

**September
issue**



Cubs 'n' the Hood!

MEMBERS of Severnside Cub Scout Pack returned to the time of Robin Hood for the theme of their annual camp this year.

The Cub Scouts enjoyed making their own costumes, bows and arrows during the camp at Warren Oak, near Ledbury. Other activities included a themed version of the athletics badge, campfires, games and competitions.

See you at the meeting!

STOP PRESS! The District AGM will be held on Wednesday September 17 at Nailsworth Primary School. The meeting will start at 7.15pm and everyone is welcome to attend. Look forward to seeing you there, when the agenda will include election to the District Executive Committee.

Explorers hit Essex!

EIGHTEEN Stroud and Tetbury Explorers enjoyed this summer's District Explorer camp alongside 10,000 other people at the Essex International Jamboree, near Clacton-on-Sea.

Held every four years, this is one of the largest regular Jamborees in the UK and was attended by Scouts from as far afield as Australia, Zimbabwe, Canada and India.

Under gorgeous blue skies and in searing heat, the Explorers got up to a huge number of activities including go-karting, scuba-diving, crafts, crazy games and challenges, an eco-experience where they helped renovate a bird-watching sanctuary, the It's a Knock-out competition, and a day of watersports.

In the evening many activities were laid on including live bands on stage and inter-subcamp talent competitions. Katie Smith from Farriers ESU won the subcamp talent show by a country mile, singing her version of the Zutons' song, Valerie, and made it through to the final, due to be held on the main stage.

In the final, a visibly-nervous Katie proved the most popular act with the crowd as she got everybody clapping and dancing to her song, but she narrowly lost

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That's parent power!

SUMMER Term ended with a competition between Badbrook Explorer Scouts and their parents, the challenge being to use string, tape, garden canes, and other items to erect the tallest freestanding stable flagpole, and to hoist a flag.

Over the evening the team parents, many of them former Scouts and Guides, began to take the lead, and in the final judging it was obvious that they were clear winners.

Everyone then enjoyed a barbecue before gathering around the winning flag pole where the District Commissioner invested the newest Explorer Scouts into the unit.



BADBROOK battle: Explorers try their hardest to beat their parents at the flagpole challenge.

Dates for your diary

16 September

First session of video courses for Scouts or Explorer Scouts, culminating in Photographer Badge and Creative Arts Badge respectively. Courses last 8 weeks, at St Peter's RC High School, Gloucester, from 6 to 7.30pm.

17 September

District AGM. All welcome at Nailsworth Primary School for a 7.15pm start.

19-21 September

Chief Scout's Diamond / DofE Silver Expedition practice/training expedition. Time and venue to be confirmed.

19-21 September

PADI Open Water Diver.

21 September

Stroud & Tetbury District Scout Orienteering Competition. Penn Wood, 10.30am.

5 October

Dragonboat Racing, South Cerney. Particularly suitable for Explorer Scouts. Cost £6.

10-12 October

Bald Eagle event (Night Challenge and Day Challenge) at Ashton Under Hill, Evesham. Visit www.bald-eagle.org.uk for more details.

13 October

Closing date for applications for Bla Sommer 2009, the Danish Scout Jamboree which takes place in July 2009. For details see the County Website or ring Richard and Jean Buxton on 01453 883461.

17-19 October

Jamboree-on-the-Internet and badge courses (Photographer and IT) at Cranham. Cost: £27.

17-19 October

Canal Weekend on the Grand Union Canal for Scouts and

Explorers, culminating in Power Coxswain and Water Activities badges respectively. Cost: £53.

18 October

Stage 1 Swimming Badge Assessment for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. 6.15-8pm at Stratford Park Leisure Centre, Stroud. Cost £1.50.

29-30 October

Climbing course at the Warehouse Climbing Centre in Gloucester. Cost: £36.

7-9 November

Mountain Activities Weekend in Snowdonia, for Scouts and Explorer Scouts. Cost: £40.

15 November

District Scout Section Quiz Evening, 6-9.15pm, Leonard Stanley Scout HQ.

29 November

District Scout / Cub Scout Swimming Gala, Stratford Park Leisure Centre, Stroud.

Alex and Jacob take top award

DURING the Summer Term, District Commissioner Anna King presented two Scouts with the Chief Scout's Gold Award, the highest award a Scout can gain. This award represents commitment and perseverance over a number of years and across all aspects of the balanced programme.

