

DC's Comments

Well the long range summer forecast looks to be a little grim, as the Met office predict more of what we have seen recently and that's more rain I'm afraid, so in the words of our founder. 'Be Prepared' and as you go off on your summer camps and expeditions this will ensure that you are ready for any eventuality. If you happen to be going abroad it may well be a different story. Have a wonderful summer.

I have agreed to pilot for a trial period our direct 'want to join' scouting enquiries, which normally come through to me which I then field out to groups. The Regional Commissioner and team have done some work in this area and have some database access and are now able to separate the adult and youth 'want to join' enquiries so are ready to trial supporting Counties and Districts if required.

This is not a take over bid by the service, just a trial to see if having a third party manage the process all the way through to introducing (physically) the volunteer enquirer to the Group/section and if it makes a difference to the conversion rate of joining. As the hand over to Bear Grylls is completed the expected publicity for adults will soar again as the want to join enquiries for adults are still significantly up (see below). I have asked for some interim reports on progress and will still remain in touch with GSL's on progress.

Some statistics

Only 53% of adults take up a post from enquiry!

The June 2009 figures for want to join are:

Youth 4,200

Volunteer 524.

Compared to June 2008 - Youth 3,143 and Volunteer 202 so a good increase.

Worth emphasising again the increase in adult numbers since Bear Grylls appointment publicity.

Some other interesting bits.

June 2008-end May 2009 - Youth enquiries - 27,531 (2725 a month).

Adult volunteers - 5204 (433 a month).

New District Executive Chairman Welcome

For those of you who I haven't yet had an opportunity to meet, let me introduce myself. I am Keith Morton, a family man, living in Bulkington. Whilst I have never been a uniformed member of the Scouting movement (well not since cubs in Bristol at the age of 8 - which is a few years ago!) I have in fact been "involved" with Scouting for a number of years now. My wife Janet and I have two children Grace aged 14 and Jack aged 16. Jack became a member of Bulkington Beaver Colony when he was 6 and ever since then the whole family has actively supported the Group. Scouting has held Jack's interest for over 10 years now and he is an Explorer, Young Leader with Bulkington Cubs and an enthusiastic member of the Gang Show team. Similarly Grace continues to enjoy her time with Guiding and will soon be moving onto the Ranger section.

Aside of Scouting I am a committed Christian which shapes so much of what I am and what I do. I play an active part in the Round Table organization, having been Chairman and President of the Bedworth and District group in recent years. I have now moved on to the tandem "41 Club" and continue to throw myself into their activities. This year I will be, once again, organizing the Bedworth Civic Bonfire in association with Bedworth Lions. Furthermore I am

Chairman of Bulkington Carnival Committee and am proud to say that the team has just coordinated a successful community event, with this year's carnival being very well supported. As you can probably tell, I enjoy fund-raising for many and varied causes and have worked hard in recent years to build a link with the differing groups in which I am involved. Clive helped spawn many of these ties some years ago when 1st Bulkington were desperately in need of funds and he "invited" me to come along to a meeting to discuss possible ways forward. You know the kind of "invite" I mean! In fact, I received a similar invitation last year to become involved with The District Exec and here I am now!! (Cheers Clive!)

When I'm not up-to-my-neck in Community events I have a demanding Professional life too, having begun my career with Rolls Royce over 30 years ago with an engineering apprenticeship. I have a passion for my work and have studied almost continuously throughout my career, culminating in my achieving an M Sc in Engineering Business Management in 2005. On receiving the email announcement of Bear Gryll's appointment as Chief Scout it led me to reflect on his introductory comments. How true it is that the prizes don't always go to the biggest, the best and the strongest but to those who persevere. Scouting has a key role to play in encouraging that perseverance and giving youngsters the confidence to grab opportunities in life and enjoy the adventure. Without the commitment that you all show week in and week out that would not be possible – so THANKYOU.

I am honoured to have been asked to become to Chairman of this District and look forward to working alongside you all to ensure we continue to grow and thrive.

Cubs Report – ADC Cubs

Summer is here again and I expect a lot of packs will be making the most of being outdoors.

The District Fun Day was one such event and, despite the rain for most of the day, all of the Cubs and Beavers who attended had a whale of a time. My thanks go specifically to Dawn for the organisation but also to all the leaders who came along to help make the day a success. This is one to be repeated!

Coming up in the next couple of months are the District Fishing Competition on 19 September. Although this is not the most popular event of the Cub Calendar it is a rare opportunity for those who are interested to take part in Fishing within a Scouting context. We are being joined by the Scouts this year who will be holding their own competition alongside ours. Come on Cubs lets show them who are the best fishermen!

