



# *countywide outlook* *... Scouting in Bedfordshire*

*July 2006*

*issue no 10122*

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## *award congratulations*

### **Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct**

Alexander R C Smith      Cub scout      Shefford, Biggleswade

In recognition of his calm and prompt actions when a young boy suffered a head injury in the swimming pool. He alerted nearby adults and offered reassurance to the casualty until help arrived thus preventing a more serious incident.

6th January 2006 onboard Oriana

### **Medal of Merit**

Nicola Taylor, CSL, 1st Ampthill & Woburn, Flitwick

### **Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service**

Joanne Winslade, GSL, 9th Ampthill & Woburn, Badgerhill

## *directory updates*

Following the AGM, the directory has been completely updated on the website.

Produced by Bedfordshire County Scout Council, The County Scout Office, The Leslie Sell Activity Centre, Molivers Lane, Bromham, MK43 8LD, Tel/Fax: 01234 826079,

Email: [bedscouts@btinternet.com](mailto:bedscouts@btinternet.com)

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: 15 June, September & November 2006





# countywide outlook

## news from the county commissioner

I have now spent my first few days as your County Commissioner, my thanks to you for the best wishes and letters of support I have received, they are appreciated.

As we start to leave the AGM season and start the main camping period it was perhaps a timely reminder to hear Steve Peck, the Director of Programme and Development, speak at Ampthill and Woburn's AGM as to the reasons why young people join and leave us.

As he said, there is a clear message that young people do join because of the outdoor activities we offer and summer provides a great opportunity for Groups and Districts to provide activities for our young people.

I am already aware of a number of District events taking place in the next months and I look forward to visiting as many of these as I can. For all of you who will be going to camp over the summer holidays I hope that you have an exciting and safe time and the weather is kind to you, after all we are in a drought!!

There will be many opportunities for young people to be out and about and hundreds of camper nights undertaken. While I recognise the effort needed to plan and implement these activities by the group leaders we should also remember the other adults who work to support campsites, run activities and generally ensure we have the facilities to run these events and thank them, as very often they are also running their own sections.

Above all I hope you all have some good fun over the summer whatever the weather may bring.

John Duley  
County Commissioner

## Conservation - Just do it- it works!

So how to do something that works and shows results? A question mulled over by Caddington Cubs last Autumn. Ok - the group has its own grounds so lets make a pond! So one late autumn evening saw cubs armed with various forks and spades hacking away at hard ground making a suitable hole. The shape didn't matter- a hole is a hole- as long as it had some deepish bits and some shallow bits. One hole dug, some sand thrown in to cover any sharp stones, a piece of pond liner laid in and tucked under the turf round the edge. This was followed by a stream of cubs and bowls to the tap. It takes a lot of water to fill even a small pond. Once full, some weed was put in, a couple of plants and the magic ingredient- a jam jar full of water containing who knows what else from Akela's pond. And so we wait..... Over winter the new pond looks pretty forlorn, sometimes frozen over, sometimes muddy and most times quite unattractive.

And then..... March 24th this year, the freeze is finally over. The cubs meet at the hut for a night hike. Two go to inspect the pond and come running back. "Akela- there are frogs in the pond". Sure enough, two frogs, doing what frogs do best at this time of year. And after we have slept in the hut overnight even better news in the morning. "Akela- there is frog spawn in the pond!!"

And now, May 5th, there is a host of tadpoles swimming about in our pond. Pond skaters skid across the surface, various threatening looking creatures stalk the depths. The cubs are proud of their pond- it is something they created and it has shown them that something as simple as making the pond has had a positive effect on the wildlife round the hut. We look forward to froglets climbing out of the pond later in the year and a cycle of frogs returning to the pond for many springs to come.

Alan Burnham



# countywide outlook



Mayors of Ampthill & Flitwick joined in the fun when Ampthill & Woburn District launched their newest Explorer Unit with a Bouncy Castle party.

The Mayors helped with the investiture of the 2 leaders and the Explorers. The Unit for young people meets regularly in both towns.

Camping, Ice Skating, trip to Cadbury's World, Raft building, sleepovers, Room 101, activity weekends, Octopush and swimming pool volley ball are just some of the activities they have undertaken in the last 6 months.

