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Eastbourne Scouting News

September 2009

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DC's Column

It is now the middle of August, a lovely sunny day and it seems really strange writing about the start of our new Scouting year but I hope that you have had a good summer and successful camps and activities. I also hope you have managed to have a break from Scouting and are now raring to go as we head towards our centenary year.

Looking back over the last few weeks I recall a fantastic Acorn Hike and say a big thank you to everyone who made it happen. I know it proved to be a challenge for some of our young people but that is how they learn and develop. Their faces on that hot Sunday when they realised they had completed it, and for some the joy of winning, was superb Scouting.

It was AGM season and thank you to all who made me or Frank very welcome. They were certainly different but I guess the prize for innovation has to be shared with 11th Eastbourne for their AGM on the hoof to Abbots Wood and 1st Seaside who gave an Easter egg to every attendee! The most brilliant evening occurred on 17 July at Bushy Wood when our newest Explorer Scout Unit was officially opened with its members being invested jointly by Ian Kirby, Becci Marchant and myself. Its name, chosen by its members, was also disclosed and it was great to see so many Electra members there to help them settle in and be part of the District.

I had a great time visiting 1st Seaside at Park Wood for their family camp, it is a marvellous way to encourage parents to become involved and I suggest you ask Lianne and her team for details of how to deliver such an event. My last visit was to WINGS09 and to see 1st Polegate and Electra flying the flag for the District at this major international event. Whilst it was a very wet evening nothing would dampen the spirits of those taking part and again thank you to all our leaders who made these events possible for so many young people.

I am also very aware that Bushy Wood has been busy over the

summer and Marc and his team have welcomed many visitors from the UK and abroad. They certainly have not been resting and I am grateful to all of them for making sure that our visitors have enjoyed their stay. It bodes well for the future if we can continue to encourage new visitors and ensure that recommendations are passed on about the value of the site and its environment.

In the weeks to come details will be published of the District 2010 programme and we can look forward to a successful year ahead.

By the time you read this, I shall be away for a while enjoying a family visit to France and Frank is looking after the District. I will be back on September 11 and will catch up on the latest news and developments across the District.

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

Helen Preston - ABSL 1st Willingdon
David Longman - ACSL 1st Willingdon
+ Explorer Scout Unit Assistant
Michael Avery – Troop Assistant
1st Willingdon
Laura Pratt - Explorer Scout Unit
Assistant

Thanks to you all for taking on these roles and supporting local Scouting.

(DC)

Waitrose Community Grant Scheme

Thank you to everyone who supported us through the Waitrose Community Grant scheme which is running in all their stores. Waitrose at Hailsham accepted our application for their token scheme throughout June and I am delighted to say we have received a cheque for £300 for Bushy Wood. This is an excellent result as we had quite strong opposition for equally worthy causes, Mencap and a local Disability charity, but obviously enough people who shop in Hailsham know Bushy. Let's hope some of our camping visitors shopped at Waitrose. Win Trott

Group Officers Seminar

Alas, at some of this year's Group AGMs, it became apparent that the District had not held a Group Officers Seminar for quite some time. Sadly, various people did not seem aware of their roles or how things should be done. Indeed, one Executive did not even realise that leader recruitment was one of their responsibilities. However, fear not, for all that is about to change. . . . Support is on the way! A Group Officers Seminar will be taking place on **Wednesday 7th October** at Oakwood Junior School, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Invitations have already been sent directly to all GSLs, Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers, but any other Group Executive Committee members will be more than welcome. (In the case of any of the latter intending to come along, it would be useful if someone could let me know numbers in advance, so as to avoid a couple of dozen more people turning up than we are expecting!) This occasion will provide the perfect opportunity for Group Executives to have all their queries and concerns answered in one go, as well as being able to have one-to-one contact with their District counterparts, particularly Treasurers. For these reasons, and many more, it is sincerely hoped that GSLs will provide every possible encouragement to their Group Executive Officers to spare a couple of hours in order to benefit from this support.

Reminder: Reply Slips need to be returned by **Monday 21st September**.

Frank Woods (DDC)

Tel: 01323 504870

Wild West Family Camp

The 1st Seaside Scout Group recently held their annual family camp at Parkwood Scout Campsite, Poynings, near Brighton. This year over 27 families and Leaders (around 100 people in all) enjoyed a Wild West themed weekend, led by Group Scout Leader Lianne Conway.

After setting up camp on Friday afternoon, our families were divided into four groups – Apaches, Cavalry, Navaho and Outlaws, each lead by a Leader. The evening was spent getting to know one another, while keeping an eye on the weather which was intermittent showers.