The following week Nuneaton Cubs are hosting the annual County Frank Latchem Trophy which we won last year beating Atherstone District by one point. Will the Judd household be as competitive again? For those who are uninitiated this is a point to point competition with various Scouting activity bases. I am already grateful to Elaine at 1st Bulkington who has offered to run the base for Nuneaton and to manage the team whilst I organise the event as a whole.

To those of you going away on Camp have a great one and let me see the photos when you get back. Maybe we could also have a write up from one of the Cubs for the next issue of Mutterings?

Scout Report – ADC Scouts

Once again Malvern Challenge was very excellent, the sun shone, which made for a great weekend. We had nearly 100 Scouts & adult attend this year's event. What struck me was how well all the young people got on, they all supported each other in different ways, also how well all the leaders worked well together & socialized, it made the weekend for me.

The results

COTSWOLD CHALLENGE		number of teams that finished 157	
Group Name	Team	Points	Position
1st Bayston Hill	CA	1141	1
Central/Bulkington	CJ	908	18
1st Bedworth	CA	742	51
4th Bedworth	CD	723	58
Central	CK	629	80
Weddington	CF	578	95
4th Bedworth	CC	561	100
North	CI	505	116
North	CH	468	120
Weddington	CG	121	153
Weddington	CE	100	156
15th Nuneaton	CB	44	157
15th Nuneaton	CA	did not finish	

MALVERN CHALLENGE		number of teams that finished 436	
4th Knowle Sea Scouts	MB	2871	1
1st Bedworth	MB	1352	276
1st Bedworth	MA	1281	301
North	MA	972	376

Due to being Scouter in charge at 4th Bedworth and along side my other roles, I will not have time to organized next years Malvern challenge for the district, I will be looking for a leader to take it on, or a leader who is starting their wood badge training as it would be a good project for them, of course I will help them in any way I can. Can I remind you of my e-mail address is mdgreenway@hotmail.com as

some Scouters are still using my old one.

Our next district leaders meeting is on Thursday September 3rd at Weddington & don't forget the Fishing competition & camping & cooking competition which is also in September.

Explorer Report – ADC Explorers

With the Summer Camp season here I hope your all off to enjoy your Troop Camps. Good Luck to the Explorers and Network off to Italy for their Explorer Belt and 1st Bedworth should have a fantastic time at Kandersteg in Switzerland.

Sun Run

Approx 80 Explorers Network and Leaders went to Sun Run this year. It only rained for a couple of hours this year instead of all weekend last year. 30 Explorers and Leaders took part in the Moon Run (12 miles) and 2 Completed the Sun Run (26 miles). Congratulations to Moon Runners Jack Merchant, Alex Goldney and Adam Horton who were 11th, 12 & 14th runners back in 2hrs 4mins just 15mins behind the fastest runner. The Friday night entertainment was at its usual high standard and I spotted various Explorers at different games and sports on Saturday.



Adventure Weekend

There is no Adventure weekend as such this September but Mark Payne from Bedworth is running a Mountain and Beach weekend on the 18-20th. This is a walk up Cader Idris on

Saturday and a visit to Barmouth Beach on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to take part in this.

Canoe Challenge 11/10/09

To be held at Hartshill Marina again 10.00am start.

Explorer 09

Dale St Leamington Spa

Explorer Leaders Mtg 17/11/09

Ready Steady Cook 18 or 19/11/09

Network

Sun Run saw them celebrating Emma Fleets 21st on Saturday, (and most of Sunday) a lot have been busy with Uni exams and hope you all pass.

Future Events

Intense 11-13/09/09

<http://www.avonscouts.org.uk/intense/>

Explore Italy 2009

Explore Italy, 27th July – 9th August 2009, consists of 33 participants aged between 16 and 25 and 8 leaders. The group is mixed with 14 participants and 4 Leaders from Nuneaton and 19 participants with 4 leaders from Cardiff. Whilst over in Italy we will be completing the Explorer Belt.

The explorer belt is an expedition, administered by the National Scout Head Quarters; the opportunity for this year is in Northern Italy, which we have decided to take on foot. We will be passing through four or five different villages or towns talking to the local people getting to know their way of life. We will be covering about one hundred miles over ten days. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn about the difference between our lives and the lives of teenagers our age in Northern Italy, for example. We also will also be considering the differences in Scouting in both countries. To compare the opportunities young

people have in the scouting community in Italy to that in England.

We will under taking one major project & nine minor projects during the expedition, all related to understanding local community.