Chris Bent, GSL, Flitwick



## Marathon Challenge 2006



*A day / night incident hike for Explorer Scouts, Guiding's Senior Section, SSAGO groups, Guiders and Scouters, with 26 checkpoints, featuring a variety of challenges.*

**When:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October ~11am – ~10 pm

**Where:** Cambs/Beds/Herts Border

**Who:** Teams of 4 / 5      **Cost:** £5 per person

For further information or to register interest:

**Web:** [www.cusagc.org.uk/marathon](http://www.cusagc.org.uk/marathon)

**E-mail:** [marathonchallenge@cusagc.org.uk](mailto:marathonchallenge@cusagc.org.uk)

Friends,

I just had to write and thank those who contributed to my farewell gift. I was really surprised on returning home after the AGM and opening the envelope presented to me. What a lovely surprise! so many National Garden Vouchers. Ros had asked some weeks earlier what I would like as a leaving present as she said 'people were asking' I just replied that the best present for me was that everybody in Scouting in Bedfordshire was happy and would continue to be so.

Well you can imagine the difficulty I was then experiencing, not only had I to travel to Newcastle, for I didn't know how long (daughter-in-law's horse riding accident, for those of you who haven't heard) but I had to decide what to spend the vouchers on!

Scouting has taught me to grasp everything as an opportunity, so I took the bull by the horns and telephoned Frosts Garden Centre from sunny Newcastle and the deal was done. The green wrought iron garden furniture that I had always admired, but thought it too expensive, was ordered. Thank you all so much!

Life is too hectic at present (daughter-in-law progressing well) to actually say how I feel but I know that you all deserve the very best support for the fantastic experiences you give the young members in Bedfordshire. My sincere congratulations to you all for everything that you do, week after week after week and I hope that you will continue to do so over the years to come, have FUN!

It leaves me to thank you all for your support over many years and thank you again for my very generous leaving gift.

Kindest regards to you all.

Gillian



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## **Beaver Scouts 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations Drenched By Fun-filled Downpour**

Nearly 500 Beaver Scouts and their leaders from across Bedfordshire had an unexpected guest at their birthday celebrations. They were drenched by an unscheduled cloudburst that added a novel, fun-filled interlude to an already damp programme. One Beaver Scout said afterwards, "It was the best day of my life!" The mammoth birthday party took place at Bromham to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Beaver Scout section.

Organised for the county by leader Mark Webb and his team, the event included a monkey bridge, archery, kite making, pillow fights, a wet bouncy castle slide, water bottle rockets and a cannon run with yet more water. Mark said, "We checked with the water authorities about any water saving ban but we were told not to worry. As it happened, we reckon more water came down in the half hour downpour than we used for the whole event."



Before the rains came, two youngsters Charlie Hughes and Jonathan Blazebly, were one of many teams who tried to beat all comers at the greasy pole pillow fight. Then the heavens opened.

One Beaver Scout could hardly believe his eyes as he was marooned in the middle of the training ground during the drenching rainstorm but he enjoyed every minute of it.

And two leaders Ben Lucas and Nicola Woodward showed how to stay dry under a handmade, colourful, fancy head-dress.



Later, nine Beaver Scouts who all shared the same birth date, joined forces to cut the specially made enormous birthday cake in the dry refuge of a marquee.



Back home, mums found out just what Beaver Scouts call fun when they dragged sodden uniforms from 500 rucksacks and just hoped that their washing machines could cope.

For the youngsters this was a birthday party they would not forget in a hurry.



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## Bedfordshire Scout County Centenary Camp May 2007



2007 An unforgettable year, the article in the recent issue of Scouting Magazine informs us all that "On 26 May 2007 everyone in Scouting in the UK will be in camp at the same time" was a bit of an eye opener. Now correct me here if I'm wrong, however as I'm about to make a comment about myself I doubt very much that I will be. I'm in Scouting and I have no plans to be camping on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2007. So it's simply not true that everyone in Scouting will be in camp on the 26<sup>th</sup> ... Shocking isn't it?!

The reason why I'm not camping on the 26<sup>th</sup> May is because I've already got plans to celebrate the Centenary at a camp with the rest of the District that I belong too and hopefully the whole of Bedfordshire County too, on the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at Phasels Wood Camp Site & Activity Centre. Why would I want to wrestle for camp site space with 500,000 other UK Scouts? In the UK alone there are simply not enough Scout camp sites or other show grounds to accommodate 500,000 of us on the same weekend! So I will wait until the Scouting Sunrise event on the 1<sup>st</sup> August to feel at one with Scouting, knowing that I will be one member of the largest youth movement on the planet renewing my promise with the majority of the other 28 million members around the world and that all 500,000 UK scouts along with the 27.5 Million worldwide will all be witnessing the dawning of a new century of Scouting.