After rain during the night, Saturday morning was bright and clear and our four groups took part in team games. There were fun games including egg and spoon race, sack race and three legged race which were hotly contested. After lunch at the Chuckwagon, which was decorated with flags, posters and cow horns, the groups took part in lots of different activities. There was a water pistol shooting range, wood branding, lassoing steer heads, horseshoe throwing, bucking broncos (space hoppers), tracking trail through the woods, panning for gold, painting totem poles and making Indian headdresses. They also made dough twists over the hot campfire which they ate with barbeque beans. In the evening, it was time for everyone to get dressed up in their cowboy and Native American costumes to join in the Wild West barbeque. There were many imaginative costumes with lots of cowboys and girls, braves and squaws, saloon girls and Clint Eastwood lookalikes. After enjoying a great feast, unfortunately we had to cancel the planned campfire due to all the wood being completely sodden but we did not let it spoil our fun and the evening finished with families just enjoying socialising and spending time with each other.

Sunday dawned fine and we had a tug-of-war competition between the groups, one for adults and one for children. After lunch, our camp came to an end and after prizes had been awarded for various competitions, all the children received a gift bag to take home. Each family received a special 'Horsing Around' certificate and everyone also received their own specially designed Wild West badge to be sewn on their camp blankets. In spite of the rather changeable weather, a great time was had by all and we have already received

suggestions for next year's theme. The camp involved a lot of planning and hard work from the Leaders but to see how much it was enjoyed made it all worthwhile. It also gave parents who had not been before an insight into how Scouting worked and we recruited a new Assistant Beaver Leader and had several other offers of help.

Gill Cherriman, Group Assistant

2007 Centenary Scarves

Hi all, I am seeking any unused (i.e. no badges on) 2007 centenary scarves (the purple ones with the stars on), in either adult or youth sizes. The 11th are off to Austria in 2010 and I have a cunning plan for fundraising whilst we are there so need to get as many as I can (and yes I am aware scout shops are flogging them for silly money - am negotiating with them too). Ideally I'd like them as a donation to us as a gesture to support our fundraising, but if anyone is a bit strapped for cash will happily make a donation. So, if anyone has any kicking around they do not need, please bear us in mind.

Many thanks, Marc.

Marc Fallon (GSL 11th E/B)

District Diary

Sep 6 Maize Maze (Explorer Scouts)
Sep 7 SLs Meeting
Sep 7 CSLs Meeting
Sep 9 District Explorer Scouts Forum
Sep 12 Camp Cooking Competition (S)
Sep 17 BSLs Meeting
Sep 19-20 NETEX (ES, Network & Leaders)
Sep 21 GSL/Commissioners Meeting
Sep 21 Bushy Wood Management Mtg
Sep 23 Appointments Meeting
Sep 28 District Executive Meeting
Oct 5 District Team Meeting
Oct 9 Explorer Scout Team Meeting
Oct 10 BS Sleepover
Oct 11 County Mountain Bike Challenge
Oct 26 Appointments Meeting
Oct 31-Nov 1 C/S/E Spookover!

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The deadline for contributions for the October edition is 21st Sept.

Editor

Roger Gibbs, 13 Cormorant Close,
Eastbourne, BN23 7SG
Tel: 01323 762898
e-mail: rogergibbs@f2s.com

Isle of Wight Expedition

During August, members of Electra Explorer Scouts embarked on a gruelling 4 day expedition taking in all four points of the Isle of Wight. During this exciting venture they pledged to raise funds for Chestnut Tree House, the only children's hospice in Sussex, as well as the Eastbourne Explorer Scouts Expedition Fund, helping young people like themselves take part in these life-changing journeys.

This amazing challenge will count towards the highest youth award in Scouting - The Queen's Scout Award. Very few young people achieve this prestigious award, and those that do undertake many challenges, not just this expedition, but ongoing tasks requiring new skills, physical recreation, community service, residential projects and supporting local charities.

To achieve their challenge, the young people travelled to Ryde and followed the coastal paths to the four points of the Isle of Wight - Bembridge, St. Catherine's Point, The Needles and Cowes – a total of 67 gruelling miles.

The Explorer Scouts have generously chosen to give 50% of all sponsorship raised to Chestnut Tree House. It is always amazing and heart-warming to see young people generously help other children less fortunate than themselves. As a charity we receive less than 10% government funding and rely heavily on the people of Sussex and events such as this to keep our doors open and we are very grateful for all their support.

I would also like to let you all know about our Open Days in September. They are an ideal way for you to have a tour of our beautiful house and to learn more about Chestnut Tree House. **Our Open Days are on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th September 2009 between 10am-4pm.** The Saturday is also a Family Fun Day so will be ideal if you have a young family or fancy bringing some of your young people along! If you plan on coming to Chestnut Tree House, please do let me know so I can ensure we are available to give you a tour.

If you would like further information about our open days, how we can help your groups gain your community challenges, or other ways you can support us please contact me on Louise.collins@chestnut-tree-house.org.uk or 01903 871818

Louise Collins
Community Fundraiser –
Chestnut Tree House
(ASL First Polegate)