



DC's Column

The new Scouting year has got off to a tremendous start for me by being able to hear all the news from the report back of the DofE/QSA expedition to the Peak District. I know the expedition members enjoyed the experience and I have received some excellent feedback from Steve Allen, DSL and from Derek Cleaver, both of whom were very impressed by their performance, so well done to you all as you take one more vital step towards your 2012 goal.

I have also attended the County report back from the World Scout Jamboree and I know that those representing the District did us proud. I am arranging with them all to provide a similar report back for the District which will give you the opportunity to see their exploits at first hand. Some of the Unit will also be returning to their Groups and Units so your young people have the chance to understand what WSJ is all about and encourage them to think about Japan in 2015.

At our recent ADC/GSL meeting, I asked GSL's to make sure that everyone logs onto the District website, if not already done, so please make sure that you all enter your contact details. This is crucial as we intend to produce an electronic copy as a Directory for 2012. Many of you have said you like to have a paper version so if it is to materialise, please update your details now. There is a clear link to each Scout Group entry so it's not difficult to do.

We are approaching Chief Scout Award presentations for all sections so please ensure that your records are checked and any young person close to completing them are given any support necessary to do so and that all names are submitted before the deadlines.

Early plans are starting to take shape for the District Camp on June 22-24, following some good input from the same meeting, so please keep the dates free and include it in your long term plans for 2012.

I am also working on plans for a St Georges Day event on April 22, after having a break from the

event last year. This is often one of the most difficult events to plan as so many people from different age ranges are involved. If anyone would like to join the planning group please shout now, your ideas will be very welcome.

If you wish to contact me, please feel free to do so, either by phone on 01323 646350 or email at dc@eastbournescouts.org.uk

Christine Skinner (DC)

Appointments

District Appointment:

Graham Henshaw – Assistant Explorer Scout Leader, (Electra ESU). Welcome Graham, to the Explorer Scout Team DC

Mentors for Explorer Scouts

At the start of the new year Eastbourne Explorer Scouts are looking to set up a 'mentoring' system for each Young Leader in the district. The role of the mentor would be to meet with the allocated young person twice a year to track their training progress through the young leader modules, and to check they are enjoying their Young Leader role and getting the most from it. Mentors would also be asked to visit their young person twice in the year at their section to make sure they are fitting in well and being used to their ability, and to see if the section leaders are happy with the Young Leader. This role is similar to the Training Advisor role for adult training, and will have support from the YL ESL, DESC and Explorer Team. Ideally we are looking for a team of between 10 – 15 people to take on 1-2 people each, you could be a member of SASU, a pack assistant, administrator or anyone over the age of 18 as long as you have an interest in helping these young people to get the most from Scouting. If you are interested in this please contact Sacha 'Smash' Titherly, DESC at sachatith@aol.com or 07514398581.

Sacha 'Smash' Titherly

Eastbourne Scouting News

The deadline for receipt of contributions for the November edition is 21st October.

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1st Hampden Park Scout Hut Funding

1st HP Scout Hut have applied for funding to improve the toilet facilities at their hut, including putting in a disabled toilet. The way the funding is rewarded is by votes from the general public so please, please support us by going to <http://communityforce.natwest.com> and typing in '1st Hampden Park Scout Hut' to the search facility. Registration and voting takes less than five minutes and with your support we could make a huge difference to the facilities for the young people. Thank you!

1st Hampden Park Scout Hut Committee

District Diary

Oct 1/2 Sixers/Seconders Weekend + Cooking Comp.
Oct 3 District Team Meeting
Oct 5 Appointments Meeting
Oct 8 Regional Beaver Scout Legoland Trip
Oct 9 County Mountain Bike Challenge (S, ES & Net)
Oct 14 Explorer Scout Team Meeting
Oct 15 Silver Chief Scout's Award Reception
Oct 17 District Executive Meeting
Nov 2 Appointments Meeting
Nov 5 Scout Soap Box Derby
Nov 7 GSL/Commissioners Meeting
Nov 10 Awards Meeting
Nov 13 Remembrance Parade
Nov 16 Beaver Scout Leaders Meeting
Nov 20 Bronze Chief Scout's Award Presentations

Civic Award for a Scouting Family

The Polegate Town Council Civic Award 2011 was presented to the Steer Family for outstanding service to Guiding and Scouting, at a presentation evening on 13th September 2011. The Steer family has a distinguished history of involvement with the Scouting and Guiding movements, spanning almost a century.

Frederick Steer joined the Scouts at Christchurch, Eastbourne in 1915. His wife, Lily Steer, received the Thanks Badge for fund raising with the 5th Eastbourne (St. Mary's) Scouts. Their son, John Steer, joined the 5th

Eastbourne as a Scout in 1944, on his return from evacuation. He became Patrol Leader, Senior Scout, Assistant Scout Master and Assistant Cub Scout Master. As a Queen's Scout, he attended the Queen's



first St. George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle. He was with the Scout Police at the 1957 World Scout Jamboree in Sutton Coldfield. He moved out of uniform in the mid-sixties. His wife, Joyce Steer, joined as Assistant Cub Mistress with the 5th Eastbourne. She was also Secretary of the Bushy Wood Campsite Committee, leaving after several years to have Audrey. Nigel Steer joined the First Polegate Cubs at the age of eight, moving to Scouts and then became a Cub Scout Instructor at Sixteen. At University he assisted the 7th City of Bangor Cub Scouts, continuing at Polegate Cubs on his return. In 2000, he moved to the Scout Section, becoming Assistant Scout Leader.

Audrey joined the Brownies at the age of 7 and was invested on the 19th October 1970. As a Guide, she was Pack Leader with the Brownies, and then became a Young Leader. In 1981, she became an Assistant Brownie Guider, also assisting the Easter Pack Holiday of a Brownie Pack in Clifton. Audrey has been involved in Capital Jig, which raised funds for the International work of Moorfields Eye Hospital, visiting Copenhagen, Denmark with other UK Guiders helping to build international links in Guiding as part of Guiding's Centenary year.

The Mayor of Polegate, Cllr Tim Voyce presented the Steer family with a cut glass bowl engraved from the Council not only for services to Scouts and Guides but for the many years of volunteering to help young people within Polegate enjoy positive activities. It was acknowledged by the Mayor that many young people have benefited from their collective service within the community. As Civic Awards are nominated by members of the public, the Steer Family were unaware of this award and were led to believe they were invited to attend a meeting to discuss youth work in the area.

The Steer family were overwhelmed to receive the award and thanked the Mayor, Councillors and those present. The photograph features Audrey, Nigel, John (seated) and Joyce (seated). Also pictured is Nigel accepting the award from the Mayor. Jayne Bigsby (Exec Member First Polegate)

