Chudleigh?

Thanks as always to all those who attended and especially to those who helped organise and run the event.

Dave & Sue McIntosh
Camp Site Wardens



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Training Courses Planned for 2004

Mod 3 Tools for the Job (Section Leaders)

1/2 day at Bromham

Saturday 7th February

Sunday 4th April

Saturday 12th June

Sunday 12th September

Saturday 6th November

Mod 4 Tools for the Job (Managers)

evening at Insys

Tuesday 16th March

Thursday 8th July

Tuesday 19th October

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

13th & 14th March

(5 and 7 on Saturday, 8 and 9 on Sunday)

25th & 26th September

(8 and 9 on Saturday, 5 and 7 on Sunday)

Mod 10 First Response full day at Bromham

Sunday 8th February

Saturday 3rd April

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)



countywide outlook

notice board

Brownsea Reloaded

Attention all 12½ to 17 year olds!!

Whilst EuroJam takes place at Hylands Park, you are offered the chance to get to the birth place of Scouting, Brownsea Island, to experience a truly unique 48 hours – *BROWNSEA RELOADED*.

After spending the morning at the EuroJam site (*) experiencing the incredible friendship of a Jamboree you will be *RELOADED* to Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour for the start of your 48 hour adventure! On your way to the campsite you will travel across Europe experiencing the sites, sounds and smells of some of the amazing things that take place day to day.

Prepare to be entertained! During your first evening on Brownsea you will experience entertainment on a *RELOADED* scale – laser shows, competitions, music and dance will get you going and keep you in that party mood!

After waking up with your tent mates you will enjoy a days worth of *RELOADED* activities with a special slant. Be prepared to be challenged and to push yourself to that *RELOADED* level.

On your last evening on the island you will take part in a never to be forgotten party of a lifetime. Special guests will entertain and astonish you, keeping you in the party mood until time to return to your tents, your last night on Brownsea as part of the Reloaded team.

After an early start you will return down the Europe trail before we *RELOAD* you back to Hylands Park and the end of your once in a lifetime Brownsea Reloaded Experience.

The first (*) includes all of the above-mentioned activities and is open via application to 432 participants and will cost £155 per person.

The remaining 2 *RELOADED* experiences do not include the EuroJam experience and start at Poole Harbour. These are open to 250 participants in each case at a cost of £85.

You will be responsible for your own travel costs to your chosen starting point.

Brownsea *RELOADED* is not open to participants of EuroJam 2005.

Check out the pages on the website now!! <http://www.world.scouting2007.org/english/brownsea/index.php>
Specific Brownsea Reloaded questions can be sent to brownsea@scouting2007.org

BROMHAM LIVINGSTONE CUB PACK

**JAMES BOND CAMP
FUND RAISING EVENING**
(In aid of the new Bromham toilet & shower block)

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH 7.30—9 pm

SPIN THE WHEEL,
BASH THE RAT
AND OTHER GAMES AT 10P PER GO
CODE BREAKING
CARD GAMES
FINGER NIBBLES
NON ALCOHOLIC COCKTAILS
JAMES BOND FANCY DRESS
(OPTIONAL)
PRIZES FOR THE BEST CHARACTER
OUTFIT

**All are Invited to Join in the Fun at the
Leslie Sell Activity Centre**

Essex 2004 International Jamboree

31 July—7 August, Kirby-le-Soken, Essex

Join over 6,000 Scouts and Guides from across the world taking part in a whole spectrum of activities and entertainments

The event is open to members from Scouting and Guiding from 10 years up to their 18th birthday.

Further information:

www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree
jamboree@essexscouts.org.uk

“Bad Food Live”

The Food Standards Agency has produced a FREE educational video "Bad Food Live" to show young people aged 10-14 the basics of food hygiene.

It is interactive and covers areas of The National Curriculum and comes with a complete set of support materials.

To order your FREE copy call 0845 6060667 and quote reference FSA/0845/0903



countywide outlook

Updated POR now available

The new CD-ROM, containing the latest version and other items of support material, was mailed out in early December to GSLs/Group Contacts, District Commissioners, District Secretaries, County/Area Commissioners and County/Area Secretaries.

POR has undergone some major amendments to support the arrival of the new Adult Training Scheme

POR is also on ScoutBaseUK
www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/por/index.htm
 and will be amended as further changes are made.

Additional copies of the CD-ROM can be purchased from the Scout Information Centre priced £2.50 plus p&p. Hard copies of POR are also available at £4.00 plus p&p.

Please note that the Activities factsheets included on the CD-ROM have already been superseded and reference should be made to ScoutBaseUK for the most recent version.

The Explorer Scout Uniform diagram has been amended to reflect the inclusion of the new Young Leaders Badge.

Scout Fellowship Recruitment Leaflets

Having difficulty in getting people to join your Scout Fellowship? Maybe a few leaflets might help?

The Scout Fellowship recruitment leaflets are online ready to download for use in mail shots, coffee mornings, jumble sales (the list goes on) in helping you to gain more members to actively support Scouting. Instructions on how to print these are also on the Scout Fellowship pages on ScoutBaseUK (www.scoutbase.org.uk/support/fellow/index.htm)

Have you heard of the Tate family?

Dick Tate—who wants to run everything
 Roe Tate—who tries to change everything
 Agi Tate—who stirs up trouble
 Iri Tate—who gets scratchy at times
 Hesi Tate and Vegi Tate—who pour cold water on everything
 Imi Tate—tries to mimic everyone
 Devas Tate—is disruptive
 Poten Tate—wants to boss the lot
 But Facili Tate and Medi Tate—save the day and get all working together!

Adult Induction Toolkit

This essential resource for any GSL who is thinking about inducting adults into a role in Scouting is now online under the Adult Support pages of ScoutBaseUK (www.scoutbase.org.uk/support/resources/index.htm). It is also available Print to Order from the Information Centre for the price of £3 plus postage & packing. It can also be emailed to you in four separate sections free of charge.

Have you caught the EuroJam “bug” yet?

Scouts around the country have certainly caught the EuroJam Bug. Following the launch here in the UK and the opening of the EuroJam website, Groups have been thinking how they might take part in the biggest Scouting Event in Europe for over 10 years. The UK contingent team has been staggered by the early response to invitations to register.

Big Event, Big Activities, Great Fun

Just in case you are one of the few that have not heard, this will be the biggest and best camp anybody currently a Scout or Guide can join. From 29 July to 9 August 2005 Hylands Park, Essex will be transformed into a truly international town of over 20,000 Scouts & Guides from all over Europe. Remember, this is open to all Members of the Scout Association or Girlguiding UK aged of 10 1/2 to 18.

And what's more there does not have to be any selection process so it really is open to all. Whilst the initial response has come mainly from individual Groups this is a wonderful opportunity for Groups & Districts to work together. The Contingent team would love to see every County/Area and District, both Scouting and Guiding, represented at EuroJam. This is a unique opportunity for young people to take part in a large, international event.

During their time at EuroJam they will meet people they would never get the chance to meet normally, build friendships that will last a lifetime and enjoy ten days packed with energetic activities they will remember forever. Just ask young people who have attended other Jamborees, how much it meant to them.

So go on, register your Troop or Unit

It's simple just go to www.eurojam.org.uk and follow the links to the registration screens.