During the expedition we will need to find accommodation each night and expect this to be this with Italian families, or perhaps local organizations giving us a further view on life in Northern Italy.

To complete our explorer belt we will be making a presentation to the Scouting community within our home town.

On the 8th -10th May we had a training weekend over at "The Alfrey Activity Centre" Warwickshire, which we all found extremely useful because we had a chance to ask any questions which concerned us about the trip to Italy and also to meet the rest of the contingent. Whilst we were there we were set into groups and went around bases which covered different aspects of the trip such as, transport, kit, health, behaviour. Then in the afternoon we were taught a few basic words in Italian. In the evening after we had our traditional Italian meal, mozzarella cheese and tomatoes, followed by Pasta, which was then followed by homemade Tiramisu by one of the Nuneaton leaders which everyone seemed to enjoy, we then watched a few presentations from past expeditions which helped us to get a feel for what other Explorer Belt holders did for there major task. So overall I believe that it was a good and useful weekend, which was enjoyed by all.

Steven Haynes

Nuneaton Central Explorers
Explore Italy Participant

Fact Sheets

Clive tells us he is really pleased to see; 'further progress in this award as it is a real challenge for Explorers & Network to take part in and also an excellent way to demonstrate commitment on the route toward the <http://scouts.org.uk/> and if you go to the search icon and key in the fact sheet number it will take you to the advice sheets, which are :
FS452030 / FS452031 / FS452032 / FS452033 / FS452034 / FS452035 / FS320523

New information for The Queens Scout Award is the form of downloadable packs is on www.scouts.org.uk/gsa Queens Scout Award and elements of the Duke of Edinburgh award too'.

Useful fact sheets relating to belt award can be found on the web site

Training News

First I would to congratulate the following people for gaining their wood badge in the last few months:

Maxine Barlow, 1st Bedworth
Anya Reubens, 1st Nuneaton
Tony Greenway, ADC Scouts

Many thanks to those that came on the last training day in June, it went very well. It's a shame there weren't more people!

The following dates have been booked for training; please take note so hopefully we can have a few more next time. One change is the Module 16 Nights Away training weekend; unfortunately this needs to be changed as Mancetter's Scout Hut has already been booked for their Group's Activity Day. Therefore I am going to take the opportunity to still have a training session on the 12th September with an open afternoon for training validation and updating 'MyBackPack' training records.

The training days are as follows:

12th September 2009 – Nuneaton
Central Scout Hut 9.30am – 4.30pm

Module 9 Working with Adults
Module 14 Young People Today
Open Afternoon Validation Surgery
and Updating 'MyBackPack'

19th September 2009 – Tiddington
Scout Hut, Stratford

Module 15 Challenging Behaviour
Module 36 Special Needs

30th September 2009 – Tiddington
Scout Hut, Stratford

Child Protection Training

3rd/4th October 2009 – Mancetter

Provisional Module 16 Nights Away or 10th/11th October 2009. I know October 4th is the Cub's Activity Day at RAF Cosford but people can still do the first part of the Nights Away course on the 3rd and stay for the evening events if it goes ahead that weekend.

11th November 2009 – Venue to be confirmed

Child Protection Training in Nuneaton

14th November 2009 – 1st Bedworth
Scout Hut 9.30am – 4.30pm

Module 8 Skills of Leadership
Module 13 Growing the Movement
(Section Leaders)
Module 15 Challenging Behaviour
Module 17 Activities Outdoors

If anyone wants to book places for the training days please let me know. If you need further help with regards to training please contact your Training Adviser of myself. Keep up the good work.

Samantha Marshall
County and District Training Manager

District Dates

August

Tues 18th Scout Log Cut Off

September

Thurs 3rd Scout Leaders Meeting @ Weddington
Tues 8th Explorer Scout Leaders Meeting
Thurs 10th GSL Meeting
Mon 14th Beaver Leaders Meeting
Tues 15th Rock Council
Fri 18th Scout Log Cut Off
Fri-Sun 18th-20th County Explorer and Network Camp
Sat-Sun 26th-28th Scout Cooking and Camping
Sat 26th Frank Latchem Trophy

October

Fri 9th Cub Conker Tournament
Fri-Sun 9th-11th NKA Adults only weekend Broadwater
Sun 11th Explorer Canoe Challenge
Mon 12th District Staff Meeting @ 1st Bulkington
Sat-Sun 17th-18th JOTA and JOTI
Sun 18th Scout Log Cut Off
Tues 20th Rock Council

ALL ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF MUTTERINGS MUST BE SENT VIA
EMAIL TO THE EDITOR BY **SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

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