So let's get back to the Bedfordshire Centenary Camp, let's not worry about the date and let's just concentrate on having the best time possible and showing everyone what a real Centenary Celebration should be like! We have activities that will keep the extreme sports enthusiast happy, more activities than a Beaver Scout can shake a stick at and for those of us who don't fit into those categories we've got a whole truck load of stuff organised.

We've been working out the figures, based on an estimated number of people attending the Centenary Camp and have come up with some fascinating facts and figures, including: With over 2,000 Scout members camping and a further 1,000 day visitors across the weekend we would expect there to be in excess of 850 Tents, requiring a minimum of 27,000 tent pegs. Does any one feel hungry? Well, we would expect to see over 1,500 loaves of bread eaten, over 4,500 pints of milk drunk, 9,000 eggs fried or scrambled and a whopping 18,000 sausages & burgers consumed.

If the facts about the food have made you want to join your local Weight Watchers, you needn't worry. We have worked out that during the Centenary Camp, Bedfordshire Scouts & invited guests will walk enough miles collectively to have enabled a circumnavigation of the globe, and if that wasn't enough, they would have also trudged up enough miles to have added an extra trip from Lands End to John O'Groats and back! That should help to walk off any excesses.

We have already held three competitions, which were: name the camp, design a camp badge and name the camp newspaper. Many thanks to everyone who sent in an entry for these. The Judges will be making their final decision shortly and we will be letting you know the outcome in the very first edition of the Camp Newspaper. Have you seen the Bedfordshire 2007 web site? If you haven't, why not visit it for information about the camp, on the Management Committee Members and for competition details. You can access the site by clicking on the County Camp 2007 button at [www.bedfordshirescouts.org.uk](http://www.bedfordshirescouts.org.uk)

So, what now? If you haven't already registered your interest in attending the camp you need to do so. If you don't think your group or section can make it because the numbers don't make it viable and other leaders can't make it to help out, then simply have a chat with your Scouting colleagues in other groups around your District they may be in the same situation as you and would be grateful & willing to team up with you. The organisers of this event want everyone in the Bedfordshire Scouting Family to have the opportunity of taking part, even if it is just for one or two days, this is a once in a lifetime event that really should not be missed. It is after all a Join in Centenary!

To register you & your sections interest in attending the Camp, let us know your name, group name, number of people expected to be camping/visiting and contact details by sending them too:

**Admin Team 2007,**  
**c/o 36 Milton Road, Luton, LU1 5HZ.**  
**01582 412375**  
**[admin.team2007@leavalleyescouts.org.uk](mailto:admin.team2007@leavalleyescouts.org.uk)**

I look forward to seeing you all at the camp, Won-tolla



# countywide outlook

## World Jamboree 2007 'English Tea House'

Sat 21 July—Sat 11 August 2007  
Contingents Fri 27 July—Wed 8 August



The objective of the English Tea House will be to showcase English Heritage and a taste of British Tradition, also somewhere to relax and put your feet up! At the World Jamboree 2007.

In order to achieve this, we will serve a variety of English teas, filter coffee, hot chocolate, toasted tea cakes, a selection of cakes and cream teas. This would all be served in china crockery, with tablecloths, presented in a marquee dressed to the theme of an English country garden, outside to have a picket fence and a rose arch.

We are looking to have seating for 100 people inside the marquee with some more outside.

Within the 'English Tea House' we are also going to sell sweets like fudge, jelly babies, cola bottles, etc, cans and bottles of water and designed badges.

All the profit will go back into the Scout Association.

Check out our English Tea House website for more information:

[www.eth-wsj21.org.uk/index.php](http://www.eth-wsj21.org.uk/index.php)

### Would you like to join the English Tea House Team?

Aged over 18 at the start of the event

Available for these dates: Sat 21 July—Sat 11 August 2007

Cost: £549 at the moment

**Contact:** Zita Pascoe      01525 379817      email: [captpascoe@hotmail.com](mailto:captpascoe@hotmail.com)



# countywide outlook

## **Bedlam 2006 – Leaders Activity Weekend—8-10 September 2006 Boyd Field, Henlow**

### ***The Aim...***

The aim of the weekend is to provide adults within the county an opportunity to participate in a number of adventurous activities, to find out more about activities and to give you a chance to meet other adults from around the county in an informal and enjoyable atmosphere.

### ***Adults only, No Young People...***

The camp is only open to members 18 years of age and over and we have sole use of the campsite over the weekend. This means that you don't have to worry about organising a programme or looking after young people, all you have to do is enjoy yourself, which shouldn't be too difficult!