Alex Bingle, 14, pictured below, of Randwick Scout Troop finished off the final parts of the award after leaving the Scout Troop and joining Badbook Explorer Scout Unit.

One of the most challenging activities Alex completed was the Scout Expedition Challenge for which he undertook training and a backpacking expedition.

Alex also completed a range of water sports as part of the Adventure element of the award.

The final requirement he completed was a leadership project involving training and making use of skills learnt.



At 12, Jacob Harris, pictured above, of Nailsworth Scout Troop is believed to be the youngest Scout in the District to gain the Gold Award.

In completing the award Jacob lead his Patrol in a range of camping activities, including winter camping, and gained the First Aid Stage 4 badge. He also completed a detailed project on 'buy local produce' initiatives and took part in sub-aqua, orienteering, water sports and rock climbing.

An able violinist, Jacob took a leading role at the District Music Day, and also tackled incident hikes, craft activities, community activities, leadership training, passing on skills to others, pioneering, and the Promise Challenge Badge.

District Commissioner Anna King, said: 'I really enjoyed talking to both Alex and Jacob and hearing about some of the adventures they enjoyed in order to gain this top award. Few Scouts attain this prestigious award and those who do should be justly proud of their achievements.'

Surviving in style at Miserden

ABOUT 80 Scouts and Explorers from all over the county spent a very wet weekend at Miserden Park.

Most did the Survival Skills badge: they slept the first night under a tarp and built a bivouac for shelter on the second night.

Tom Walker from Amberley, Alex Hemming and Oliver McLaren-Roberts from Rodborough, James Harris and Ben Miller from Severnside, Jonathan Hodgson and Jake Platts from Tetbury, plus Caspian Adib, Rosie Duckworth and Marcus Morgan from Wycliffe, all learnt how to light their fires and cook without utensils. They were all issued with knives bought in memory of Norrie.

Those who had been the previous year, including Keelan Tootell from Dursley, went on to the more advanced Bushcraft and Survival course. And a small group of Nomads (third timers) undertook still more advanced skills.

A team of very experienced adults, many of whom teach Bushcraft skills, passed on their knowledge, and thanks go to everyone who made the weekend such a success.

In memory of Barbara

**Barbara Clapton, 17 April
1948 – 17 August 2008**

CRANHAM Church was packed with mourners who attended a service on 2 September in memory of Barbara Clapton, who had run Cranham Post Office and the Gloucestershire County Scouting Centre with her husband Ken for many years.

Over 200 people also stood in the rain outside to listen to the service.

Members of the Scout Association, Gloucestershire Police, the Post Office, Cranham villagers, family and friends united to celebrate Barbara's life and mourn her sudden death.

Born in Gloucestershire, Barbara had been an active member of the Guide Movement, both as a girl, and then running a Brownie Pack, before becoming a Venture Scout Leader at Eastcombe in 1987.

Ken and Barbara (and their children Ian and Jill) moved to

Cranham in 1993 after Ken was appointed Manager of Gloucestershire's County Scouting Centre situated in the village. Before long Barbara was helping run the village post office, a role she eventually took over completely, re-locating the post office inside the Scouting Centre Complex.

Barbara's hospitality to everyone visiting the centre was well known and, no matter how busy, she always found time for everyone.

As well as helping Ken run the Centre, Barbara also volunteered time to Scouting as County Administrator, a member of the County's Adult Leader Training Team and the Scout Association's Child Protection Officer for Gloucestershire. In these roles she was greatly respected across Gloucestershire and beyond for her efficiency, helpfulness and outstanding service to others. This work, along with her 21 years of service to



Scouting, was recognised by the Scout Association in June this year when Barbara was awarded the Scout Association's Award for Merit.

Beyond Scouting Barbara also served as a School Governor, served on the Church cleaning rota, and contributed in many other ways to the life of the village.

Barbara would never seek recognition for her life of service to others, but she has enriched the lives of thousands of people across the county. Her sudden death after a short illness was a shock to everyone; she will be greatly missed.

Essex jamboree

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out to an Indian dancer in a controversial judging decision.

Never one to worry, Katie was 'amazed and thankful for all the effort and support from the Stroud and Tetbury Explorers', who really gave her a lift on stage.

The Jamboree was a fun-packed week and the Explorers made friends from all over the world.

AGM proves fun for all!

DOING things differently is what keeps Scouting vibrant and interesting (for leaders as well as youth members).

This year Nailsworth and Forest Green Scout Group opted to hold their AGM at a Garden Party to celebrate 100 years since Scouting first came to the town. Group members and their parents

enjoyed garden games, strawberries and cream plus a picture and video presentation of the Group's activities during the past year.

That was followed by the formalities of the Group's AGM and the verdict was . . . if all AGMs were as much fun as this, people would be queuing to get in!



Picture round-up



STROUD and Tetbury Cub Scouts held their annual fishing competition at Gardner's pool, Saul, when 21 Cub Scouts competed for the district fishing trophy.

Last year's winners Severnside Cubs retained the trophy with a record catch by Ben Wood of 5lb 5oz. James Clark from Stroud Valley came second with 3lb 3oz, and Oliver Wilson from Severnside came third with 2lb 6oz. Ben Wood was also the winner last year so retains both Cub and pack trophies.

At the end of the evening all the Cubs joined in for a BBQ and talked about the one that got away.

Our picture shows, from left, Oliver, Ben, and James with Ron Hartell, organiser of the contest.

A GROUP of Explorer Scout Young Leaders from Stroud and Tetbury District enjoyed visiting Gilwell, the National Headquarters of Scouting in the UK, to take part in Gilwell 24, an event for Explorer Scouts limited to 2,500 participants.

Having travelled by train from Stroud on Friday evening, and hiked up the hill to Gilwell, the Young Leaders pitched their tents and enjoyed an evening of activities before getting some sleep.

At 9am on Saturday morning the event was launched, and then followed 24 hours full of action. With so many activities to choose from it was impossible to do everything, but the highlights included lasertag, high ropes course, Gilwell's 3G swing, karting and fairground.



THE FIRST Madagascar 2009 Prep Camp was held at Cranham, and attended by people from Gloucestershire and Cornwall, *writes Alex Chestnutt.*

Friday night was spent setting up camp and playing a few games, then Saturday consisted of activities to get to know each other and work as teams. These included lifting a bucket of water over a wall, trusting each other to hold someone up, and the assault course. In the evening we gathered around the camp fire for songs and chat.

Next day we packed, looked at equipment, and discussed fundraising options before setting off home.

Going Dutch proves fun

DURING July a group of Dutch Guides and Scouts visited Eastcombe Scout Group as the first part of an exchange trip: Eastcombe plan to go to the Netherlands in April next year.

The Dutch group arrived after a day sightseeing in London, and were met by local Explorer Scouts who had cooked them dinner.

Next day the visitors helped Eastcombe Group prepare for an activity afternoon in the centre of the village where members of the public were invited to attend, to see what Scouting is about. Activities on offer included kite making, candle making, crossing the monkey bridge and going through the maze.



MAKING FRIENDS: Dutch and English Scouts shake hands across a rope bridge at the Eastcombe Scout Group Fun Day.

Later in the week the Dutch Scouts enjoyed hiking to the Gloucestershire County Scouting Centre at Cranham where they enjoyed archery, the traversing wall and the challenge course where they all got wet and muddy!

They also enjoyed two day trips, the first to Gloucester, where they visited the Waterways Museum, The Warehouse (for climbing and bouldering) and then the Cathedral, and the second to Brownsea Island.

At the end of the week visitors and hosts met for an evening barbecue and all the young people played games, chatted and exchanged email addresses. During the evening two new Scouts and four Explorer Scouts were formally welcomed: two of the Explorer Scouts (Peter and Katie) were invested by a Dutch leader, which meant they had to say their Scout promise in Dutch! The Dutch visitors thoroughly enjoyed their trip and are now looking forward to meeting the Eastcombe Scouts in Oirschot next April.

November issue

Copy deadline for the next issue is November 1.

If you haven't yet featured in District News, now's your chance!

Young leaders tackle the Alps

SIX Young Leaders from the District enjoyed over two weeks in Italy and Switzerland during the summer holidays.

Their adventures started in Naples, then a few days in Rome allowed time to explore the city before another train journey took them to Switzerland where they spent four days hiking in the Alps.

Then followed six days at the International Scouting Centre in Kandersteg where the group enjoyed swimming, canyoning, a two-day glacier workshop, and meeting Scouts from other countries.

Finally a day in Geneva before flying home ended a memorable two weeks.