### ***As little or as much as you like...***

You can choose to come for any length of time you wish and you can get as involved as you wish, so whether you want to spend the day topping up your tan or tiring yourself out climbing, the programme is flexible enough to pick and choose over the weekend.

### ***How much does it cost...***

Because of the flexible nature of the camp, it is priced at £10 per day. This includes all of the activities, camping fees, and refreshments during the day but **does not** include any meals during the weekend.

### ***What will be on offer...***

As usual we will be splitting the day into a number of sessions and running various activities during these sessions. All of the activities during the day will be included in the price and will include climbing, abseiling, kayaking, raft building, silly games, campfires, woggle making, backwoods cooking and archery. There will be a BBQ on the Saturday evening for a small charge which needs to be booked in advance, so if you want to be included, please book early.

### ***Spread the word and get people involved...***

Please tell all the people you know involved in Bedfordshire Scouts about the weekend. It could be the excuse you need to get together with old friends that you haven't seen for a while or you could even use the weekend as a chance to get your group's leader team together for a much needed social event. The more people who turn up the better it will be.

### ***Come on, what's stopping you, experience complete Bedlam...***

If you wish to join in on what will prove to be a worthwhile and enjoyable experience then all you have to do is email [trevor.sharp@comau.co.uk](mailto:trevor.sharp@comau.co.uk) for an application form.

### ***Need to know more...***

If you have any questions about the camp or any of the activities that will be on offer, please don't hesitate to contact me, Trevor Sharp on 01582 487775 or by emailing [trevor.sharp@comau.co.uk](mailto:trevor.sharp@comau.co.uk)



# countywide outlook

## 10 Web Pages you need to know about

*So, you think you know how to cover all your essential Scouting needs via the web? Have a look here and see if you really do...*

[scouts.org.uk/adventure](http://scouts.org.uk/adventure)

Wide range of materials to support Scouting's message of 'everyday adventure' including ready made presentations, high resolution images and much more.

[scouts.org.uk/recentupdates](http://scouts.org.uk/recentupdates)

Find out which factsheets and rules have been updated quickly and easily

[scouts.org.uk/cubs](http://scouts.org.uk/cubs) – welcome to Cub island!

It's a website especially for young people aged 8-10½ in Scouting. With badge requirements, games, competitions and plenty of fun, it's somewhere no Cub would mind getting shipwrecked. Make sure you also check out our other Section pages.

[scouts.org.uk/agm](http://scouts.org.uk/agm)

A collection of resources from The Scout Association's last Annual General Meeting including an inspiring Audio Visual presentation - with music!

[scouts.org.uk/startup](http://scouts.org.uk/startup)

Specially prepared for adults brand new to Scouting, this is a new volunteer's complete 'pick up and go' guide to running a Cub Pack – with a year's worth of programme ideas

[scouts.org.uk/nationalcentres](http://scouts.org.uk/nationalcentres)

4 activity centres; 2 conference centres; find out how you can organise an adventure filled break at some of the best UK facilities

[scouts.org.uk/onemovement](http://scouts.org.uk/onemovement)

A complete guide to ensuring that the transition to fully mixed Scouting goes smoothly where you are

[scouts.org.uk/shop](http://scouts.org.uk/shop)

Order everything from a fold-up plate to the new Join-in-Centenary badges and scarf

[scouts.org.uk/takingthelead](http://scouts.org.uk/takingthelead)

Download the new resources for ES and Scout Leaders explaining how we can encourage leadership in young people

[scouts.org.uk/magazine](http://scouts.org.uk/magazine)

Read the whole magazine and supplements on-line or dip into the archive



# countywide outlook

## Explorer Scout Opportunity

I am a GirlGuiding Guider in Bedfordshire and also a former British Schools Exploring Society Expedition member, and am writing regarding expedition opportunities for Explorer Scouts in the summer of 2007. BSES Expeditions can be used towards both Residential and Expedition sections of Gold level Duke of Edinburgh award, and the Queen's Scout award.

Expeditions combine a science research project and the challenge of living in some of the world's extreme conditions. Some expeditions may also include community projects.

In the summer of 2007 destinations include Madagascar, Yukon, Greenland, and the Amazon. Expeditions are open to 16-20 year olds, last between 4 and 6 weeks and from my own experience provide a challenging and exciting way to spend the summer.

If your group are interested in a presentation on summer of 2007 expeditions or require any further information, please let me know.

The expeditions provide a wonderful experience and are an opportunity not to be missed! You can find further details at: [www.bses.org.uk](http://www.bses.org.uk)

Katie Robertson,  
BSES Expeditions Student Rep.  
[Krobertson85@hotmail.com](mailto:Krobertson85@hotmail.com)—07921 330 909



Bedfordshire contingent badges are available from Gerry Pope, 14 Windermere Drive, Biggleswade, Beds. SG18 8LS.

Also Available from Bromham Camp Site  
Price is £2.00 per badge plus a SAE.

## NPLQ Lifeguard Course—£195

If you would like to enrol on this course at the Girls High School, Bedford, you must be aged 16+ and a confident swimmer. The course is a registered qualification worldwide and will run over 2 full weekends for Unit 1 with the addition of 1 day for Unit 2.

### Unit 1—Foundation Module

Friday 7th & 14th July	6 pm—9 pm
Saturday 8th & 15th July	9 am—5 pm
Sunday 9th & 16th July	9 am—5 pm

### Unit 2—Site Specific

Saturday 22 July	9 am—5 pm
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Contact details: [sportman@bedfordhigh.co.uk](mailto:sportman@bedfordhigh.co.uk)  
Sports Complex: 01234 334226

## Towards 2012 A Strategy for Scouting - Recruit and Retain

On the eve of our Centenary, the Scout Association would like to invite you to a special two day event that will help you make the most of Scouting's 'year of adventure.'

With national and local plans revealed, there'll also be practical advice on all aspects of the year, workshops and inspirational speakers. Make sure your Centenary gets off to the right start!

The Conference will take place at Warwick University on 23/24 September 2006 and will also include inspirational guest speakers and opportunities for sharing best practice. Interested?

For more information visit:  
[www.scouts.org.uk/nationalconference/](http://www.scouts.org.uk/nationalconference/)  
Or call The Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818

**If you wish to attend please let the County Office know, we will consolidate bookings and take advantage of the discounts.**



# countywide outlook

## 2006 Training Courses

All at Bromham Closing date 6 weeks prior

Mod 3 and 18 full day  
Sunday 10th September  
Saturday 4th November

Mod 4 Tools for the Job (Managers) evening  
Thursday 19th October

Mods 5, 7, 8 & 9 Saturday & Sunday (not overnight)  
23th & 24th September  
(8 and 9 on Saturday, 5 and 7 on Sunday)

Mod 10 First Response full day  
Saturday 9th September  
Sunday 26th November

Mods 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 19 Saturday and Sunday (not overnight)  
18th & 19th November  
(13, 15 & 19 on Saturday, 11, 12 & 14 on Sunday)

## adult training

Mods 16 & 17 Monday evening and Friday to Sunday (includes two overnights)  
Monday 4th September and 6th to 8th October

Mods 20, 22 & 23 full day  
Sunday 15th October

Mods 24 or 26 part day (depending on attendees' roles)  
Sunday 3rd December

Mod 25 Assessing Learning full day  
Saturday 14th October  
Saturday 2nd December

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
Pearl Farr	01234 300506	Bedford, Biggleswade and Ouse Valley
David Betterton	01525 222135	Dunstable
Brian Goodchild	01582 412540	Somerley

### “Get Together” Training”

Around twelve months ago, the children from the Blue Peter programme raised a large amount of money for Children with Needs. The idea is to help young people with needs attend out of school clubs such as Scouts, Guides, swimming and sports activities.

Subsequently Mencap, Scouts and Guides have got together and a training programme has been written to help leaders by giving some guidelines on inclusive practices within the organisation.

A team of Scout leaders from around the country have been trained to deliver this training package and it is planned to run pilot schemes in the autumn.

In evaluating the programme it was encouraging to identify that the Scouting movement has been in the forefront of helping those less able over the years and for many it comes naturally to plan a programme that suit all abilities. The aim therefore is to encourage more people to help us at times when we are stretched to cope with the varying personalities and to look at different ways of using our skills to help those in need.

If you have an interest in attending a “Get Together” programme (5hrs) please let me know.

Alison Kelly, Special Needs Co-ordinator 01525 370377

[alik@freenet.co.uk](mailto:alik@freenet.co.uk)

## 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

[info@boydcampsite.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kennith.richards@ntlworld.com)

Warden:

Phil Thorogood—01525 8753685  
59 Wingfield Road, Tebworth, LU7 9QQ

### SHARNBROOK

Yelow 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

Have you visited the site recently and experienced our new toilet and shower facility  
Why not give us a try for your next outdoor or indoor camp

8 acres of Grass, 10 acres of Woodland,  
Dormitory Accommodation for 26, a Storm Building and Training Centre  
Archery, Shooting and Orienteering.

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